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# the TIMBERJAY

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## TIMBERJAY INVESTIGATION

# IRRR hiring decision comes under fire

### Agency accused of disregarding process, passing over more qualified candidate in rush to hire Radinovich

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— For more than 20 years, Sandy Layman, of Grand Rapids, has worked to convince lawmakers in St. Paul that the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation is more than a revolving door of

political patronage for Iron Range DFLers.

Layman, now a Republican House member, first served on the IRRR board in the 1990s and later became commissioner of the agency under Gov. Tim Pawlenty.

“One of my goals has always been to depoliticize the agency,” said Layman

during a recent interview with the *Timberjay*. “It has a highly partisan reputation in St. Paul.”

Which is why Layman says she is so frustrated with the agency’s recent hiring of Joe Radinovich, the unsuccessful 2018 DFL candidate for the U.S. House in Minnesota’s Eighth District. Radinovich

was hired in early March to a highly-paid, permanent position that IRRR officials appear to have created specifically for him.

While political appointments are not unusual in state government, and are typically temporary, the kind of job

See...IRRR pg. 9



The Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation office is located in Eveleth. photo courtesy of state of Minnesota

## TRANSPORTATION

# PUT IT IN PARK

### Morris Janssen retires after 60 years of driving school bus for Ely students

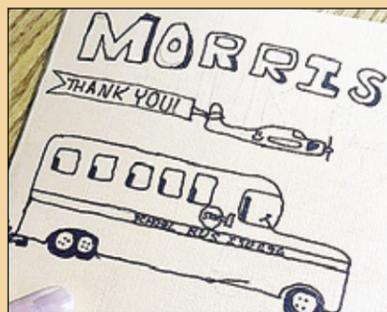
by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY — An Ely school bus driver put his vehicle in park for the last time this spring, ending a career that spanned six full decades. Morris Janssen was honored at a reception last week for his time behind the wheel transporting Ely students to and from school.

School and transportation union officials, along with dozens of supporters and many current and former students, gathered for a

See...BUS pg. 10

**Morris Janssen, gets a hug from Addyson Rivera at a retirement party last week. Ely students made “thank-you” posters for him.**  
photos by K. Vandervort



## BREAKING NEWS

# Two resign from Tower City Council

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER— Two members of the Tower City Council unexpectedly announced their resignations this week. Kevin Fitton, who is designated as acting mayor, and Brooke Anderson— both elected in 2016— made their announcements within a day of each other.

This leaves newly-elected Mayor Orlyn Kringstad, and councilors Steve Abrahamson and Rachel Beldo on the five-member council.

Fitton told the *Timberjay* that his decision to resign was based on the time demands of the council position,

See... TOWER pg. 10

## ELY SCHOOLS

### District considers enrollment, survey in school project

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY— The school board here, on Tuesday, agreed to conduct a survey of community attitudes on a number of possible renovations and additions to the Ely school campus. That decision came as the school facilities community task force wrapped up its work after struggling to reach a consensus on a final recommendation to the school board.

Options considered by the task force range from a basic infrastructure upgrade and secure entryway, costing \$5 million to \$6 million, to a much larger project that could cost as much as \$16.5 million.

The community task force met  
See...ELY pg. 12

## EDUCATION

# Community art program available at Nett Lake

by MARCUS WHITE  
Cook/Orr Editor

NETT LAKE - The paint brushes were out at the school here last Monday for a community art program designed to bring more education to locals on various art and art techniques.

“There is no art program

**Steve Premo teaches art at Nett Lake School.**  
photo by M. White

at the Nett Lake School,” said Bois Forte Legacy Coordinator Chaz Wagner, who organized the event. “When I put these events on, it shows how important art

See... ART pg. 11



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218-753-2950  
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# COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

## Sweet Freedom Band to play April 20 in Tower

TOWER- Put on your dancin' shoes! Local band Sweet Freedom will play at Herbert Lamppa Civic Center in Tower on Saturday, April 20 at 8 p.m. There will also be a special guest appearance by the incomparable Reggie Ducote.

There will be a \$10 cover charge and Good Ol' Days will be providing the bar. All profits from the dance will go to the Tower-Soudan-Lake Vermilion Events Board to fund Tower's Fourth of July celebration.

Call Randy at 218-753-6097 or Julie at 218-750-7242 for a ride to the dance. There will be a shuttle bus to get you home.

## Care Partners Annual Swedish Meatball Dinner, April 24

VIRGINIA- Care Partners is hosting its 11th Annual Swedish Meatball Dinner on Wednesday, April 24 from 3 - 6 p.m., or until gone, at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 306 2nd St. S in Virginia.

Tickets are available at the door and cost \$9 per person; children under age five eat free. Take-out and curbside service are also available. All proceeds will directly benefit local individuals and families facing cancer or a life-limiting illness. For more information, call 218-404-1411.

The meal will be prepared by Holy Spirit Catholic Church. Eveleth KSKJ Lodge 59, KSKJ Life will match funds raised.

## Reading and discussion with author Linda LeGarde Grover, April 23

HIBBING- Award-winning short-story writer, poet, novelist, and memoirist Linda LeGarde Grovel will be at the Hibbing Community College Commons on Tuesday, April 23 from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. for a free reading and a discussion of *The Dance Boots*, a collection of short stories spanning generations growing up Ojibwe in northern Minnesota.

## Vermilion Dream Quilters to meet May 2

TOWER- Vermilion Dream Quilters will meet Thursday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Martin's Catholic Church Social Hall in Tower. The program is Four-by-Four; four members: Cindy Bird, JoAnn Anderson, Catherine Farley, and Noreen Saukko will each share four of their favorite quilts or projects and tell us a little about them.

Nancy A. will present Brown Bag Challenge 2. Please bring your Show and Tell, especially your projects from our April retreat.

May hostesses are Cathy Burt, Karen Lamppa and Bonnie Harma.

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.

## ST. LOUIS COUNTY

# Prescription drug take-back day on April 27; mail-in service also available

VIRGINIA- Saturday, April 27, is National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. It's a day aimed at reminding people of the importance of safely disposing of un-used and expired medications. Improperly discarded medications have long posed environmental threats. More recently, they are posing an increasing threat for accidental poisonings and overdoses.

The St. Louis County Sheriff's Office will have deputies available to assist with medication disposal and answer any questions on Saturday, April 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Virginia Police Department located at 300 S 5th Ave.

Additional law enforcement agencies throughout the state will also be hosting medication disposal events on April 27. A full list along with information about the dangers of prescription drug overdose can be found online at [doseofreality.mn.gov](http://doseofreality.mn.gov).

Numerous law enforcement agencies and pharmacies in St. Louis County offer secure disposal boxes where medications can be disposed of anonymously year-round. A list of locations, along with information about what is or isn't accepted, is available online at [stlouiscountymn.gov/medwaste](http://stlouiscountymn.gov/medwaste).

Additionally, a new mail-in option is now available for St. Louis County residents who live in rural communities that lack a drop-off box, or for those who are unable to use the disposal boxes in police departments. The pre-addressed postage-paid envelopes are free for people to use. Medications are sent directly to an approved facility for safe disposal. To request an envelope, people can contact Stephany



Medina at St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services by calling 218-725-5144 or emailing [medinas@stlouiscountymn.gov](mailto:medinas@stlouiscountymn.gov).

## ELY FOLK SCHOOL

# Explore the Wilderness Above at Ely Folk School programs on April 27, May 4 & 5

ELY- Who has not looked up into the night sky and been filled with wonder? Probably as long as humans have walked the earth, we have been awestruck by the magnitude and beauty of the wilderness above us. Two upcoming weekends of classes at the Ely Folk School will give you multiple opportunities to learn more about the night sky, how to explore it, how to take outstanding photographs, and how to protect the dark spaces on our planet that are threatened by encroaching light pollution everywhere.

On Saturday, April 27, Greg Ash, self-styled aurora chaser, will be teaching you how to use your DSLR camera to capture those mysterious lights. Roy Misonznick in "Preserving the Wilderness Above Us" will teach about the Dark Sky movement in the U.S. and around the world. He'll talk about what we can do locally to help protect and preserve the scarce resource of true darkness we still have access to, but many people have never experienced. Bob King, known as Astro Bob, will return to the folk school to talk in depth about how light pollution affects all living things. Then, weather permitting, King will lead the class out into the darkness to share his expertise, excitement, and portable telescope to view and explain the April night sky. Les Conrad will offer a two-day class on the popular photographic editing program, Adobe Lightroom. Whether you are a beginner or experienced, you can learn to manage and improve your photographs.



On Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5, Les Conrad is offering the class "Star Trails and Night Photography" which will teach you how to photograph the night sky and create those beautiful star trail images with your DSLR or mirrorless camera. Delve into astrophotography and prepare to be amazed by Richard Willit's photos of deep space. He will show you how to attach your camera to a telescope, using affordable equipment, to take astounding pictures of nebulae, galaxies, and celestial events from your backyard. Until recently these kinds of photos could only have been made by experts using extremely expensive equipment.

To provide some literal grounding among all the heady cosmic wonders,

Terry Cooper's Soil Clinic will present the wonders of the earth beneath our feet, giving students a chance to assess their own garden soil and learn how to best supplement it for a thriving garden.

Culminating the two weekends of activities will be an Ask the Experts drop-in on Sunday afternoon, May 5, giving you a chance to ask all those questions that have been plaguing you. Take advantage of the collective experience of these excellent photographers and teachers packed into two weekends of activities. To find out more specifics and register for classes, visit [www.elyfolkschool.org](http://www.elyfolkschool.org). Feel free to call 218-235-0138 with questions or email [coordinator@elyfolkschool.org](mailto:coordinator@elyfolkschool.org).

## Business Development Opportunity

### Creating Killer Social Media Content, Planning and Scheduling

April 30, 2019, 9 a.m. Grand Ely Lodge

You can't ignore smartphones and the power they have over your business. Come and learn which social media platform is best for your business, learn how to create killer content, and more!

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

# Tower's ambulance service saw margins fall sharply

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

Shift to paid on-call the biggest factor behind the rising costs for service

TOWER — The operational costs for the city of Tower's ambulance service jumped sharply last year as a result of the department's shift to paid on-call staffing, nearly eliminating the service's profitability in 2018.

Revenues also increased, as the new staffing model allowed the service to handle more inter-hospital patient transfers. But the increase in revenue fell short of projections, while operational costs proved to be higher than expected.

Those conclusions come from the just-completed city financial audit, presented to the Tower City Council on April 8, and largely confirm concerns raised by the *Timberjay*, which examined the financial implications of the shift to paid on-call in a series of stories early last year.

According to the latest city

audit, the ambulance service spent \$449,389 in 2018. That's close to double the \$240,000 that the service spent in 2017. Some equipment purchases, including a new cardiac resuscitation device and a new equipment trailer, at a combined cost of \$44,000, contributed to the higher costs this year. But the shift to paid on-call was the largest factor behind the sharp increase in expenses, contributing over \$100,000 in additional costs for the ambulance service, according to the audit report.

The higher costs and less-than-hoped-for revenue gains took a large bite out of the service's usual profit margin. In recent years, the service had averaged approximately \$105,000 in net profits from the service, which had operated on a paid volunteer model up until

**Right: The Tower Ambulance Service has been lacking space for vehicles and equipment since a fire destroyed the department's storage garage several years ago. Rebuilding the structure is one of several financial challenges the department faces.** file photo

April of last year.

This year, with just nine months of paid on-call staffing, the department netted just over \$4,000.

Paid on-call staffing costs added \$89,000 in wages and payroll taxes, according to the auditors. Rent and utility costs for the staff quarters were not detailed by the auditors, but Ambulance Director Steve Altenburg had estimated the annual cost of housing at \$9,000,



so the nine-month cost was likely in excess of \$5,000. Altenburg had also estimated additional travel costs at \$15,000 a year, although the audit doesn't provide that level of detail. The auditors did report that operational supplies for the department jumped by \$5,000, which would be expected given

the increased number of patient transfers.

Altenburg had predicted that the department could pay for the higher costs through an increase in inter-hospital transfers, but the service fell short of those predictions. Altenburg had set

See AMBULANCE...pg. 5

LAW ENFORCEMENT

# Charges filed in vehicle accident that led to injury

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

WINTON — An Ely man faces felony charges after allegedly crashing his vehicle in the parking lot of a Winton-area bar before abandoning three passengers, including one who was seriously injured. He later walked to a nearby residence and stole another car, according to court documents filed by the St. Louis County Attorney's office.

August Arthur Sandberg,



August Sandberg

39, faces three felony counts following the April 3 incident near Samz Place on Old Winton Road.

According to the St. Louis County Sheriff's Department, he was charged with criminal vehicular operation resulting in substantial bodily harm, first-degree burglary, and theft of a motor vehicle.

According to the criminal complaint, sheriff's deputies responded to the parking lot of Samz Place Bar shortly after 2 a.m. on Wednesday, April 3 and found a

2010 Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck that had crashed. Three female passengers on the scene refused to identify the driver. Deputies used registration and insurance documents to determine the vehicle belonged to Sandberg.

A passenger in the pickup truck, identified as Patricia Lemke, was going in and out of consciousness when authorities responded to the scene according to a criminal complaint. Lemke was taken to Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital and later airlifted to a Duluth hospital. She has since been released.

Authorities saw footprints

in the snow that led them to a residence on Cloquet Line Road. Authorities said Sandberg allegedly entered the residence, found keys and stole a 2014 Ford SRW, which authorities later found on the 400 block of East Sheridan Street in Ely.

Authorities then followed footprints to an apartment on the same block. Inside the entryway, a deputy found a pair of shoes with a tread pattern matching those observed outside the apartment, at the scene where the truck was stolen, and at the original crash site.

The deputy who made contact with Sandberg, reported

the defendant to have slurred speech, bloodshot eyes and poor balance. As he was escorted from the apartment, the defendant attempted to put on the shoes found in the entryway.

Law enforcement officers obtained a search warrant to collect a blood sample from Sandberg, the results of which were not immediately available.

Sandberg was released from the St. Louis County Jail on bond after making his initial court appearance last week.

The charges carry maximum penalties of 25 years in prison and/or \$45,000 in fines.



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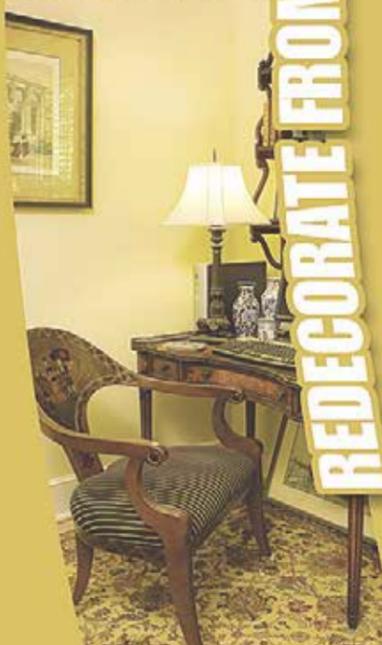




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# OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

## Editorial

### Trump's incendiary attack

The president endangers the life of a Minnesota congresswoman to gin up votes

Can familiarity and friendship defeat the forces of hatred that seek to divide Americans over culture and faith? That is the question that will confront us all as we head into a 2020 presidential campaign that seems to be careening toward the gutter.

President Trump, who was unsuccessful in his efforts to divide Americans over immigration to gin up votes for Republicans in the mid-terms, has made it clear that he is prepared to descend even further with his incendiary attacks on Muslim-Americans, particularly Minnesota's new congresswoman Ilhan Omar.

Many area residents had the opportunity to meet Omar back in the fall of 2017, when she joined a group of Somali and Ethiopian-Americans from the Twin Cities on a visit to Tower-Soudan. They toured the underground mine and enjoyed a delicious potluck meal that featured traditional East African, Indonesian, and Iron Range fare.

Omar, a refugee, came as a child with her family to the U.S. in the 1990s. Somalia was being destroyed by civil war and her father, a strong believer in democracy, brought his family to the country he believed most enshrined his faith in the democratic process. During her time in the U.S., Omar experienced some abuse for maintaining her devotion to faith, particularly the wearing of a head scarf, which is traditional for women in the Somali culture. As a country that espouses religious freedom, Omar has an absolute right to maintain her religious beliefs and practices. Head covering is commonplace among traditional practitioners of virtually every major religion on Earth, including Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, as well as Islam.

But Omar's devotion to her faith does not define her in the way some would like. While many on the right have tried to associate Muslims, like Omar, with the backward and authoritarian practices of some conservative Islamic countries, like Saudi Arabia, or the 9/11 terrorists the Saudis helped finance, Omar reflects a far more progressive and democratic vision, both here in America as well as in Muslim-majority countries around the world.

Such differences don't matter to Trump, of course, since he's not interested in an honest debate—just demagoguery designed to inflame. Which is why Trump tweeted an incendiary video that dishonestly seeks to link Omar, of all people, to the Sept. 11

attacks. It is the kind of false hatemongering that we have, unfortunately, come to expect from President Trump, yet it is particularly heinous given that the president cannot be unaware that Omar has faced numerous credible death threats since she took office in January. Trump is, literally and callously, playing with the life of a Minnesota congresswoman and her family, in the belief it will energize his supporters. That, in itself, speaks volumes about how Trump truly views his base.

Omar's response has been remarkably poised and demonstrates her intelligence and openness to new information. She has been criticized for the phrasing of certain comments about the conservative Israeli lobbying group AIPAC—yet rather than lashing out against her critics, as Trump would do, Omar has used the criticism for self-reflection. Appearing recently on the Late Show with Steven Colbert, she acknowledged that, as a member of a refugee community, she has not always had a full understanding of the historical context that certain words and statements may have with other groups of Americans, and that she has seen the recent criticism as an opportunity to learn and better herself. What a contrast to our current president.

Omar reflects the idea that life well-lived includes openness to new ideas, to new people, and to new experience, which was the very point of her 2017 visit to Tower-Soudan. The story of her visit, which appeared in the *Timberjay*, has, just this week, been retweeted more than 1,500 times on Twitter, including by Omar herself, as people are responding to the cavalcade of bigotry that Trump is fomenting. We're pleased that our reporting may play a small part in helping to reveal the true character of Omar and the Somali-American community in Minnesota.

The story was consistent with Omar's recognition that when we're willing to extend an open hand to strangers, they can quickly become friends—and all of our lives can be enriched by it. As we learn more about other people and cultures, the fear that ignorance can so easily spark, rapidly disappears.

Which is why we must fight back against those, like President Trump, who would use fear, ignorance, and xenophobia to keep us divided. They are weakening America in the process.



## Letters from Readers

### Time to end the reign of single-use bags

As I returned home this early winter from a trip to another country, I realized I could do something simple to better my community. I noted thousands of dollars were being wasted by grocery shoppers in the U.S. through single-use grocery bags.

Paper and plastic bags are handed out in our grocery stores like candy given to a child in a parade. They are free to the public. But does the public notice the thousands of dollars spent annually by managers who continually buy single use bags?

I looked around the local grocery stores in Ely and Babbitt. I talked to the managers from Zup's in both Ely and Babbitt and the Northland Market in Ely. Cloth bags are offered for customers to buy, but why aren't the majority of people using them?

I found myself just as guilty. It was a habit. The single use bags were handy and right there in the store. I had a cloth bag I could use but never really thought about using it...Up until NOW. I wanted to change my habit, by remembering my bag. The trick was easy, unload my groceries in the house and put the bag back in my vehicle. I still forget my bag once in a while, but I'm encouraged as I think of all the paper and plastic bags I did save in just the last two months by switching to a tote bag that can be used over and over.

This Earth Day, I'm taking

this step a little further. I'm asking every grocery shopper out there in our communities of Ely and Babbitt to try using a reusable bag. Those of you who already do this, congratulations! Please continue the use and inspire the rest of our community to join you. Zup's in Ely and Babbitt and the Northland Market will take part in this effort on Earth Day to build awareness of the issue.

I've talked to the grocery store managers in our area and have permission to sell a cloth bag as a fundraiser, sponsored by the Babbitt Conservation Club. The profits of the sale will go to the youth on our Northeast Range Trap team. What a better way to do something for yourself, your community and the youth in our communities.

The cost of the bags will be \$4 per bag or \$10 for 3 bags. Bags are made of a recyclable plastic (a non-woven polypropylene). Our NE Range Trap team will be on hand Monday, April 22, and the following Saturday, April 27 to sell bags in our local grocery stores. If you prefer a cotton bag, these bags have been in our stores for sale already and will continue to be available for purchase. Can't afford one? Use a box.

The idea here is the change. I looked up the term conservation and one definition I found was this: prevention of wasteful use of a resource.

If one person can make that change, we our headed in the right direction. Think of what a whole community can do!

Joanne Hakala  
Ely

### COMMENTARY

## Accountability makes good government

As various House committees gear up for a season of investigations and hearings on President Trump and his administration, a lot of people are worried that progress on the nation's challenges will grind to



LEE  
HAMILTON

a halt. I would argue just the opposite: the wheels of government are turning in favor of accountability.

Our system rests squarely on the notion that government officials — whether elected or appointed — need to be accountable to the people they govern. They are

### Area townships need answers on spending by the city of Tower

The Tower City Council meeting last Monday was disturbingly enlightening. Being from Greenwood and living on the lake, I am concerned about two things:

We learned that the Ambulance Fund has been used by the council as a slush fund to cover city overspending on unrelated projects. That's not right in my opinion. The Ambulance Fund needs to be separated from other city finances. And instead of townships being asked to almost double our payments into the fund, the city needs to replace money it has taken out.

We learned that the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Dept. is running in the red. This is at a time when the wastewater pond capacity apparently needs to be increased, a very expensive process. (The pond system discharges into Lake Vermilion.) For starters, there is something very wrong with the wastewater fund rate structure. Wastewater funds are supposed to build a reserve, not a deficit. My concern is the water quality of Lake Vermilion.

I have praised the Tower Ambulance on these pages in the past, particularly when Greenwood was under the threat of a hostile takeover by the Cook Hospital District. We need to straighten out the finances.

Lee Peterson  
Greenwood Twp

responsible for their behavior, their decisions, and the policies they support. They are answerable for their use — and misuse — of the funds and resources they're given.

They are — or ought to be — just as accountable for the remedies they fail to pursue as for the actions they do take. Accountability safeguards our

See HAMILTON...pg. 5

## Together for the duration even as life has its challenges

I remember the moment like it was yesterday. I'm seated at the kitchen table working on the week's crossword puzzle. The phone rings. John, reclining in front of the TV not five feet away, picks up. Without trying, I overhear him negotiating his next appointment with the local VA



KATHLEEN  
MCQUILLAN

work. Tuesday at 11." Hmm. Is it time again for his annual physical? How time flies! (Here we are, facing spring again, after months of thinking winter would never end.) Anyway, John kept that appointment only to be scheduled for a cardiac stress test two weeks later, followed by another, this time for cardio-angioplasty

at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center with the request that I drive down with him.

"Unusual," I think to myself. John insists that it's "routine". My instincts say otherwise.

Donned in blue paper bonnets and booties, the VAMC doctors, rather nonchalantly, explain the procedure. They'll be looking for "arterial blockages". If they find anything, they'll be able to insert stents, fixing them right then and there. Wallah!

I offer a quick kiss good-bye and he's wheeled away to the

OR. It's 10 a.m. I find the coffee machine and then locate a private corner to hang out with my book. The next ninety minutes speed by before I'm called to the recovery room. John is lying under warm, white cotton blankets. "So how did it go?" I ask anxiously. "Well, no stents." Great! "Then no blockages?" I ask. "No stents," he replies, "but they want me in two days for coronary bypass surgery." OMG! I'm not sure how to react.

Many readers out there know the stress of meeting

doctors, absorbing complicated medical information, reading and rereading pre-op instructions to make sure we are reading it right, and those anxious hours spent in waiting rooms and at bedsides, hoping. Then once home, recliner now serves as hospital bed. We're busy monitoring medications, bodily functions, and the ups and downs of the healing process that seems so endless while in it, but now looking back, was stunningly

See TOGETHER...pg. 5

**HAMILTON...**Continued from page 4

Constitution, our laws, and our democracy.

Which is why the weakening of accountability in our system over the past few decades ought to worry all Americans. It has become very difficult, for instance, to question a president — a problem that preceded the current occupant of the White House. Presidential press conferences, which once were free-wheeling affairs at which presidents faced sustained questioning from reporters well-versed in their policies, are barely held these days. They are passing from view — and President Trump’s habit of using Twitter to communicate over the heads of people who ask hard questions may well set the

course for the future.

In fact, politicians and bureaucrats at all levels have become quite skilled at avoiding accountability. During my years in Congress, I considered it a key task to find out who was responsible for particular decisions — whether the administration was Republican or Democrat. It was difficult then, and has become more so with time.

Meanwhile, it has been reassuring over the past two years to see several national news outlets step up their scrutiny of public officials in Washington, but it remains true that overall there is less investigative journalism than there once was.

Which is a problem because it’s simply human

nature to want to avoid being held responsible. If policies are going well and are well received in the polls and by the public, of course, officials fight to take their place in line and garner the credit. If something goes wrong, they fight to get out of the line.

In our system, every official has to answer to some other official. This is a reassuring quality in a governmental structure — but only if officials actually exercise their responsibilities. That’s why the media are so important as a backstop.

Which raises another issue. A lot of players ought to be exercising oversight: members of Congress, the government’s inspectors general, the media —

we even have an entire agency, the Government Accountability Office, dedicated to the task. But for them to do their work, the system also needs transparency. Almost every day you see signs of officials hiding what they do from the public — often without real merit.

I’ve always been quite skeptical of the argument that we ought not let this or that piece of information become public. National security is often invoked, or trade secrets, or some other rationale for drawing a veil over the government’s activities. Even when citizens or reporters file Freedom of Information requests, these can be ignored, or turned down.

The problem with this, of course, is that it’s anti-democratic. How are we supposed to make reasoned decisions about who and what we want to see in our government if we don’t know what’s going on and who’s responsible for it?

Perhaps the most famous hallmark of Harry Truman’s tenure as president was the motto he placed on his desk: “The buck stops here.” There’s a reason why it’s so famous, and why people still consider it a standard they wish other politicians would set for themselves.

Americans want officials who will step up and take responsibility for their decisions. They want political leaders who will hold themselves

accountable to the public. And they want to see public officials exercise the responsibility handed them by the Constitution to hold others accountable. That the House is moving to do so is not a detour from governing; it’s the essence of good government.

*Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar of the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.*

**AMBULANCE...**Continued from page 3

a goal of three transfers per week, or 150 on an annual basis, to cover the costs of paid on-call staffing, but the service handled only 94 transfers during the nine months of operation of the paid on-call staffing, or an average of 2.4 runs per week.

The average number of transfers dipped significantly in the final two months of the year as other area ambulance services also boosted their transfer numbers. Many other ambulance services, such as Ely, Cook, and Virginia, have hospitals within their service territory, which gives them right of first refusal for inter-hospital transfers. Tower handles transfers only in cases when other services are unable or unwilling to respond.

Ambulance services typically generate more revenue from a patient transfer than from a typical 911 emergency call, which has sparked some competition between area services for the transfer business.

Through March 31 of this year, the Tower ambulance responded to just 25 transfers, or an average of just under two per week. That number, however, does typically increase in the warmer months.

Altenburg had predicted that an increase in transfers would help the service substantially increase its

revenue. An estimate he provided to the *Timberjay* last year projected revenue increases of \$218,000 on an annualized basis. The department’s revenues were higher in 2018, but only by \$110,000, or roughly half of what Altenburg had projected.

Meanwhile, the department received 361 emergency calls, which shows the department’s emergency call volume has remained relatively stable over the past five years, averaging 342 since 2013.

At the April 8 council meeting, Altenburg tried to put the best face on the disappointing numbers. “We made a lot of money this year, I just spent it all, correct?” he asked of the auditors. While Altenburg tried to suggest that equipment purchases and higher maintenance costs were responsible for the poor earnings, the shift to paid on-call was, by far, the service’s largest single contributor to the sharp increase in expenditures.

And the paid on-call costs last year reflected just nine months of operation, since the new staffing took effect in April. Assuming the service continues its paid on-call staffing through 2019, the service is unlikely to see much reduction in its operational costs even without higher-than-average

equipment purchases.

**Newspaper estimates consistent with results**

The ambulance service’s 2018 financial results were consistent with concerns raised by the *Timberjay* a little over a year ago, before the city implemented the paid on-call staffing. In a March 2018 investigative report, the *Timberjay* estimated that the shift to paid on-call would diminish the ambulance service’s profitability by about 60-65 percent, and the latest results suggest that estimate was very close to reality, despite attacks on the newspaper by Altenburg and council member Kevin Fitton, who both accused the newspaper of inaccurate reporting.

While still profitable, the *Timberjay* noted that the service’s diminished profitability could make it much harder for the service to cover the cost of ambulance purchases. Area townships do pay an annual per-capita subsidy to help cover the cost of ambulance purchases, but in an interview with the *Timberjay* last March, Altenburg acknowledged that those subsidies don’t provide for the full cost of vehicle replacement. Altenburg has since tried to convince area townships to accept a doubling of that subsidy, phased-in over three

years, but has had mixed success with that effort.

The service ordered a new ambulance and associated equipment in December, at a total cost of \$250,000, but those costs don’t appear in the 2018 audit. Those expenditures, combined with the continuation of paid on-call staffing, should push the service’s budget deeply into the red in 2019, likely in excess of \$200,000.

Further adding to the concern is the fact that the service will likely need to replace two additional ambulances by 2023, assuming the service continues with its current operational model. A cash flow analysis by the *Timberjay* suggests that could result in a more than \$500,000 cumulative budget deficit over the next five years.

That would almost certainly affect the city of Tower’s finances. For the past several years, surpluses in the ambulance fund have helped the city to cover cash deficits in other parts of its budget. Yet without a significant change in its operations, the city’s ambulance service is likely to become a significant drag on the city’s finances for at least the next five years, making it more difficult for the city to recover from its current cash crunch.

**How local EMS services stack up**

The Minnesota State Auditor’s office maintains comparative data on the cost of city services for communities around the state, including on a per capita basis. Small cities in northern St. Louis County rank among the most costly, when viewed on a per capita basis. The city of Tower ranks as the most expensive in the state on a per capita basis among 413 cities of a similar size, while Orr ranks 11th and Cook ranks 14th. Ely ranks 56th out of 228 cities of similar size. Those rankings are based on 2017 budget figures and do not reflect changes, like Tower’s shift to paid on-call staffing for their ambulance, which took effect in 2018.

**Cook:** Population 558  
2017 Police & Ambulance Cost: \$237,795  
Per capita: \$426.16  
Comparative ranking: 14 of 413

**Ely:** Population 3,399  
2017 Police & Ambulance Cost: \$827,309  
Per capita: \$243.40  
Comparative ranking: 56 of 228

**Orr:** Population 295  
2017 Police & Ambulance Cost: \$140,487  
Per capita: \$476.23  
Comparative ranking: 11 of 413

**Tower:** Population 494  
2017 Police & Ambulance Cost: \$346,864  
Per capita: \$702.15  
Comparative ranking: 1 of 413  
*Estimated per capita cost for 2018: \$1,141*

**TOGETHER...**Continued from page 4

short lived.

Once John felt like he was getting stronger, he posed the next important question to his doctors, “Am I able to endure ankle surgery?” Part Two of this saga also began in January 2018, when I made a call to Twin Cities Orthopedic Clinic.

John had long suffered with intense foot and ankle pain. He logged for over forty years toting a chainsaw and pulling skidder cable, “old school” as they say. There was no question that all that wear and tear had taken its toll on his lower extremities! I’d read an article about a surgeon listed among the five best in Minnesota and renowned for his skills fixing feet and replacing ankles. I made the call and sadly learned that there were “no openings” until January 2019! I took the first available appointment.

Having all the unexpected cardiac issues to distract us, the long wait didn’t seem so long, and it very likely reduced his risk facing ankle surgery. We really knew the gods were working with us when the cardiologists cleared John for his initial orthopedic evaluation. On February 25, he had a complete ankle replacement. We’re still waiting on physical therapy, so we can only hope for success, his chance to walk again, hopefully pain free!

John will admit that it’s been a long and difficult road. But, surprisingly, during another one of those inadvertently overheard conversations, I heard him say, “but not as hard as it’s been for Kath. She’s had to do everything!”

Yep, it’s been a challenge for me, too. I’ve had experience caring for others, but I’ve never had to wait on my hubby. Of

course, I understand the necessity of teamwork. Isn’t that at the heart of being partners? We know there’s nothing like having another person at the other end of the ladder. But this has been different! Over these past many months, I’ve had to learn things I’ve never had to before, and now looking back on the experience, I don’t think I’ll ever regret it!

Turning back pages on the 2018 calendar, there were some highlights. By late June, our 40 x 140 foot garden was already planted and definitely taking root. I realized early upon my return home from the hospital that my time would be split 50-50, nursing John and nursing many rows of home-grown vegetables. And soon enough, I was fully engaged in “on-my-knees combat” with purslane, one of those infamous invasive species from hell that threatens the “nuclear

option” to finally eradicate! With John’s armchair expertise, I learned to run the water pump, fix the rototillers, and solve just about every other problem that appeared. Happily, by harvest time, he was ready to help in the kitchen! Come winter, the pantry was full.

And by February, following John’s ankle surgery, I had discovered the downside of outbuildings — too many roofs to save from collapse. I’d never shoveled that much snow because I’d never before had to do it all myself! Luckily, with foresight, we’d stacked the firewood close to the house, so no problem staying warm. But most important of all, I got to know us in a new way.

For “a person who never went to the doctor”, I watched John adjust to dialoguing, pampering, and scolding from strangers

who really did know more than him! Back at home, it was tough to watch me taking charge and believing that I could get it done. I faced similar challenges on the flip side — listening, struggling, doing, redoing, pushing myself, and believing in myself and our partnership.

This year together, day-in and day-out, has tested both our mutual and self-respect, the ability to relinquish control, change roles, and grow. And perhaps most valuable of all, to practice patience at levels not required since

raising our teenagers! Whew! And, guess what? We agree, we’re not done yet!



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COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Cemetery clean-up day on April 27 at Vermilion Lake Township Cemetery**

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The annual Community Work Day at the Vermilion Lake Township Cemetery, 6499 Wahlsten Road, will be held on Saturday, April 27 (rain date is Saturday, May 4), beginning at 1 p.m. Your help is needed to straighten headstones, raise grave markers, and fill in low spots. Many hands make quick work of the project. The township has a few tools, but volunteers are encouraged to bring their own shovels, etc. If you have questions, call Phil 749-3462, Sarah 750-2514, Bruce 741-1789, Steve 753-4129, Crystal 750-4752, or Fran 749-3259.

**Exhibit your art work in Cook, June 5 to 28**

COOK- Grab this opportunity to exhibit your artwork or host an art exhibit at a business in Cook or at the NWFA Gallery during the 9th Annual Spring Art Expo, June 5 - 28. Registration deadline is Friday, April 12.

To register, go to [www.nwfamn.org](http://www.nwfamn.org) or pick up a registration form at the NWFA Gallery, 210 S River Street in Cook. NWFA is a non-profit

membership organization created nine years ago by volunteers and completely managed by volunteers.

**Northern Red Hat Belles to meet on Thursday, April 25**

TOWER- The Northern Red Hat Belles will meet on Thursday, April 25 at 12 noon at Benchwarmer's in Tower. The group will order off the menu. Please RSVP by Monday, April 22 to Delores at 218-753-5051.

**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 price-less 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.

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

SOUDAN- The Defensive Driving 4-Hour Refresher will be held on 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

**Vermilion Country School Third Quarter Honor Roll**

**A Honor Roll**

Alexander Dorman  
Jacob Dorman  
Andrew Sauls

Shaylin Peliska  
Jason Premo

**B Honor Roll**

Jeremiah Lindberg  
Preston Tyndall-Robich  
Kyla Stellmach  
Todd Zibrowski  
Alyssa Pratt  
Jacob Karasti



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 class set for 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. Class will be held on Wednesday, 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.

CHURCH SCHEDULES



**Holy week schedule for St. Martin's, St. Mary's, and Holy Cross Catholic Churches**

TOWER- Holy Thursday, April 18 at St. Mary's in Cook at 6 p.m.

Good Friday, April 19 at Holy Cross in Orr at 3 p.m. and St. Martin's in Tower at 6:30 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 20 at St. Mary's in Cook at 8:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 21 at Holy Cross in Orr at 8 a.m. and St. Martin's in Tower at 11 a.m.

**Easter services at St. Paul's in Soudan**

SOUDAN- Good Friday Service is a joint service at St. James Presbyterian in Tower at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday Service is at 8:30 a.m. at St. Paul's.

All are welcome to attend.

**St. James Presbyterian Church of Tower Holy Week Schedule**

TOWER- Maundy Thursday, April 18 - Communion and potluck at 6 p.m., "The Last Passover."

Good Friday, April 19 - Ecumenical service at 7 p.m., "The Centurion at the Feet of Jesus,"

based on Mark 15:33-39. St. James Choir will sing "Into Your Hand" and Kathy Siskar will sing "I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked" accompanied by Ellie Larmouth.

Easter Sunday, April 21 - Worship at 10 a.m., "Victory in Jesus," based on 1 Corinthians 15:33-57. The choir will sing "Easter Declaration" and "Arise, Arise." Kathy Siskar will sing "I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked" accompanied by Ellie Larmouth and Special Music by Sonia Connell and Jay Carlsgaard. The service will be followed by Easter Brunch; everyone is invited to join.

**Immanuel Lutheran Holy Week schedule**

TOWER- Immanuel Lutheran will have their Maundy Thursday worship with Holy Communion on Thursday, April 18 at Immanuel at 6:30 p.m. This year the Ecumenical Service hosted by the Tower-Soudan Ministerial will be a Good Friday worship instead of an evening Palm Sunday worship. Good Friday will be hosted by St. James Presbyterian Church at 7 p.m. Easter morning worship will be at 10 a.m. as usual at Immanuel.

**Breitung hoping to call for bids on renovation project later this month**

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA  
Staff Writer

SOUDAN- Architects from Architectural Resources, Inc. (ARI) met with township officials on April 11, to set bid dates and select finishes for the town hall renovation project.

On Thursday, April 18, at 12 noon, the town board will meet to review the bid. On Tuesday, May 7, at 12 noon the board will open bids. On Thursday, May 9, at 12 noon the board plans to award the bid.

ARI reviewed plans with the board, including that the clerk and treasurer's office will have carpet, the community center will have an epoxy floor, and there will be a concrete floor in the additional storage closet that will be built on to the back of the building. There will be a walk-off carpet at the entrance.

The group also discussed installing a keypad entry, indoor and outdoor camera surveillance, and exterior lighting. The board decided the maintenance office (former police building) should also get new siding to match the neighboring build-

ings. The board asked the architects to replace a siren that hasn't functioned for the past year. The siren used to go off twice daily at noon and 9 p.m. and for tornado warnings.

In other news, the town board:

➤ Decided to include vacuum breakers as part of the ARI bid package, instead of accepting a stand-alone quote from North Country Heating and Cooling.

➤ Acknowledged and gave thanks to Five Season Sports for the donation of a generator for the fire department, an \$800 value.

➤ Reported that Church Street has not yet been cleaned up from the sewer project work done last summer. Engineer John Jammick will speak with Bougalis and Sons, who did the project last summer, to arrange dates to finish the project.

➤ Decided to remove a tree at the intersection of 55 Main St. and Poplar St. The tree is in the right-of-way and interfering with power lines.

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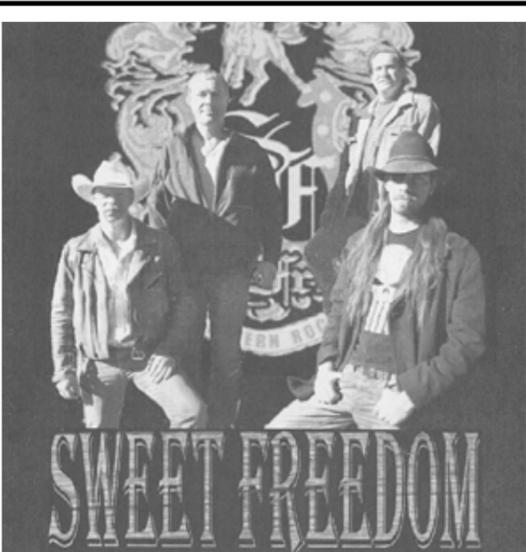
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ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 20 at the Civic Center in Tower



Don't be late, the egg hunt begins at 11 a.m. sharp!

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower is once again sponsoring the Community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 20 at 11 a.m. at the Herb Lamppa Civic Center in Tower. Participants should plan to be there by 10:45

a.m. to get ready. The egg hunt will start right at 11 a.m. and it only takes the eager children a few minutes to collect the hundreds and hundreds of eggs that will be placed outdoors. Each egg has a little prize or a ticket to collect a

larger prize from the prize table. All kids age infant to sixth grade are welcome to play. There will be prizes, special raffles, and lunch for all.

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY

## Fun times with Chimpy!

Chimpy Tuominen hosted a family fun night, with help from Tower-Soudan Community Education and ECFE. There was a bouncy house, balloon fun, tightrope and balancing ball, and more. photos by J. Summit



### 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 Meals on Wheels, or for more information, please call AEOA Senior Nutrition at 218-735-6899.

**Week of April 22**

- Monday- No School
- Tuesday- Taco Salad, Corn Muffin
- Wednesday- Chicken Chow Mein, Brown Rice, Chow Mein Noodles
- Thursday- Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Dinner Roll, Vegetable
- Friday- BBQ Riblet Sandwich, Corn

**Week of April 22**

**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 May 21.

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

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

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

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

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*the* **TIMBERJAY**

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### Bookmobile Schedule

<b>Wednesday, May 8, 28; June 19</b>	
Bois Forte Boys/Girls Club	11:00-11:30 a.m.
Greenwood Town Hall	12:00-12:30 p.m.
Soudan Fire Hall	1:45-3:00 p.m.
Tower Civic Center	3:15-4:15 p.m.
Embarrass, Four Corners	5:15-6:00 p.m.

### Transfer station

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For further information, call the Arrowhead Library System at 218-741-3840 or [www.arrowhead.lib.mn.us](http://www.arrowhead.lib.mn.us)

### Libraries

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

**Babbitt library**  
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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 encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.

**BABBITT AL-ANON** - Thursdays, 7 p.m. at Woodland Presbyterian Church.

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

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

**ADULT BASIC EDUCATION**

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

### Tuesday Group schedule

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

**April 23** - Byongchan Yoon - Visions and Plans For the Ely Korean Center

**April 30** - To be announced

### Ely Free Clinic

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

For more information, call 218-365-5678, or visit their website, [www.elycommunityhealth.org](http://www.elycommunityhealth.org).

### Play Smear at Senior Center

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

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

### Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2019



first robin sighting staking his territory

mountain ash haven

# ELY HEALTH CARE

## Health professionals honored by St. Louis County Board

### Community Care Team, Dr. Palombi receive achievement awards

ELY - Just as the work of public health covers a wide variety of health topics, so do the winners this year of the St. Louis County Public Health Achievement Awards. The county board last week recognized an Ely health team and a local graduate for their work to improve health in our region.

Honorees include Ely graduate Dr. Laura Palombi, and the Ely Community Care Team, along with Dementia Friendly Duluth, and Ashley Grimm.

The Public Health Achievement Awards are given out as part of National Public Health Week, which was April 1-7. This is the fourth year St. Louis County has presented these awards as a way to highlight the broad role of its Public Health nurses and educators, and the importance of the many partners they work with to improve the health of both individuals and larger groups as they seek to create community or system-wide change.

Dr. Palombi, a graduate of Ely Memorial High School, is a pharmacist and a professor at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy - Duluth Campus. She does a variety of work in the area of substance abuse prevention and intervention, and has shown particular leadership in training people on how to use Naloxone (Narcan) to save people experiencing an opioid overdose. She's also played a key role in distributing Naloxone kits in rural areas.

The Ely Community Care Team (CCT) provides a wide range of physical and mental health services, and helps address gaps in care for people living in



The St. Louis County Board presented Dr. Laura Palombi, a pharmacist and professor at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy - Duluth Campus, with a 2019 Public Health Achievement Award. Dr. Palombi, center, is shown with Amy Westbrook, director of Public Health, and Commissioner Frank Jewell, who chairs the Health and Human Services Committee. Palombi is a graduate of Ely Memorial High School. submitted photo



The St. Louis County Board recently presented the Ely Community Care Team with a 2019 Public Health Achievement Award. Shown from left are Amy Westbrook, director of Public Health; Commissioner Frank Jewell, who chairs the Health and Human Services Committee, and Heidi Favet of the Ely Community Care Team. submitted photo

the northeast part of the county. The CCT includes employees from Essentia Health, Ely Community Resources and Northern Lights Clubhouse, and ensures cross training so all are able to respond to a full spectrum of needs.

Dementia Friendly Duluth promotes resources available both for people

experiencing Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, and for their families/caregivers.

Ashley Grimm manages youth development programming at the Damiano Center, and also serves on several boards/commissions to help disadvantaged people.

"We are so impressed

with and thankful for the work of this year's honorees," said Amy Westbrook, director of Public Health for St. Louis County. "We had an especially strong group of nominees this year and it really highlights the variety of health needs faced by our county residents that can only be addressed with the help of great community partners."

The role of Public Health nurses and educators is continually changing as they identify needs and work to help both individuals one-on-one, and larger groups to create community-or-system-wide change, according to Westbrook. "Many of these efforts focus on the broad goal of ensuring that all people have equal opportunity to be healthy. Likewise, much of the work done by Public Health employees is in partnership with other community agencies and professionals," she said.

St. Louis County Public Health is a division of the Public Health and Human Services Department. Public Health nurses, nutritionists and other staff work through a variety of programs to help pregnant moms deliver healthy babies, and at-risk families to give young children a better chance at positive development.

They also help elderly clients maintain independent living, and work with community partners to address factors - such as environment, income and education level, lifestyle and genetics - that affect health and well being. Public Health also plays a key role in disaster preparedness planning.

To learn more, call 218-725-5210 or visit [stlouiscountymn.gov/publichealth](http://stlouiscountymn.gov/publichealth).



## the TIMBERJAY

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## TRAFFIC SAFETY

# Extra traffic enforcement in Ely focuses on distracted driving

ELY - "I was a mother. I was a father. I was a nurse. I was a tri-athlete. I was a college cross-country runner." The list of hopes and dreams from the voices of those who have left us too soon can go on and on.

These were the voices of Minnesotans killed by distracted driving. Distracted driving-related crashes claim an average of 53 lives each year, causing a lifetime of grief and pain for the families left behind and an untold story of what could have been.

In an effort to increase awareness and change dangerous behaviors, law enforcement agencies in Ely and around the state are conducting a three-week extra distracted driving enforcement wave for the rest of April.

"The Ely Police Department will take part in extra enforcement, along with more than 300 law enforcement agencies across Minnesota," said Ely Police Sgt. George Burger.

The distracted driving campaign that runs through April 30 is coordinated by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (DPS-OTS).

"Take a moment and describe your loved one out loud," Burger said. "Think about all of their loves,

passions and accomplishments. Now think about saying those same things at your loved one's funeral. That's what can happen when a driver decides to take their eyes off the road, even for a split second. Let's protect the hopes and dreams of everyone around us by putting the distractions away and focusing 100 percent of our attention on the road."

Distracted driving is dangerous driving. Continuing a six-year trend, texting citations climbed 30 percent from 2017 to 2018, Burger said. Other statistics include:

- ▶ Distracted driving contributes to one in five crashes in Minnesota;
- ▶ Distracted driving contributes to an average of 53 deaths and 216 serious injuries a year (2013-2017);
- ▶ During the 2018 distracted driving extra enforcement campaign, law enforcement cited 1,576 people for texting and driving;
- ▶ During the 2017 distracted driving extra enforcement campaign, law enforcement cited 1,017 people for texting and driving;
- ▶ During the 2016 distracted driving extra enforcement campaign, law enforcement cited 972 people for texting and driving;
- ▶ During the 2015 distracted driving extra enforcement campaign,

law enforcement cited 909 people for texting and driving.

### Distracted driving behaviors

Posting on Facebook, checking that box score, or Googling information on a device while driving are all against the law under Minnesota's "Use of Wireless Communications Device" statute, which is commonly referred to as the texting and driving law. "Distractions that could lead to a crash also include fiddling with controls for music, eating and drinking, children fighting, or an adult passenger's behavior," Burger said.

With Minnesota's "No Texting" law, it is illegal for drivers to read, send texts and emails, and access the web while the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic. That includes sitting at a stoplight or stop sign. Penalties for this violation can include: \$50 fine, plus court fees for a first offense; and a \$275 fine, plus court fees for a second and/or subsequent offense. "If you injure or kill someone because of texting and driving, you can face a felony charge of criminal vehicular operation or homicide," Burger added.

Subscribe to the Timberjay 218-753-2950

OUR COMMUNITY



It's not how you bowl, but how you roll. The Ely Young Life Bowling Club met at the Ely Bowling Center Monday night for one of their last chances to bowl in the city before the business closes at the end of April. Just two more chances remain for the high school group. Young Life bowlers will get a free t-shirt at the last event on Monday, April 29. submitted photo

SMILE, YOU'RE IN ELY

# Chamber presents 'good neighbor' and 'community spirit' awards

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – The Ely Chamber of Commerce presented two significant awards recently at their annual “Smile, You’re in Ely” annual dinner event.

The Good Neighbor Business Award was presented to two co-recipients, Zup’s Food Market and Ely Northland Market.

“I think everyone can agree there are a number of businesses that are deserving of this award,” said Chamber Executive Director Eva Sebesta. “The board had a particularly difficult task this year. We had two nominations that both serve and support the community unselfishly. So we decided to recognize both businesses.”

She continued, “Ely is very fortunate to have businesses that provide valuable goods and services to our residents, create jobs, give back to the community through charitable endeavors, and work to promote the Ely area as a great place to visit or live.”

“There are many ways these businesses demonstrate their commitment to the Ely community. A few examples include financial contributions to

various organizations or fundraisers; sponsorship of events; volunteer work (owners or their staff); donations of services, facilities or other resources; and involvement in community organizations or activities,” Sebesta said.

The first 2019 Good Neighbor Business Award recipient, Zup’s Food Market, has been around for a while, somewhere in the ball park of 103 years. A co-sponsor of the Snowmobile Fun Run and Peter Mitchell Days, the family-run business donates to organizations such as the Food Shelf, Jaycees, VFW, Ely Winter Fest and all other civic organizations.

“They are proud to be a long-standing part of Ely and giving back to the community is a long-standing tradition spanning generations,” Sebesta said. “This business is also well known for their love of parades. You never know what the hot item will be from year to year, but there’s no clowning around about the cases of candy distributed.”

“Our companion 2019 Good neighbor Business Award has an equally impressive history. Established in 1953, it has remained a staple within the Ely community.

“Always family-owned, it is a contributor to many local events, organizations and benefits, as well as donating to the Ely Food Shelf,” Sebesta said.

In addition, Ely Northland Market offers a grocery delivery service to the elderly and homebound. More than a decade ago, they began the “Burgers & Brats for Kids” program. This summertime event has benefited numerous Ely area youth organizations. Last year alone the program raised \$15,132.00.

“The owners and staff of Northland Market are proud to serve area residents and visitors in one of the most beautiful places in the world – Ely, Minnesota,” she said.

The first Ely Chamber of Commerce Good Neighbor Business Award was presented to the Grand Ely Lodge in 2017, followed by the Ely Dairy Queen Grill & Chill in 2018.

## Community Spirit Award

The Jackpine Bob Cary Community Spirit Award was conceived as a way to honor its namesake, Bob Cary, for his great contributions to the Ely area,” according to

Sebesta. “It is not given annually, but rather it is given in true recognition of an individual’s unselfish contribution to our community.”

It was first presented in 2009, to Bob Cary, and past award recipients include: Anne Swenson, 2010; Linda Fryer, 2013; Mike Hillman (posthumously), 2015; Bill Tefft, 2016; Tom Coombe, 2017; and Sarah Guy-Levar, 2018.

This year’s recipient, David Wigdahl, is the president of Well Being Development and has actively supported Northern Lights Clubhouse for a number of years. “This individual was also the mastermind behind the KUBB phenomenon that swept into Ely several years ago, including the annual KUBB tournament during the Ely Winter Festival,” Sebesta said.

“A staunch supporter of the Ely Band program, Boundary Waters Choral group, and many other events, our recipient loves Ely and is constantly working quietly behind the scenes in so many ways,” she said. “He is a retiree who refuses to retire.” His latest venture is a recently opened retail endeavor, Potluck Vintage

## News In Brief

### Use reusable tote bags

REGIONAL - The Northeast Range Trap team, with support from the Babbitt Conservation Club, Zup’s in Babbitt, Zup’s in Ely, and Ely Northland Market, are promoting the use of cloth bags for grocery shopping.

They are encouraging all shoppers to try breaking the habit of using single use bags by switching to a reusable bag.

Bring your own bag to the grocery store or purchase a bag on Monday, April 22 and Saturday, April 27. Place the bag back in your vehicle for later use.

For more information, contact Joanne Hakala at

### Story Portage receives funding

ELY - Story Portage has received funding from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to support on-going community collaborations for literary projects between Ely Memorial High School, Vermilion Community College, and Northeast Range School.

Funds will be used to support school visits by local writers.

## Yesterday's news, this week

from the archives of

## THE ELY MINER

Courtesy of the Ely-Winton Historical Society

April 18, 1919

### Section Thirty accident

A serious accident occurred at the mine here Monday night. A fall of ore from the roof of the underground room caught two miners, Jack Yuzna and Nick Theisen. The latter sustained a badly fractured leg, but Yuzna, unfortunately, was pinned under the fall and was found to have a broken back and severe internal injuries from the effects of which he died about three hours later.

Both men were old employees here and the deceased leaves a wife and eight children. Drs. Ayers and Parker from Ely assisted Dr. Stanley and Theisen was taken to the Shipman Hospital where he is progressing favorably.

### The saucy thing!

Now that the women are to have the vote in Minnesota, that law which says that at least eight inches of the voter’s leg must be visible to the election judge while in the voting booth is likely to be rather embarrassing to many of the spindle-shanked variety of suffragettes – Williams, Northern Light

### Getting ready

County Road Engineer G.B. Hughes and crew are getting things in shape for the comprehensive road surveys to be made as soon as the weather permits, preliminary to the concrete program as mapped out by the county. All the other engineers of the county are similarly employed and detailed plans are being made.

### Food sale

The ladies of the M.E. church will conduct a food sale at the church parlor on the afternoon of April 19. Hot pasties will be on sale at 5 o’clock. This will offer you the opportunity to get your Easter eats already prepared.

## WATER MAIN BREAK



Vermilion Community College in Ely was forced to cancel classes on Tuesday because of a water main break near campus. City public works crews were at the scene by sunrise Tuesday. According to Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski, the main broke right at the intersection of Camp Street and 17th Avenue. He predicted the water would be back on by mid-day. photo by K. Vandervort

ARCHERY



The North Woods archery team is headed to the national tournament in Kentucky this May. To help with travel costs, the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Sturgeon River Chapter, donated \$1,000. The team will be sending 30 students to the tournament on May 8. photo by M. White

Stone signs with Lake Superior College



Kate Stone (center-left) with coaches Liz Cheney, Robbie Gogleye and Becca Bundy. photo by C. Stone

COOK - Kate Stone, a senior at North Woods High School, will continue her education at Lake Superior College in the fall. She is enrolled in the Radiologic Technician program and will be finishing up her AA degree. Kate signed her Letter of Intent to also play basketball at LSC, on Sunday, April 14 during the Girls Basketball Awards banquet. Kate had some impressive stats this basketball season taking home the following awards: Most Offensive and Defensive Rebounds, Most Steals, Most Defensive Tips, Most Points scored this season, and she was voted by her teammates as the Most Valuable Player! Congratulations, Kate! Best of luck both on and off the court at Lake Superior College!

**Holy Week schedule for Holy Cross, St. Martin's and St. Mary's parishes**

**GOOD FRIDAY, April 19**  
 Holy Cross (Orr) – 3 p.m.  
 St. Martin's (Tower) – 6:30 p.m.

**HOLY SATURDAY, April 20**  
 St. Mary's (Cook) – 8:30 p.m.

**EASTER SUNDAY, April 21**  
 Holy Cross (Orr) – 8 a.m.  
 St. Martin's (Tower) – 11 a.m.

**Email your community notices to editor@timberjay.com**

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 NFWA Gallery in Cook on Saturday, April 20 from 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

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 NFWA 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 Whitnack at 218-666-2153 or Shawna Kishel at 218-780-6510. Checks written to NFWA can be dropped off at the NFWA Gallery in Cook or mailed to NFWA, PO Box 44, Cook, MN 55723.

**Spring Events at NFWA**

COOK - Preregister for these classes. The fee for classes is \$40 for NFWA members and \$55 for non-members.

Call Shawna at 218-780-6510 or Alberta at 218-666-2153.

Fee payment confirms registration. Mail to NFWA, PO Box 44, Cook, MN 55723.

Artist Adam Swanson presents a Day Long Acrylic Painting Class

on Saturday, May 18, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Cook Community Center.

Select your favorite photos to enter this fun fundraiser! Cash prizes!

Photo Contest "Your Best Shot" – Adult and student submissions accepted until April 27.

Exhibit: May 1 – May 24. Reception: May 24, 5-7 p.m. Fee \$10 per photo. Students may submit up to three photos at no cost.

Spring Art Expo 2019 - Calling all artists who want to exhibit and businesses to host an exhibit from June 5 to 28. Businesses and artists are listed in brochures and publicity.

Open Studio Art – Every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

COOK HOSPITAL NEWS

**Rehabilitation services offered in Cook**

by BRIAN MCCARTHY  
 Physical Therapist

COOK - The Cook Hospital Rehabilitation Department provides a vital service to our community, working with people who have a variety of physical and cognitive conditions with a primary goal of returning them to their highest level of function at home, work or play.

The Cook Hospital Therapy Department offers Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy services. All of our Therapists are licensed to practice in the State of Minnesota and attend yearly continuing education classes to keep current with the latest treatment methodologies and techniques.

Our Occupational Therapy Department consists of one full time Occupational Therapist, (OTR/L), and a casual Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA).

Our OT department treats patients who suffer from orthopedic, cognitive, neurological, and developmental re-

lated conditions across the life span from pediatrics to geriatrics. They also work with industrial medicine clients and businesses performing work conditioning and ergonomic assessments to return injured workers to an ergonomically-correct work station to prevent future work-related injuries.

Our OT staff also work with our residents in the Care Center attached to the Cook Hospital, working to improve or maintain residents' mobility, function, and independence.

The Physical Therapy Department consists of two full time Physical Therapists and one full time Physical Therapy Assistant. These therapists have worked to obtain specialty training in wound care, kinesio taping, pelvic floor dysfunction, work conditioning, and senior fitness, as well as a variety of advanced post-surgical protocols. Our physical therapy staff have also obtained specific training in manual therapy techniques to treat musculoskeletal, vestibular,

and neurological conditions. The physical therapy staff has a combined 55+ years of experience working across the life span from pediatric to geriatric patients who suffer from a variety of conditions from acute to chronic.

Each patient receives an evaluation by which a tailored plan of care is developed to meet the patient goals and also learn how to independently manage their condition. All patients receive a month's free membership to our wellness center to encourage continued strengthening and overall wellbeing.

The rehabilitation department has a wellness center that is open to the public Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and hosts a full line of upper and lower extremity circuit training, and cardiovascular machines.

The wellness center is utilized by hospital staff and therapy staff for patient treatment as well as public memberships. Memberships are available daily, monthly and yearly.

We also offer a 1+1 discounted price to encourage exercise with a friend.

The Cook Hospital rehabilitation staff are dedicated experts, who are committed to providing the "highest quality of rehabilitation services" to the community of Cook and surrounding townships. The highest compliment you can give to the rehabilitation department staff is to recommend us to a friend or family member.

To get started, a referral is required from your provider. We welcome all referrals from physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants throughout the state of MN and provide therapy for patients throughout the Iron Range and the 2,500-square-mile hospital service area in Northern Minnesota.

If you have questions for a therapist regarding a current condition/injury, programs we offer, or need to schedule an appointment, please contact us at 218-666-6225.

BONE BUILDERS



The participants in the Bone Builders 2019 program are celebrating their last class, hosted by Scenic Rivers Clinics and Senior Corps RSVP. Classes were held in the lower level of the Pioneer Building in Cook every Tuesday and Thursday, and they started in the fall of 2018. Scenic Rivers would like to say thank you to all the participants, their enthusiastic instructors, the Pioneer Building, and Senior Corps RSVP for helping make this class a possibility! submitted photo

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GIRLS BASKETBALL



The North Woods Girls Basketball team had their annual banquet last week at the Vermilion Club. Eleven of the team's players lettered in the sport this season. Top row: Sasha Strong, Hannah Kinsey, Brynn Simpson, Kennedy Wardas. Middle row: Alanna Rutchasky, Regan Ratai, Kate Stone, Bria Chiabotti. Front row: McKenna Villebrun, Madi Dantes and Stacy Howe. Not pictured: Coley Olson, Brianna Whiteman, Madison Spears, and Shyla Adams. photo by C. Stone



Senior Award winner Kate Stone, Alanna Rutchasky, Regan Ratai and Bria Chiabotti with Coach Robbie Goggleye (center). photo by C. Stone

NEWS FROM THE LAKE

The Crane Lake News by the Singing Teapot Dames



Much of the final (we hope) dumping of snow on our area has melted, and temps for the week were predicted to be in the 50s and even 60s. Come on, spring! Fingers are crossed that no more snow is coming our way. Gardeners are beginning to have visions of planning, tilling, and planting dancing in their heads. Last year was a pretty good gardening season; here's hoping this is another great produce year.

Another Easter is here—baby chicks and bunnies are making appearances on ads. Both are further signs of spring's imminent arrival. One of the Dames remembers her farm background and having a hundred baby chicks being delivered. They were

so cute and fluffy, needing to be watered and fed, and how they would bunch up under the brooder house stove (needed because nights were still cold). One had to be quiet and not talk too loud, which was often hard for a young child to do, as they would be startled just by your entry and would bunch up and huddle together. Fortunately, they grew quickly and didn't need quite so much attention, but unfortunately, they turned into pullets and were not at all cute. Then they grew even more and became large enough that the Dame and her mother would have to "dress" them—in other words, chop off their heads, pluck the feathers, and clean them in order that they could be eaten. This was a totally disgusting procedure—but they sure made good eating! As to the bunnies, the Dame still finds the chocolate ones to be the best.

Speaking of chocolate, did you know that Milton Hershey had already accumulated enough money that he booked passage on the maiden voyage of the Titanic? Their stateroom,

consisting of a parlor, bedrooms, private bath, deck and dressing rooms, had the fancy price of \$300. Either because of business or illness of Hershey's wife interfered with their plans, they ended up taking a different ocean liner, arriving back home before the Titanic met its end. Thank goodness—but for this occurrence, Hershey's Kisses might never have been created.

Get well wishes are sent to Randy Fry, who is receiving therapy at the Cook Hospital. Randy suffered a fall in March and broke his hip—however, it turned out to be a blessing in disguise. It was discovered he had an aneurysm, which was repaired, and he is now recovering. Heal quickly, Randy—Northland Lodge will be opening soon.

We await the opening of our other local businesses. Opening of Fishing Season is not far off. Anyone want to take bets on when the lakes will open? Crane Lake opened last year on May 5, with the Fishing Opener on May 10. This fishing opener is May 11 this year, so what's your best guess? Staff personnel

for local resorts will soon be reporting for duty, to be ready for opener. Good to see yet another sign of spring! Can proms and graduations be far behind?

Another tax season has come and gone. How did everyone fare under the new tax laws? Remember to consider your yearly deductions and total taxable income—not just the size of your refund or the amount you may have had to pay in. Either way it's always a relief to have it over and not have to think about it for another year.

Best wishes and prayers for all of our friends and neighbors who are in special need of comfort and support at this time. Blessed Easter to all.

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

Until next week, the Teapot Dames are singing off!

Briefly

**Bookmobile schedule**

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

**April 25, May 16, June 6**

**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 or check our website at [www.alslib.info](http://www.alslib.info).



**North Woods prom Grand March**

FIELD TWP - The Class of 2020 would like to invite you to attend the Grand March for the North Woods High School prom on Saturday, April 27. This year's theme is "A Night to Remember". The event will begin at 5:30 p.m.



**Easter Egg Hunt**

COOK - The Lions Club here will have their annual Easter Egg Hunt next Saturday, April 20, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Cook Community Center. Kids up to the age of 10 are welcome to participate with prizes being given to the top four girls and boys, who will each win a new bike. Food, games and Easter baskets will also be available.

**the TIMBERJAY**

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## Exploring ideas of climate change at Mesabi UU, April 21

VIRGINIA- On Sunday, April 21 at 10:30 a.m. at Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church, Marlise Riffel will present "Climate Change: Who Will We Be?"

If you've read the Fourth National Climate Assessment, you might feel a bit discouraged. Or maybe you've read "The End of Ice" and the quote "The world is broken in pieces now." You might have noticed that the Doomsday Clock was recently moved much closer to midnight. "I have found two approaches helpful: the "great turning" vs. "deep adaptation." These two paths speak to me. They have different implications for our role in our community. This Sunday we'll explore these ideas," said Riffel. The church is located at 230 7th St. S in Virginia. The building is handicap accessible.

## Mesabi Range Dean's List announced

### High Honors List (3.75-4.0 GPA)

- Lauren Adamczyk of Cook
- Nicole Bach of Tower
- Thomas Deyak of Ely
- Brian Jarvi of Ely
- Tristan Johnson of Embarrass
- Maude Lenz of Embarrass
- Sophie Lenz of Embarrass
- David Markwardt of Orr
- Mikayla Mellesmoen of Embarrass
- Steve Oja of Soudan
- Alice Pederson of Cook
- Jazmin Portz of Embarrass
- Max Posey of Babbitt
- David Shober of Ely
- Sasha Strong of Cook
- Joseph Wenzel of Babbitt

### Honors List (3.50-3.74 GPA)

- Morgan Hensley of Embarrass
- Clarence Jordan of Soudan
- Kenneth Lolling of Embarrass
- Trista Miller of Babbitt
- Elizabeth Zupancich of Tower

## Fables and Folklore with Mesabi Symphony, April 28

VIRGINIA- On Sunday, April 28 at 7 p.m. at Goodman Auditorium in Virginia Mesabi Symphony Orchestra will present Fables and Folklore, an unconventional celebration of storytelling featuring the music of Mozart, Dvorak, Von Weber, and Grieg; with a magical interpretation of Peer Gynt performed by Minneapolis acting troupe, Impossible Salt. Student admission is free with tickets available from area music teachers or via the Mesabi Symphony Orchestra website. Tickets are available at the door or online at mesabisymphon-orchestra.org.

These activities are made possible in part by a generous grant from the John T. and Elizabeth C. Adams Art Fund through the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation. Operating support and activities are made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

## Area DFL group to meet Thursday in Tower at Sulu's

TOWER- There will be a DFL local area group meeting on Thursday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m. at Sulu's Espresso Café in Tower. The group, which includes interested community members from Ely, Tower-Soudan, Embarrass, Cook, and Orr, will be meeting the fourth Thursday of the month.

## MINNESOTA WRITERS

# Lorna Landvik's new book will charm her fans

by KAY VANDERVORT  
Timberjay Contributor

REGIONAL- There are thousands of coming-of-age books. The challenge for writers today is to find a fresh approach to the time-honored theme. Lorna Landvik manages to do just that in her latest book, "Chronicles of a Radical Hag (With Recipes)."

This novel, told with Landvik's customary humor, is the story of teenaged Sam, son of newspaper publisher Susan McGrath, in a small Minnesota town. As the story begins, Sam is struggling to find his place in the midst of typical adolescent angst, compounded by the separation of his parents.

The radical hag of the story, Haze Evans, has suffered a stroke

and is in a coma. Haze has produced a newspaper column, with occasional recipes, for over fifty years and rather than find someone to take her place, Sam is given the job of sorting through the old columns to find the best to reprint.

In the process of reading the columns, the responses from readers, and secret journals Haze left, he comes to know and empathize with Haze. He visits her in the hospital and comes to know her friends and many of the writers of the most critical responses to her columns, including those of Harlan Dodd who dubbed her the radical hag.



Sam contemplates the varied topics Haze tackled in her columns. In his reflections on politics, sexual harassment, prejudice, and human relationships, he finds his own voice, and steps up as a leader among his classmates.

Haze, although she never speaks in the novel, is a central character defined by the friends who visit her in the hos-

pital and the columns and responses printed in the newspaper.

And the recipes? Time to get out a bowl and mixer and turn on the oven.

## EARTH DAY IN ELY

# Walk for water in Ely on April 22

ELY - The Ely Key Club is hosting its third annual "Walk for Water" event on Monday April 22, beginning at 2 p.m. at the Trezona Trail.

Their goal is to create a community awareness of the global water crisis. The Thirst Project raises money to provide safe, clean drinking water to those who do not have that luxury.

Did you know that waterborne diseases kill more children every single year than AIDS, Malaria, and all world violence combined? Or

that women and children spend an average of six to eight hours a day to fetch water over an average distance of 3.75 miles? When we provide a community with safe, clean drinking water, disease rates drop up to 88 percent virtually overnight.

Just \$25 provides a person with safe, clean drinking water for the rest of his or her life, \$50 provides for a married couple, and \$100 provides an entire family.

Key Club invites the community of Ely to the "Walk for Water" to raise awareness for this crisis. It is

a free event but if you would like to contribute to the cause, donations will be accepted.

Participants will walk the Trezona Trail, with some carrying a container of water. For more information on the Thirst Project, visit their website, <https://www.thirst-project.org/about/our-mission/>.

# Over \$300,000 in Legacy Small Grants support history projects across the state

REGIONAL- The Minnesota Historical Society is pleased to announce 35 recipients of Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Small Grants.

Small grants are awarded quarterly to help nonprofits, educational organizations, government units, and tribal organizations preserve and share Minnesota history. The MNHS Executive Council approved this cycle of awards on February 25.

Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants are made possible by the Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on Nov. 4, 2008. The Legacy Amendment supports efforts to preserve Minnesota land, water,

and legacy, including Minnesota history and cultural heritage.

Tower-Soudan Historical Society of Tower received a \$7,500 grant for the Tower Historic Fire Hall Preservation, Stabilization Phase I. The funds will be used to hire qualified professionals to repair original windows and doors in the Tower Fire Hall, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Minnesota Discovery Center of Chisholm received a \$9,750 grant for Ordovician Collection inventory. The funds will be used to provide better organization and analysis of archaeological collections, allowing for greater public access to historic resources.

Minnesota Museum of Mining of Chisholm received a \$10,000 grant for museum security and link fence replacement.

The funds will be used to hire qualified technicians to install a security fence to protect large outdoor collections pieces from vandalism.

The Virginia Area Historical Society received a \$2,792 grant for historical markers. The funds will be used to design four markers at the Virginia Area Historical Society to augment the area's historical information for visitors.

The Minnesota Historical Society received a legislative appropriation of \$11 million for the 2018-2019 biennium for the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage ("Legacy") Grants: \$4,500,000 for FY2018 and \$6,500,000 for FY2019.

Grants are available for history and historic preservation projects in two tiers. Small grants of \$10,000 or less are awarded quarterly. The next small grant application deadline is July 12. All grants are administered through a competitive

process using professional standards and criteria.

For more information on the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants program, including application deadlines, visit [legacy.mnhs.org/grants](http://legacy.mnhs.org/grants). Applications are accepted only through the MNHS grants portal.

The Minnesota Historical Society is a non-profit educational and cultural institution established in 1849. MNHS collects, preserves and tells the story of Minnesota's past through museum exhibits, libraries and collections, historic sites, educational programs and publishing. Using the power of history to transform lives, MNHS preserves our past, shares our state's stories and connects people with history. Visit us at [mnhs.org](http://mnhs.org).

The Minnesota Historical Society is supported in part by its Premier Partners: Xcel Energy and Explore Minnesota Tourism.

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**IRRR...**Continued from page 1

created for Radinovich, known as a “permanent classified” position, is supposed to be nonpolitical and is subject to state hiring guidelines designed to ensure a fair and competitive process in which state workers are hired on merit rather than politics.

Yet an investigation by the *Timberjay* found substantial evidence that the IRRR’s process, in this instance, fell short of that goal, and that top agency officials sought from the beginning to offer Radinovich a plum new position, with a salary of \$100,000 per year in addition to the state’s handsome benefits package. In so doing, the agency sought exemption to sharply limit the posting of the position and appeared to pass over a female candidate for the position with far more relevant experience and education than Radinovich brings to the job.

Radinovich’s hiring comes on the heels of the appointment of Jason Metsa as the agency’s deputy commissioner, which is considered a political appointment and was not subject to the typical state hiring process. Metsa is an Iron Range DFLer who ran unsuccessfully for his party’s nomination for the Eighth District seat.

For Layman, it doesn’t pass the smell test.

“This just gives the agency a big black eye,” she said.

State Sen. Justin Eichorn, GOP-Grand Rapids, said he shares Layman’s concern. “I don’t know how they didn’t see how bad this would look.”

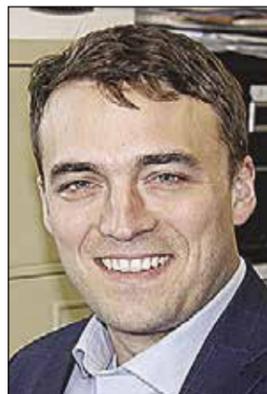
Republicans aren’t the only ones with concerns. In response to questions for this story, Teddy Tschann, press secretary for DFL Gov. Tim Walz, announced a change in administration policy to address issues with the hiring process raised in the *Timberjay*’s investigation.

“In an effort to further promote the Governor’s commitment to seeking a world-class workforce, we will be instituting an administration-wide policy requiring, rather than recommending, that all classified managerial positions of this kind be posted for at least 21 days,” stated Tschann. “Any exceptions will require direct approval by the Minnesota Management and Budget Commissioner (MMB) or his designee.”

**Bringing Radinovich on board**

IRRR Commissioner Mark Phillips acknowledges that he sought early on to hire Radinovich at his agency and initially considered hiring the Crosby native as deputy commissioner. “It really was down to Jason or Joe to be deputy,” he said. When the job went to Metsa, Phillips began exploring options to offer Radinovich a different position.

Back in 2015, after Radinovich lost his seat in



**Joe Radinovich**

the state House, Phillips had brought Radinovich on as a political appointee, with a title of “assistant commissioner.” In that position, Radinovich worked in strategic planning, headed up an inter-agency working group and served as the IRRR’s legislative liaison. But he left that job in less than a year and later told the *Brainerd Dispatch* he was “bored” in the position.

Radinovich then spent the next two years working on political campaigns, first as campaign manager for Congressman Rick Nolan. He later headed up the campaign and eventual transition team for Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, a position he left to mount his own bid for the Eighth District congressional seat in 2018.

Phillips said he made no secret of his desire to create a position at the agency for Radinovich.

“I supervised him and he did a terrific job in my estimation,” said Phillips. “I was talking openly about bringing him back on.”

After discussing the issue with some in the agency, Phillips said a board member suggested the agency could fill a vacancy left by the retirement of Steve Peterson, who had served in a business development director role for the agency until last year.

But that position was a regular state job, which ostensibly required a fair and open hiring process.

**Fair hiring process?**

While Phillips insists that the process was fair and competitive, emails and other documents obtained by the *Timberjay* through a public records request, suggest otherwise. Not only did IRRR officials take steps to limit the posting of the position to just one day, an organizational chart created by IRRR staff— produced nearly a week before the job was posted— showed Radinovich’s name already listed in the position.

The agency also obtained Radinovich’s resumé in advance of the job posting, suggesting that he was aware of the hiring process in advance.

State hiring is overseen by the Minnesota Management and Budget, or MMB, and that agency has taken steps in recent years to ensure that state employment is truly open to all qualified individuals.

An MMB policy, adopted in December



**Mark Phillips**

2015, encourages state agencies to advertise open positions for a minimum of 21 days and requires they be advertised for at least seven calendar days.

The Dayton administration adopted the policy in an effort to “promote transparency, open communication, and fairness in the hiring process,” according to the text of the policy, which is available online. “It supports our state affirmative action goals, diversity and inclusion initiatives, and efforts to ensure our workforce represents Minnesota workforce demographics.”

Gov. Tim Walz has signaled that his own administration is fully on board with those goals.

Indeed, the new governor’s first official act was signing an executive order creating the One Minnesota Council on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity, which will focus on continuing the push for diversity and fairness in state hiring.

Layman said the Radinovich hiring “just flies in the face of the Walz administration’s stated goals on this.”

Rather than post for the minimum of seven days, officials with the IRRR applied for and received an exemption allowing them to post the job for just 24 hours, citing a desire by the governor’s office to have the position filled quickly.

In outlining the agency’s rationale for the exemption, IRRR Human Resources Director Barbara Sanders, wrote, “If the posting of this vacancy, for not more than 24 hours, is not approved, IRRR will not be able to fully comply with the direction and expectation of the Governor’s office.”

Sanders also stated that there “is an urgent need” to fill the position by March 4, 2019.

Phillips offered another motivation. He noted part of the position involved working with the Legislature and said he wanted someone on board quickly because he had vacation time planned in late March while the Legislature was in session.

In the end, Radinovich was notified of his hiring on March 8 and assumed the position effective on Monday, March 11.

Walz’s press secretary Tschann dismissed any suggestion that the hiring process was abbreviated at the urging of the administration.

“The Governor’s office was not involved in any decision making

related to the expedited hiring process and did not direct the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation or Minnesota Management and Budget to vary from ordinary hiring procedures,” stated Tschann. “The Governor is committed to hiring the most qualified candidates and building an administration that reflects the diversity of Minnesota.”

Tschann continued, “Over two thirds, 67-percent, of the Governor’s staff is female and nearly half, 47-percent, of the Governor’s appointees to boards and commissions are people of color or indigenous Minnesotans.”

The state hiring policy does allow for such exemptions, yet they are rare.

According to MMB, the agency has received just 44 such requests since December 2015, or just over 12 per year in a state workforce totaling in the tens of thousands.

During that time, the agency granted just 33 of the requests, or about ten per year.

The job was posted at midnight on February 20, and was pulled from the state website the same day at 11:59 p.m., according to MMB. Officials with MMB conducted the initial screening of the 12 applications they did receive, determining that four people met the job qualifications. Of those four, two later declined an interview.

Only Radinovich and longtime Iron Range resident Lorrie Janatopoulus actually interviewed for the position.

**Resumé mismatch**

For Janatopoulus, the posting sparked renewed interest in working for an agency with which she was already familiar. She had maintained an office at the IRRR facility in Eveleth in 2016 and 2017 after she was selected for a prestigious Bush Foundation Fellowship in public leadership. During that time, she assisted the IRRR in strategic planning and also worked at Hibbing Community College in a program to help women achieve their educational and career goals.

Back in December, Janatopoulus was a semi-finalist for the IRRR Commissioner job, for which she interviewed, before the Governor opted to keep Phillips in the position.

Janatopoulus holds a master’s degree in public affairs from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota and more recently completed a series of leadership training courses at Harvard as part of her Bush fellowship.

She also brings more than two decades of work experience in the nonprofit sector, having started in the mid-1990s as housing director at the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency in Virginia and later advancing to the role of the agency’s overall

planning director, a job she held for 16 years.

During that time, she was responsible for strategic planning, community assessments, grant writing, fund development, communications and development of community partnerships. She also was closely involved in agency hiring decisions, performance evaluations, as well as supervision and coaching of employees.

Janatopoulus has also been a longtime community activist in the region, serving on numerous non-profit boards, including as chair.

Janatopoulus’s resumé appears to be a strong fit with the high-level position outlined in the job posting— 70 percent of which involved supervision of four IRRR department heads, as well as strategic planning and inter-agency collaboration. Thirty-percent of the job involved working with the Legislature and the Governor’s office.

“When I looked at the job description, I was pretty excited,” said Janatopoulus, when contacted by the *Timberjay*. “During my time at AEOA, I worked on a number of legislative initiatives and I had good connections at the Legislature as well. I actually saw it as a really good fit for my education and experience.”

Radinovich’s resumé is light by comparison. He attended classes over three years at Macalester College in St. Paul, but never completed a degree. He served two years in the Minnesota House, representing parts of east-central Minnesota. When he lost his re-election bid, he spent just under a year at the IRRR before stepping back into electoral politics. He most recently served as chief-of-staff to Mayor Frey, a position Radinovich held for four months before coming to the IRRR.

The *Timberjay* reached out to Radinovich for comment and with questions for this story, but Radinovich referred comment to the IRRR Commissioner and did not respond to questions.

When asked about the seeming mismatch in both education and job experience, Phillips defended his agency’s process during an interview with the *Timberjay*. “We ran a fair, competitive

process,” he said, stating that the three people on the hiring committee— Jason Metsa, Chief Operating Officer Marianne Bouska, and Phillips— each scored Radinovich the highest.

At the same time, Phillips acknowledged that it was his intent to bring Radinovich back to the agency and he believes the hiring became controversial when he decided to make it a permanent classified position, which required a competitive process. “I think that’s where this thing got off the tracks a little,” he said.

Radinovich’s hiring was unusual, as well, because of Phillip’s role in the decision. He said it was the first employee interview he had sat in on as commissioner, since he normally leaves that decision-making to other senior agency staff.

The agency also appears to have taken steps to alter the qualifications for the senior-level position, a type of job that typically requires advanced education and significant related work experience. In this case, the job description ultimately posted for the position had no educational requirement and allowed “campaign” work to substitute for the more typical job experience normally required for such positions.

Phillips bristles at the suggestion that a more qualified woman was passed over for a male candidate. “One thing we’re very proud of, is that we have more female supervisors than many other state agencies,” he said. “It’s not all the good ol’ boys like some people believe.”

**Questions raised**

The Radinovich hiring is almost certain to come up for discussion at the IRRR board level. “As a legislator, I can’t let this stand,” said Layman. “We need to have full public disclosure of the process and a discussion about how we move forward. This is about a state agency charged with diversifying the economy, not about finding jobs for politicians.”

The hiring did catch many IRRR board members, and not just Republicans, by surprise.

Current board chair **See... STAFF pg. 10**

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**BUS...**Continued from page 1

reception in the cafeteria after school last Thursday.

Addyson Rivera, age 7, ran up to Morris and gave him a big hug. "Isn't this wonderful," Morris said softly as he grinned from ear to ear.

"I'm going to miss you so much," Addyson said.

Generations of Ely students rode on Janssen's school bus along the Grant McMahan Road route. His wife, Naomi, also drove a school bus up the Echo Trail route during the same time. They both retired in 1999 after 40 years of safely transporting

students back and forth, but Morris decided he missed it too much.

After a year's hiatus, Morris got back in the driver's seat and recently completed another 20-year stint behind the wheel. And retirement, even now, wasn't by choice. He recently suffered a broken hip, the result of a fall at his Boundary Street home.

"I imagine I would still be driving if I didn't break my hip," he said.



Morris is often known as "The Rev" around town, having served as the minister of the Gospel Tabernacle church from 1955 to 1999. "At first,

I had to stay up all night and keep the wood stove going for church the next morning," he said. The number of members at the church when he started

could all fit in his car, he said. When he retired, there were well over 200 parishioners.

Morris didn't have much to say about his

career behind the wheel. "I really enjoyed seeing all the kids," he said.

They got home safely with Morris behind the wheel.

**Naomi and Morris Janssen are greeted by well-wishers at a retirement party last week in the Ely school cafeteria. Naomi drove a school bus for 40 years and Morris was behind the wheel for 60 years.** photo by K. Vandervort

**TOWER...**Continued from page 1

which he was managing in addition to his full-time job and graduate school work.

Fitton is working to complete a doctoral degree in Educational Administration at St. Mary's University in Winona, and said his graduate school advisor is pressuring him to complete his final research project, which is overdue. Fitton works full-time at the Vermilion Country School, where he serves as

administrator and teaches social studies.

Anderson, in a letter to the council, said the decision to resign was "very hard" and she apologized for "letting anyone down." Anderson said her decision was because of recent health issues.

"I truly love Tower and the people in our small community," she wrote. "I hope the city council and all the staff can find peace with each other and

are able to come together to find a way to keep our town alive."

Mayor Kringstad said he regrets losing two dedicated members of the council. "The city council serves at the pleasure of the citizens of Tower, but members also have their own family and health commitments to consider," he said. "I thank them for their service and wish them the best in their future endeavors."

The openings could alleviate some of the tensions on the council, which has often split on 3-2 votes, with Fitton and Anderson usually voting together. The two have been seen as supporters of embattled City Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith and have both voiced concerns about the actions of the newly-elected mayor. Anderson voted in favor of the grievance committee's decision to uphold

a complaint from Clerk Treasurer Linda Keith against the mayor and council, and to have the mayor and council "cease and desist" any investigations into the clerk's job performance. Fitton raised several concerns he had with the mayor to the council, in addition to the complaint filed by Ambulance Supervisor Steve Altenburg. The council dismissed Altenburg's complaint

at its April 8 meeting, at which Fitton was absent.

In the past, the council has sought applications for open council seats, followed by candidate interviews and ultimate appointment. Kringstad said he'll recommend that the council follow that procedure. The two seats would then be on the ballot at the next city general election in November 2020.

**STAFF...**Continued from page 9

and District 3A state Rep. Rob Ecklund, DFL-International Falls, said he first learned of the hiring when Radinovich walked into his legislative office in St. Paul and told him about it. He said he's comfortable leaving the hiring decisions in the hands of the staff.

Layman said she had a slightly different reaction. "I was shocked," she said. "I didn't know the position was even being created."

Eichorn agrees that the issue needs board discussion and he questioned whether Radinovich was

the best pick for the liaison work between the agency and St. Paul that accounts for about 30 percent of the position.

"If they really want someone to do legislative work, Jason Metsa still has current relationships," said Eichorn, referring to the agency's new deputy commissioner, who served in the Legislature until the end of 2018. Radinovich, on the other hand, hasn't served in the Legislature since the end of 2014.

Eichorn and others are also questioning what Radinovich will do when

the Legislature isn't in session. While the job posting listed the position as located in Eveleth, and Radinovich is supposed to supervise a number of division heads at the IRRR, it appears the position will be stationed primarily in the Twin Cities, where Radinovich is currently living. "It feels very political," said Eichorn.

Janatopoulos, a longtime DFLer, said she's been "super disappointed" as information about the hiring process has slowly been revealed. "I was excited about this opportu-

nity and am excited about this administration, but things do need to be fair," she said.

She said the one-day posting raised concerns, but she went into the interview assuming that she'd get real consideration.

"I assumed that you don't create a job like that for a specific person," she said. "Otherwise it's a waste of time and resources, and these are public dollars. I believe in government and I believe in the IRRR and what it can do, and that means getting the most qualified person."

Other DFL party activists are voicing objection as well over what they see as a "clandestine" process used by the agency.

"I'm tired of a system that takes for granted the promotion of people with exceptional family or political connections rather than exceptional experience or educational qualifications," said Leah Rogne, a Greaney resident and party activist, who says she strongly supports the mission of the IRRR despite her disappointment. "We've worked for decades in this country to create a system in which qualified people of diverse backgrounds have a fair shot in the workplace."

Sue Hakes, former Cook County Commissioner and former Grand Marais mayor, who

had applied for the IRRR position but withdrew over concerns about the process, echoed Rogne's sentiments.

"The agency subverted their own hiring practices to achieve a preordained outcome," stated Hakes. "They were not looking for new talent, diverse perspectives, or a wide pool of candidates. They were checking boxes and pretending to do a job search."

Hakes, a longtime DFL activist served as campaign manager in Leah Phifer's 2018 bid for the DFL nomination for the Eighth District seat. That nomination, after a contested primary, ultimately went to Radinovich.

Layman said the hiring raises questions about some of the recent changes in the agency's governing structure, particularly the switch to an advisory-only role for the agency's board, which has long been dominated by Iron Range DFLers. She has supported those changes in an effort to depoliticize the agency and she said she felt progress had been made. "We're set up to be less partisan than in the past," said Layman, who pushed for the change. "Of course, that gave pretty broad powers to the executive. This decision suggests that maybe I was wrong."

"I don't see the issue," said Phillips. "He [Radinovich] worked here before. It's not like we pulled some politician from the moon." When asked how the hiring of Radinovich, in combination with the earlier selection of Metsa as deputy commissioner, might look politically, Phillips said he doesn't see his job in that context.

"I don't think like that. I was excited about having some help. Toward the end of the Dayton administration, I was doing a lot of extra duty, so I was looking forward to having people on staff who could really help with some of the other parts of the job, so I could spend more time on economic development."

**Short-term hire?**

While the handling of the Radinovich hiring has rankled many, it's not clear if it's a decision that will have long-term implications. Radinovich is widely seen as likely to seek political office again, including a possible challenge to current Eighth District congressman Peter Stauber. He recently told Washington, D.C.-based Roll Call that he expects to make a decision on a possible run by the summer, which would likely require he leave his new position.

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CITY OF TOWER

# Tower-Soudan drinking water supply will need secondary treatment system

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

**T O W E R - S O U D A N**—Results from water testing done by the state shows that the Tower-Breitung public water supply will likely need to add a secondary treatment system in the near future to improve quality and reduce the risk of unhealthy contaminants.

According to wastewater system manager Matt Tichel, the T-B wastewater board is planning to conduct an engineering study in 2020 to help determine what treatment options will be most effective.

State testing of the water supply was completed in 2015 and 2016 as part of a statewide study, and state officials only recently released the results. For Tower and Breitung, a few of the two dozen samples showed the presence of pathogens, like rotovirus, Cryptosporidium, and Giardia prior to chlorination.

“All this sampling was done prior to the water being treated,” noted Tichel. The public water system is treated with chlorine, which will treat bacterial (coliform) and viruses, but cannot treat contamination with Giardia and Cryptosporidium.

“There is no concern now about the safety of our water supply,” said Tichel, “but we will start

doing extra monitoring, including regular testing of the water post-treatment.” “We want to make sure what is safe is really safe,” he said. “We have never had a fecal coliform positive test result on the drinking water supply.”

The testing was conducted as part of the Minnesota Groundwater Virus Monitoring Study.

Over the course of two years, with water tests done every other month (12 total samples), the system’s main well showed contamination with rotovirus in two of the samples and a Cryptosporidium on one sample. The system’s backup well, which is maintained to use in case of problems with the main well, showed one rotovirus and one Giardia detection. Both wells had multiple detections of total coliform.

The public water supply comes from wells that are 60-feet deep, and both are only 50-feet away from the East Two River.

“River water does seep into the well, underground,” Tichel said.

The testing, which started back in 2015, was before the Tower-Breitung wastewater board had beaver dams removed in the area of the wells. The dams had raised water levels above-ground, creating the potential for well contamination from the beavers. The wastewater board had been forced

to use more chlorine and other treatment chemicals, which in turn created an issue with above normal levels of Trihalomethane (THM) and Halocetic Acids (HAA5), which are both by-products of the water treatment process.

Since the beaver dams were removed, the water testing for THM and HAA5 have consistently been within allowable limits.

“This really was testing done in the worst-case scenario,” said Tichel. “But it is good to have this information. Beavers can become a problem again in the future.”

## The study

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) conducted this study after the Minnesota Legislature asked MDH to develop and implement a groundwater virus monitoring plan. The study looked for evidence of specific pathogens, including viruses, bacteria, and protozoa, in groundwater supplies. Such pathogens can get into public water supplies when feces from wildlife are able to get into groundwater or directly into a well. If adequate treatment is not provided, people who drink water contaminated with pathogens may become sick. How many people get sick from pathogens in

drinking water in the state is unknown, according to MDH.

MDH added bacteria and protozoa to the water monitoring study to get a more complete picture of pathogens in groundwater.

The study included two parts. The first was actual well water monitoring, and the second was a community illness study. During the study period, most wells were sampled every other month for one or two years. About 70-percent of the wells, statewide, that were sampled, had at least one detection of a pathogen. But overall, only 22-percent of the samples had a detection. This suggests that pathogen occurrence is irregular and likely only under certain conditions, the study concluded.

Well water contamination can appear and disappear very quickly, the study said, and the sources of the contamination can change with time. Weather conditions and usage patterns of the well can also impact results.

The community illness portion looked at six communities, half of which treated their water with chlorine and half with untreated water. The study looked to link reported cases of acute gastrointestinal illness to water testing results. The findings of this part of the study were not statistically significant,

but did find that during the weeks viruses were detected in the drinking water supply, there were higher rates of reported illness. Higher rates of illness were found among people who had a water filter or softener at home.

If not properly maintained, these devices become less effective and may hold on to contaminants. In addition, the study did not determine how participants were getting sick with gastrointestinal illness, whether it was from the water, a food source, or person-to-person contact.

Tower-Soudan was not a test community for this part of the study

## Treatment options

The study shows the need for some type of secondary water treatment, beyond chlorination.

The T-B wastewater board is hoping their upcoming engineering study will provide options. The study, which will cost around \$20,000, will also look at methods for removing tannins, which can cause the water to be discolored. This secondary treatment can also pull out surface water contaminants that many enter the well water.

The cost of installing the secondary treatment and the timeline for doing so is unknown at this time, Tichel said. Low-

interest loan money will be available. Tichel was not certain if grant dollars might be available for such a project.

This is only one of the challenges facing the municipal water and sewer system over the next 10-20 years. New state guidelines for sewage treatment may require a different type of wastewater treatment system, instead of the passive pond treatment system in place currently, Tichel said.

## Home water treatment

Residents, including those who get their water from private wells, can get more information on home water treatment at the MDH website, [www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us) (search for home water treatment for a downloadable pdf).

If you get your drinking water from a public water system, your water system and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) regularly test the water for over 100 different contaminants and make sure it meets all Safe Drinking Water Act standards. You can learn more about your water quality by reading your water system’s annual report (called a Consumer Confidence Report [CCR]). The most recent reports are available at Tower City Hall and Breitung Town Hall.

## ART...Continued from page 1

is to the community. When kids go to school, they’re not exposed to it. It’s important to their minds and their creativity.”

To bring more art to the community, Wagner has been working for the past four years to bring in artists from Native American communities across the region as part of the tribe’s Native Artist Festival.

“Art is engrained in our culture,” he said. “Depictions of spiritual beings and animals that were hunted, and berries that were collected. It’s an important part of our history.”

Wagner added that Native Americans would also paint their bodies and their horses to have an outward showing of who they were.

“It’s a living art, it’s what you see at a powwow, on our regalia,” Wagner said. “Art is prominent in our culture.”

To keep art as part of the culture, Wagner said today’s youth need to know they have options in how they can lead a fulfilled life.

“I had art when I was in school. I thought it was important,” he said. “I feel like it is my duty to bring those artists into the school and show them to the young kids; \*+--- to show them you don’t need to be a doctor or lawyer to make it in the world. You can be anything that you put your mind to. It’s important for these kids to see.”

For last week’s program, Wagner turned

to artist Steven Premo from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Premo has worked in graphic design for over 40 years and once owned a gallery in the Mille Lacs area.

“I’ve been painting for a long while,” Premo said. “I just retired last year. Now I am getting back into it.”

He added that to those who want to make art, it’s a way of life.

“It’s what I have to do,” he said. “It’s how I speak and how I communicate with the rest of the world.”

The program saw attendees create a painting of a wood block print in what Premo called the “craftsman” style.

Premo has a long history making art inspired not only by his own life, but by Native American traditions as well.

Premo said he hopes the class will help students develop a lifelong appreciation of art.

“Hopefully they can take away something they can do for themselves at home,” he said.

Aside from classical art styles, Wagner said he said he plans on having more artists visit the community who specialize in digital art as well. He’s also searching for sculptors and ceramic artists to come to the community.

The biggest draw to the program so far has been regalia workshops, but Wagner said the number of attendees doesn’t matter in the long run.

“As long as people

show up and at least one person gets something out of it, I feel like I’ve done my job,” he said. “That one person can go out and show

100 other people.”

Aside from the artist series, there is also an art contest being run through the Nett Lake radio station,

KBFT. Cash prizes, including a \$500 first prize, are up for grabs. Submissions are due by June 17. More information on the contest

as well as past and future artist workshops can be found on the radio station’s website, [www.kbft.org](http://www.kbft.org).



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**ELY...**Continued from page 1

for the last time Tuesday afternoon to review the discussions they have had for the past three months and tried to reach agreement on a recommendation to forward to the school board for their consideration.

They mostly agreed to disagree.

The conclusions of an enrollment projection analysis (see sidebar), conducted by John Powers of Applied Insights, were added to the discussion. The bottom line: K-12 enrollment in ISD 696 is expected to hold steady for the next several years, followed by a modest decline through 2028-29.

A basic renovation plan that includes the linked walkways addition for the three buildings, secure school-day entrance and main office, ADA access, demolition of the existing boiler plant, new roof for the Memorial building, completion of window replacement in the three buildings, air handling upgrades, interior door replacement, student drop-off access, and Washington and Memorial restroom renovations is estimated to cost \$5.7 million.

Taking into consideration the wants, needs and wishes for school improvements from the community task force, consultants at Architectural Resources Inc. developed a second option for consideration that included the following additions to the base plan: additional full-size gymnasium, renovated locker rooms in the former swimming pool area, renovated kitchen and cafeteria, classroom renovations in the Memorial and Washington buildings, science rooms upgrades, and Memorial media center renovations.

Those improvements, added to the base plan, are likely to cost as much as \$16.5 million. Jodi Zesbaugh, senior consultant for Ehlers, Inc. a school financing company, reviewed the tax impact to property owners in the school district for a bonding referendum for \$16.5 million for 20 years. Based on the estimated market value of a \$100,000 residential homestead, a property owner could see a tax increase of \$111 per year, or \$9 per month for a \$16.5 million school bond, according to Zesbaugh. A commercial property owner with a \$250,000 estimated market value property could expect an annual property tax increase of \$656, or \$55 per month, she said.

"We tend to be very conservative with our numbers, so our hope is that when you issue the bonds, the numbers will be lower than this," Zesbaugh said. "Hopefully, they are on the high end of the estimates."

Taxpayers could have the opportunity to decide on a bonding referendum as early as November. Based on the results of a community survey, likely to be conducted near the end of the school year, the school board will make the final decision on any renovation plan and any bonding referendum this summer. A bonding referendum requires a review by the state Department of Education and must be submitted by the school district in early August to be considered for a November vote.

Community task force member Ross Petersen maintained that the infrastructure portions of the renovation project should be the district's top priority. "Bonding for \$16 million is just wasting our time," he said. "Most of our resorts here are worth a million dollars, and we want their taxes to go up by three grand? Most of our buildings downtown are overpriced. We've had a problem with this for many, many years."

Superintendent Kevin Abrahamson noted that while the base plan calls for the infrastructure work, the \$16.5 million option calls for everything to be done as identified by the committee. "The purpose now is to identify that if (\$16.5 million) is too much, what do you take away?" he asked. "Or what do you add to the \$5.5 million to get somewhere under the \$16.5 million, but keep those things that are important. What can you live without?"

Committee member Warren Nikkola said, "I don't think the community is going to go anywhere past \$9.5 million. "If we get this down to that we might have a prayer." He asserted that any bonding referendum will be a "hard sell" with the state of the Ely economy.

ARI consultant Katie Hildenbrand said she believed the committee came to an agreement that renovations should be between \$5 million and \$16 million. "There were a lot of needs brought forth from this committee," she said. "Going through this process the hope was to bring an understanding to the amount of money that is needed to what needs that the district has."

Committee member Joe Bianco implored the group to trust in the process. "We owe that to our community," he said. "We vote for our school board. We have a say in their decision-making process. We can always vote them out if we don't like what they're doing. That's just how this works. That's the process. There are people who would give anything to help kids in the school, but there are also people who don't have kids in school and wonder why they should have to pay. It's not just in Ely, it's in every school district."

Petersen contended that the process "has been to drive us to this big project." He added that many people in the community may not want the big project, but just to complete the basic infrastructure renovations to the buildings. "The process, in my opinion, has been somewhat flawed," he said. "I don't want the school board to think that this is what our group came to consensus on. I know I did not come to consensus on \$16.5 million."

Committee member David Wigdahl took a different tack. "I'm disappointed we don't have a \$23 million plan. I was the one who originally wanted music rooms and art rooms, STEM rooms and all that."

Following the study session, school board members held a special meeting and unanimously agreed to conduct the community survey on the project and a possible bonding referendum.

The survey will cost approximately \$9,100, plus the cost of printing and postage, and will be conducted by School Perceptions, of Slinger, Wis.

Every household in the school district will be receiving the survey by mail. Recipients will be able to respond by mail or go online to complete the survey.

School Perceptions President Bill Foster told school board members that a community survey could be completed here in as little as two months, giving the school board ample time to review the date collected and develop a bonding referendum proposal for the state officials to review and approve in time for a Nov. 5 election.

**Enrollment projections for ISD 696**

John Powers, of Applied Insights, Duluth, provided an overview of his results of a 10-year enrollment projection for ISD 696:

- ▶ Over the past 10 years, Ely's K-12 enrollment has grown 6.1 percent. Growth began in 2015/2016 and has since stabilized;
- ▶ Gains in enrollment have been strong in lower grades due in part to several larger-than-usual classes;
- ▶ The number of K-12 students living in the district, regardless of which district they attend, grew four percent;
- ▶ Ely gains students through open enrollment with a large group coming from the Fall Lake area of the Lake Superior School District, and a growing number of St. Louis County School District, especially Northeast Range;
- ▶ The area's economy has been resilient and is considered to be doing well. The Ely-area population is estimated to have risen since 2010 and is expected to modestly grow through at least 2025. The long-anticipated impact of non-ferrous mineral mining will likely begin, in terms of gains in jobs and population, around 2022 with a minimum of 30-40 new worker households likely to move to Ely;
- ▶ K-12 enrollment is expected to decrease 3.9 percent, to around 536, by 2028/2029.

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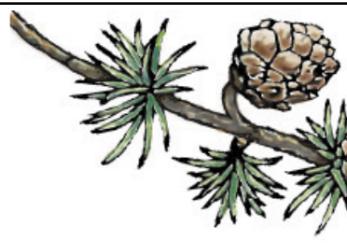
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## RECYCLING

# China tariffs cut into recycling market prices

## County officials say subsidized recycling program cuts landfill costs

by MARCUS WHITE  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL— For most residents of St. Louis County, recycling waste is a matter of tossing our cans, bottles, and paper products in a big blue bin— and forgetting about it. Yet behind the scenes, there's a complex system in place to sort and transport all those materials for reuse by manufacturers in a long list of everyday products.

Those materials are traded in a marketplace that is increasingly influenced by global factors, most

recently the decision by China to sharply limit the imports of recycled materials from the United States.

For years, China's demand for raw materials had seemed limitless, and that helped to maintain prices for the plastics and paper that have poured in daily to the St. Louis County recycling facility near Virginia.

Even when prices were relatively high, St. Louis County has never turned a profit on the county-wide recycling program. Instead, the county spends an

average of at least \$100,000 a year subsidizing the process.

Last year, the county budgeted \$675,000 to contract with Greenforest Recycling Resources, of Brainerd, for collecting and sorting the county's recycled materials. They actually spent \$725,000. Much of the difference is from unfunded state mandates, such as electronics

See **RECYCLE...**pg. 2B

**Recycling is sorted by hand in Virginia.**

photo by M. White



## FOR THE LOVE OF MUSIC

# A musical life

## Gerry Mealey continues her love of the accordion

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY—Gerry Mealey has been an accordion player for most of her life. During a recent afternoon concert at Carefree Living here, she said she gained an interest in the button box when she was just eight years old. Six-plus decades later she is still playing the accordion she received as a gift in the eighth grade.

Gerry doesn't just play for others once in a while. She performed 98 times last year.

"I grew up in a musical family," Gerry said, while she prepared for a recent concert at the Ely assisted living facility with her friend Cleo Bialke. Her parents, Hugo and Gladys Hellman, encouraged her and her brother to play music while they were growing up in Brimson.

"My daughter asked grandpa how much music lessons cost back then, and he said it didn't matter," Gerry said. "My brother got a Fender guitar at the same time I got my accordion. His grandson still has it."

Gerry's parents owned a country store and a bar back when she was a teenager. "We had to put on a little show now and then, and I remember that it was kind of embarrassing at the time," she said.

Gerry's own family joined in the musical family tradition after



**Above: Gerry Mealey (center-right) played several years ago with the Over-the-Hill Gang.**

**Right: Mealey plays a tune on her accordion at the Carefree Living facility in Ely.**

**Below: Grandson Logen plays on a drum kit while being babysat by Mealey.**

submitted photo



## BOIS FORTE Back to business

by MARCUS WHITE  
Cook-Orr Editor

NETT LAKE - Everyone is back on the job at Bois Forte two months after the government shutdown forced layoffs and sharp cutbacks in some tribal services.

Now, to lessen the financial strain in the event of future shutdowns, tribal leaders and managers are working together to reshape how some finances are handled in order to build emergency reserves.

"We know we need to build reserves," Bois Forte Chairwoman Cathy Chavers said. "One thing we are looking at is a restricted reserve for shutdowns and emergencies."

To build reserves, the Tribe will work with Fortune Bay Resort Casino to see how some finances can be restructured.

Currently the tribe does not draw as much as

See **TRIBE...**pg. 2B

## SOFTBALL

# Ely falls to Rangers in opener

MT. IRON - Ely is starting the season on a low point after the Rangers slid into victory here, 14-10.

Ely opened the game strong, quickly putting players on base in the first inning.

It would take until the third for the Rangers to respond, making it a 3-2 game for the Timberwolves.

The game would go back and forth with each team adding points in nearly every inning.

Despite their early dominance, though, the Timberwolves couldn't hold on and the Rangers took top spot.

Ely will face Deer River next Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. at home.

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# RECYCLE...Continued from page 1B

recycling, or from materials that are recycled, but not part of the standard waste stream. According to Program Coordinator Dave Fink, most of that cost is out of the hands of the county.

"The market is like a rollercoaster when it comes to how much the companies can pay," Fink said. "It's been at the bottom for a while."

What's driving the market for recycling is two-fold.

On one hand, making new material products is actually cheaper than reusing most recycled material. But there is a bigger, silent, hand at play—politics.

While Fink said most of the collected materials in the county stay in the Midwest, Greenforest owner Jeff Grunenwald said the prices the market follow are not set locally.

"China is blocking a lot of material, whether it is quality issues with some companies or just putting on tariffs," he said. "It causes a backlog that allows mills to name

to six cents per pound," Program Planner Steve Pellinen said. "The other categories (three through seven, such as yogurt containers) we were lucky if we got a penny per pound."

The county stopped collecting those plastics because it wasn't worth the expense.

Prices could rebound slightly if the United States and China found common ground on trade. "There is opportunity to move materials between the countries again," Grunenwald said, "but it will still be inspected with a lot of scrutiny."

While the material the county collects fetches little in the marketplace, the cost to transport those materials can be hefty.

"About half of the cost is just hauling the material from the greater county area to a transfer facility," Pellinen said.

In the past, according to Fink, the county contracted with mining companies to haul the material to the Twin Cities on empty trucks after they made deliveries to local mines.

Despite the costs associated with the county's recycling effort, Fink said it's still cheaper than landfilling. "It's all about landfill abatement," Fink said. "We just did a cover of 9.5 acres of a sanitary landfill. It cost us \$1.3 million to do that. The last landfill cell constructed was in 2012 at 5 acres for \$1.5 million. Recycling is a good fit for the environment as a whole. Some year it will pay for itself."

Currently, the county takes in 52,000 tons of



**Recycling ascends a conveyer into the sorting room in Virginia. From here the material is sorted by type before being bailed and hauled away by market buyers. See the sidebar at right for more info on how the county recycling process works.** photo by M. White

waste annually at the regional landfill. But a significant amount of that could still be recycled. According to Pallinen, just over 12 percent of that trash that ends up landfilled is paper with other potentially recyclable materials making up an additional 10 percent.

In total, about 106,000 tons were collected in waste from households, commercial and industrial applications from everywhere in the county except for Duluth. About 52 percent of that was recycled.

To get the public more involved in recycling, Fink said the county has a

number of events each year bringing mobile collection sites to towns around the region.

School children from every district also visit the facility in Virginia and several schools, including North Woods, actually have a collection site on their property.

For more information on the program or to find the closest collection point, call 1-800-450-9278 or visit [www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle](http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle).

## How does the St. Louis County Recycling Program work?

Households can drop off their recycling material in one of two ways. There are 49 collection sites located across the region. Residents in some cities, such as Virginia and Hibbing, have curbside pickup on a scheduled basis

Once the material is collected, it is brought to a transfer station where it is sorted by material type.

Plastics are separated into five categories indicated by a number inside the recycling symbol on product packaging. Only Categories 1 and 2 are accepted in the county.

Once the material is sorted at a transfer facility, it is bailed and stored until enough of it accumulates to sell.

"When there is a load of pop bottles ready to go, we reach out to people to see if they have a need," Greenforest Recycling Resources Owner Jeff Grunenwald said. "We find a place that will give the best value. Buyers set up their own freight and collect the material."

Examples of some buyers include Mid-America, located in Wisconsin and Moorhead, which turns clean paper (without dye) into egg cartons and insulation.

Tin is shipped to locations on the East Coast for processing into metal roof tiles.

Glass is collected and used as bridge and cell liners at the county landfill.

MnDOT formerly used glass in road beds, but a public misconception that it was bad for tires led them to abandon the practice about a decade ago.

**"The market is like a rollercoaster"**

**Dave Fink**

their price."

And those prices can be really low, and in some cases, even cost prohibitive.

"Category one and two plastics (such as a milk jugs) can reliably get five

## MUSIC...Continued from page 1B

they moved up to the Iron Range. The boys played drums and the trumpet. "John started at age four," she said. "People would do a double-take at seeing that kid playing the drum kit. He was pretty good."

Gerry later joined the Over-the-Hill-Gang band. "It was for older guys, age 75 and above. I was only 49," she said. "We had Kenny Shaw, Stanley Verbick Sr., Bob Kendall and me. We played locally and around Brimson. We played at the Ely Winter Festival one year. I guess we were together about 14 years. We played for Labor Day and Memorial

Day picnics and deer season parties. My dad loved every party. Deer season parties were crazy with tons of hunters, but such fun."

Years later, Gerry and Stan hit the nursing home circuit. "He played guitar. I would often times have my grandson, Logen, with me because I was babysitting him," she said. "I had little instruments for him to join in and he played exactly to the beat. Sometimes he would take a little nap behind my stool, Logen, not Stan."

Gerry lives in Babbitt and travels up to Ely every couple of week to play.

## TRIBE...Continued from page 1B

they could from revenue generated by the Lake Vermilion resort to allow better access to grant programs while also allowing the casino more opportunity to reinvest and expand.

While the exact plans and target goals are still being discussed by tribal leaders, Chavers said the tribe plans to start building some reserves by this summer and hopes to have a fully-developed plan implemented by the next fiscal year.

Chavers said the tribe will also provide better financial data to each of the programs under its jurisdiction to give a more accurate picture of where funding is coming from.

One tactic to help better safeguard tribal finances from long-term shutdowns is already in place in the Bois Forte government, notes Chavers.

The tribe's accountants generally work to get advanced funding from Indian Health Services and the Bureau of Indian Affairs if there is a risk

of a funding suspension, due to a shutdown or other factors. Federal legislation may make those efforts easier. Chavers said allocations from the federal government rely on funding resolutions to keep money flowing. In part, that's because the federal government rarely passes a complete annual budget anymore. Instead, Congress and the White House rely on piecemeal funding resolutions throughout the year. When lawmakers and the president can't agree on a particular funding provision, money for affected programs can run out, forcing agencies and departments to shut down.

A bill moving through the U.S. Senate by New Mexico Senator Tom Udall (D) and cosigned by Minnesota Senator Tina Smith (D) seeks to provide funding for Native American tribes in larger lump sums throughout the year through a process called advanced appropriations. This would gener-

ally give tribes a greater financial cushion to help them weather government shutdowns.

Chavers supports the legislation, but noted the bill did not have bipartisan support.

She said she's heard from other lawmakers in Congress that similar bills in the House would enact similar provisions for IHS and BIA programs, but were unlikely to advance until 2020.

Even if changes in law are eventually enacted, Chavers said the inherent uncertainty in Washington continues to challenge tribal planners. "We just don't know what to anticipate in the future," Chavers said. "Will it (a shutdown) happen again? Probably. How long it will last? We just don't know."

The latest shutdown took place over parts of last December and January, and was the longest shutdown on record.

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ELY

# EEDA considers bylaw changes to reflect membership realities

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – Concerns with who serves on the Ely Economic Development Authority (EEDA) has prompted a proposal to change the bylaws of the organization to reflect the actual membership of the political body tasked with overseeing the economic development for the city of Ely.

Since 2007, the bylaws of the organization called for a minimum of three council members to serve on the body, along with up to four members of the community, specifically the leaders of Ely Area Development Association (EADA), Ely Utilities Commission (EUC),

Ely Chamber of Commerce, and the Ely Community Economic Development Joint Powers Board.

Council member Paul Kess said Tuesday night at the EEDA meeting that he doesn't remember the last time any one other than just the seven members of the city council served as the membership of the EEDA. "That's contrary to what is in Article Three, Paragraph One of (EEDA) bylaws," he said.

Kess suggested that the EEDA continue to be made up of just the seven members of the city council, and their terms on the EEDA coincide with their term in office. He made a motion to make that change.

Mayor Chuck Novak pushed back on the suggested bylaws

changes, pointing out that they call for a minimum of three council members to serve on the EEDA and not only three members. "The motion on the table restricts anyone else from participating, no matter what their qualifications are," he said.

He said he was in favor of the current bylaws because it leaves some flexibility open. "We would keep the ability to put someone with very excellent economic development on the authority. That would be an option," Novak said. He agreed that the title in the current bylaws "no longer fit the situation." He maintained he didn't want to give the options of membership for the EEDA.

Jerome Debeltz suggested

forming an EEDA subcommittee of interested business people who may wish to serve in an advisory capacity.

Kess was open to the suggestion. "If an interested person shows up for the meetings, their voice will be heard," he said.

EEDA president, Heidi Omerza, reminded the members that when the bylaws were adopted in 2007, the city's economic developer was not involved with the city. "We did not have the expertise of a John Fedo," she said. She noted that, starting in 2015, an annual priorities list was developed and action was taken to pursue various economic development goals for the city.

"Prior to (hiring Fedo) we

never really worked toward anything," Omerza added. "When we hired an economic developer, that's when things changed. We, as a council, changed. We as an economic development authority changed."

Fedo is paid \$3,500 a month this year and will be paid \$4,000 a month starting next year, for his service to the EEDA.

Kess modified his motion to direct the city attorney, Kelly Klun, to draft his suggested changes to the bylaws for the EEDA membership to consider next month.

The motion was approved on a 5-2 vote, with Novak and Ryan Callen opposed. The EEDA will next meet on Tuesday, May 14.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### CITY OF ELY Council Minutes - April 02, 2019 Regular Meeting Ely City Council - City Hall, Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Novak called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 5:30pm

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the minutes from the March 19, 2019 Regular Meeting. Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:  
Addition 13.B. Awarding of Voyageur ATV Trail  
Addition 13.C Public Right of Way: Small Wireless Facility Aesthetic Requirements and Construction Criteria  
Addition 13.D. Social Media Policy  
Items A-C were added without objection.

MAYOR'S REPORT  
Mayor Novak stated that the house and senate have a file number for the Trailhead Bill for \$2.8 Million. Mayor Novak indicated that we need to start scheduling meetings with the appropriate people in St. Paul to get support for the bill

CONSENT AGENDA:  
Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda  
Approve Mayor to attend the Minnesota Mayors Association Annual Conference April 26-27 in Stillwater, MN  
Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the consent agenda items A and B. Motion Carried Unanimously.

REQUESTS TO APPEAR:  
League of Minnesota Cities

Staff  
Mike Mornson, City Manager from Hopkins and 1st Vice President of the League of Minnesota Cities recognized Heidi Omerza for being a great president of the League of Minnesota Cities. She has led the charge at their board meetings, the regional meetings and the Newly Elected Officials Conference. Omerza is very passionate about Ely and is always talking positive about her town. Morenson thanked Omerza for being his mentor and for her service to the League.  
Dave Unmacht, Executive Director of the League of Minnesota Cities stated that the goal of the League has been to be a more effective provider of services to the cities they represent. Their goal has been to meet with all 800 cities, and to listen to what is going on in the different communities around the state.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:  
Standing/Special Sanitation Committee  
Kess encouraged the Sanitation Committee to look at the Waste disposal contract before July, since the renewal is in November and requires a 90 day written notice for changes.  
A.Forsman asked if anyone has any concerns with the current contract to contact him and he can relay it to the Sanitation Committee.  
A.Forsman discussed potential locations for moving the recycle center, and stated that the Spring Clean Up days are May 17th and 18th, more information will be in the papers and on the City Website as it gets closer.

Heritage Preservation Commission- Minutes included in the packet

Library Board  
Omerza/Debeltz moved to approve the recommendation from the Library Board to accept the 100 meg plan from CTC for new wireless

service for the library for a 5 year term.  
Heinrich stated that this new service will be 10x as much bandwidth as the library is currently using for public Wi-Fi at approximately the same cost.  
Kess asked about the 5 year term. Heinrich stated this was the shortest term.  
Langowski indicated this is a good first step with what the City has been working on with Broadband and CTC. Motion Carried Unanimously

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:  
Clerk-Treasurer Omerza/Callen moved to approve advertising for the quote requests for the construction of the Mountain Bike Skills Trail at Hidden Valley and the construction of the Ely Cemetery Kiosk, quotes due April 16, 2019 at 2pm. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Fire Chief- Nothing to Report

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

Police Chief  
Omerza asked how Coffee with Cops was going. Lahtonen stated that the Coffee with a Cop has been going well.

City Attorney  
Sale of Land where Ely Vet Clinic is located  
Attorney Klun described the documents that she provided in the agenda packet. Hanson has paid approximately \$18,000 in lease payments to the City of Ely and annual real estate

taxes. Prior to 1993, when Hanson acquired the lease, there has been an issue of how to insure the property, and give clear title, which is why the lease was put in place. In 2014 the City quiet titled the property; therefore, Certificate of Title was issued. The new certificate of title solved the issue of the City's clouded title. Prior to that, there were a number of items that had been memorialized on the previous Certificate.  
A.Forsman/Debeltz moved to postpone the Sale of Land to the Ely Vet Clinic till the next meeting and to invite Dr. Chip Hanson to the next council meeting.  
Discussion was had on if Hanson would have been able to purchase the property with the original lease, how much would he have actually paid for the property? Motion Carried 6-1 with Omerza voting No.

Omerza/Callen moved to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 333 2nd Series, An Ordinance of the City of Ely, Minnesota, Adding to the Ely City Code, Chapter 20, Section 20.2.33, Sale of Land Located in the East Spaulding Plat.  
Attorney Klun explained that she did not change Ordinance 333 to include Block 4 Lot 3 since this lot is not currently owned by the City and the Palcher's will be purchasing it from a private seller. Klun stated that she will put together a separate ordinance for Block 4 Lot 3, regarding purchasing two lots next to each other.  
Roll Called A. Forsman-yes, Kess-yes, Debeltz-yes, Omerza-yes, Callen-yes, Campbell-yes, and Mayor Novak-yes. Motion Carried

Unanimously.

Hill Purchase of East Spaulding Lot  
Debeltz/Callen moved to have the Mayor and Clerk sign the closing documents for Block 4 Lot 1 in the East Spaulding Plat to Paula and Andy Hill. Motion Carried Unanimously.  
Attorney Klun stated that the deed releasing the City's right of re-entry for Block 4 Lot 2 will be released so they can transfer that the lot to the Hills from the Leeson's.

City Engineer

COMMUNICATIONS:  
Thank you from the Wolf Track Classic - Matter of Information  
Library Board resignation from Rebecca Reiss  
Omerza/A.Forsman moved to post for a new Library Board Position. Motion Carried Unanimously.  
Correspondence from RAMS regarding meeting with the County Board on Broadband  
Kess indicated that RAMS is continuing to push St. Louis County to get involved with Broadband. Broadband is the future of our Economic Development.

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:  
City and EUC claims for April 2, 2019 - \$68,958.97  
Ely Community Resource 2nd Quarter Payment of \$5,125.00  
Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the Claims for Payment items A and B. Motion Carried Unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:  
Kess/Omerza moved to approve Lake County requesting transfer of Lease Agreement dated August 27, 2013 between City of Ely and County of Lake, Minnesota to Pinpoint Minnesota LLC. Motion Carried Unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:  
Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve Resolution 2019-010 a Resolution Authorizing Application of the Ely Igloo Snowmobile Club to Sell Pull-Tabs at Dee's Bar.  
Roll Called A. Forsman-yes, Kess-yes, Debeltz-yes, Omerza-yes, Callen-yes, Campbell-yes, and Mayor Novak-yes. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Awarding of Voyageur ATV Trail (Bids will be opened on Monday April 1st)  
Debeltz/Callen moved to award the base bid to George Bougalis and Sons in the amount of \$1,260,360.00 for the Forest Road 601 to Kabustasa Road Trail Improvements and Vermillion River Bridge Construction  
Voyageur Country ATV.

Published in the Timberjay, April 19, 2019

The Notice to Proceed will be issued contingent upon receiving the DNR Public Waters Permit. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Omerza/Campbell moved to approve the Public Right of Way: Small Wireless Facility Aesthetic Requirements and Construction Criteria policy. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Social Media Policy  
Omerza is proposing the City of Ely have a social media presence, mainly with a Facebook page at this time, to be able to communicate with the residents. Omerza stated that the League of Minnesota cities has a sample Social Media Policy that the City will look at and bring to the next meeting for approval.  
Discussion was had on whether or not to allow comments on the Facebook page or not.  
Omerza stated that Facebook is another way we can reach the public to let them know what is going on in the City. Langowski stated that the Fire Department, Police Department and Library have Facebook pages and they have worked well.

OPEN FORUM  
Bruce Beste from the Voyageur ATV Club thanked the City of Ely for accepting the bid and working with the Voyageur ATV Club and the other ATV trails.

ADJOURN  
Mayor Novak adjourned the meeting at 6:39pm without objection.

Casey Velcheff  
Deputy Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 19, 2019

### CITY OF ELY, MINNESOTA SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 332, SECOND SERIES FOR PUBLICATION

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6 OF THE CITY OF ELY CODE OF ORDINANCE  
On April 16, 2019, the City Council for the City of Ely, Minnesota ("City") approved a second reading of AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6, SECTION 6.31 REGULATING PEDDLERS, SOLICITORS, AND TRANSIENT MERCHANTS, MOBILE FOOD CARTS, AND MOBILE FOOD VEHICLES

It is hereby determined that publication of this Title and Summary Ordinance

will clearly inform the public of the intent and effect of Ordinance No. 332, Second Series. A copy of the entire Ordinance will be posted at the Ely City Hall.

It is hereby directed that only the above Title and Summary of Ordinance No. 332, Second Series be published conforming to Minnesota Statutes §331A.01 with the following:

This proposed ordinance amends current Ely City Code language relative to the administrative procedure for Peddler, Solicitor or Transient licenses. In addition, it mandates that all Peddler, Solicitor or Transient merchants within the City obtain a license unless the product they intend to sell was grown, produced, cultivated, or raised on a farm owned and/or operated by the applicant.

This proposed ordinance also establishes necessary requirements, procedure and process for mobile food carts and mobile food vehicle licensing with the City of Ely.

The language of this ordinance includes, but is not limited to the following: Licensees may not operate more than 21 days annually at any one location, unless one of the two following conditions are met:

The mobile food cart or vehicle must be owned and operated by the same owner at the site of a permanent local business having a Safe Food Handlers License, or The applicant must obtain City approval to operate longer than 21 days annually at any one location and shall obtain a Minnesota Health Department permit to operate longer than 21 days annually at any one location. The Minnesota Department permit would require permanent hook up to City sewer, electrical, water, utilities, garbage service and will ensure the licensee meets all State requirements.

All applications for a license under this ordinance shall be accompanied by the fee established in the City's fee schedule as adopted from time-to-time by a resolution passed by the Council.

Persons interested in reviewing a complete copy of the Ordinance may do so at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 209 E Chapman Street, Ely, Minnesota 55731.

Published in the Timberjay, April 19, 2019

**CITY OF ELY  
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**

The City of Ely is calling for interested applicants to fill the following vacancies on the

**Ely Library Board - One Mid term  
\*City of Ely Resident**

**Airport Commission - One Mid term**

**Cemetery Committee - One Mid Term**

Please remit a letter of interest and qualifications by 4:30 p.m. on May 2, 2019 to the Ely City Clerk's Office, 209 E. Chapman Street, Ely, MN or email casey.velcheff@ely.mn.us. Questions, please contact the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at 218-226-5449.

Casey Velcheff, Deputy Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, April 19 & 26, 2019*

**GENERAL NOTICE TO CONTROL OR ERADICATE NOXIOUS WEEDS**

Notice is hereby given this day of April 18, 2019 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.83, Subdivision 1 (2015), that all persons in St. Louis County, Minnesota, shall control or eradicate all noxious weeds on land they occupy or are required to maintain. Control or eradication may be accomplished by any lawful method, but the method(s) applied may need to be repeated in order to prevent the spread of viable noxious weed seeds and other propagating parts to other lands. Failure to comply with the general notice may mean that an individual notice, Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.83, Subdivision 2 (2015), will be issued. An individual notice may be appealed within two working days of receipt to the appeal committee in the county where the land is located. Failure to comply with an individual notice will mean that the inspector having jurisdiction may either hire the work done or seek a misdemeanor charge against the person(s) who failed to comply. If the work hired is done by the inspector, the cost can be placed as a tax upon the land and collected as other real estate taxes are collected. You may obtain a list of the plants that are designated as noxious weeds and the members of the appeal committee from your County Agricultural Inspector or County Designated Employee. You can also obtain this information from your Local Weed Inspectors. Local Weed Inspectors include the township supervisors, city mayors or their appointed assistants. More information regarding the statewide listed noxious weeds, the MN Noxious Weed law and a list of County Agricultural Inspectors and County Designated Employees can be obtained from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Web Site by visiting: <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants-insects/noxious-and-invasive-weed-program>

Kristin Fogard, County Agricultural Inspector  
Land and Minerals Department, 320 West 2nd St, Ste 302, Duluth.218-726-2606.  
fogardk@stlouiscountymn.gov

*Published in the Timberjay, April 19, 2019*

**OWN A PIECE OF ELY HISTORY**



The City of Ely is selling the wooden chairs from the basement of the Ely Community Center. They have the engraved "E" on the back.

**\$15 ea**

To reserve a chair or chairs, contact: **Celia Domich**, member of the Heritage Preservation Commission  
218-235-8851 or celiadomich@frontier.com

Purchase & pickup will be held from  
10:00-6:00, Tuesday, April 30th

**LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL and EQUALIZATION for EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP**  
St. Louis County, Minnesota  
will meet at the  
**Eagles Nest Town Hall on Saturday, May 4, 2019 from 10 a.m. - 11 noon.**

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the town has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and also to determine whether corrections need to be made.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after conferring with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall correct it as needed. Generally, an appearance before your local board of appeal and equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to your county board of appeal and equalization.

Deb Siverhus, Clerk, Eagles Nest Township

*Published in the Timberjay, April 19 & 26, 2019*



# Outdoors

Our lives in the  
Northwoods

## FOOD PRODUCTION

# Speaker advocates "permaculture" farming

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

MT. IRON— Could northeastern Minnesota be growing more of its own food locally? According to Mark Shepard, of Restoration Agriculture Development, it's not a question of could, it's a question of must. "We don't need more

studies," Shepard said as he delivered the keynote address at the annual Iron Range Earth Fest, held here this past weekend. "This is a call to action!"

Shepard, who wrote the book, "Restoration Agriculture," isn't just spreading the word about growing more food locally. He's also arguing that human-

ity needs to start growing food differently.

For centuries, Shepard said, human agricultural required destroying vast areas of diverse natural habitat in favor of monoculture plantings, mostly of annual grains.

"The question is, how do we feed ourselves without destroying the planet we live

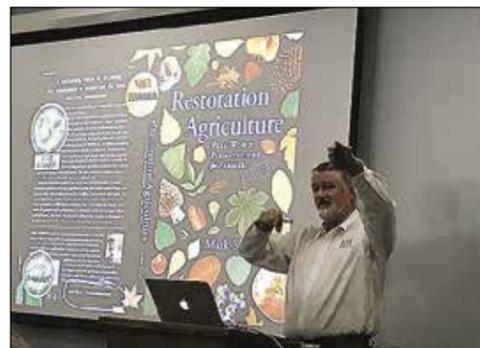
on?" he said.

In his high-energy, sometimes scattershot, presentation, Shepard took the roughly 60 people who

See **FOOD...pg. 5B**

**Right: Mark Shepard gesticulates during his keynote address at last weekend's Earth Fest in Mt. Iron.**

M. Helmsberger



## Outdoors briefly

### Local guide a top finisher in musky tourney

SOUDAN— A local resident has notched a fifth-place finish in the first event of the national Professional Musky Tournament Trail, held April 13 and 14 at Cave Run Lake in Kentucky.

Matt Snyder, who lives in Soudan, and his fishing partner, Chris Riebe, of Elgin, Ill., have had success in the PMTT for a number of years, so this week's finish was hardly a surprise.

Snyder is a fishing guide on Lake Vermilion in the summer months, specializing in musky.

Snyder and Riebe will be competing in the second contest of the PMTT, set for Eagle River, Wis., on June 22 and 23.

### DNR: Ice conditions deteriorating

REGIONAL— The Department of Natural Resources is urging people to exercise extreme caution around bodies of water in the state, as conditions vary widely.

While some lakes and rivers — especially in the southern part of the state — are already attracting boaters, many in the north remain locked in ice. Conservation officers throughout the state report that conditions are changing quickly. This week's milder weather has only hastened the deterioration of the ice.

"This tends to be a dangerous time of year because people are excited to be on open water for the first time in months, or they're trying to soak up every minute of ice-top recreation before the ice melts," said Lisa Dugan, recreation safety outreach coordinator for the DNR Enforcement Division.

The most effective way for people to ensure their safety, whether atop the ice or on the water, is to wear a life jacket. People who choose to venture onto ice at any time of year should always carry a pair of ice picks and check ice thickness frequently. This is particularly critical in the late season, as conditions change rapidly.

In addition, during the late season, people should double the DNR's ice thickness recommendations, which apply to new, clear ice. While ice thickness can vary widely even on the same body of water, people should avoid areas such as bridges, channels, culverts and streams.



## WILDLIFE WATCHING

# The business of birding

Birders spend billions each year; could northeastern Minnesota get a bigger piece of the action?

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Birding can mean business, and lots of it in parts of our region, where the chance to see a rare owl or another unusual northern species can bring thousands of visitors from around the world, even in the dead of a northern Minnesota winter.

"It's amazing how much people will spend to see one bird," said naturalist and author Sparky Stensaas, who has helped put one such birding hot spot, the Sax-Zim bog, on the map.

The nonprofit Friends of Sax-Zim Bog has spent the past several years trying to spread the word about the abundance of birds in that locality, which combines a mix of lowland black spruce and old farmsteads, located about 30 minutes south of Eveleth. They've also purchased land, built a welcome center and a section of boardwalk, which they expect to expand next year.

And the results speak for themselves. The welcome center, tucked away on a gravel road just north of Meadowlands, saw a total of 4,377 visitors sign their guestbook between mid-December and mid-March this winter, an average of almost 50 people per day. Some weekends saw hundreds of birders come through the center, which is typically staffed with knowledgeable locals who can provide all the latest reports of rare bird sightings.

For the local restaurant in nearby Cotton, or the bed and breakfast outside Meadowlands,

**Above: Birders from around the country ventured to the Tower area last winter to view and photograph a rare species of woodpecker.**

**Right: Birders observe a species of warbler at Voyageurs National Park. Birders spend billions each year pursuing their passion. Could more of that spending be directed at northern Minnesota?**

the influx of birders is a huge part of their business, particularly in winter when business used to be slow, according to Stensaas.

Earlier this winter, the Friends of Sax-Zim distributed a questionnaire to visitors at the welcome center to try to better assess the economic effects of all the traffic. About 270 visitors filled out the questionnaires, and the results showed that visitors to the bog spent an average of 2.7 days in the area.

With few lodging options in the immediate vicinity of Sax-Zim, Stensaas said most visitors end up staying in hotels in Duluth or on the Iron Range. And some hotel operators, such as the operators of the Super Eights in Eveleth and Cloquet and the Days Inn, in Duluth have taken notice, offering birder discounts and earlier breakfast hours to accommodate the fact that many birders like to be out in the field early.

Could other parts of the North Country benefit from the birder business? Pete Schultz, with the Rainy Lake Convention and Visitors Bureau, is certainly hoping so. "I know birding is



popular," said Schultz, who recently issued a press release touting the outstanding mix of bird habitats in and around Voyageurs National Park.

That's one of the reasons that the Audubon Society of Minnesota has designated the park as an Important Bird Area, a moniker given to areas with exceptional bird habitat that attract a rich variety of birds. The Sax-Zim bog has a similar designation.

Schultz says his group regularly gets inquiries from birders, most often looking to find boreal bird species, like spruce grouse, although the park is home to a wide range of warblers as well as

many birds associated with large lake and marsh environments. Schultz's recent press release cites the variety of habitat found in and around the park, including "fire-dependent mixed pine and boreal forests, mesic hardwoods, floodplain forest, and rich peatland forests," attributes that aren't typically associated with promotional press releases intended for the general public. It's a sign that those tasked with bringing visitors to the area are learning to speak to a different demographic from the traditional hunting and angling crowd.

See **BIRDING...pg. 5B**

**FOOD...**Continued from page 4B

turned out to hear him on a wild ride, highlighting the vast number of threats that the planet and humanity face from the necessity of feeding an ever-growing number of people at a time of increasing climate instability.

The answer, according to Shepard, is using a method of food production known as permaculture or polyculture, which relies much more on long-lived plant species, such as trees and shrubs, to produce food products. Permaculture methods also, typically, call for planting a greater mix of plant species to provide for plant diversity.

Shepard argues that growing tree crops, like nuts and fruits, with grass underneath to provide forage for grazing animals, is a far less energy intensive and more sustainable approach to food production.

It's not only a way to feed ourselves, said Shepard, it's a way to heal a planet that has suffered from mankind's abuses. "Nature knows how to repair itself," Shepard said, sounding a hopeful note. "But we have to understand how natural systems operate and work with them rather than against

them." Implementing a permaculture food system requires understanding your local biome and dominant plant communities and using species that will do well in those conditions. He said animals are an important part of most natural systems and should be incorporated into any permaculture system. Shepard is familiar with that process, having developed New Forest Farm on 140 acres he owns near Viola, Wis. It's become a showplace for his proselytizing about permaculture and it's an operation that now provides a comfortable living, he said. "I'm not recommending becoming eco-peasants," he quipped.

While Shepard's talk was long on inspiration, his hour-long keynote was a bit light on the details, although he said his operation provides fruits like apples and grapes, as well as hazelnuts, chestnuts, and edible mushrooms.

You can find out much more by searching for Mark Shepard on the web or buying his book, Restoration Agriculture, available at Amazon, for \$24.

**LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST** from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
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.
04/08	43	38	0.13		04/08	43	38	0.14		04/08	43	37	0.38		04/08	45	36	0.53		04/08	44	39	0.20	
04/09	44	30	0.19		04/09	45	29	0.32		04/09	44	29	0.16		04/09	36	21	0.14		04/09	46	26	0.26	
04/10	33	26	0.00		04/10	45	24	0.00		04/10	31	22	0.00		04/10	41	27	0.00		04/10	34	24	0.00	
04/11	41	25	0.00		04/11	40	25	0.00		04/11	40	26	0.00		04/11	30	25	0.00		04/11	42	26	0.00	
04/12	30	24	0.20	3.0"	04/12	31	23	0.43	4.0"	04/12	31	23	0.26	4.0"	04/12	30	21	0.56	5.3"	04/12	32	24	0.30	4.0"
04/13	33	24	0.25	3.4"	04/13	32	23	0.24	2.5"	04/13	30	24	0.10	1.5"	04/13	39	25	0.11	1.0"	04/13	33	24	0.20	3.5"
04/14	38	13	0.00		04/14	38	10	0.00		04/14	39	15	0.00		04/14	50	14	0.00		04/14	39	13	0.00	
Totals			3.46	80.7"	Totals			4.08	66.3"	Totals			3.81	73.1"	Totals			2.93	NA	Totals			3.35	72.1"

**Outdoors in brief**

**VNP to celebrate Nat'l Park Week with events**

REGIONAL — Voyageurs National Park is celebrating upcoming National Park Week (April 20-28) with a series of events for visitors. All events take place at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center.

**April 20: National Junior Ranger Day**

Junior Ranger activities are a great way to connect kids to our national parks. Bring your child to Voyageurs and complete one of

three different activity booklets to earn a badge.

**April 25: Throwback Thursday**

Visit the Rainy Lake Visitor Center and flash back to the past to learn more about the efforts to keep the nation's historic heritage preserved in parks and communities while viewing the exhibit room.

**April 27: BARK Ranger Day, Community Dog Walk**

Bring your canine companion and join Park Ranger Lisa Maass at 10 a.m. for a community dog walk

on the Rainy Lake Recreation Trail, located at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center. Learn how to enjoy the park with your furry pal in a safe and responsible manner.

**April 28: National Park Prescription Day**

National Parks are a great place to be active and support a healthy lifestyle. Pick up a Hike to Health passport, hit the trails and start logging the miles to keep your mind, body, and spirit in good health. Passports are available at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center.

**BIRDING...**Continued from page 4B

**Real potential**

If you doubt that birding can have a noticeable economic impact on a state, consider a recent study that found that birders bring \$1.4 billion a year to the Arizona economy. Like Minnesota, Arizona is a location where birders can often find birds that are not typically found elsewhere in the country, and that draws hundreds of thousands of birders to the state annually, particularly to southeastern Arizona where several internationally-known hot spots are located.

Nationwide, the numbers are even more impressive. A 2011 study by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service put the total direct economic impact of birders at more than \$41 billion nationwide. The bulk of that was spent on the equipment that birders use, such as binoculars, spotting scopes, and cameras. But the roughly 18 million birders who travel beyond their backyard to pursue their passion spent a total of \$14.9 billion on travel in 2011, according to the Fish and Wildlife

study. That included \$4.6 billion on meals, \$3.1 billion for lodging, and \$5.1 billion for transportation.

Schultz said he recognizes that birders are a potentially valuable segment of the traveling public and Minnesota could be tapping more of those visitor dollars with the kind of promotion that Schultz is starting to undertake.

In terms of bird diversity and abundance, northcentral and northeastern Minnesota actually do stand out as among the most significant places in the lower 48 states. Besides Voyageurs National Park and the Sax-Zim bog, which are both state-designated Important Bird Areas, the Superior and Chippewa national forests are designated as globally-significant IBAs. The vast Red Lake peatland is also a state-designated IBA.

The region's abundance of wetlands, its location at the confluence of the boreal forest and Great Lakes pine forest, and its limited human development has helped the area maintain a rich diversity of bird life.

Could northern Minnesota someday draw hundreds of thousands of birders a year, like Arizona?

Longtime Tower resident Steve Wilson, who is a member of the Minnesota Ornithologists Union, thinks the potential is there. A few years ago, Wilson conducted breeding bird surveys in the Tower-Soudan area for the statewide breeding bird atlas — and he found the highest diversity of breeding birds of any location in the state.

That's the kind of statistical data that could catch the eye of millions of serious birders if more were done to promote it.

Schultz is certainly hopeful. He said he watches web traffic on his organization's website and he notes that blog posts on birding in the area tend to see more readership than other posts. He's hoping his latest press release will continue that trend and start bringing more birders to the park and surrounding areas. "We're trying to reach out on that," he said.

**Spring Closeout SALE!**  
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**Sweet Spring Auction**

Thursday, May 2  
**Amici's Event Center**

**6:00 Silent Auction & Dessert sales begin**  
**7:00 Live Auction**

Hors d'oeuvres, beverages & cake served beginning at 6:00  
**\$10 per person**

There's never been a better time to support our youth.  
 Child care will be provided at Ely Gospel Church.

**Death Notices**

**JeriLynn E. Bruce**

JeriLynn E. Horntvedt Bruce, 70, long-time resident of Tower, died on Tuesday, April 9, 2019, at the Cook Community Hospital. A memorial service was held on Wednesday, April 17 at the Bauman Vermilion Funeral Home Chapel in Tower. Pastor Liz Cheney officiated. Family services were provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

She is survived by her husband, Ken; sister, Lois (George) Widman of Crookston; brother, Kenneth (Jody) Horntvedt of Baudette; numerous extended family and friends; and beloved pet, Inga.

**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. 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](http://storyportage.org).

**EMPLOYMENT**

**PART-TIME OFFICE ASSISTANT/ BOOKKEEPER**

Must be well organized, efficient, and upbeat. Knowledge of Quickbooks, Word, and Excel a plus. Customer service experience preferred. Call Docks on Wheels to schedule an interview, 218-365-6210. 4/26c

**Early Head Start Child Care Teacher (Vermilion)**

The Early Head Start Child Care Teacher will implement the Early Head Start Education Plan and provide a full range of early childhood services through curriculum, meet the Performance Standards, including mental and physical health and safety, culture and nutrition activities. They will develop individualized education plans for all children, taking into account the information from staffing, on-going assessments and outcomes done with each child, as well as utilizing parental input and will implement a full range of early childhood activities, including play, learning, mealtimes, and diapering.

**Experience:** One year of experience working with children in a classroom setting  
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Application available at [www.ely.k12.mn.us](http://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

**Super Crossword**

**Answers**

B	L	A	S	T	C	R	O	A	K	A	D	O	S	R	O	K	S		
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K	N	O	T	L	E	O	S	S	E	T	O	N	S	E	E	D	S		

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**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

			8		4		6			
		7		5					3	
3							1			5
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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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*Published in the Timberjay, April 12, 19, 26, 2019*

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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](mailto: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,  
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# TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

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## 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. 4/26v

## WANTED

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

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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.

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## Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

**Classifieds run in all 3 editions of the Timberjay.**  
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## SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## Super Crossword

**PICK A CARD**

**ACROSS**

1 Firing sound  
 6 Frog sound  
 11 Kerfuffles  
 15 Soldiers of Seoul  
 19 Old Aegean region  
 20 Singer with the 2013 #1 hit "Royals"  
 21 Typesetter's option  
 22 Saber's kin  
 23 Film that's both funny and gloomy  
 25 Thin material used in painting and baking  
 27 Bulls scores  
 28 Putt-putt  
 30 Yard sale proviso  
 32 With 40-Across, classic grape drink  
 33 Step inside  
 34 "Mirage" actor Edward James —  
 38 Boolean logic operator  
 40 See 32-Across  
 42 Opening bets  
 45 Overhead air circulator

48 Films, TV, hit songs, etc.  
 51 Fancy snack  
 52 — McAn  
 54 See 50-Down  
 55 Chilly powder  
 56 "The Simpsons" shopkeeper  
 57 Clock setting in NYC  
 59 "... man — mouse?"  
 61 Sketched follower?  
 63 Priest  
 64 Homeland  
 69 "— Brockovich"  
 71 Cynic's look  
 72 Sheep group  
 73 — vu  
 75 Metal debris  
 79 Pianist Hines  
 81 Alternative medical practices  
 84 Rubble maker  
 87 TVs "Better Call —"  
 89 "— -hoo!" ("Hello!")  
 90 Equal: Prefix  
 91 Subpar mark  
 92 High cards  
 94 FBI agent  
 96 Bulky brass

98 Michigan county or its seat  
 101 Important biblical meal  
 104 Clownish type  
 106 Really bug  
 107 Give and take  
 109 — chi  
 110 Sales talk  
 111 Of Tehran  
 114 Fish story  
 116 Pulitzer winner William  
 118 Dictionary, e.g.  
 122 Film theaters  
 127 Ethiopia, formerly  
 128 Playing card apt to this puzzle's theme (hint: see the ends of the longest answers)  
 130 "That's — bad idea"  
 131 One fibbing  
 132 Barbecue  
 133 Ruhr Valley's chief city  
 134 Tie feature  
 135 Many August babies  
 136 Determined to carry out  
 137 Sown things

**DOWN**

1 Lettuce variety  
 2 Dancer Falana  
 3 Santa — (some winds)  
 4 Ill  
 5 Test the tea, say  
 6 Shutting  
 7 CD- —  
 8 City NNW of Provo  
 9 Also include  
 10 Economist John Maynard —  
 11 Scared by  
 12 "Get busy!"  
 13 Well-timed  
 14 Rigid  
 15 Mixtures for chemical analysis  
 16 Well-timed  
 17 Boat's spine  
 18 Federal peon  
 24 Dollar or euro divs.  
 26 Blossom bit  
 29 Breakfast chain, briefly  
 31 Unstiffened shoe part  
 34 — razor ("keep it simple" principle)  
 35 Tackle  
 36 Part of rpm

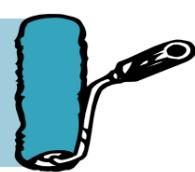
37 Suffix with boff  
 39 Rally cry  
 41 Imitated  
 43 Winged god  
 44 Makes a dress, e.g.  
 46 At no time, to poets  
 47 12 p.m.  
 49 Quaker products  
 50 With 54-Across, service charges  
 53 "D.C. Cab" actor  
 58 Slobby sort  
 60 Difficult and tiring  
 62 Far-reaching  
 65 "— -haw!"  
 66 Epochs  
 67 Java holder (ump's call)  
 70 Gun rights org.  
 74 Relative of handball  
 76 Nickname for Yale  
 77 "Remington —"  
 78 Singer Crow  
 80 Sauce brand  
 82 Kiddie  
 83 Halo-worthy  
 84 Fish story  
 85 Univ. sports org.

86 Serve as evidence of  
 88 Racing units  
 93 Eyes  
 95 They begin on January 1  
 97 Iota  
 99 Failures to attend  
 100 Domino dot  
 102 Big names  
 103 Broccoli — (salad green)  
 105 "Honest Abe"  
 108 Fork parts  
 112 Sam of "Backtrack"  
 113 Many a navel  
 115 Bête — (pet peeve)  
 117 Certain PC pic file  
 118 Echelon  
 119 Very dark, to poets  
 120 "Gotta run!"  
 121 Make a sweater, e.g.  
 123 Additionally  
 124 Think deeply and at length  
 125 Under the covers  
 126 IDs for the IRS  
 129 "Xanadu" rock gp.

The Timberjay classified ads reach readers of all three editions every week.  
  
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**Lake Vermilion, Orr-\$750,000** 4 BR home on 60 acres with 2,000 ft of shoreline. **MLS#135533**

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