





#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### **Expansion stymied by construction delays**

### Lamppa Manufacturing forced to wait for new facility

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

TOWER - Businessis booming at Lamppa Manufacturing, and that's both good news and bad as the company struggles to meet a sharp increase in orders even as construction delays have Tower woodstove maker, Lamppa Manufacturing, has seen its orders more than double this spring, but is struggling with construction delays at their new facility. photo by M. Helmberger

prevented them from moving to their expanded production facility here.

The company, which recently became the first wood furnace manufacturer to meet the strict 2020 emissions standards set by the EPA, has been inundated with orders in the wake of that approval and the publicity it generated.

See...LAMPPA pg. 9



# THE GREAT OUTDOORS **Fishing opener 2019 W to to**

Working together Ely School District to

**ISD 696** 

Ely School District to explore collaboration with ISD 2142

#### by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY – School board members here unanimously, on Monday, agreed to engage in a discussion with the St. Louis County School District regarding any and all possible school collaboration measures, including potentially sharing a lead administrator.

The move comes with a proposed



Boat loads of fishermen flocked Saturday morning to the fast current of Silver Rapids between White Iron and Farm lakes in the first hours of the Minnesota fishing season. See more fishing opener coverage in today's Outdoors section on pages B4-5. photo by K. Vandervort

### **Orr council pursues short-term rental rules**

#### by MARCUS WHITE

Cook/Orr Editor

ORR - A public forum on Monday, June 10 here will be the first step toward the city council enacting regulations on short-term rental properties in the city.

At their regular meeting on Monday, city councilors here indicated they wanted to move forward on a possible ordinance after an earlier forum and ongoing research by City Clerk Cheri Carter on the proposal.

The city plans to have the ordinance in effect in July after the required public

City officials will host a public forum on June 10

hearing and two readings by the council.

The ordinance is being modeled after a similar one adopted by the Two Harbors City Council earlier this spring that will establish rules governing the operations of the rental units.

Rentals will need to be hooked up to city water and sewer lines along with being permanent structures. RVs or any other type of mobile units will not be allowed.

The city's lodging tax will also

have to be collected on rents. Mayor Joel Astleford said he would be willing to consider a no-cost permit for rentals for those operators who agree to collect the lodging tax.

The June 10 public hearing will be at 5 p.m., directly preceding the regularly-scheduled council meeting that will follow immediately afterward.

If passed, Orr will be the third

See...ORR pg. 10

multi-million dollar facilities project and an upcoming district superintendent vacancy hanging in the wings for

See...ELY pg. 10

### CITY OF TOWER Council delays action to fill two vacancies

by JODI SUMMIT

Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Nearly a month after former council members Kevin Fitton and Brooke Anderson first announced their resignations, the city council in a marathon session here was again unable to fill the vacancies left by their departures.

At their meeting Monday, Mayor Orlyn Kringstad asked remaining council members Rachel Beldo and Steve Abrahamson to add council appointments to the agenda after City Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith had refused Kringstad's request last week to make sure the appointments were ready to proceed.

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### **COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES**

#### Pig roast fundraiser for Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade, May 25

COOK- A pig roast, raffle, and silent auction will be held Memorial Day weekend on Saturday, May 25 from 4-7 p.m. at the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade Hall, 8025 Oak Narrows Rd. The pig roast will be a squealin' good time for all ages. Adult dinner costs \$20, kids age 10 and under cost \$5. Soft drinks, wine, and beer will be for sale, and to-go meals are available. The LVFB is volunteer operated and community funded. Support and donations from the community ensure continued services. Raffle drawing and silent auction winners will be decided at 6 p.m. See raffle and auction items online at www.lakevermilionfirebrigade.com/memorial-weekend-pig-roast.

#### "A Touch of Class" choral jazz performance on May 19 at B'Nai Abraham in Virginia

VIRGINIA- Visit the B'nai Abraham Museum and Cultural Center on Sunday, May 19 at 3 p.m. for a choral jazz performance led by director Greg Barnes. A Touch of Class sings choral jazz music as well as other popular music from the last few decades. They have been performing for almost two years. Concert is no charge with a free will offering.

B'nai Abraham will be open every Wednesday and Friday from 1 - 3 p.m. through the months of June, July and August for tours and exhibit viewing. The building will be staffed by volunteers from the Virginia Area Historical Society. Tours can be arranged for other hours by calling the VAHS at 218-741-1136 or Harry Lamppa at 218-741-6613. B'nai is located at 328 5th St. S in Virginia.

Saturday, June 8 at 7 p.m. Steven Sokela from Rowan University will perform a selection of opera and popular music.

#### The-Class-That-Should-Have-Been Reunion, Aug. 24: Embarrass High School Class of 1972

PIKE TWP- County School 70 in Embarrass closed as a result of consolidation in June of 1970. The students were sent to area independent school districts in Babbitt, Virginia, and Tower-Soudan.

The 60 members of the class of 1972 have not seen each other, as a whole, since 1970. During the summer of 2019 this will be rectified with The-Class-That-Should-Have-Been Reunion. Anyone who ever attended school in Embarrass with the class that would have graduated in 1972 is also invited to the gathering.

The reunion will take place on Saturday, Aug. 24 at 4 p.m. at The Shack, located at the intersection of Hwy. 169 and 21 in Pike Township. Attendees should also note that the Embarrass Fair is scheduled for the same weekend as the reunion.

Contact Ruby Parin Alto at 218-290-0680 or altodella@yahoo.com for more information.

### VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL **Community invited to attend Expo Day** at VCS on Wednesday, May 22



Students showing off projects at Expo Day last year. file photo

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA Staff Writer

TOWER- The public is invited to Vermilion Country School on Wednesday, May 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for Expo Day.

Expo Day is an opportunity for students to share what they've learned throughout the year with their families along with the entire community. The event will focus on the students' environmental education projects, but will also feature highlights from math, social studies, English, arts, and science.

This is a chance to come and see what VCS students have been learning all year long.

At the beginning of the year, environmental education students

each chose a 30-sq. ft. spot in the woods called "My Place" where they observed changes in nature. "First the students might just pick out objects, like trees or rocks, but then we ask them to go into detail, what kinds of trees or rocks?" school administrator Kevin Fitton explained. Then, throughout the year, students recorded seasonal changes, signs of wildlife, and human impact on the area.

The main focus of environmental science this school year has been wildlife, a lively follow-up to last year's focus on waste and recycling. Throughout the school year the students got to visit Hawk Ridge in Duluth, Pike River Hatchery on Lake Vermilion, the Wolf Center in Ely, the North American Bear Center in

Ely, in addition to hearing presentations at the school on bats, moose, beaver, and more. The students will be visiting the Duluth Zoo as a yearend trip the last week of school.

Other projects visitors can enjoy include math students' Sierpinsky triangle pyramid, a diorama of the seasons, hand-crafted pop-up books, an imaginative showing of potential new Harry Potter houses and characters, and a poetry lyric project.

Lunch will be served at 12 noon. and the public is welcome to stay for a lasagna dinner for a cost of \$5.

The Vermilion Country School is a grade 7-12 public charter school. The school is located at 1 Enterprise Dr., behind the new harbor area. For more information, call the school at 218-753-1246.

#### LIVE MUSIC

### **Northern Lights Music Festival to host Rhapsody at the Ridge on June 28**

**REGIONAL-** Area residents can look forward to an exciting evening including dinner and opera arias to support the Northern Lights Music

Festival on Friday, June 28 at the Giants Ridge Event Center, 6325 Wynne Creek Drive in Biwabik. Rhapsody at the Ridge will honor Mr. Thomas Gillach, the Founding President of the NLMF Board of Directors, whose guidance and years of service to the organization provided the foundation for the growth of the festival. The major sponsor of Rhapsody at the Ridge is Lakehead Constructors, whose generosity underwrites the expenses for the event and honors Mr. Gillach's service. Rhapsody at the Ridge begins at 5:30 p.m. with a silent auction and social hour with the NLMF Jazz Trio providing music for your pleasure. At 6:30 p.m. sit down with the cast of the Northern Lights Opera Company for a wonderful three-course meal prepared by Chef Kelly,

followed by a program of opera arias sung by the stars of the Northern Lights Music Festival's 2019 opera production, Verdi's La Traviata. The program includes soprano Cecilia Violetta Lopez who sings the title role of Violetta. Alex Richardson will sing the role of Alfredo. Jeff Mattsey will sing Germont. These artists, who have sung at great opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera, will Cecilia Violetta Lopez share their art with you. The Silent Auction will include many wonderful opportunities: Vikings tickets, beautifully-handcrafted items, vacation spots, fun experiences and so much more. The Northern Lights Music Festival will present its sixteenth incredible season of classical music and opera to the Iron Range from Ely to Hibbing with six other cities in between.





#### **Vermilion Country School**

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS** The public is invited...

#### Expo Day

#### Wednesday, May 22 • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Lunch available at 12 noon (\$5)

Come and see student projects and presentations from throughout the school year. See the students'



environmental learning focus on North American Wildlife this year. Plus, baby chicks, greenhouse tours, much more!

#### Choir and Drama Day Wednesday, May 29 10 a.m. - 12 Noon

The VCS Choir will be performing selections from the musical Hamilton, along with the pieces they performed for the state choir

contest. The drama class will be putting on a well-loved classic comedy, suitable for all ages.



#### Graduation-Saturday, June 1 1 p.m. at Vermilion Country School

#### School tours available by request Openings for students in grades 7 – 12

Transportation provided from Ely, Embarrass/Babbitt, Aurora/Hoyt Lakes, Virginia/Mt. Iron/Eveleth, and Tower/Soudan/ Lake Vermilion areas

#### Vermilion Country Charter School 1 Enterprise Drive, Tower, MN 218-753-1246 • www.vermilioncountry.org

Along with the amazing opera performances there will be a full schedule of chamber music and orchestra concerts performed by some of the most gifted young artists in the world today. Performances will run from July 1 through July 20. For more information and to purchase tickets for Rhapsody at the Ridge, go to northernlightsmusic. org, or call 218-780-2292.



#### EMERGENCY SERVICES

### **Tower council OKs changes to ambulance service**

#### Approves expanded paid on-call, pay raise for director, and exploration of cooperative agreement with Virginia

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

TOWER - The city council here, on Monday, granted approval to expand the paid on-call staffing for the Tower Ambulance service even as questions remain about the financial viability of the existing paid on-call program. The council also okayed a pay raise for Ambulance Director Steve Altenburg, from his current salary of \$1,800 per month, to \$2,000.

The council's action came as Altenburg outlined a new proposal developed with assistance from Virginia Fire and EMS Director Allen Lewis that would combine forces on some inter-hospital transfers requiring advanced life support. Details were sketchy as Altenburg presented the concept through a handful of email exchanges

between himself and Lewis. He said he would provide more information in the future if the council gave him the greenlight to pursue the concept and flesh out a contract. He said the contract would need subsequent approval by the city councils in both Tower and Virginia and would likely need review from legal counsel.

Mayor Orlyn Kringstad asked if Altenburg could provide a cash-flow analysis showing the financial implications of the proposal over the next three years. "Well, no," responded Altenburg, indicating that the plan was too fluid to make any forecasts.

As outlined by Altenburg, the Tower Ambulance would provide an EMT and an ambulance for inter-hospital transfers from Essentia in Virginia that require advanced life support service. While the Tower

Ambulance currently provides only basic life support service, Virginia would provide a paramedic for the transfer, who would be certified to provide advanced life support.

Virginia would receive \$600 for its involvement, leaving about \$900-\$1,000 for the Tower Ambulance to cover its costs. It's unclear how many such transfers Virginia and Tower will actually undertake under the concept. Lewis has previously indicated that Virginia is unable to respond to about 500 non-emergency transfers per year, but what percentage of those require ALS is unclear.

#### Expanded paid on-call

Altenburg offered the council no definitive numbers on the cost of expanding paid on-call staffing to the weekend hours. Currently, the paid staffing runs 24 hours a day, Monday through Friday, and Altenburg proposed up to 27 hours of additional EMT staffing, possibly less, depending on interest from existing staff in covering those extra hours.

According to Altenburg, the added cost of the expanded staffing would be no more than \$310.50 per week. Altenburg's assessment, however, failed to include the cost of payroll taxes, which would add about ten percent to that total. On an annualized basis, the expanded staffing would add a maximum of \$17,760 to the ambulance service's operating expenses.

"So how does that look for the overall ambulance fund?" asked council member Rachel Beldo. Altenburg responded indirectly: "So overall, like this last year, and I didn't go through everything, I spent somewhere between 70 and 80 thousand dollars of money that we made

last year on buying equipment. So, we always have to still generate some revenue. The biggest thing is that calls steadily go up every year."

In fact, according to the city's auditor, the Tower Ambulance service spent \$44,000 more on equipment in 2018 than in the prior year. How much of that was related to the implementation of the paid on-call service is unclear. Further, the auditor confirmed that the ambulance service's operating surplus in 2018 fell from an average of \$104,000 over the prior three years to just \$4,000, due primarily to the higher expenses from the shift to paid on-call.

Altenburg had told city officials last year that the shift to paid on-call would pay for itself by allowing the service to accept more non-emergency

See AMBULANCE....pg. 5

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

### Ely man gets 25 years in rape and kidnapping case

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY - An Ely man has been sentenced to more than 25 years in prison for kidnapping and raping a 15-year-old girl.

Sixth Judicial District Judge Gary Pagliaccetti last week sentenced David Alan Nielsen, 35, to 177 months for a sexual assault charge and 129 months for kidnapping. He ordered the prison terms to be served consecutively, followed by 10 years of conditional release.

Authorities said Nielsen held

a knife to the victim's throat before repeatedly sexually assaulting her in a gravel pit outside Ely in November **David Nielsen** 

2017. pleaded guilty last month to felony charges of third-degree

kidnapping. According to the criminal complaint:

Nielsen pulled up to the girl in his Chevrolet Suburban in downtown Ely and offered to drive the girl home after she'd parted ways with a friend at about 4:30 p.m. on Nov. 20, 2017. The girl agreed, but he passed her house and told her he was going to "teach her how to drive."

Nielsen drove the girl to a gravel pit outside town, where he did some doughnuts as the girl told police she sat on his lap. After stopping the vehicle, Nielsen pulled to the top of a mound and told the girl, "let's watch the sunset."

Nielsen made the girl kiss him, she told police, then forced

her to lie down on the seat. He proceeded to hold a 6-inch, non-folding knife stamped "U.S." to her throat and told her to "be a good girl," the complaint said. After putting the knife away, he made the girl take off her clothes, before forcing her to have sex "five or six times." When it was over, Nielsen drove the girl home and told her he'd kill her if she told anyone, while also threatening her family and friends, according to the report.

Nielsen must serve at least two-thirds of the prison term before he is eligible for supervised release. He is currently incarcerated at the Minnesota Correctional Facility in Rush City, with an anticipated release date of November 2034.

Court records indicate that Nielsen has numerous prior convictions in Minnesota, dating back to 2001, including felony crimes of domestic abuse, assault, assault of a police officer, auto theft, drug crimes, driving while intoxicated, and violating protection orders, as well as several misdemeanors.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT® FOR HEALTHY LIVING FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Нe criminal sexual conduct and



### YMCA FAMILY CAMP **CAMP NORTHERN LIGHTS GRAND OPEN HOUSE**

Join us for a community open house celebration that will include tours, camp activities, crafts, Dog House Grill food truck, pontoon rides, book signing, and a drawing for a free stay!

We are thrilled to be able to share the many gifts of family camp; it's time to start making family traditions and life-long memories for generations to come!

#### Saturday, May 25 | 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

#### YMCA CAMP NORTHERN LIGHTS 9089 Highway 21 N, Babbitt, MN 55706 campnorthernlights.org

"CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW... ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;"

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

### Editorial

#### **Exercise common sense** Tower Council doesn't need a lawyer to tell them a grievance can't overturn the charter

For months, a much-needed investigation into a lengthy list of infractions and malfeasance by Tower's city clerk-treasurer has been stuck in neutral over a ridiculous ploy engineered by the city clerk, her union representative, and her chief political ally, Steve Altenburg.

Back in February, Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith filed a grievance under her union contract alleging that Mayor Orlyn Kringstad had improperly conducted an investigation of her apparent law-breaking, dishonesty, and incompetence, and subsequently leaked some of his findings, that he had presented at a closed session of the city council, to this newspaper.

The allegation regarding the leak was completely false, as we have previously addressed. We had been investigating Keith's systematic falsification of city records for months but had held off on reporting our own findings to give the new council time to address the clerk-treasurer's apparently criminal action.

Altenburg and former council member Brooke Anderson (another Keith ally), who resigned earlier this month, eventually dropped any discussion of the false leak. Yet they found in favor of Keith on the second issue, ignoring the fact that Kringstad had every right to examine public records, observe Keith's repeated dishonesty at council meetings, and report to the council, or anyone, on his conclusions. It should be noted that during his investigation into Keith, Kringstad was still a private citizen. He also undertook his actions under the guidance of outside legal counsel, that he obtained at private expense, and followed that guidance every step of the way.

To suggest that he needed council approval to do the due diligence that any responsible citizen is free to undertake in America is ridiculous. We all should be paying attention to the workings of government officials and seeking accountability, particularly when their actions run afoul of the law. Neither Altenburg nor Anderson could point to any legal authority to support their contention that Kringstad's actions were inappropriate in any way, or that, as a private citizen, he somehow needed council authority to investigate whatever issue attracts his interest. But it wasn't just their finding that was a fraud. The two, without the aid of any legal counsel- which they had previously committed to obtaining- then proceeded to accept an blatantly unconstitutional remedy from the union designed to wipe away any authority of the city council to pursue an investigation against Keith and prohibited Kringstad from exercising any oversight of Keith, permanently. For Keith, it was a nearly perpetual "Get out of jail free" card.

The actions of Keith, Altenburg, and Anderson represent a flagrant violation of the city's charter, which clearly authorizes the city council to "make investigations into the affairs of the city and the conduct of any city department, office or agency and for this purpose may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony, and require the production of evidence." No union grievance decision can overturn the city's charter, particularly when the finding was so transparently fraudulent. It was the ultimate kangaroo court.

Yet, while Keith and Altenburg's ploy is based on fiction, it has managed to hold off a city council that is still struggling to find its way in the face of Keith's constant manipulations and misrepresentations. With the current city attorney inexplicably unwilling to weigh in on the legitimacy of this farce, the council has now spent more than a month seeking legal representation to tell them the obvious- that Altenburg and Anderson had no authority to overturn the city charter by taking away the council's investigatory and oversight authority.

The council should save the city the money. It doesn't take an attorney to interpret the clear language of the charter. The council has absolute authority to pursue an investigation of the clerk-treasurer. It's spelled out in black and white. As their own city attorney told members of the council Monday night, they have the authority to decide the issue for themselves. That's what voters elected them to do.

The bottom line is that the



### Letters from Readers

### Follow the rule of law on Twin Metals

OPINION

The May 8 *Star Tribune* story about a U.S. House subcommittee hearing that touched on Twin Metals Minnesota's proposal for a copper-nickel mine in northeastern Minnesota again raises the question:

Why are U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum and a group of retired Forest Service employees rushing to judgment before a mine plan has even been submitted for consideration?

Decisions about mine permits historically have been made under the rule of law, including proper environmental and other regulatory review processes that thoroughly vet proposals. That is all that is being asked for in this case, a fair and equitable process to review a specific project. The Forest Service retirees who published a letter in opposition to the mine this week are entitled to their opinion, but until there is an actual project to analyze, their views remain just that, an opinion based on speculation.

This is why we have regulatory review in the first place. Twin Metals has spent more than \$400 million and 10 years on studies and testing at the mine site with zero negative environmental impacts. They say they can operate the mine in a safe, environmentally sound manner. Moving the goalposts now, denying them the chance to at least make their case, would be extremely unfair and signal that the U.S. is a most unreliable partner. ever flowed south since that date. Nobody wanted to make a big thing about secession, given the recent unpleasantness over slavery, so they kept it quiet. And yeah, it's been a political thing because the miners sure as heck knew the Republicans weren't going to do anything for them. That's who the mine owners were, and the workers had to fight for every penny and every scrap of respect.

Perpich didn't start it, but he sure came out of the Range and its long history of blood and guts. I didn't know how far back the IRRRB went until reading this short little history: http:// news.minnesota.publicradio. org/features/199912/06\_newsroom\_irrrb-m/history.shtml

Oberstar did a heckuva job as their Congressman for years. That's why there's such an incredible web of terrific two-lane roads all over up there. He was in Congress long enough that he got to chair the Transportation Committee, so everyone in Congress - and the White House - knew they had to go to him to get anything for their home districts.

He also went native in D.C. I saw him in person at a fundraiser for Klobuchar's Senate run in downtown Minneapolis in about 1980. He was wearing a really nifty suit, handmade shoes, the whole nine-and-a-half-yards. I knew right then he was in trouble without his knowing it. I asked one of his aides if he wore that outfit up to the Range, and the guy said, "Yeah. I'm probably going to have to find another job." Seriously- that was it in a nutshell right there. Rangers get a sport coat for when they graduate high school, wear it again when they get married and again when they get buried, and that's it. No way they were going to vote Oberstar again. That's when a guy who'd come from Virginia - the state! - and had been living off an airline disability pension for twenty years because he snored too much to get a good night's rest popped up for the Republicans, ran a

well-financed campaign and knocked him off. One term later, he was gone, and Oberstar was dead anyway.

Now we've got Fox News, Clear Channel, and a lot of confused people who don't think government can deliver education, health care, Social Security, or white power, so who cares if a complete grifter is running the show, it's all going to hell anyway.

#### Dave Porter Minneapolis

### The truth will set you free

In the April 28, 2019, *Mesabi Daily* guest column,Dr. Noel Schmidt, Virginia Public Schools Superintendent, cautions, "Stay alert for skullduggery before the May 14 vote."

Why did the psychology-trained superintendent neglect to instruct readers to be vigilant to his sophistry replete with the signature "Schmidt smilie?"

He continues: "The Eveleth-Gilbert and Virginia Public Schools are so close to overcoming an ancient rivalry which started 125 years ago. The communities are so close to burying the hatchet of parochialism and provincialism."

I have lived in Gilbert for nearly seven decades. No individual has triggered more divisiveness in not one, but all three communities, than has Dr. Schmidt.

city council has a legal and ethical obligation to investigate. The council members have been presented with prima facie evidence of potential criminal actions undertaken by the clerk-treasurer in a perversion of her official duties in order to keep her political allies in positions of authority. The council can't ignore that reality. If council members somehow find themselves constrained from taking action, they have an obligation to report the allegations to the St. Louis County Sheriff for investigation, something that this council has, to date, failed to do. Until it does, this council is, in effect, complicit in the clerk-treasurer's apparent wrongdoing. And that's not a good look for this, or any council.

#### Chuck Novak Mayor of Ely

### Ramblings on the Range and its history

I've always thought IRRRB stood for "Send the Money North," and learned in 1970, at my first job out of college as a county social worker in Baudette, that everything north of US Hwy. 2 had quietly seceded from the Union in about 1905. No money had Superintendent Schmidt, the truth will set you free!

#### Frances Kovatovich Gilbert

#### We welcome your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

### Cook making progress towards a community garden

"And we've got to get back to the garden...." Joni Mitchell

Joni Mitchell

Perhaps the word is out by now! An ambitious group of people in Cook have been initiating efforts for a Community Garden to be located behind the Cook Area Food Shelf distribution



of Scenic Rivers Health Clinic whose medical conditions could be improved by adding more vegetables to their diets, clinic staff led by Nursing Supervisor, Pam Rengo, have been convening local enthusiasts to ready the plot and get seeds into the ground! I attended one the first meet-

site. Inspired by the patients ings and learned that this garden

plot, located behind St. Mary's Catholic Church, and fallow for the past several years, was once cultivated by a former pastor. It looks like this plot of earth will be rescued from neglect and turned into something very beautiful and beneficial for the people of Cook.

Reports indicate that significant progress has already been achieved. Organizers submitted a proposal to the Iron Range Partners for Sustainability and were awarded a \$500 grant to launch the project. The Cook Fire Department offered to conduct a controlled burn to eliminate the weedy ground-cover. Folks from Cook's Country Connection have loaned their equipment and labor to give the plot its first major turning. A rototiller has been donated to further prepare and maintain the garden space. And offers of "demonstrations" on gardening tips and techniques, as well as some supplies, are already coming in from more experienced gardeners who are excited to share what they know with "beginners". The evidence

is clear. This truly will be a "Community Garden"!

In addition to the Scenic Rivers Clinic patients who helped inspire this project, folks who actually "dig in" and work in the garden will receive some of its bounty. It's been suggested that high yield items could be donated to the Food Shelf to help supplement food boxes with fresh produce. Some volunteers want to reach out to young people, giving them

#### See GARDEN...pg. 5

#### WILDLIFE INTERPRETATION

### **Wolf center to host event to celebrate new exhibit** Community Day set for May 23; will feature reduced price admission for area residents

by KEITH VANDERVORT

Ely Editor

ELY - Ely-area residents are invited to the International Wolf Center on Thursday, May 23, to see the Interpretive Center's new "Discover Wolves" exhibit during a special Community Day.All residents with a zip code starting with 557 will receive half-price admission during the one-day event. Proof of residence will be required.

The reduced fee for admission on Thursday, May 23, is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$4 for children 12-and-under.

"We can't wait to show our neighbors what we've been up to here," said Interpretive Center Manager Krista Harrington."We appreciate all the support that the Ely community has given us over the years. Events like this Community Day are a way to show that appreciation."

Included in the special events for the day is a slideshow that chronicles the center's 30-year history of having live wolves in Ely. The slideshow will be presented by Wolf Curator Lori Schmidt.

The Center is open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on May 23.

The new exhibit was installed this spring and opened in May. "Behind the scenes, we've been working on this for 16 months," Harrington said. "To see all that work as it got installed, piece by piece, was thrilling for all of us."

As the science regarding



Above: Executive Director Rob Schultz is set to leave the International Wolf Center for a new position in the conservation field.

### Right: A portion of the new exhibit at the International Wolf Center.

wolves has changed, and new technologies have emerged, the Wolf Center built a state-ofthe-art experience for visitors that takes into account those advances, according to Wolf Center Executive Director Rob Schultz. "This new exhibit does both," he said. "All of the latest information about wolves is included in the new exhibit, and we think visitors will feel like they're really part of the action by using the scientific advancements that we've been able to incorporate."

The new exhibit takes a very hands-on approach to studying wolves. There are microscopes to examine wolf-related slides, a



chance to simulate the flight of an airplane as it tracks wolves, and even a howling room that encourages people to let loose with their vocal chords. "We know the new exhibit will be another way for us to continue educating the world about wolves.

A grand opening celebration and ribbon-cutting for the new exhibit at the center is planned for Friday, June 28, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

For more information on the center, visit www.wolf.org.

#### **Director resigns**

Schultz resigned this week as the executive director of the International Wolf Center. He is assuming a new position with the National Audubon Society where he will serve as vice president and executive director of Upper Mississippi Flyway and Audubon Minnesota.

"We are all excited for Rob's opportunity to advance his career within the conservation field but will miss his passion and enthusiasm for our work," said Nancy Jo Tubbs, chair of the Wolf Center's board of directors.

During his time at the Wolf Center, Schultz led the staff and volunteers in making significant advances in its work to educate the world about wolves. With board-member help, Schultz secured \$1 million in LCCMR funding to develop the new "Discover Wolves!" exhibit. The Twin Cities administrative offices were moved to a new location, and six new educational exhibits were introduced at the Ely-based center. Schultz helped the Wolf Center strengthen relationships with major donors and led the staff team in developing the Wolves At Our Door program that has reached nearly 55,000 students. Most recently, he worked with board members and National Park Service staff to provide financial support for the translocation of new wolves to Isle Royale National Park.

"We have seen a strong team effort under Rob's leadership, and we could not have done this progressive work in wolf education without the support of our donors, members, legislators, the Department of Natural Resources, Ely City Council, and many partners," Tubbs said.

Schultz's last day with the center was May 15. A national search to find the center's next executive director will begin soon.

#### SULFIDE MINING

### **Trump administration approves new Twin Metals leases**

#### by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL— As expected, the Trump administration has renewed two previously-canceled mineral leases for Twin Metals Minnesota, a joint copper-nickel mining venture controlled by Chilean mining giant Antofagasta.

Joe Balash, the Interior Department's assistant secretary for land and minerals management announced the decision on Wednesday.

"Mining on public lands balances conservation strategies and policies with the need to produce minerals that add value to the lives of all Americans by providing raw materials used in the manufacture of medical aids, Decision faces ongoing legal challenge

automobiles, smart phones and computers, and household appliances," said Balash in a statement addressing the decision.

The decision surprised no one, but it won't be the final word on the issue. The administration's decision to resurrect the two leases, which the Obama administration had cancelled just weeks before Trump took office, is under legal challenge by a coalition of Minnesota businesses and environmentalists.

Even so, supporters of the

mining is our past, our present, and our future. We know that with modern technology, we can develop the resources that all Americans utilize and create a boon for Minnesota, while preserving our precious environment," said Eighth District Congressman Pete Stauber.

An Interior Department press release states that Trump officials made their decision following completion of an Environmental Assessment addressed whether to modify the terms and conditions and add additional stipulations to the leases or whether to renew the leases with their existing terms and conditions. The public review and comment period concluded on January 30, following a 41-day public review and comment period. The Bureau of Land Management received more than 39,000 comments during this period.

Opponents of the mine criticized the decision. "Today's announcement by the Bureau of Land Management is a continuation of the Trump Administration's assault on the Boundary Waters Wilderness," said former Minnesota DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr, who now heads the Campaign land immediately adjacent to the Boundary Waters. In 2016 the Forest Service concluded that sulfide-ore copper mining posed 'an inherent risk of irreparable harm to an irreplaceable Wilderness' and last year the Trump administration cancelled a study that would have confirmed this."

Nearly three-dozen now-retired Forest Service officials drafted a letter to top federal officials urging the administration to reconsider reinstating the mineral leases, citing a high risk that downstream contamination

plan to mine copper-nickel just upstream of the 1.1 million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, lauded the decision. "In northeastern Minnesota, to Save the Boundary Waters. "The 'review' completed by the administration was wholly insufficient to determine the impact of sulfide-ore copper mining on from mining operations would contaminate the BWCAW's pristine waters.

#### **GARDEN**...Continued from page 4

the opportunity to learn first-hand where their food comes from and discover how fun it can be to get a little dirt under their fingernails! Invitations have also been made to residents of the Pioneer and Homestead apartments to join in. Many would agree that planting a garden produces more than just food for the body. It also provides food for the soul! And so the invitation goes out to anyone and everyone who wishes to partake in this wonderful experience of growing our own food!

Productive gardens, especially in their early stages, call for a hefty dose of energy and muscle to prepare and build a fertile bed of soil for planting. And throughout

the later stages, watering and a good dose of tender loving care are required. This garden will be no exception. Its success will depend upon how much of these basic ingredients labor and love – can be mustered. And although we can't predict just how much passion the garden will trigger, organizers are urging us to think in terms of "one small step at a time," accomplishing what we can in this first year and seeing where it leads! Looking at the evidence so far, their advice appears to be right on!

Like many other activities in our small rural community, this budding idea seems to be taking root! The Community Garden has great potential to grow and succeed on its own merits, and eventually be among those projects where individuals with a bold idea can take action, and become the spark plugs to ignite others. Who with their imagination, positivity, and strong sense of community, leave legacies that have enriched us all. I am excited to be a part of this work in progress!

When I look around Cook, I see many examples of other individuals who have sown the seeds of their civic-minded and entrepreneurial visions. Thanks to their indomitable spirits, and the many people who have stayed involved, Cook is a more vibrant place in which to raise our children and to retire! Here are a few examples. Thanks to those "spark plugs", we have the Cook Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Store, Northwoods Friends of the Arts, Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, the Cook Community Center, our Annual Timber Days Committee, Northern Progressives, the Lions Club, Cook Country Connections, the Comet Theater and Montana Cafe. And then there are services provided by devoted volunteers working quietly behind the scenes in organizations like the VFW, Meals on Wheels and a host of programs for our youth. The Cook Community Garden may be the next addition to this long list. It deserves our attention and whole-hearted support!

Another meeting is planned for May 22 at 5 p.m. "garden-side", weather-permitting (if rainy, it will be held at the Cook Community Center-Doug Johnson Field). We're asked to bring our lawn chairs and ideas. We'll receive a progress report, inspect the site, and get details on how to be involved. All generations, abilities and experience levels are welcome! Registered nurse and garden organizer, Pam Rengo, sums it up. "It will take a village to make this happen." This is its first year so there's no way to predict our ultimate progress or the exact outcomes. In the spirit of adventure, we're encouraged to act "one

step at a time, one idea at a time." We'll aim high, do our best, and be thrilled to see just what we can create together, confidently anticipating harvest time with joy and gratitude for the fruits (and veggies :) of our labor!

Please come to the garden and show your support on May 22 at 5 p.m. behind St. Mary's Catholic Church. Marvel at freshly-turned soil. Bring your ideas. Agree to do whatever excites you and become part of that "village". So, plan to return often throughout the season, doing what you can, even if just to watch it grow! It's meant to be "ours" and there to enjoy!

#### AMBULANCE...Continued from page 3

transfers, which provide significantly more revenue than regular emergency calls. He had estimated that the service would need to conduct about 150 transfers annually, or three per week, to make the paid on-call system pay for itself. Yet the increase in transfers has fallen well short of Altenburg's estimates. Since the start of the paid on-call system in April of last year, the ambulance

averaged 2.4 transfers per week. Through the end of April this year, the service has conducted 33 transfers, or an average of 1.92 per week.

#### **Converting to ALS?**

Altenburg also talked briefly about beginning to upgrade the ambulance service from basic life support to part-time advanced life support, which would require hiring paramedics and purchasing additional equipment to provide the higher level of care. He said the process to obtain the licensure and certifications could take about a year. "It's definitely a thing we should work toward," said Altenburg.

The council gave its blessing to begin the process, although it remains unclear how the department will pay for the added cost based on its current run volume.

### Register now for Juniors and VFW baseball teams

SOUDAN- Anyone who is interested in playing Juniors (Babe Ruth) or VFW (Junior Legion) summer baseball should call Greg Dostert at 218-753-3047 or 218-248-0648. Greg Dostert, Braylon Lislegard and Brett Rosendahl will be coaching the teams this year. Summer residents are welcome to play. The team fields players from the Tower-Soudan, Embarrass and Babbitt areas. Homeschoolers are encouraged to play. The team's home field is in Soudan.

#### St. Martin's 10th Annual Rummage Sale on May 18

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church will host their annual rummage sale on Saturday, May 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Early bird shoppers may come in at 8 a.m. for a \$5 fee. The event includes the rummage sale, a bake sale, and a luncheon. There will also be a 50/50 cash drawing – tickets are \$1. Winner will be drawn at 12:45 p.m. Proceeds from this sale will go towards the purchase of a new tabernacle. Call the church for more information. St. Martin's is handicap accessible.

#### Soudan Men's Breakfast moved to Saturday, May 18

SOUDAN- The Soudan Men's Breakfast was cancelled for May 11 and moved to Saturday, May 18. The breakfast will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Soudan at 8 a.m. and Tower Mayor Orlyn Kringstad will be speaking. For questions, call Greg Dostert at 218-248-0648.

#### Spring Salad Luncheon at St. James on Thursday, May 23

TOWER- A Spring Salad Luncheon will be held at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower on Thursday, May 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Take-outs will be available. A free-will offering will be taken. Proceeds will go toward community events or children's events such as Vacation Bible School and the annual Easter party.

Special this year, the ladies of the church will be decorating the hall with their doll collections. We hope all ladies and men will come for this wonderful event that helps children in our community.

### Embarrass roadside cleanup this month, appreciation lunch June 1

EMBARRASS- May is roadside cleanup month in Embarrass. Please call the Town Hall at 218-984-2084 to sign up to clean a specific road or location. Garbage bags are available at the Town Hall. Call when your bags are ready to be picked up.

If there is enough interest, there may be an appreciation lunch on Saturday, June 1 at noon. Please RSVP by Thursday, May 23. Thank you for helping to keep Embarrass beautiful!

#### **Embarrass Memorial Day Observance**

EMBARRASS- The Embarrass community will observe Memorial Day on Monday, May 27 at 9 a.m. at the Embarrass Cemetery followed by coffee an' at the Town Hall.

#### Gregg Rice to speak at Tower's Memorial Day program on May 27

TOWER- Colonel Gregg P. Rice will speak at Tower's Memorial Day Program, Monday, May 27 at the Herbert Lamppa Civic Center in Tower, starting at 10 a.m.

Colonel (Ret) Gregg P. Rice was born on Sept. 18, 1947 in Duluth. He graduated from Edina-Morningside High School. In 1969 he earned a B.A. in Business from Bemidji State University and joined the U.S. Air Force. While in the Air Force he earned an M.S. in Systems Management from the University of Southern California. His professional military education includes Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Alabama; U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; and Joint Services Staff College, Canberra, Australia. During his 23-year career in the USAF he flew 4,000 hours as a fighter pilot in the F-16, F-4, T-37, T-38 and T-41. He is a Vietnam War veteran who flew 116 combat missions in North Vietnam. His staff and senior level executive positions included Operations Commander of a Tactical Fighter Wing; Deputy Commandant for the Air Force Academy Cadet Wing; Tactical Flying Squadron Commander; Chief of Rated Officer Assignments for the Pacific Theater; and Air Division Chief of Safety. After retiring from the USAF he flew 13 years as a commercial pilot for Southwest Airlines. Gregg is married to the former Ilene Heimsjo of Cloquet. They have two adult married children and two grandchildren. Gregg and Ilene currently live in Colorado Springs, Colo., and on Lake Vermilion.

### LAKE VERMILION CULTURAL CENTER Lenont family donates \$50,000 to LVCC

TOWER- A \$50,000 gift from the family of Bernice Lenont Adams will fund the construction of a reading room/library at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center in her memory. In addition to the financial gift, the Lenont family piano, owned by the late Mary Joy Lenont (granddaughter of Dr. Charles Lenont) has been gifted to LVCC by Jean Cole, who with her late husband Tom Rukavina, has long been a loyal supporter of the LVCC. The piano belonged to the Lenont family and was given to Jean by Mary Joy. The 100-plus year-old numbered and registered piano is currently on display at the Vermilion Park Inn until the cultural center is ready to receive it.

Bernice "Niecy" Lenont (born 1910), also known as "Niecy Tinker or Niecy Adams" was one of five daughters of Dr. Charles Burton Lenont and Estelle Shaw. Her siblings were Marguerite "Gidge" McNeil, Stanley Lenont "Tatter",



**Bernice Lenont Adams** 

"Little" Charles Lenont, and Joy Giblin. The daughters were infamously known as the "Lenont Sisters" on the Iron Range and were very close. Dr. Charles Burton Lenont was a Minnesota physician on the Iron Range and throughout northern Minnesota, predominately based in Virginia.

Bernice married the renown broadcaster, Cedric Adams, on July 31, 1931. The wedding took place in the music room of the Lenont House located on the corner of 5th Avenue and First St. N. in Virginia. Cedric Adams worked for WCCO Radio starting in the 1930s and also did commentaries on CBS Radio. He was one of the best-known radio voices in the upper Midwest well into the 1950s. He died in 1961. He was inducted into the Pavek Museum of Broadcasting's Hall of Fame in 2002.

The family-owned Adams Publishing Group now owns over a hundred newspapers across the country, including the *Mesabi Daily News* and *Hibbing Tribune*.

#### BREITUNG

### Township delays bid opening for town hall renovations; bids to be awarded May 17

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA Staff Writer

DDEITIIN

BREITUNG- The Breitung town board, minus supervisor Greg Dostert, met last Wednesday for a short special meeting. The meeting was initially intended to accept a bid for town hall renovations, but the deadline had been extended to next week to give more time for the contractors to better assess the township's needs on this major project. The bid opening has been rescheduled to Tuesday, May 14 at noon and then will be awarded at a full-board meeting on Friday, May 17 at noon. Chairman Tim Tomsich said that the township will try to repair, rather than replace, the siren that sounds at noon, 9 p.m. and during emergencies. Tomsich said he will seek grant funding for the alarm system's repair.

Supervisor Chuck Tekautz reported that McKinley Park Campground is now open and that startup operations have gone smoothly. He said that water and electrical systems were in good shape, aside from a small water leak that was quickly repaired. Maintenance Supervisor Dale Swanson said that some signage was either rotted or destroyed by snow plows and would need to be repaired. The docks are in the water, ready for opening season boat launching.

Tekautz said that he had driven around the township assessing blight and said, "It looks good, surprisingly good." He mentioned only a couple properties that could use some minor clean up. The township also received a "thank you" from the audience for providing the clean-up day services on May 6 and 8. The audience member thanked the maintenance team, Tom and Alex, who picked up yard waste, scrap metals, and appliances.

The fire department's 1991 Chevy one-ton will be put up for sale. Tomsich and Tekautz asked Fire Chief Steve Burgess to first notify other local fire departments about the available vehicle and ask them to make an offer.

The board accepted an estimate from Green Again Lawn and Landscape of Hibbing to apply the "Weed and Feed" treatment to the baseball field for \$407.

The township will send a letter to A1 Services. A new sidewalk at the wayside rest is cracked. The township believes it was cracked when A1 came to service a portable restroom.





Saturday, May 18 9 AM

Breitung Fire Hall New t-shirts & hats available for purchase Call Dan Wiirre 218-969-6374



### **Electricity and safety: important lessons**

TOWER- Minnesota Power and The National Theatre for Children (NTC) paired up to bring an important lesson on safety to students at Tower-Soudan and 27 other area elementary schools in Minnesota Power's service area.

The program focused on how electricity is made, the uses of electricity, how to identify dangerous electrical conditions, and ways to stay safe around electricity.

The concepts were taught using two talented actors, playing the parts of employees of Sully's Safety Circus. When they learn that the mayor is sending an inspector to make sure that the circus is using electricity safely, they leap into action. With the help of a few colorful friends, as well as student volunteers, Sully sets off to learn about electrical safety and keep his circus afloat.

In addition to live performances, the program included resources for teachers to use in their classrooms. Minnesota Power sponsors every aspect of the program, making the performances and materials a cost-free supplement to lessons in science, literacy and the arts. "Live theatre is a great way to educate," says NTC president and founder Ward Eames. "The show goes beyond reading or other more passive methods of engaging kids. These children are watching a story unfold right before their very eyes, with the two actors playing all sorts of characters. We don't lose the kids' attention for a minute, because they get to respond and interact with the show. It really sticks with them."

For more information on The National Theatre for Children, visit: http://www.nationaltheatre.com.

### online at www.timberjay.com

#### **TOWER-SOUDAN LOCAL NEWS**

#### TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY



#### Tower-Soudan Elementary spring concert on Tuesday, May 21 at 1 p.m. The public is cordially invited to this year's spring concert at Tower-Soudan Elementary on Tuesday, May 21 at 1 p.m. The concert has a 'Hee Haw' theme, and features plenty of foot-stomping country music, and even some square dancing, thanks to a very patient music teacher, Michelle Anderson (pictured above).

### FOURTH OF JULY **Spaghetti Feed fundraiser set for** Saturday, May 18 at Civic Center

TOWER- It's that time of the year again, and the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board is shifting into high gear to get ready for the Fourth of July in Tower-Soudan.

As many of you know, the entire celebration is made possible by the support of the public, through fundraisers and generous individual and business donations.

A spaghetti feed fundraiser will be held on Saturday, May 18 from 1 - 5 p.m. at the Herb Lamppa Civic Center. The meal will include spaghetti and meatballs, garlic bread, beverage, and dessert. There will also be a silent auction and raffles for some great prizes. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for kids under 12.

Donation cans will be out at

local businesses very soon, and we will be selling raffle tickets at our tent, set up at the Zup's parking lot on many weekends prior to the Fourth. Five lucky winners will take home their share of \$1,000 in cash prizes.

Start planning your parade entries soon. You will entertain the crowd and possibly take home some cash in the process. For questions or to register your parade entry, call Julie Johnson at 218-750-7242 or email tseventsboard@gmail.com.

The events board is always welcoming new members. Everyone is invited to attend our meetings. The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 13 at 5 p.m. at the Civic Center.

The Breitung Community Pic-

April

nic will be held on Friday, July 5.

The "Harborpolooza" flotilla event will be on Saturday, July 6 at the harbor in Tower. Elvis will be back this year to entertain the crowd. There will be food, beverages, and other booths. This event is fun for the whole family. We are hoping to have a parade of boats coming through the harbor.

#### Donations

Several donations have already been received for this year's Fourth. Donations can be mailed to T-S LV Area Events Board, PO Box 461, Tower, MN 55790. Names of all donors are printed in the newspaper unless otherwise noted.

#### **AEOA Senior Dining Menu**

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

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

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

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

#### Week of May 20

Monday- Turkey ala King in a Bread Bowl Tuesday- Tater Tot Hot Dish, Dinner Roll

Wednesday- Lasagna, Dinner Roll. Expo

Day- Public Invited Thursday- Sub Sand-

wich Station Friday- Sloppy Joe,

**Baked Beans** 

#### Week of May 20

#### 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.

Breitung Town Board-12 noon on May22

#### Thursday

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

Vermilion Country School **Board- Meetings** posted online at vermilioncountry.org.

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May 17, 2019 7

ns/forma Citati charges: 3

**Breitung Police** 

Report

April 2019

Calls: 158

Arrests: 1

Monthly mileage: 2,103 (Tahoe: 1,087, Explorer: 1,016)

Additional shifts: During the month of April the Breitung Police worked two Towards Zero Deaths (TZD) shifts.

Current Squads: end-of-the-month mileage for the Gold 2012 Chevy Tahoe (Tower) is 82,669. Current end-ofthe-month mileage for the Ford Explorer is 18,539.

responder First safety: move over! All 50 states have "move over" laws to protect law enforcement officers and

first responders other stopped on our nation's roads. Yet only 71-percent of the public are aware of these laws and traffic-related incidents continue to be the number one cause of death among on-duty law enforcement officers. Together with our law enforcement partners and state highway safety offices, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is working to increase awareness of these life-saving "move-

over" laws and highlight

**BREITUNG POLICE DEPARTMENT** 



**Police Report** 

**Breitung Police Chief** 

the need to protect public safety professionals who place themselves at risk to protect motorists.

By working with local organizations and raising public awareness "move-over" laws of through social media, you can make a difference and save lives.

**Citations/formal** charges/arrests:

(1) Citation - domestic abuse order for protection (OFP) violation

(2) Citation – speed

Daily 4-6 p.m. All Beer & Drinks Bar Menu & Pizza Available

**Happy Hour** 

**Event Rentals** Welcome 218-780-6709

**Pull-Tabs Sold Daily** Lic. 00390

Sunday FREE Pool

**Thursday Bingo** Early Bird 6 p.m. **Progressive Prizes** 

Friday 4:30-7 p.m. Hamburger Special

Take-Out 666-0500

#### U.S. Air Force Airman Joshua Nylund graduates from basic trianing

REGIONAL- U.S. Air Force Airman Joshua P. Nylund graduated from basic military training

at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio. Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in ap-



plied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.Nylund is the son of Daniel Nylund of Soudan, Minnesota, and Candice Mock of Hermantown, Minnesota.

#### **Bookmobile Schedule**

#### Wednesday, May 28; June 19 lub

Bois Forte Boys/Girls Club
Greenwood Town Hall
Soudan Fire Hall
Tower Civic Center
Embarrass, Four Corners

11:00-11:30 a.m. 12:00-12:30 p.m. 1:45-3:00 p.m. 3:15-4:15 p.m. 5:15-6:00 p.m.

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

#### Transfer station

Soudan Canister

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

#### Hwy. 77 Canister

Summer Hours through Sept. 30 Tuesday 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. Thursday 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. Recycling canisters available daily at the Greenwood Town Hall. For info: 1-800-450-9278

365-3114]. Fax number is 218-753-2916. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Visit our website at www.timberjay.com.

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#### Libraries

#### **Ely library** Hours: Monday — Friday,

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

#### Babbitt library

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

#### Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous AA - 7 p.m. Mondays, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely WOMEN'S AA - Noon Mondays, St. Anthony Church basement, Ely BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdavs. Woodland Presbyterian Church. AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthonv'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.

### SUPPORTING THE ARTS **Summer dance workshops return** Showcase for 'Looking Skyward' on May 28

ELY-TheReflections Dance Company will present a "Looking Skyward" Showcase and sign-up event at the Vermilion Community College Fine Arts Theater on Tuesday, May 28 at 6 p.m.

Interested dancers are invited to view dance pieces and sign-up to join the company for rehearsals for the upcoming summer show, "Looking Skyward," that will be presented Thursday-Sunday, Aug. 8-11. Rehearsals begin on Monday, June 3.

Dance pieces include acro, jazz, ballet, and contemporary styles set to live music. Ages six-plus are eligible to participate, and there are opportunities for all levels of dancers, said Director Molly Olson.

The Reflections Dance Company, with NLAA as the fiscal sponsor, was the recipient of three grants this spring. The Rural and Community Art Project grant from ARAC will be used to help produce the show "Looking Skyward" along with additional support from the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust.

Another grant from ARAC in the Arts in Learning category will help to fund three summer dance workshops, bringing teachers from outside the area to work with dancers.

On Wednesday, June 5, Suzie Baer will teach



Reflections

Level I Ballet and Jazz in the morning to beginning dancers, followed by Level II Ballet and Contemporary in the afternoon for more advanced students. "Suzie is a former dancer with the Minnesota Ballet Company based in Duluth, and an experienced teacher," Olson said. The cost for these sessions is \$10 each.

"Anyone interested in Acro and Partnering will enjoy the Sunday,June 23 workshop at the beautiful Tofte Lake Center, taught by Kristin Shaw from Stomping Ground Studio in Minneapolis," Olson said. "Her specialties include tumbling, flexibility, acro lifts, and partnering. Participants will learn the different roles of flyer, base, and spotter while practicing new skills."The workshop will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a short showcase at the end for family and

Reflections Dance Company members from the 2018 session gathered for a group photo last year. photo by K. Vandervort

can learn more and sign

up for one or more of the

workshops by picking

up a form at the Ely

Public Library, visiting

the Reflections Dance

Company website https://

sites.google.com/view/

reflectionsdancecompa-

ny, or call 218-248-2227.

possible in part by the

voters of Minnesota

through a grant from

the Arrowhead Regional

Arts Council, thanks

to appropriations from

the Minnesota State

Legislature's general

and arts and cultural

heritage funds as well as

This activity is made

friends. The cost of this workshop is \$20.

"An exciting instructor, Darrius Strong, will be here on Monday, July 8 to teach a Modern/Improv/ Hip Hop workshop, Olson added. "Darrius is an accomplished choreographer in the Twin Cities. He is a faculty member at the Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Arts, TU Dance Center and Eleve Performing Arts Center, where he teaches how to connect identity to movement." This workshop will take place above Northern Grounds, and will cost \$15 for the workshop that runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Interested dancers

n9a.m. the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust. lancers



218-753-2916. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Visit our website: www.timberjay.com. Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Twin Metals names chief regulatory officer

ELY - Twin Metals Minnesota last week named Julie Padilla as Chief Regulatory Officer (CRO). She was introduced at a meeting of the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools held Thursday at the Twin Metals facility here. Padilla has more than 20 years of legal experience in government and regulatory affairs, and will oversee the submission of the company's Mine Plan of Operation (MPO) later



ership positions in government, private industry, law firms and nonprofits make her qualified for the role, according to Twin Metals officials.

In addition to the MPO submittal, she will

be a part of a project that has so much potential to promote economic development and create jobs," said Padilla. "I cherish our state's natural resources and strongly believe in the processes enacted over the decades to protect them. I look forward to presenting the details of our proposal to regulators and all Minnesotans."

in Tower, Minnesota. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Timberjay, P.O. Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Three award-winning community editions are published each week for Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr, and Ely.

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Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details at www.timberjay.com.

Moving? Questions about your subscription? Call the Tower office at (218) 753-2950.

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Julia Padilla

this year.

Padilla's former lead-

also oversee all legal, regulatory, environmental and government relations activities during the required environmental review and permitting processes for the proposed copper-nickel mine.

"I'm excited to join the Twin Metals team and For more information on the sulfide mining project, visit www. twin-metals.com.

Gracie's Plant Works recently celebrated their relocation to Sheridan Street in Ely from the longtime location on Grant McMahan Bvd. submitted photo



#### Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2019



boats and fishermen a mission on the big lakes

the focus, fishing

#### Have coffee with a policeman

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

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

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

#### **Ely Free Clinic**

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

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

**OUR COMMUNITY** 

### Stickin' it to cancer





The Ely Chix With Stix hockey team participated in the recent "Stick it to Cancer" tournament at Schwan Super Rink in Blaine. The Ely skaters played for Team Zeke Urbas and won their division to raise money for the Masonic Cancer Center at the University of Minnesota. Shown from left, back row, Chris Urbas, Anna Urbas, Tiffany Zemke, Joni Dahl, Jody Popesh, Reena Stage, Jess Edberg, and front row, Alyssa Nelson, Sarah Jonas, McKenzie Schreffler, Michelle Wagoner and Edie Evarts. Zeke Urbas, right, was diagnosed on July 25, 2018 with Embroynal Rhabdomyosarcoma Stage 2, Group 3 of the prostate/bladder. A benefit will be held for the Urbas family at the Longbranch in Winton on Saturday, June 8 beginning at 3 p.m., featuring a silent and live auction, raffles, taco dinner, games, kids' activities and entertainment and more. Check out the Facebook page, "Team Zeke." submitted photos

#### MOTHERS DAY IN ELY



Mary and Ben Kubes played in Whiteside Park with their sons, Soren and Sigurd, on Mother Day.



#### News In Brief

#### 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.

May 21 - Meet New Elyites

May 28 - Sherry Abts - Loon Survey Updates and Loon Survey Training Q and A

June 4 – Meet more new Elyites

#### History Nights programs announced

ELY-The Ely/Winton Historical Society Summer History Night program returns this year. The schedule follows:

June 12: Genealogy with Bobbi Hoyt - This is a two part program with sessions at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. June 19: Movie Night - Movie to be announced

later.

► July 17: Archaeology with Sue Mulholland

>July 31: The History of Co-op Point with Sally Koski and Val Myntti

► Aug. 14: Ethnic Diversity on the Iron Range with David Kess.

With the exception of June 12, all programs begin at 7 p.m. They will be held in classroom CL 104 at Vermilion Community College. All programs are free and open to the public.

#### Patriotic Choir looking for singers

ELY - The Ely Patriotic Choir rehearsals began last week and will be held on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church.

The Patriotic Choir Concert is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 30 in the Washington Auditorium.

of Ely. photos by K. Vandervort

#### Gardner Trust seeks community input

ELY - The Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust, established 30 years ago by the city of Ely, is seeking the community's opinion.

The survey includes some general information about the Trust's current grant to help educate people about the Trust. The survey also includes general questions to find out what Trust-funded programs and events people are familiar with or if they know any of the artists or college students that have received grants and scholarships

"The survey has 12 questions and will only take about five minutes to complete," Williams said. It can be accessed on the Trust's website and Facebook page or go directly to: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ TrustSurvey2019.

For those that do not have internet access, there will be some paper survey copies available at the Ely Public Library that can be filled out. The deadline for surveys to be completed is Wednesday, May 22.



Please help the Trust prioritize future grant programs. Complete our community survey through Facebook or at: www.gardnertrust.org

**Higher Education** 

#### Peterson awarded Dorothy Molter Museum scholarship

ELY - The Dorothy Molter Museum announced last week that Ely Memorial High School graduating senior, Mackenzie Peterson, is the recipient of its annual Wilderness First Responders' Scholarship.

The scholarship, awarded to residents of northeastern Minnesota pursuing a degree or continuing education in a medical field, was established by the Dorothy Molter Museum to honor Dorothy Molter's legacy of serving thousands of visitors who came to her for medical care during their wilderness trips in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

"This is our fourth year offering a scholarship opportunity and the first year we've had the honor of awarding it to a lifetime Ely resident," said Executive Director Jess Edberg. "Ms. Peterson is pursuing a career in nursing and her plans include staying in Ely to serve her community. Her passion for helping others was apparent in her application and embodies the spirit of Dorothy.'

Dorothy Molter was always concerned with the physical well-being of others and gave freely of her medical knowledge to all who came her way. To give back to the community that supported Dorothy, the Dorothy Molter Memorial Foundation (Dorothy Molter Museum) awards one scholarship per year up to \$1,000 from the Wilderness First Responders' Fund. This scholarship is funded by contributions made from staff, board, volunteers, members, supporters and guests of the Dorothy Molter Museum.

"Dorothy and I share similarities such as our love of sports and nursing careers," Peterson said. "I played volleyball from 6th grade up to my senior year, and will continue to play at Mesabi Range College, where I'll start my nursing career as an LPN.

**CORRECTION** 

Paper copies of the survey are available at the Ely Public Library.

The Ely-Winton Historical Society **Annual Dinner and Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, June 11.

Please call the office at 365-3226 to make reservations.

#### NORTH WOODS ACADEMIC AWARDS



Graduating seniors receiving institutional scholarships from their intended colleges stand at the front of the North Woods Gymnasium.



### Community Notices



- Traditional Funerals
- · Graveside Services
- Cremation
- Pre-Need Planning
- · Monuments by Warren Mlaker



218.666.5298 Cell-218.240.5395

Cook, MN 24 Hours A Day

#### **Upcoming Events** at NWFA

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

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

Fee payment con-

firms registration. Mail to NWFA, 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.

➤Photo Contest "Your Best Shot" Adult and student submissions. Exhibit: May 1 – May 24. Reception: May 24, 5-7 p.m.

►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.

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#### Piatigorski **Concert in Cook** on Fridav

COOK - A concert will be held at First Baptist Church here on Friday, May 17 at 7 p.m. Cellist Evan Drachman will be featured. He is one of the country's most respected authorities on the presentation of live classical music to diverse audiences.

Pianist Doris Stevenson will also perform. She has performed

around the world and soloed with the Boston Pops, played at Carnegie Hall and Alice Tully Hall in New York, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Salle Pleyel in Paris and Suntory Hall in Tokyo.

Donations at the door to cover the cost please.

This season, they will be performing works by Beethoven, Brahms, Bruch, Chopin and Elgar.

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



#### NEWS FROM THE LAKE

### The Crane Lake News by the Singing Teapot Dames



Here we are-almost officially summer! Memorial Day is next weekend, graduations are occurring, and schools will be finishing off another year. Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States for remembering and honoring persons who have died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. To all those who have served, or are now serving in the U.S. military, we thank you for your service.

Hope you had a good Fishing Opener. Reports

have been spotty-not too many did great, but some had luck. However, it was wonderful to see activity in the local businesses and great to have everyone beginning to come back. Out-of-state license plates are being spied on the road. Boats are zipping around on the lakes. The Canadian Opener is next weekend. Fish said to be resting after the spawn, but crappies should become active-so fishermen can begin their usual comments of "Wait until next week" or "You should have been here yesterday!'

Condolences to Betty Corcoran and Ralph and Randy Clemmer on the loss of their brother from the Twin Cities area. Condolences also to Bonnie Beitz on the loss of her daughter, Cindy Theil, who passed away following a lengthy illness.

Have you spot-

ted any hummingbirds yet? Reports are positive in our area as of May 11-12; this Dame has yet to spy one around her deck, however. Time to get the feeders ready with some extra-sugary food after their long trip north. Hummingbirds fly by day when nectar sources such as flowers are more abundant. Flying low allows the birds to see, and stop at, food supplies along the way. They are also experts at using tail winds to help reach their destination faster and by consuming less energy and body fat. Research indicates a hummingbird can travel as much as 23 miles in one day. During migration, a hummingbird's heart beats up to 1,260 times a minute, and its wings flap 15 to 80 times a second. To support this high energy level, a hummingbird will typically gain 25-40 percent of their body weight be-

fore they start migration in order to make the long trek over land, and water. After all that, they deserve an extra-sweet treat when they get here!

Rhubarb is starting to make an appearance. Soon we'll be making and eating rhubarb pie, rhubarb crisp, rhubarb sauce, etc. The deer seem to leave rhubarb alone—apparently it is one thing that they don't like. Unlike hostas, garden vegetables, flowers, bushes, small trees and anything else that grows in our area.

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

Until next week, the Teapot Dames are singing off!

# **Meet Mrs. Jenny Burnett**

We have several newer teachers at North Woods, and we are very happy that one of them is Mrs. Jenny Burnett. She brings a high level of care and professionalism to our elementary.

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

Mrs. B: I am from Lititz, PA. Home of the pretzel! It is about 20 minutes from Hershey, PA, home of the candy bar. I went to Warwick High School, and our mascot was the Warriors. For college, I went to Colorado Mountain College in Vail, and received my Associate Degree. My elementary education degree was from Bemidji State University. I am currently working on my Master's in Special Education, also at Bemidji. Mr. V: Were there teachers who were an influence on you? Please name a few if you can. Mrs. B: Miss Miller, my fifth grade teacher. My college advisor, Roxanne Pickle, too.



Mrs. B: I currently teach Kindergarten through fourth grade



fessional goal for you? Mrs. B: Right now, to finish my Special Education license. My second goal is to finish my Master's. My third goal is to get a Special Education endorsement in ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorders) and EBD (Emotional/Behavioral Disorders). and do a lot of fishing, swimming, and canoeing. We camp in the BWCA every summer, and we love it.

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

Mrs. B: To believe in themselves. You are capable of whatever you set your mind to.

Mr. V: Do you have a favorite saying or expression? Mrs. B: Not really.

How about Dr. Seuss, "Oh the places you will go!"

### Briefly

### Wi-Fi hotspots available for checkout at Cook Library

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

#### Hotspot Terms of Use

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

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

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

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

Funding for these hotspots was provided through the Blandin Broadband Grant. This grant was awarded to the Grizzlies community to support projects and raise awareness about Internet resources and services.

#### Mail-A-Book services available

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

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

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

#### Grocery delivery services offered to Cook residents after Zup's fire

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

#### **Cook Senior Citizens Club**

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



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

Mrs. B: Miss Miller made sure to include everybody; we all had a place in her class. She was also very aware of family situations and made sure to care for all of us. Roxanne always gives me great feedback. She is very involved in our classes and writes back to all of us giving us feedback. She is also my advisor.

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

through fourth grade Special Education at North Woods.

Mr. V: Why did you choose teaching as a pro-fession?

Mrs. B: I didn't always want to teach. It started after I had kids. When I began working with my own kids on academics, I decided that I wanted to become a teacher. I knew it was something that I would enjoy.

Mr. V: What are your hobbies?

Mrs. B: I like running, reading, and I make lots of pies for the Farmers Market. I also spend a lot of time watching my own kids play sports!

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

Mrs. B: I love my students and the staff. I did all of my student teaching and practicums here, and the staff were super supportive. They have always kept an open-door policy for me and have been very flexible, and now I am teaching here!

Mr. V: What is a pro-

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

Mrs. B: I love the summers. We have a place on Pelican Lake

> GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS HIGHWAY CLEAN UP IS UNDER WAY!!

#### May 15-June 15

THE TOWNSHIP WILL HAVE BAGS AND SAFETY VESTS AT THE TOWN HALL OFFICE. (Outside by the door for easy access)

FULL BAGS CAN BE LEFT ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD FOR PICK UP. PLEASE HELP TO KEEP OUR TOWNSHIP LOOKING AS GOOD AS IT CAN!

#### THANK YOU!!



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

Mrs. B: I hope they remember that I encouraged and supported them, was kind, fair, and that they could trust me.

Thanks, Mrs. Burnett, for being a part of our great team at North Woods!

> Your Principal, John Vukmanich

753-2950] and Box 718, Ely, MN 55731 [218-365-3114]. Fax number is 218-753-2916. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Visit our website: www.timberjay.com.

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Scarlet Lynn Stone Jay Greeney

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#### NOvA Far Detector Lab Science Tours begin May 23

ASH RIVER- NOvA Far Detector Lab summer science tours will begin on Thursday, May 23 and continue through Thursday, Aug. 22. Tours are available every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The lab is located on Bright Star Rd., off of the Ash River Trail – County Rd.129. For more information or group tours, call 218-374-2400 ext. 0. No sandals or open-toed shoes.

#### Northern Red Hat Belles meet May 30

TOWER- The Northern Red Hat Belles will meet at the Wilderness Grill on Thursday, May 30 at noon and will order off the menu. For questions, call Gwen Lilja at 218-753-6599 or Carol Burgess at 218-753-3220. Guests are always welcome.

#### Totus Tuus, Totally Yours summer youth program at St. Mary's begins June 16; register by June 1

COOK- Totus Tuus is a summer Catholic youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic faith through evangelization, catechesis, Christian witness, and Eucharistic worship. The week-long parish summer catechetical program assists parents and parishes by supplementing the work already being done in a way that is fun for both the Totus Tuus teachers and youth alike.

The methodology, structure, content, and enthusiasm of Totus Tuus is concerned not only with teaching the faith, but also igniting the hearts of team members and young people. The result has been the formation of young adults who continue to dedicate themselves to the Church's mission of evangelization.

The mission of Totus Tuus is to help young people develop an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ and to understand their faith through catechesis in a way that makes the faith real to the youth and helps them live as a witness in today's world. To accomplish this, we emphasize a devotion and love for Our Lord in the Eucharist and for Mary our Mother.

St. Mary's welcomes all youth in grades 1-12 to participate in this remarkable program. Although Totus Tuus is a Catholic-based program, non-Catholics are more than welcome to participate. Grades 1-6 (those entering grades 1-6 next fall) will meet Monday, June 17 - Friday, June 21 from 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at St. Mary's. Lunch and snack will be included. The week will end with a water fight on Friday afternoon. Cost is \$20 per student or \$50 max per family. Financial scholarships are available for those unable to cover the cost. Register by June 1 at St. Mary's Parish Office, 218-666-5334.

High school students will meet from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. beginning Sunday, June 16 - Thursday, June 20. There is no charge for the high school program.

#### CONFIRMATION



St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower hosted Confirmation last Saturday. Participating churches were Holy Cross in Orr, St. Anthony's in Ely, St. Martin's in Tower and St. Mary's in Cook. Pictured are: Front row: Shelby Nelson, Steven Kerntz, Bryce Longwell, Kylie Parson, Aaron Raj, TJae Banks, Andrew Dunn, Luke Gabrielson. Back row: Deacon Rick Moravitz, Deacon Dan Schultz, Father Bill Skarich, Bishop Paul Sirba, Father Nick Nelson. submitted photo

### Festival of Artists, June 8 at Amici's in Ely

ELY-Artists and art enthusiasts should mark their calendars for an opportunity to observe nationally-known professional artists demonstrate their artistic skills at Festival of Artists on Saturday, June 8. The event includes 45-minute long demonstrations by internationally known artists in their chosen media, door prizes, silent auction of artists' original and reproduction artwork plus books, videos, and art supplies with complimentary food and beverage. The festival is a free event and open to the public, however, space is limited and reservations are required. Call The Art Corner soon to reserve your seats, 218-365-2263. The event will take place at Amici's Event Center, 10 W Pattison St. in Ely on Saturday, June 8 from 1 - 4:30 p.m.

#### Finnish jazz performance with Juli Wood, May 18

HIBBING- A concert by the Finlandia Foundation National Performer of the Year, Juli Wood, will take place on Saturday, May 18 at 7 p.m. at Mesaba Cooperative Park. The park is celebrating its 90th year and is in the process of being named a historic site. Located on Highway 37, five miles south of Hibbing, it is at the end of the driveway next to the Thirsty Moose restaurant. A voluntary \$10 donation for the entertainment is suggested and a free mojakka supper is offered from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. before the concert.

Wood is an award-winning saxophonist of Finnish heritage who often appears at Scandinavian jazz festivals. Check out numerous Youtube videos of her amazing talent. The event is sponsored by Mesaba Park and Finnish Americans and Friends of Hibbing. Everyone is invited to help Mesaba Cooperative Park celebrate ninety years of existence.

#### "From You I Receive, To You I Give" at Mesabi UU on Sunday, May 19

VIRGINIA- Jeanine Emmons will lead "From You I Receive, To You I Give" on Sunday, May 19 at Mesabi UU beginning at 10:30 a.m. This will be the last service of our church year until Sunday, Sept. 8.

Inhonorof the truly Unitarian ceremony of the "Flower Communion" we will gather together for music, poetry, and community. Bring a flower or a sprig of green if you are able. Each person will go home with a flower. This is an intergenerational service.

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



### CLEAN

🕑 Boats, trailers, and gear

Remove all weeds, mud, and hitchhiking contaminants from axles, wheels, undercarriage, motor, prop, nets, and gear before leaving boat landing

### DRAIN

- Water from boat, bilge, motor, and live well
  - Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices



### DRY

- Everything at least five days before going to other waters
  - Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120°F or warmer)

#### **STOP INVASIVE SPECIES!**

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#### LAMPPA....Continued from page 1

"We're running 125 percent over last year's revenue so far this spring,' said plant manager Dale Horihan. "That's not 25 percent over, it's more than doubled," he added.

That increase comes despite the fact that late winter and early spring has typically been a slower time at the plant. The company has taken on additional workers to try to meet the higher workload, but the limited space in their current plant has made working conditions challenging, and even recently led to the plant's first on-the-job injury in years.

"We can't even walk over here," said Horihan, who brought his concerns to the Tower City Council this week. The city's economic development authority has been the developer of the new plant facility for Lamppa, with funding from a non-recourse loan from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation. The 9,000 square-foot building has been under construction by Lenci Enterprises for the past ten months. It was originally scheduled for completion last fall and the company's lease with the Tower Economic Development Authority was supposed to take effect Oct. 1, 2018.

Given the extraordinary delay, Horihan said the company is no longer bound by the lease company officials signed with the city last July, which has an escape clause should the city be unable to deliver the facility within 90 days of the indicated start date. Horihan said the company isn't looking at alternative locations, but the situation has clearly increased the possibility that the project could still go awry. He said Lamppa has already had to cancel an appointment with a moving company and would likely have to wait a month or more for a new date since the company was now booked up for the foreseeable future.

He said the delay is costing Lamppa money and will likely mean a loss of business if orders pile up that they can't meet. "We're actually a little panicked about what we might be facing later this year," he said, given the volume of orders the company is already experiencing.

those vents are typically noisy and with three of them in a relatively confined space he's concerned that employees will have to wear full ear muffs the entire time they're at work, which aren't compatible with most welding helmets.

"We don't want to expose our employees to this," he said, in either case. "Continued exposure to over 85 decibels causes hearing damage."

Horihan said he had requested a different kind of vent that had fans located on the building's exterior, which would help keep the noise at safer levels.

Horihan also cited the lack of side-lighting in the plant's paint booth and said it was critical to accurately paint wood furnaces, which are almost always painted black.

Horihan said he had noted the issues during a walk-through with SEH architect Brian Bergstrom in April but when he obtained a copy of the final project punchlist in May, none of his concerns had been addressed or added to the list. "So why was I asked to come along for a walk-through if the things that Lamppa brought up weren't put on the punchlist?" he asked.

He said he tried to address some of his concerns with City Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith in recent days, but felt he wasn't being listened to. He said Keith told him that the cost of the system that Lamppa wanted was more expensive than the ones that the city had Lenci install.

"That's not correct," said Horihan, who presented a letter from the manufacturer showing that the system he wants is actually less expensive. He also took issue with Keith's claim that the decibel level of the system that was installed was 80.5 decibels. He said the company had told him it was 85 decibels and that the decibel level would rise with three units in the same room.

"I finally hung up on Linda," he said. "That irritated me." Horihan said Lamppa wants to maintain a very safe environment for its workers. "We can't compete price-wise with the mines, but what we can do is provide a very good work environment. We can focus on their safety. We can focus on their eyesight, their hearing. We want to prevent slip and fall accidents. But when the city starts telling us 'it's good enough,' that ticks us off. That's just not right."

Bolf indicated that city officials had discussed implementing the fines back in February but decided against it because last fall had been wet.

But the council, which had previously been unaware of the problems and delays with the project, was less forgiving. "We're talking about lost revenue for an important business and lost revenue for the city," said Mayor Orlyn Kringstad.

The council, after more discussion, voted 3-0 to notify Lenci that it would be implementing the late fines beginning immediately.

"Maybe it will light a fire under the feet of the contractor," said Kringstad.



Construction delays at the new Lamppa Manufacturing factory in Tower continue's to cost the business money and may result in loss or orders. A ventilation system for new welding equipment sits idle in the new facility. photo by M. Helmberger



As of this week, the building remains incomplete and city engineer Matt Bolf said there was no sign of any workers on the site.

Company owner Daryl Lamppa was blunt in an interview on Monday. "The city hasn't done its part," he said. "It's way too late and some of the things weren't done right."

#### Equipment issues

At Monday's council meeting, Horihan made it clear that both he and Lamppa were irritated by the delays, city hall's lack of communication, and by the installation of equipment that was not what the company had requested. Horihan cited wash sinks that are far too small and lack any associated cabinetry for storage of cleaning materials. He also cited the three ventilator/air exchangers in the plant's welding shop which are supposed to vent gases generated during welding to the outside. Horihan said the fans associated with

#### Possible damages

Horihan noted that the city had a damages clause in its contract with Lenci for late delivery. In fact, the contract does provide for a fine of \$250 per day for late delivery, a penalty that Bolf confirmed could have been levied against Lenci beginning in January of this year.

Horihan said he was stunned when he learned that the city had failed to avail itself of the provision in the contract, especially as the project has languished with little activity in recent weeks. "You've waited another four months and you could have been charging penalties all this time?" he asked, noting that he has been out to the site on several occasions in recent weeks only to find no one there.



Ford

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•



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

ISD 696. Deadlines are approaching fast for the district to approach taxpayers in November to approve a bonding referendum to pay for the project. Four superintendent candidates were interviewed at the beginning of the month and none of them have yet to be offered the position.

The driving force behind the move to hold a collaboration discussion with ISD 2142 is to gain favor with the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation for possible facilities funding through a special fund designed to encourage district cooperation and consolidation in the region.

School board chair Ray Marsnik presented four options to board members Monday night on how the district could move forward. He said the board could debate the merits of the superintendent candidates and name a finalist, or interview any or all of the candidates again. They could also consider any of the other screened candidates and continue with the interview process or explore collaboration efforts with another school district to include sharing a superintendent.

Marsnik revealed this week that he and superintendent Kevin Abrahamson had an informal discussion last week with ISD 2142 superintendent Reggie Engebritson and school board chair Dan Manick.

"One of the things we brought up was the sharing of a superintendent, and they are receptive to this idea and of pursuing this further," Marsnik said.

Headdedthatheisconcerned with Engebritson's potential workload, since she is also now overseeing the functions of the Mt. Iron/Buhl school district.

Abrahamson is planning to resign from his .6 FTE position in Ely when his contract expires on June 30. He has indicated a willingness to stay in his position temporarily. "I've said before that I won't leave you high and dry," he said.

Marsnik said he wants to maintain the part-time superintendent position at ISD 696. He told his fellow board members that the ISD 2142 officials said their district may consider hiring an assistant superintendent to help deal with the additional workload of overseeing a third school district.

"If we decide on (collaboration), this could be the first step in the possi-



bility of obtaining some IRRR funding for our facilities project,"Marsnik said. "As we move forward on this, we must be very transparent."

M a r s n i k a n d Abrahamson also extended an invitation to have both school boards gather for a discussion on the subject. "They suggested that it would be easier for them if there was a committee formed to include three members from each board," he said.

Board member Tony Colarich indicated a willingness to reintroduce his motion from the last meeting delaying the superintendent search while collaboration discussions are being held. He was rebuffed by Marsnik who wanted more discussion on the topic before any motions were considered.

Board member Rochelle Sjoberg said she wanted the whole Ely school board to be part of any collaboration discussion with ISD 2142. "This is a pretty important decision," she said.

Board member Tom Omerza agreed. "If they are open to it, it would be nice to have our whole board (involved)," he said.

Board member James Pointer questioned ISD 2142's motive for wanting to collaborate with the Ely school district when they are already collaborating with the Mt. Iron/Buhl district. "What is their gain from this?" he asked.

Marsnik admitted that IRRR funding was part of his discussion with ISD 2142 officials. "The major

#### **ORR**...Continued from page 1

city in the Arrowhead to enact regulations on shortterm rental properties following similar measures by Duluth and Two Harbors. The properties have become a popular money-making venture by many homeowners using websites such as Airbnb emphasis of our discussion was how we can work together to improve and expand educational opportunities for the students in both districts," he said.

Board members touched on other collaboration options between the two districts, beyond sharing a superintendent. "I think there has to be more collaboration," Omerza said. "This is for the good of the kids and not just for administrative."

Marsnik reiterated his previous discussion. "Just sharing a superintendent or a business office, isn't going to cut it," he said. "We are really going to have to show how the kids are going to benefit. That's the only way we are going to get the funding."

Abrahamson told Pointer that his question on motivating factors for ISD 2142 was not part of their discussion. "That would be a good question to ask them," he said.

Marsnik said the ISD 2142 superintendent works one day per week at the Mt. Iron/Buhl district and the other four days at ISD 2142. "(Engbritson) did say that she does not want to take on the new position in name only. She wants to be involved. There may be a possibility that she could work here one day a week."

Marsnik asserted that the board's intention on the collaboration discussion is not to eliminate jobs in the Ely district. "As a matter of fact, in the long run, we'll probably be adding some positions."

During the open

or VRBO.

In other city business, councilors:

► Approved a new outdoor liquor store sign to be in place before Memorial Day.

Heard from Carter that the docks on Pelican Lake would be repaired

forum portion of the board meeting agenda, the district's reading interventionist, Krista Moyer, said the concept of collaboration has been well received during recent conversations between teachers and staff members.

"It sounds like we have some excited teachers here who are interested in pursuing ways to help the kids," Omerza said, "and you would hope that a similar group of teachers at ISD 2142 would want to help their kids with any collaboration."

Abrahamson said with the possibility of collaboration and the requisite discussion required to reach an agreement, a November referendum for the facility project is probably unlikely. The next window for a bonding referendum is in February.

The \$500,000 state school safety grant awarded to ISD 696 last year, has a 2022 completion deadline.

Marsnik added that the facility project, estimated to cost between \$5 million and \$13 million, will need the support of the community. "It is their taxes that will be raised," he said. "We have to pursue this (collaboration) with 2142. I think the community will demand that we do this. If it will work, we don't know. We have to at least take a look at it, if there is a possibility of IRRR funding coming our way."

Board members agreed to pursue a collaboration discussion with ISD 2142. School board members will resume discussion on the issue at their study session on Monday, May 20.

#### **Other business**

In other business, the board:

► Accepted the resignation of Mariah Jeske from the sixth-grade teaching position at the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

➤ Accepted the resignation of the Kimberly Deyak from the Indian Education/Home School Liaison position, effective on May 2, agreed to cover the rest of the school year with a substitute teacher, and post for the position for the 2019-2020 school year.

► Hired Janelle Huntbatch for the parttime bus driver position.

→ Hired Mary Fleetwood for the Extended School Year Instructor position, and Monica Freeman for the Extended School Year Paraprofessional position.

► Reduced paraprofessional staff by laying off Mataya Barrett, Cathy Braun and Lynne Halverson.

> Approved the renewal of the following coaches for the 2019-2020 school year: Andrea Thomas, head volleyball coach, Cory Lassi, head football coach, Amanda Vanderbeek, head dance team coach, Jayne Dusich, head cross country coach, Tom McDonald, head boys basketball coach, Darren Visser, head girls basketball coach, Ben Johnson, head hockey coach, and Paula Anderson, head Nordic skiing coach.

this summer. Carter said it is the state's job to pay for the repairs per a 1980s agreement with the city.

► Approved a new LED security light to be installed at the community center.

► Voted to remove the deep fryers from the

community center and any other electrical cooking equipment not utilizing gas.

➤ Asked Carter to seek out bids on replacing the roof at the welcome center that houses city hall.

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#### **TOWER**...Continued from page 1 \_

According t o Kringstad, Keith had refused to allow the appointments to appear on the agenda because the positions had not been advertised. On April 29, the city council had directed Keith, by motion, to advertise the openings in the city's official newspaper, but for two weeks in a row, Keith had failed to do so. She also failed to post the openings on the city's website as she had indicated she would do.

Kringstad argued that both newspapers in town had published articles about the vacancies and that the city was taking applications. He said he had reviewed the four applications that had come into city hall as of late on Monday and proposed appointing Mary Shedd and Sheldon Majerle. But Keith said a fifth application had come in at the last minute, from Cynthia Spicer, a new resident to town who had previously spoken to the council about her desire to allow people to raise chickens in town.

Kringstad argued for the council to move forward. "The reason I want to do this is that the council is really hampered by having three members...I would like to appoint and seat them tonight. There are many things on this agenda which require a full council to review."

City attorney Andy Peterson, who was present for the entire meeting, said there wasn't a problem appointing new members that evening.

"If the council feels comfortable, you can appoint tonight or you can wait," Peterson said.

Kringstad added that there was nothing in the city charter or information from the League of Minnesota Cities that said a city must advertise the openings. Past practice of the council has been to appoint at the pleasure of the remaining council members.

But councilor Rachel Beldo felt uncomfortable making an appointment before she had time to Applicants included Dick Larmouth and Josh Zika in addition to Shedd, Majerle, and Spicer. Majerle is a former council member, who has also served for years on a number of city commissions, and Shedd ran for council last November, losing to Beldo by two votes.

Without clear support to fill the seats immediately, Kringstad agreed to delay the decision until the May 28 meeting. The city will not be taking any additional applications for the openings.

But on Wednesday, May 15, Kringstad decided to call a special meeting for May 22 at 5:30 p.m. to complete the appointments and seat the two new members.

#### Grievance committee questions

The question of whether or not the city's grievance committee has the authority to bind the city council to its findings also remains unanswered. Earlier this winter, two members of the city's grievance committee, Steve Altenburg and Brooke Anderson had approved a remedy to a grievance filed by Keith against the city council that prohibited the council from investigating a laundry list of allegations against Keith, some of which are criminal in nature. Altenburg and Anderson's remedy also prohibited Mayor Kringstad from engaging in any oversight over Keith. Both provisions of the remedy appear to directly violate the city charter, yet Altenburg submitted the remedy to the union without council approval and the union has since accepted it.

The council had raised questions about the entire grievance committee procedure, including the fact that Councilor Abrahamson, who was a member of the committee, had not been properly notified of the committee meeting when the remedy was drafted. Altenburg and Anderson had also failed to obtain guidance from legal counsel before taking their action, after agreeing in a

#### Tower hopes to seat new councilors on May 22

TOWER- Tower Mayor Orlyn Kringstad, Wednesday, told the Timberjay he called a special meeting for May 22 at 5:30 p.m. to review the council applications and appoint and seat the two new council members. The agenda also includes a financial review of city finances as of April 30, and the completion of the city's reorganization.

addition, some city residents have raised questions about the impartiality of Altenburg, who sits on the grievance committee as a 'resident." Altenburg is a city employee who reports directly to Keith, and also had filed his own complaint against Kringstad, which the city council later rejected as frivolous. Anderson was also involved in the Altenburg complaint, since it arose from a claim she made about a conversation she had had with Kringstad and Beldo regarding Altenburg. Beldo, on April 8, disputed Anderson's account and the council dismissed the complaint. At that same meeting, the council tasked Beldo with obtaining a legal opinion from an outside attorney on whether Altenburg and Anderson's grievance remedy could legally tie the council's hands in addressing Keith's alleged wrongdoing. Current city attorney Andy Peterson has declined to offer guidance on the issue.

Beldo said she had spoken with Vermilion Law Office, and they had directed her to Mitch Brunfelt, from Colosimo Patchin Kearney & Brunfelt Limited, who said he could work for the city at a rate of \$200 per hour. She also had gotten some information from the League of Minnesota Cities, but that had come with the suggestion that the city get advice from their legal counsel before acting on the information.

"We don't have a grievance policy or policy to guide us," Beldo said. "That is being worked on."

Abrahamson said he would like a full council on board before deciding on whether or not to retain

council that they did not need to seek outside advice if they didn't want to.

Kringstad said it made more sense to deal with the question "in-house." He said he could recuse himself from some portions of the discussion if needed.

The council voted to table the issue until the next meeting.

The council did take the first step of looking into establishing a city grievance policy that had been drafted by Altenburg from information he had found on the internet. The policy does state that the workplace grievance process may not conflict with Minnesota laws or the city charter. In the case of Tower, the city charter gives the council the authority to make investigations into the affairs of the city, the conduct of any city department, office or agency.

The council voted to forward the draft policy to the city attorney for review and asked that it be put back on the agenda for May 28.

#### Other business

In other business, the Tower City Council:

>Set the next council meeting for Tuesday, May 28, since the regular fourth Monday falls on Memorial Day.

>Accepted the resignation of Brooke Anderson and will send a letter of appreciation for her service and willingness to postpone her initial resignation until after the Local Board of Equalization meeting last week.

> Heard public input from Jodi Summit, who asked that the city provide more updated and comprehensive information on the city website. Specifically, she asked that the website include upcoming council and committee meetings, city legal notices, ordi-

nances with their titles not just numbers, current city staff contact info, and other information important to the community.

The issue of the city website had come up earlier this winter and Keith had told the council that she was able to update the website, but no upgrades have been undertaken since. The council said this would be put on the agenda for the May 28 meeting.

➤ Was questioned by Tower-Soudan Historical Society Board Member Nancy Larson over whether the city had submitted a report to the state historical society detailing any impacts the planned work on Pine Street will have on the Historic Depot, which is on the National Historic Register.

Larson said that issues with drainage from the civic center parking lot have been previously detailed by a state-funded study on the depot building. That study, she said, outlined issues that need to be considered when making any changes to the impervious surfaces draining towards the depot. City engineer Matt Bolf said that the project calls for curb and gutter along that portion of Pine Street that is adjacent to the civic center parking lot, and that would reduce water inflow into the area.

"We did not file anything," Bolf said, "There is no negative impact to the building."

Larson said it was her understanding that the report needed to be done in either case.

➤ Heard from Keith, who complained that the Timberjay had inaccurately reported the amount spent on a new furnace for the Hoodoo Point Campground store building. The *Timberjay* had already published a correction. The Timberjay had reported the total quote which also included a hot water heater and air conditioning, but the city had only accepted the quote for the furnace.

 Approved demolition of the old wooden trail kiosk by the mini-park. Electricity will still be available at the site for any future trail head signage. ➤ Will post "No Wake Zone" signs on wooden

pilings near the Your Boat Club marina. The council noted that enforcement would be through St. Louis County Sheriff's Department.

> Approved airport project proposals for 2019 and 2020. Projects include crack sealing and design and construction of a 40'x40' heated storage building for the cityowned airport maintenance equipment. The city currently has to lease heated space for its large snowblowing apparatus. The city needs to contribute five percent of the total cost for the projects, estimated share to be \$4,610, which will come from the city's airport fund, which has \$5,000 set aside for the project at this time.

Approveda\$75,000 Blandin Foundation grant to TEDA for the broadband project.

Approved a \$2,707 transfer from the Gundersen Trust to the city ski trail fund to help purchase a new cross country ski trail groomer. The club is still looking to raise funds to purchase a new snowmobile to pull the groomer.

➤ Passed a resolution of support to apply for state bonding funds for a Tower-Breitung Waste Water filtration plant project. The city would act as the fiscal agent for the waste water joint powers board, since Breitung Township is not eligible for state bonding funds, but the city is.

➤ Heard an update from city engineer Matt Bolf who reported on the lack of progress on approval of a plat for the town home project. Bolf said the city was still waiting on the vacation of an old unused DNR snowmobile trail easement, which he said was sitting in the attorney general's office. A few other items for the plat have been tied up, or will be completed soon, Bolf said. Once the county plat is approved, the developers can submit their own CIC plat (common interest community overlay), which is required before they can start selling town home units. The city's planning and zoning will need to approve the CIC, and once approved it will

review all the applications, including the last minute one from Spicer.

"I want to get our council completed," she said, "but I also want time to review."

In addition to her refusal to include the item on the agenda, Keith did not provide the council members with the applications submitted by the five city residents expressing interest in the openings.

outside council.

The cost of retaining the attorney was of concern also go to St. Louis County for recording.



#### LIFELONG LEARNING

### **IRRR Culture and Tourism grant aids Ely Folk School**

ELY - A \$17,000 Culture and Tourism grant awarded to the Elv Folk School by Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation will help support several initiatives the nonprofit school has in the works for 2019.

These include launching a pottery program in the school's newly remodeled workshop space and expanding the school's forge and blacksmithing program, which opened to popular appeal last fall in an adjoining building.

Another supported initiative is EFS' involvement with the "Nature for the Nation" outdoor walking play slated for a performance in Ely this August. The grant also includes support for EFS' seasonal folk-dance series, annual birch bark canoe building program, expanded marketing and website services, and funds to assist with compensating contracted instructors who teach the school's short courses in traditional skills.

"We are very grateful to Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation for this support," said EFS board



Folk dancing is just one of the many programs offered at the Ely Folk School. The organization just received a \$17,000 Culture and Tourism grant from the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation agency.

member Johnnie Hyde about the grant. "As we launch our fifth season, this is a real vote of confidence for our school's value to the community as a connecting point and a means of promoting Ely's cultural legacy."

Since the school opened in May, 2015 it has offered nearly 1,000 classes and events, and has been credited as a catalyst in Ely's downtown rejuvenation, which the Minneapolis Star Tribune has hailed the "Ely Renaissance."

'The folk school phe-

nomena is gaining traction nationwide," said EFS program coordinator Betty Firth. She notes that larger and older schools, like North House in Grand Marais and John C. Campbell in Brasstown, NC, have become key economic engines for their regions, drawing thousands of visitors annually. But she adds that the Ely Folk School has successfully focused on drawing participation largely from the local community. "We're very pleased that most of our instructors and about half of our class registrants come from the Ely area," she said. "But increasingly visitors plan Ely vacations around folk school classes."

The Iron Range Resources a n d Rehabilitation's annual Culture and Tourism grant program serves to assist "non-profits by supporting strong arts, culture, heritage, and recreational activities to enhance the quality of life and economy."

Last year the program distributed \$250,000 to nonprofits in its 50-city service area, which extends from Grand Portage to Duluth and from Orr to Grand Rapids, plus the Crosby-Aitkin area. Ely-area recipients of those funds included the Babbitt Conservation Club, Veterans on the Lake Resort, Dorothy Molter Museum, Ely Nordic Ski Club, International Wolf Center, and the Northern Lights Music Festival.

EFS board chair Paul Schurke noted that these grants require a one-to-one match. "We're launching our annual spring fund drive to help meet this obligation. EFS friends will find it soon on our website and in their mail boxes, along with an invitation to our birthday party on Sunday, June 9," he said. "Our community has been very generous in supporting our school and we're sure our EFS friends will come through again."

EFS, like all folk schools, is largely supported by community donations and grants, and course fees are kept minimal to avoid having financial concerns deter anyone's participation.

Over 60 classes and events have already been scheduled for the school's upcoming season ,as posted on the school's front window and its website: www.elyfolkschool.org. These include ever-popular programs like pine needle basketry, rosemaling, barn quilts, spring edibles, watercolor note cards, weaving, and learning to make Slovenian favorites such as pasties, potica, and strudel. Some new offerings are fish leather wallets, herbal first aid, shoreline plants, embroidery, and night sky photography, and a June event with Dani Pieratos and Chas Wagner on the cultural and spiritual significance of traditional Anishinabe dance regalia.

A collaboration with craftsman Andy Hill will offer students a chance to learn about building sustainably as he constructs his new 'green' home this summer near the Trezona Trail. "Many new blacksmithing classes are in the works, and it's hoped that the kiln donated for the new EFS pottery program will be fired up this summer as well," Firth said.



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#### SOFTBALL

### Rough week for Grizzlies on the road

#### by MARCUS WHITE Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP - The Grizzlies notched their only win of the week here Tuesday evening, downing the Bluestreaks 9-8. The win came after four straight losses on the road for the North Woods girls.

Senior Regan Ratai the team with two doubles

while junior pitcher Taylor Vagle rapped two singles. Vagle also notched the win, allowing just five hits and striking out four.

Further stats on the game were unavailable as the Timberjay went to press on Wednesday.

In Eveleth on Monday, the Grizzlies fell 13-3 in six innings to the Golden Bears. Senior pitcher Alanna Rutchasky gave up 13 runs and struck out two players. Rutchasky also tallied an impressive 23 first strike pitches. Senior Claire Beaudry had four hits, while junior Kennedy Wardas drove in two runs.

Saturday's game at Silver Bay went to seven innings, with the Grizzlies falling 11-4.

Rutchasky and

#### SOFTBALL

Beaudry each had two hits.Rutchasky again took the loss.

Last Thursday's game at Cherry was the Grizzlies worst showing of the week as they lost 15-0 in four innings. That loss, which ended a three-game winning streak for the Grizzlies, marked the start of their four-game slump.

Seniors Hanna

Sandberg and Kate Stone each had single runs for the Grizzlies. Rutchasky had one strike and took the loss.

The Grizzlies are set to close the regular season at home on Friday, hosting against International Falls. First pitch is set for 4:30 p.m.

Following their match with International Falls,

the Grizzlies will head to the Section 7A tournament.

Brackets for the tournament will likely be set after regular season games conclude around the region this weekend.

Tournament play will begin next Tuesday. Times for the games have not been set.

### Wolves triumph over Grizzles

#### by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

ELY— Junior Erika Mattson went the distance for the Timberwolves here last Friday as they edged North Woods 6-3 on the strength of a three-run Ely sixth inning.

Mattson gave up five hits and struck out nine to notch the win, but she had help from teammates Charly Flom, Sydni Richards and McCartney Kaercher, who each rapped two hits in the game, while Rachel Coughlin drove in two runs.

North Woods drew first blood with a run in the first inning. Ely responded with a single run in the bottom of the second and added two more in the third to take a 3-1 lead. North Woods added a single run in the fifth to close the gap before Ely put the game out of reach in the bottom of the sixth. "That gave us some breathing room," said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald. North Woods added a run in top of the seventh, but it was too little, too late.

Senior Kate Stone notched two hits and drove in a run, while fellow senior Claire Beaudry added two hits. Hanna Sandberg also drove in a run.

Following a tough stretch, the Grizzlies were 5-7 on the season as they wrap up their regular season on Friday. The Timberwolves were at 10-5 on the season as of midweek.

The loss was one of four losses on the road for the Grizzlies this week.





#### BASEBALL

Friday May 17 NE Range hosts North Woods, 4:30 p.m.

Ely hosts East Central, 12 p.m.

Ely hosts Walker, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday May 18 Ely hosts I-Falls, 6:30 p.m.

Monday May 20 North Woods at Virginia, 3 p.m.

Ely at Eveleth, 4:30 p.m.

**Tuesday May 21** North Woods at Deer River, 4:30 p.m.

NE Range hosts Wrenshall, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday May 23 North Woods at Eveleth, 4:30 p.m.

Ely hosts Nashwauk, 4:30 p.m.

NE Range hosts Cherry, 4:30 p.m.

Clockwise from top: A North Woods player waits patiently for the ball; Erika Mattson moments after pitching the ball; an Ely player slides into third-base. photos by J. Greeney

# the distance for<br/>olves here last<br/>v edged North<br/>the strength of<br/>y sixth inning.<br/>gave up five<br/>k out nine totoo little, too late.<br/>Senior Allana Rutchasky<br/>took the loss for the Grizzlies,<br/>allowing six runs through<br/>six innings while striking<br/>out five.too little, too late.<br/>Senior Allana Rutchasky<br/>took the loss for the Grizzlies,<br/>allowing six runs through<br/>out five.





Friday May 24 NE Range hosts Cook County, 4:30 p.m.

#### SOFTBALL

Friday May 17 NE Range at Nashwauk, 1 p.m.

North Woods hosts I-Falls, 4:30 p.m.

Ely at Hibbing invitational, 3 p.m.

In the event of a cancellation, check local school calendars for updates

#### GOLF



The Grizzlies boys and girls golf teams competed at the Bronco Invitational in International Falls last Wednesday afternoon, May 8.

The girls took third place overall while the boys trailed behind at sixth place.

Pictured at left, the top scorer for both teams: Sam Frazee who scored 76 and Coley Olson who scored 80.

submitted photo

### **Grizzlies fall to Cherry**

FIELD TWP— Home field advantage wasn't enough to lift the Grizzlies here last Friday as North Woods slipped 7-5 to Cherry.

North Woods scored early, bringing in two runs in the first inning. But it wouldn't be enough to stop the Tigers, who would go on to outscore the Grizzlies for the game's remaining innings.

Sophomore pitcher Zach Cheney gave up six runs over six innings before being replaced in the ninth inning by junior Danny Crockett, who struck out two players. Cheney would go 2-4 at the plate, along with an RBI. Sophomores Tate Cly and Andrew Zika each went 1-3 with an RBI. Sophomore Cole Thiel had two runs, with senior Jake Hyppa adding another.

Stats for other games were unavailable as of press time.

North Woods was set to go on the road for the final week of the season. The Grizzlies will face Northeast Range in Soudan on Friday, before heading to Virginia on Monday and Deer River on Tuesday.

Two take first for

Ely at Hibbing meet

### SOFTBALL **Wolves takedown Hawks**

Managing Editor

BABBITT - The Timberwolves prevailed in a rain-soaked contest here on Tuesday, easily topping the Nighthawks 13-2 in five innings to notch their fifth-straight win. Junior Erika Mattson worked the first three innings for Ely, allowing two runs on three

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER hits. Fellow junior Jenna Merhar came on in relief in the fourth, pitching two innings of hitless ball while striking out one. Merhar also tallied three hits and drove in three runs.

Freshman Charly Flom and eighth-grader Rachel Coughlin each added three hits in the game to improve to 10-5 on the season.

Playing at home on Monday, the Wolves edged Mt. Iron-Buhl in a 3-1 pitchers' duel. "Erika [Mattson] pitched really well," said Ely Head Softball Coach Tom McDonald. "And we played well on defense."

The Wolves did all their damage in the third inning and Ely's pitching held off the Rangers until the top of the seventh.

Mattson allowed just three hits and struck out nine in one of her better performances of the season. Ely managed just five hits but strung just enough together in the third to put the needed runs on the board.

Jenna Merhar came up big with a two-run hit in the third inning.

#### girls finished fourth as a team with 85 points. Ely placed second in

HIBBING - Eighth-

grader Zoe Devine and

junior Brielle Kallberg

made quick work of their

opponents in the 1,600-

meter run and triple jump

events, both earning first

place honors in both events.

Overall, the Timberwolves

both the 4x100 and 4x200

relays along with a thirdplace win in the 4x400 relay.

In addition to her firstplace triple jump, Kallberg took second place in long jump and sixth in high jump.

Freshman Annika Mattson took third in the 400-meter dash.

#### **TUESDAY GROUP**

### Finnish socialism in the Northland: Descendants share history of Co-op Point on Eagles Nest Lake I

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY - Co-op Point on Eagles Nest Lake I was an intentional community developed in the early 1930s by Finnish immigrants to the Iron Range who believed in the unique philosophy of "co-operative socialism."

The Iron Range was home to several of these special Finnish communities, according to Elv residents Sally Koski and Valerie Myntti, both descendents of Co-op Point residents.

They told their story this week at the Tuesday Group gathering at the Grand Ely Lodge. Tuesday Group meets almost every Tuesday at the Ely-area facility. The public is invited to listen to the varied programs.

Sally and Valerie both had grandfathers who were among the original members on Eagles Nest Lake I. They purchased land for approximately 15 cabins and created a large park open to any Finnish family to enjoy, to picnic and camp. Together the original members began a summer camp for the children of the early Minnesota"co-operators."

"It was crucially important to them to teach this unique philosophy of a cooperative Finnish socialism, that they so highly valued, to the next generation each summer." Valerie said.

Many of the cabins on Co-op Point continue to be owned by the descendants of the original co-operators. Sally still has the original Koski cabin. Valerie

has a cabin on Eagles Nest Lake III.

Their respective grandfathers, Don Myntti of Duluth, and Clarence Ivonen of Virginia, are both in their mid-90s, and are the sole surviving children of the original co-operators."As children they summered on Co-op Point and attended the annual Co-op Point camp, Sally said. "They attribute their longevity to frequent saunas and swimming in cold northern Minnesota lakes."

As Valerie and Sally shared their family stories about this special place right down the road from Ely and this special period of Finnish-American history, Tuesday Group attendees were treated to a piece of traditional Finnish Cardamom Bread.

'This is not neces-

sarily a wholly accurate history, but a rather a story through the eyes of grandparents and great-grandparents," Valerie said. "These are family stories and deeply personal that we wish to share."

She presented a brief history of the Finnish culture and especially touched on the tidal wave of Finnish immigrants who flooded the United States from the 1880s to the 1920s.

"Way back in the 12th century, Finland was a province of Sweden," Valerie said. "Russia became the regional power in the Baltic states by the early 1800s:" Finland was considered an autonomous part of Russia until 1917. They were initially treated very well by Russia and were able to live by their own customs and traditions. Starting around 1890, the Finnish people were oppressed by Russia. It was a period of displacement and turmoil."

Finnish immigrants traveled to America in search of a better life. "My grandparents fleeing Finland were really no different from the Central Americans today at our country's southern border," Valerie said. "Immigrants today, like a hundred years ago, saw



On the diving board at Eagles Nest Lake. submitted photo

cash only."

Sally said.

The Eagles Nest Lake I Co-Op Point was established in the early 1930s, in the midst of the Great Depression. "One of the big components of the co-op was educational work," she said. "The women's cooperative guild, a subset of the association, had a major function of conducting summer camps and recreational activities for the youth." The Eagles Nest Lake ICo-op Point land actually stretched around about one-third of the northeast shore of the lake, according to Koski. By 1934, there were about two dozen 50-foot lots owned by 18 members that were used for camping. There was a pavilion and cook shack area, located across the road of the current Eagles Nest Township fire hall."None of the common buildings stand anymore, but there are several original cabins still there," she said. "At the time, each lot sold for \$250 with a \$100 deposit required, and they being Finns, the deposit was to be paid in

Swimming in the cold, deep lake was a favorite part of the summer activities for the campers. "One of the more notorious stories was the diving tower on the shore of the lake," Sally said. "We know that the base of the tower can still be located underwater. When I think of a diving tower, I think of a diving platform they use in the Olympics. This wasn't quite up to that standard, but it was apparently the source of a lot of amusement and a lot of fun for the teenagers on Co-op Point " Sally related her first memory of "sitting in a washtub on the floor of the sauna" when she was about three or four years old. "That was just something that everybody did," she said. Four properties on Co-op Point are retained by the original owners, she said. Her next step in her research project is to talk to those family members. Sally and Valeriewill present an updated history of Co-op Point on Wednesday, July 31 as part of the Ely-Winton Historical Society's Summer History Nights program.



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economic opportunity for themselves and their children."

Fast-forward to the early 1900s and the iron mines in northern Minnesota. "Finns created co-ops on the Iron Range out of necessity and self-determination," she said. "There creation was directly related to discrimination directed at them for the actions by the Finnish trade unionists. Local merchants all sympathized with the local mining companies during the long, hard labor strikes that were led by Finns."

Refusing to be victims, the Finns created consumer retail cooperatives who were owned by the workers. "Finns banded together and rendered mutual aid," she added.

Out of this need to cooperate with each other was born the Vermilion Co-op Park Association. "During hard economic times, cooperatives tended to be more prevalent throughout the U.S."





### TOWER **Council forwards TEDA invoice issue to state auditor**

Council agrees Mayor Kringstad has no legal conflict of interest related to town home project

#### by JODI SUMMIT

Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- At Monday's Tower City Council meeting, City Clerk Treasurer Linda Keith brought forward two items recently addressed in the city's audit, including Keith's continuing issue with a \$125,000 loan from the Tower Economic Development Authority for a planned town home project at the city's harbor. Keith also brought up Mayor Orlyn Kringstad's alleged conflict of interest given his previous involvement in the project. Kringstad has since divested himself from the project.

Keith has fixed her focus on a single invoice that Kringstad had submitted nearly two years ago for architectural services from Dewey Thorbeck, the original architect on the project. The Oct. 14, 2016 invoice for \$29,080 lists time and expense in the creation of "the development concept and obtaining approval from the city of Tower as part of the original development team." The invoice also references Thorbeck's termination of interest in the project, suggesting it could be considered a buy-out settlement, which would not

have been an allowable expense under the terms of the TEDA loan.

Keith had originally approved the invoice for payment under the \$125,000 loan agreement with TEDA but began raising questions about it after Kringstad was elected mayor. Shortly after Kringstad's election, Keith complained about the invoice and other aspects of the loan to the previous city council and indicated she would bring it up with the city's auditor.

The auditor ultimately suggested that the city review the invoices submitted for the loan to verify that they were allowable costs.

But Keith argued against that and asked the council for approval to send the question to the state auditor for a determination.

"After further research with the auditor and the IRRR," said Keith, "it is the best choice to turn the matter to the state auditor for a proper resolution."

"The invoice stated it was for a partner buyout," said Keith, "and prior to the proper date."

Kringstad stated that the invoice was for legitimate architectural design work and that the invoice did note the architect was no longer going to be a partner in the project but was not payment for a buy-out.

Kringstad said he had discussed this specific issue with the auditor and thought it had been resolved.

"I can guarantee you that [that the architectural work and the partnership agreement] were two separate things," Kringstad said. "They were just described in the same letter... The documentation is clean."

Thorbeck, himself, reiterated that point in a May 15 email to Keith, which claims Keith "misinterpreted" an explanation of the invoice that Thorbeck had provided to Keith earlier this year after she had raised questions about it. "I thought I was clear in my explanation that the payment was entirely to cover my firm's architectural and engineering conceptual design and planning work... There was no money paid for terminating my interest in the development team."

Thorbeck's letter came two days after Monday's council meeting. During the meeting, the council voted 2-1 on Keith's recommendation to refer the matter to the state auditor. Kringstad voted no.

TEDA had received the \$125,000 as a grant from the IRRR specifically for the town home development, to help with preconstruction/planning costs. The loan was originally set up for interest-only payment until the project was ready for sales to begin. The loan, once repaid, can be used by TEDA for future economic development projects.

#### **Conflict of interest**

On the issue of Kringstad's alleged conflict of interest issue, Peterson had already addressed the subject in a Jan. 9 letter to the city, stating "where there is a choice, city officials should avoid actions which may appear tainted of impropriety, even though they are legal."

Peterson noted that state law holds it a clear conflict if a city officer has a direct financial interest in a project that that person should step aside and not be involved in any manner. The city's charter also has language pertaining to a financial conflict of interest.

Keith told the council that "there is a strong perception that the mayor has a conflict of interest," though she did not say how she had come to this

conclusion.

Peterson noted that if Kringstad does not have a direct financial interest in the project anymore, that "there is no conflict."

Kringstad has repeatedly stated that he has fully divested himself from the town home project and has provided details to the council. "There is no conflict," he said.

Peterson also noted that the auditors had determined that Kringstad had no legal conflict of interest.

Keith said because there is a "high perception" of a conflict this "could land Tower in a lawsuit." He should take the "high road," Keith said.

But Keith's arguments did not sway the council.

Abrahamson agreed that Kringstad did not have a conflict.

"He can participate in the discussions," he said. "And then he can choose to vote if he wanted. We as a council cannot vote to stop him."

Beldo concurred and said she did not feel the council needed to take any action on the issue.

#### Briefs

#### New boat tour available at Voyageurs **National Park starting** June 16

INT'L FALLS- Voyageurs National Park will offer a new boat tour for visitors this summer. The 49-passenger "Voyageur" will offer a "Life on the Lake" tour. The idea is to tell how various people managed to make a living on Rainy Lake and also to enjoy the wildlife of the region, such as bald eagles, continue to thrive on Rainy Lake because of its rich natural resources.

The tour will stop at the Harry Oveson Fish Camp, a

> **HELP WANTED Tower Area Ambulance Service**

decades-old facility where commercial fisherman Harry Oveson lived in a rustic cabin during the summer, catching and processing fish that he chilled for shipment using ice he harvested from Rainy Lake and stored on-site. While the tourboat is handicap accessible, the short fourth-mile walk around the fish camp is not.

Life on the Lake tours will be offered Wedneday, Saturday, and Sunday, June 19 - Aug. 31, starting at 11 a.m. at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center. The boat will return at 1 p.m. The cost is \$25 for adults, \$15 for children and \$3 for toddlers ages two and under. There is a four-person

minimum for the tours to depart.

The park also offers a Grand Tour on the Voyageur in search of wildlife, with a stop at Little American Island, a fourth-mile accessible walk which gives a history of the 1890s Rainy Lake Gold Rush. The cost is \$30 for adults, \$15 for children and \$3 for toddlers ages two and under. There is a four-person minimum for the tours to depart. The tour departs the Rainy Lake Visitor Center at 2 p.m. on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from June 16 through Aug. 31.

#### Vince Shute Sanctuary opens on May 25

ORR- The Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary in Orr, known for offering close viewing of black bears in their natural habitat, opens for the season on Saturday, May 25.

In addition to regular visiting hours (5 - 8 p.m. daily except Monday) special events planned for summer 2019 include: Breakfast with the Bears, book signing with renowned wildlife photographer Stan Tekiela, youth programs, and two weekend photography workshops in June and August.

The sanctuary features an elevated viewing platform at the edge of a 2.5-acre meadow that offers a perfect perch to safely observe the natural behaviors of American black bears. From the viewing platform, the bears can be seen up-close playing, climbing trees, and foraging on natural and specially prepared foods that trained staff distribute daily.

For details on special programming and photographic opportunities this summer, contact the Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary at 218-757-0172, email bears@americanbear.org. or visit www.americanbear.org. The last day the sanctuary is open





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### To Sign Up

Please arrive on our first day, June 3rd, at 4:45PM to sign up. Active participants will be entered into a drawing for a prize basket on June 28th! All are welcome. If you have questions, please contact us at 218-753-2405.

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#### **FISHING**

### Bait shortage hampering area tackle shops

by MARCUS WHITE Cook/Orr Editor

**REGIONAL** - Trying to find bait for your weekend fishing trip? You might be stuck digging your own worms.

Area bait shops are running low on minnows and other common bait as lakes in the area have been slow to warm after the winter thaw.

"Every year bait keeps getting tougher and tougher to get," Vermilion Food and Fuel owner Terry Wagoner said. "A lot of the commercial places that are raising suckers and minnows are facing

freeze-out problems."

Vermilion Food and Fuel in Tower ran out of bait over the weekend opener, according to Wagoner, but has since restocked.

Captain Russ, who owns Babe's Bait Shop near Ely said lake temperatures are running 10 degrees below average for this time of year. The shop doesn't rely on wholesalers to obtain their bait, but instead his staff maintains their own traps on area ponds and streams.

While Babe's has been able to keep itself supplied, Russ said it's taken twice as much work as usual with employees having to go out

**Right: Minnows were in** relatively short supply for opener weekend as continued cool weather has kept bait minnows from coming into the shallows. photo by M. White

every day instead of as needed. Russ said they're also hitting double the number of ponds as they normally would this time of year.

"The temperature variations have been putting baits deeper where they can't be trapped," Russ said. "Snowfall last week didn't help."

For Wagoner, the weather isn't

See SHORTAGE....pg. 5B





Picture perfect opener

#### -Ishing reput

Ely area



Mike Sibley, of Ely, had a great opener morning on Basswood Lake, where he quickly filled out. submitted

Another fishing season is upon us, and for the hordes of anglers who decided to start it out in the Ely area, most were pleased with the results of their journey to the North Country despite some hurdles obtaining bait and permits to the Boundary Waters.

Basswood Lake was THE place to be on opening weekend, as most who traveled there were very successful. Many of the walleyes were in the 15-18" range which was fine for most, but some fishermen had caught and released many in the 25" and up range as well. Minnows have led the way for live bait, followed closely by crawlers trolled on a spinner harness. Outside the B-dub, Fall Lake anglers crowded the power dam and reported good catches there, however many of the fish were small. Shagawa Lake, which was once hailed as a premier destination, left a lot to be desired when it comes to catch rates. Some caught their share, but many others struggled to get a limit. Birch Lake was doing well for walleyes with most in the 15-18" range, and some slab crappies found their way into the boats of anglers as well. White Iron Lake appears to be slowly rebounding as far as walleyes go, with not only a decent amount of "keepers" but some larger 'eyes as well. White Iron's saving grace has been the northern pike which have been running on the large size. Sucker minnows have been the go-to bait for these whoppers this early in the season. Remember if you are planning a trip anywhere up North, either wear a life jacket, or keep one close at hand, as the water temperatures have only been in the mid-forties on most lakes right now and hypothermia can claim the lives of even the best of swimmers. Courtesy Babe's Bait, located at Ely's west entrance

#### Lake Vermilion was off to a good start this past weekend, even if I wasn't

AKE VERMILION - Catching the first fish isn't always the lucky charm you might think it is. At least that's how it worked out for me last Saturday.

It looked, otherwise, like the perfect start to the 2019 fishing opener. I was out with my friend and Vermilion fishing guide Rob Bryers and his lady friend Nicole and we had gotten a leisurely start, pushing off from his Birch Point dock about 7:30 in the morning. It was milder and sunnier than the forecast had suggested, and it looked

like a great day to be out on the water.

We first hit the tip of the point, which always gathers a fair number of anglers in the early season. This year was no exception, as about 15 boats were bobbing around in the light chop. We were on the north side of the point, largely protected from the stiffening



south breeze that was kicking up bigger waves out on Big Bay.

Rob handed me a rod and a minnow from the bait box he lords over like it holds gold bullion and I was first in the water as he got Nicole, who goes by Nikki, rigged up before grabbing his own rod.

He had just dropped his line when I felt the telltale tug of a walleye and we quickly had our first fish in the live well. Rob hates it when I catch the first fish. Actually, when we go out, he prefers to catch the first, last, and most of the fish in between. And here he was falling behind early- in front of Nikki no less.

Above: An angler off Vermilion's Birch Point displays his slot-protected walleye while a friend checks a smartphone photo. The nice walleye was released seconds later.

Below: An angler nets another slot-protected walleye on the north side of Pine Island. It, too, was released after the obligatory picture. M. Helmberger



It didn't help that Nikki caught the next one, a small walleye that she quickly released. In the meantime, we watched a few of the other boats pulling in the occasional fish, including one nice slot fish that was the subject of the obligatory photosbefore being slipped back into the water.

As for us, the action (such as it was) had slowed, so we checked out a spot on the south shore of Pine Island but picked up nothing but snags. We zipped around to another spot on the north side of Pine Island, without success there, either. By this time, I could tell Rob was feeling the pressure from our slow start. "Boy, I'm going to hate to read this story," he grumbled.

"I think I know the headline," I quipped— "Shoulda' gone with Cliff!"

Rob shot back, suggesting I was wasting his precious minnows, since I had lost quite a few under unclear circumstances. I later noticed that the jig Rob had given me had virtually no barb, which I argued accounted for the missing minnows, although Rob seemed skeptical.

But Rob's mood would soon improve. We pulled up our lines at spot number three and headed to another spot, which Rob insisted I can't publish. I looked around at the dozen other boats working

See **OPENER...**pg. 5B

#### Fishing reports

#### Kab-Nam fish

Walleye fishing was excellent over the weekend and continues to be strong. With water temperatures continuing to hold in the mid to upper 40's the patterns remain unchanged. Shallow water along most rubble/gravel/sand shorelines are producing bigger fish with a few eater-sized fish in the mix. Deeper water adjacent to these areas is producing smaller fish. A jig and minnow is the preferred presentation regardless of where you drop a line. Staying as vertical as possible and close to the bottom is always key to jigging so use the necessary weight jig to accomplish this.

Boat activity was normal on opening day but dropped off significantly as the weekend went on probably because dock fishing was spectacular. Northern pike are extremely active and mixed in with the wall-

tigitshed I

Terry Cooper with a nice Kabetogama walleye.

eyes, which is typical of the current feeding pattern.

All in all, it has been a great start to the season with everyone catching a few fish, staying safe and enjoying mother nature at its finest.

Courtesy Gateway Store, Lake Kabetogama

#### **SHORTAGE...** Continued from page 4B

their own.

the only thing hampering his efforts to obtain bait.

He said problems with invasive species in the southern part of the state have meant tougher restrictions on wholesalers, some of whom have left the business as a result.

"It's really put a crimp on the gathering of bait," he said.

Wagoner added that in many cases shops can't buy from local kids and hobbyists as they once did because of DNR restrictions, and have come to rely heavily on wholesalers or taking the time to catch anglers coming north, however. "I think once the temperatures stabilize, it

There is hope for

temperatures stabilize, it should improve," Russ said, "and the fish are biting, so people are getting fish."

Until the situation improves, both Wagoner and Russ recommend calling your preferred local bait shop before stopping in to see how much bait they still have on hand. In the meantime, keep your shovel handy.

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**OPENER...**Continued from page 4B



Boats bobbed off the tip of Lake Vermilion's Birch Point on Saturday morning. photo by M. Helmberger

the same patch of water and noted that it was clearly one of the lake's better-known secrets.

Nonetheless, in this case, the fourth time was the charm, at least for Rob and Nikki. First, Rob evened the fish count with an eater-sized walleye, followed by Nikki who pulled in a beautiful, golden 16-17 incher, our biggest of the day. Then both Rob and Nikki went on a tear, pulling in a mix of eater walleyes and jumbo perch that soon had the live well swimming with activity. I missed a couple strikes, which sparked the usual commentary from the guy in the back of the boat."Man, for all those minnows, I don't see much to show for it," he said. I just shook my head. I knew I was paying for the earlier trash talk.

At least we soon had a diversion in the form of a DNR conservation officer who suddenly (how do they do that?) appeared, seemingly out of nowhere. He spent a fair amount of time talking to the folks in one boat a couple hundred feet from us, while some of the other boats around us suddenly decided it was time to move on. We were doing fine, so we kept fishing and figured he'd make his way over. Another nearby boat, a Boston Whaler, was displaying a 2018 sticker and the lone guy in the craft was apparently unaware, so he continued to fish blissfully, not realizing that the CO already had eyes on him.

The CO did make it over to us, but he was as friendly as could be. He was up from Duluth, helping to bolster the enforcement effort on a high-traffic weekend, and seemed to be having a good time of it. He checked to make sure we had life vests, which we did. Rob asked how folks were doing and he said most boats weren't putting many fish in their live well. "I think zero has been the most common number," he said. As we were talking, I caught our biggest perch of the day, finally ending my dry spell.

With the live well looking lively, we took a little more time to take in the other springtime sights. We watched a bald eagle eyeing us from the nearby white pine, and the flocks of mergansers, goldeneye, and bufflehead whizzing back and forth. A few cormorants flew over, along with the occasional loon. It was fishing opener, and the march of the seasons was right on schedule. Vermilion was coming back to life after a long, cold winter.

And, given our fish count, Rob was in a good mood, having left me in the dust once again.



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# Retail changes continue in Ely; new thrift store set to open and dollar store to close

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY – Like many towns across the nation, Ely is experiencing a marked shift in the retail shopping environment as online shopping continues to replace the brick-and-mortar landscape.

Retail establishments open and close all the time for all sorts of reasons. The Shopko Hometown here is set to close as part of a nationwide closure. One of two discount stores is said to be on the outs. Those losses of national name stores are not because "Ely is dying," as many mining advocates are quick to point out, but rather due to a shift in retail shopping being seen across the country.

The Ely Economic Development Authority addressed recent developments in the Ely retail environment this week.

Authority member Jerome Debeltz erroneously related that a national chain motel doing business in Ely is closing, along with the Shopko and Family Dollar stores, and he asked the city's economic advisor, John Fedo, what can be done "to help these people."

Debeltz said questions have been posed to him about what the city of Ely is doing about the situation. He told the authority that he highlights the many economic development loan programs available. "I tell them we're trying our best to keep this town (going) and help them out, and we even can help people fix up their homes. I don't know what else to say or do," he said.

Mayor Chuck Novak admonished Debeltz for perpetuating yet another rumor in town. "Rumors start. Go factcheck your rumors," he said. "When I heard that Super 8 was not taking any reservations after July 1, the rumor spread that (the motel) was closing. I went down there and saw the sign right at the front desk that the Super 8 will soon be doing business as a Comfort Inn here."

Novak reported to the authority that he was told the Super 8 brand is going to be replaced by the Comfort Inn franchise and will remain open in Ely for the foreseeable future. "Jerome, I know you care about the city, and we all do here, but we really have to make sure as we go forward on an issue that we ask for the facts."

Fedo added, "Retail is a very volatile and changing business in our country right now, just based on the way people shop today versus the way they shopped in the past, even a short time ago," he said.

"Retail is being driven by a whole new market and that doesn't make it any easier when we lose a local employer," Fedo added. "We are trying to do what we do best which is to help the companies and industries that we can affect with the best availability of economic tools that we can put together. The retail issue in an uphill battle, and we'll continue to do what we can on behalf of those companies that are here and those that are interested in being here."

Novak pointed out that the city cannot start another business to compete with other retail businesses in town. "Relative to the Shopko and Family Dollar, those are regional, state, or national chains and we have no way to provide a solution for what they do."

The Goodwill store that closed here earlier this year will reopen next week in the same location as a locally owned retail

SCHOOL BONDING

establishment through the sheer will of the Ely community.

"Thanks again to everyone who donated new and gently used items to help stock our store," said owner Monte Martin. "There is definitely a treasure for everyone. Also, we want to thank those of you who donated time to help put the store together. Without you, none of this would be possible."

The Ely Drop and Shop replaces the Ely Goodwill Store that closed in February at the same location. Employees from the former Goodwill and many area volunteers worked together to open the new facility.

The Ely Drop and Shop will be open for business on Monday, May 20 at 9 a.m. Their store hours will be Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and they will continue accepting donations on those same days from 10 a.m. 5 p.m.

An area non-profit organization, the Ely Food Shelf, has been chosen to be the Drop and Shop's Community Chest Event recipient for the month of June. When a customer brings them five or more non-perishable food items to donate to the Ely Food Shelf, they will present the customer with a coupon for five percent off their total purchase in the store. This coupon is only valid to use in the month of June.

The Community Chest Event rules are posted on the Ely Drop and Shop Facebook page.For more information, call 218-235-6110.

The Ely Shopko Hometown store is wrapping up a liquidation sale and announced it will close its doors here next month.

Meanwhile, another Ely retail store will soon close, according to reports on social media.

Sean Ferguson, manager of the Ely Family Dollar store, revealed on Facebook last week that the facility is scheduled to close by July 13. Depending on how inventory sells, the store may close sooner, he added.

Family Dollar opened in Ely in 2013, building a new 9,000 square foot facility on the 1400 block of Sheridan Street. Another discount retail store, Dollar General, opened in 2014 on the other end of town.

### School bond referendum easily passes in Virginia and E-G

#### by MARCUS WHITE Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL - Voters in Virginia, Eveleth and Gilbert gave their approval to a multi-million dollar collaboration project between school districts in the area Tuesday. The measure will see nearly \$183 million in bonding to build a new combined high school and a new elementary school in Eveleth, off of Highway 169 near Mesabi Range College's Eveleth campus.

Voters in the Virginia district overwhelmingly approved the deal by a two-to-one margin, with 68 percent in favor. The measure also passed easily in Eveleth-Gilbert, but with a narrower margin of 58 percent voting yes.

District taxpayers will only

fund 20 percent of the project, with the IRRRB and the state government each covering 40 percent.

The plan isn't without controversy, however. Last week, the Timberjay published a lengthy article on how marketing campaigns by both districts likely violated established laws in Minnesota that prohibit school districts from spending money on promotional materials on

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chool

Know Best

these matters.

Pollyann Sorcan, one of the school board members who was opposed to the project said the referendum was meant to bring the choice to the people.

"I voted to bring the bonding vote top the people," she told the Timberjay on Wednesday. "Now that that's happened, the boards and communities can move collectively forward."

As of press time, the school

districts still had not published campaign finance reports as required by law.

Additionally, past employees and alumni, along with recent district reports indicated that school buildings in Eveleth were adequate for the project with costs of a renovation being comparable to new buildings.

Construction on new buildings in Eveleth is expected to begin next year.

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### TOWER BINGO Monday, June 3

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

#### Upcoming dates for 2019:

Monday, July 8 (2nd Monday) Monday, August 5

### Ely Area Concert Association getting ready for new season

ELY- The greater community is encouraged to join the Ely Area Concert Association as they kickoff their upcoming season. The association sponsors four concerts a year. A season membership is required to attend any of the concerts. Membership is \$40 for adults, \$10 for students, and \$90 for a family. Membership includes admission to the Ely area concerts as well as 11 other concerts offered in Virginia and Hibbing. Members from the Tower-Soudan-Lake Vermilion area, along with Babbitt-Embarrass are also encouraged to become members.

The Ely Area Concert Association has been active since 1980. The group is entering its 40th year of bringing in an exceptional variety of live music. Each concert is different and the artists are tremendously talented.

To purchase season tickets, call 218-365-4718 or 218-365-5630 or go to elyconcerts.com.

#### 2019/2020 Ely Area Concert Association Season

Take Me Home – The Music of John Denver – Starring Jim Curry – Oct. **21**: The untimely death of John Denver in 1997 was a tragedy. Such a void in the musical landscape left fans demanding his music survive. CBS television responded by producing a made for TV movie "Take Me Home, the John Denver Story" in which Jim Curry landed an off-camera role singing as the voice of John Denver. This experience inspired him to produce full-length John Denver tribute concerts. Now, some 20 years later, Take Me Home - The Music of John Denver – Starring Jim Curry is the most sought after tribute show going. His natural voice, his natural look, and the sound of the band all create a remarkable memory of the original. Rocky Mountain High, Annie's Song, Eagles and Horses, Thank God I'm a Country Boy, Country Roads, Calypso and many other classics are all t,here.

Jason Farnham, Piano – Nov. 22: Take George Winston, Victor Borge, Schroeder from Peanuts, and Beethoven on steroids. Throw in blender, mix well, and serve. An Evening of Piano with Jason Farnham delights audiences around the U.S. again and again. Fans have affectionately dubbed him "Schroeder" from Peanuts because of his toy piano, his witty Victor Borge-style piano comedy antics, and the clever way he interacts with the audience. The variety includes contemporary romantic piano, jazz, bossa nova, blues, stride piano, and classical with a modern twist. Jason is always looking for an interesting spin on the status quo, a way to take a classic and turn it on its ear.

Sultans of String – March 19,2020: 2017 JUNO nominees and SiriusXM winners Sultans of String, thrill their audiences with their genre-hopping passport of Celtic reels, flamenco, Gypsyjazz, Arabic, Cuban, and South Asian rhythms. Sultans of String celebrate musical fusion and human creativity with warmth and virtuosity. Acoustic strings meet with electronic wizardry to create layers and depth of sound, while world rhythms excite audiences to their feet with the irresistible need to dance.

Sundae and Mr. Goessl – May 5, 2020: This husband and wife (guitar/vocal) duo put on a vintage and inspired show that blends blues, swing, country and Latin sounds. Performing hits from the roaring 20s to



Jim Curry kicks off the 2019/20 season with his show featuring the music of John Denver.

modern classics and originals, Sundae and Mr. Goessl utilize technique, technology and unique instrumentation to give this little band it's big sound. Mr. Goessl's mesmerizing finger-style guitar dazzles and inspires while Sundae's sultry vocal interpretations drip with charm and nostalgia. Combined with a quirky and humorous onstage demeanor, Sundae and Mr. Goessl take audiences on a fun and familiar ride through vintage and classic jazz standards.

#### **Obituaries and Death Notices**



#### Gladys I. Winans

Gladys Irene Winans, 81, of Mt. Iron, passed away on Sunday, May 12, 2019, at her residence. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 17 at Messiah Lutheran Church in Mt. Iron with visitation one hour prior. Pastor Ellen Taube will officiate. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia. The family would like to thank Diane Bainter and the

#### nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Archie; and brother, Stanley Maki.



#### Steve J. Stepan

Steve James Stepan, 75, of Ely, died on Friday, April 26, 2019, in Essentia - St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth. Services world as often as he could. Steve was well-read, knew a lot about many subjects, and was always willing to enter into spirited conversations.

Steveis survived by his children, Gwen (Michael) Loyd of Pingree Grove, Ill., and David (Jennifer) Stepan of Sun Prairie, Wis.; grandchildren,Lilly, Corey, Salem and "one on the way"; siblings, Jeanne (Terry) Driscoll and Paul (Robin) Stepan, all of Tower; former spouse, Joan Stepan of Sandwich, Ill.; numerous nieces, nephews and extended family; girlfriend, Victory Jeffers of Chicago; and many friends, including close friend, Flossie Strickland of Ely; and his beloved cat, Callie.

He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, John E. Stepan and Edward J. Stepan; niece and goddaughter, Shannon Driscoll.

#### Shirley L. Martinson

Shirley Lorraine Martinson, 64, of Cook, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her family on Friday, May 10, 2019, after a courageous 22-month battle with brain cancer. A memorial service was held on Thursday, May 16 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook.

#### Bernard J. Pruse Sr.

Bernard John"Bernie" Pruse Sr., 94, of Ely, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family in his White Iron Lake home on the evening of Wednesday, April 30, 2019. A Funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 17 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely with visitation one hour preceding. Private interment will be at a later date.

He is survived by his wife, Josephine; children Mary Jo Hewitt (James) Bernard Jr. (Melody) Kathy Horoshak (Brad) and James (Alana) 10 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews.

Fairview Hospice staff for their loving and compassionate care.

Gladys was born on March 24, 1938, in Pike Township, to Walter and Lahja (Salminen) Maki. She was a graduate of Gilbert High School. On July 20, 1957, she was united in marriage to Archie Winans. Gladys enjoyed watching sports, reading, baking, participating in Bible Study, camping at Pfeiffer Lake, and spending time with family. She was a member of the Messiah Lutheran Church.

She is survived by her children, Scott (Debi) Winans of Embarrass, Ted Winans of Moose Lake, Connie (Kent) Olson of Angora, Kurt Winans of Mt. Iron, Luke (Amy) Winans of Mt. Iron and Angie (Ron) Williams of Virginia; grandchildren, Travis Winans, Todd Winans, SarahCarter, Tyler Carter, Jerry Solveson, Tanya (Rashod) Solveson, Dawn Olson, Deven Winans, Kendra (Dakota) Swanson, Jozey Orcutt, Eddy Orcutt, Dakotah Winans, Mariah Winans, Archie Winans, Kayla Williams, Jada Williams, and Kyle Williams; four great-grandchildren; sister, Fran Wiebke of Apple Valley; brother, Stuart Maki of Embarrass; and numerous nieces and will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 8 in Bauman's Vermilion Funeral Home in Tower. Bill Bauman will officiate. A gathering time for family and friends will begin one hour prior to the service. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

Steve was born on April 5, 1944, in Soudan, the son of John and Marion (Atwood) Stepan. He was a graduate of Tower-Soudan High School and served in the Army National Guard. Steve grew up in Soudan, and lived in Chicago, Bonita Springs, Fla., and Lake Vermilion-Tower prior to moving to Ely. Steve worked as a hunting and fishing guide on Crooked Lake for Billy Zup while in high school, was a co-founder of Chase Associates Engineering firm in Chicago, and owned and operated the Glenmore Resort on Lake Vermilion.

Steve was a published author, writing several books on handguns and the fictional work, "Sundown at Dawn". He was a member of the Lake Vermilion Resort Association, a Texas Hold'em Poker group, and the Tower Liars Club. He was an avid outdoorsman, and loved traveling the

### Start talking.

Mental illness.







Mental illnessesas common as dark brown eyes.

Mental illnessesmore common than lefties.

Mental illnessesas common as silver cars.



This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under the lural Health Network Development Program, grant number D66RH31047. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position opolicy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA. HHS or the U.S. Covernment.

#### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

#### **CITY OF ELY Public Hearing Notice**

The Ely Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at 5:30 pm in the 2nd Floor Council Chambers of City Hall to consider issuance of an Interim Use Permit (IUP) for Jake Forsman Memorial Car Show and Burnout Competition. The event is scheduled for Saturday October 19, 2019 from 8am until 4pm.

The permit request is to close Chapman Street from 2nd Avenue East to 4th Avenue East and to close 2nd Avenue East and 3rd Avenue East from Harvey Street to Sheridan Street. Subject to permit approval these sections of roadway would be closed to vehi-cle traffic. The Ely Public Library parking lot would also be closed to vehicle traffic and utilized by this event on Saturday October 19th, 2019 from 8am until 6 pm.

All interested parties may submit written com-ments to Planning and Zoning Administrator 209 E Chapman St. Ely, MN 55731, or e-mail comments to pzadmin@ely.mn.us, or speak in person at the public hearing. Your name must be included for your comments to be read or presented at the public hearing.

Public hearing details are as follows: Meeting Date: Wednesday June 5, 2019 Meeting Time: 5:30 PM Location: City Hall, 209 E Chapman St, Council Chambers

Tim Riley, Planning and Zoning Administrator City of Ely

Published in the Timberjay, May 17 & 31, 2019

#### **EMPLOYMENT**

#### Lake Vermilion Cabin **Cleaner Needed!**

Need a team of 2 on Saturdays from 10-3 to clean 4BR, 2BA house & occasional cottage with 1BR. Previous cleaning experience desired. Rentals are from early June through August. All cleaning supplies furnished. Call Sue at 651-270-4679 or Dwight at 651-261-4032 for details. 5/24

Experienced AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN Full-time, M-F, benefits. Contact Lee Phillips. Waschke Family Chevrolet in Cook, 126 N Hwy 53, PO Box 549, Cook, MN 55723; 218-666-5901 or 800-238-4545. tfn

> **Full-Time Reporter**/ Editor

If you'd like to live and play in Minnesota's beau-tiful North Country while working at one of the state's most highly-re-

garded newspapers, this is your opportunity. The Timberjay Newspapers will soon have an opening for a full-time reporter/editor to work from our main office in the historic mining town of Tower.

We're looking for a creative and entrepreneurial journalist to join our small but talented staff of four full-time editor/reporters. The ideal candidate is a motivated, self-starting reporter/editor who understands how to cul tivate sources and work a beat. They should also have both layout (InDesign) and photographic experience, and the ability to assist in maintaining our website and social media presence. The right candidate, if interested, would have opportunities for advancement in the organization.

#### **CITY OF ELY** Advertisement

for Bids The City of Ely is accepting sealed bids at Ely City Hall, 209 East Chapman Street until 2 pm Tuesday May 21, 2019 for rehabilitation of the existing aviation fueling system to include tank sandblasting and painting and pipe and fuel cabinet rehabilitation at the Ely Airport. The project is being partially funded from a MNDOT Aviation grant. For additional information concerning this project contact Harold R. Langowski at 218-235-3083 or elyod@ely.mn.us The successful bidder will be required to be licensed, bonded and insured in the state of Minnesota and follow all PEI and FAA requirements. The City of Ely reserves the right to reject any and all bids and award the project in the best interest of the City of Ely.

Published in the Timberjay, Mav 10 & 17, 2019

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#### Legal Notice In The **Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians Tribal Court Civil Division** Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

In the matter of Harvey and Rachell Thompson obo A.T. and D.G., petitioners vs Nicholas Strong, respondent.

The above named respondent, Nicholas Strong.

You are hereby notified and notice is hereby given a hearing will be held on the 22nd day of May 2019, at 1:00 p.m. CST, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, at the Bois Forte Tribal Court, Bois Forte Indian Reservation, 12907 Palmouist Road, Nett Lake MN 55772, on the Order for Protection Petition filed

in this court on February 27, 2019. This hearing is to determine if the order for protection should be granted or denied.

You have a right to attend this hearing to either agree or disagree, failure to appear will result in a default against you and the order for protection being granted.

By The Court Megan Treuer, Chief Judge Tracey Howg, Clerk of Court Attorney for Petitioner, Benjamin Pachito 12907 Palmquist Road P.O. Box 25 Nett Lake MN 55772 Tel: 218-757-3462

Published in the Timberjay, May 3, 10 & 17, 2019

**CITY OF ELY** 

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The City of Ely is calling for interested appli-cants to fill the following vacancies on the

Please remit a letter of interest and gualifications by 4:30 p.m. on May 20, 2019 to the Ely City Clerk's Office, 209 E. Chapman Street,

Ely, MN 55731 or email casey.velcheff@ely. mn.us. Questions, please contact the Clerk-

Airport Commission - 1 Mid term

Cemetery Committee - 1 Mid Term

Treasurer's Office 218-226-5449.

Casey Velcheff, Deputy Clerk

#### Notice to the Electors of **Bearville Township Special Town Meeting Notice**

Bearville Township will hold a Special Town Meeting on June 12, 2019 at 6:15 p.m. at the Bearville Town Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to request electors' authorization to the Bearville Town Board of Supervisors to meter Town Board of Supervisors to make a grant to a medical services agency. No other township business may be discussed or decided at this meeting.

Kathy Cressy, Bearville Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, May 17, 2019

#### LEIDING TOWN BOARD ANNUAL ROAD INSPECTION

The Leiding Town Board will hold the annual Road Inspection on Friday, May 17 at 1 p.m.

Marie Milan, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, May 17, 2019

#### **Kugler Township Regular Meeting Notice**

The Kugler Town Board will hold their reg-ular monthly meeting on Thursday, May 23, 2019, at 6 p.m. at the town hall.

Julie Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, May 17, 2019

#### **EMPLOYMENT**



The North American Bear Center has a

great opportunity for an individual looking to work 20 to 30 hours per week in an exciting environment, hours include weekends and weekdays. This position requires good people skills.

Please contact the North American Bear Center for more details, 218-365-7879 ask for Heidi or Scott. 5/17





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Please send resumé, cover letter describing your interest, and links to clips to marshall@ timberjay.com, or call 218-753-2950 and ask for Marshall or Jodi. Position opens early-July 2019.

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#### **Ely Community Health Center Position Opening**

The Ely Community Health Center is a non-profit free health clinic serving Ely and the surrounding communities. The Center provides basic health care at no cost to those who are uninsured or underinsured. The clinic is located at 111 South 4th Avenue East in Ely and is open every Monday evening from 5:30-7:00.

#### **Executive Director**

This part time position (15-20 hours/week) position is responsible for the operations, staffing, and administration of the Ely Community Health Center. The Executive Director works closely with the clinic Medical Directors. Responsibilities include:

- Supervise volunteer staff
- Create and maintain data and reporting systems, including budget and grants
- Maintain relationships with other service providers, donors, and funding resources
- Oversee all operations and functions of the center

Note: There is the potential for additional hours to include Insurance Navigation.

We are seeking an individual with the following qualifications:

- Administrative, managerial and organizational skills
- Communication skills (both written and verbal)
- Computer skills
- Ability to be self-directed and demonstrate sound leadership and judgment
- Grant writing experience desired
- Background in healthcare is not necessary

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume to Dr. Mary Bianco at mcbianco520@gmail.com. Please also contact Dr. Bianco for a full position description. Applications review will begin immediately until the position is filled.

5/17 For more information about ECHC, visit our website at http://www.elycommunityhealth.org.

### Weekly SUDOKU

#### by Linda Thistle



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: ♦

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#### RUMMAGE SALES

Ely City Wide Rummage & Crazy Day Saturday, May 18, 8am-4pm. Many Rummage Sales around Ely & Businesses will offer specials. New this year used gear & watercraft sale. Maps available at the Ely Chamber of Commerce, 1600 E Sheridan St & online starting May 13, 2019 at www.ely.org/ events/city wide. 5/17

HUGE GARAGE SALE- Sat, May 18 8 AM - gone. 144 E White St. Elv. Furniture, household and home decor. linens jewelry, art, tools, sporting and camping goods, more. NO camping goods, more. NO JUNK! EMPOWER fundraiser for Ely HS girls scholarships. Congrats to 2018 winners Lucy Stouffer (4 yrs \$1000) and Mackenzie Peterson (2 yrs \$500). Bake sale table and FREE hot coffee. Don't miss this one!

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#### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

#### ORR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING April 8, 2019

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Orr City Council was held Monday, April 8, 2019, at the Orr City Hall.

Mayor Joel Astleford called the Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call was taken and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Present: Mayor Joel Astleford Councilor Lloyd Scott Councilor Tom Kennebeck Councilor Bruce Black Councilor Ericka Cote

Also present: Clerk/ Treasurer Cheri Carter; Deputy Clerk, Laura Manai; Maintenance Supervisor Paul Koch; Assistant Maintenance Rocky Hoffman; and Marcus White, Timberjay.

Motion by Ericka Cote, second by Bruce Black, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of Minutes of Public Hearing of March 11, 2019; Minutes of Regular Council Meeting of March 11, 2019; and expenditures in the amount of \$360,738.89. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Tom Kennebeck, second by Lloyd Scott, to approve city personnel attend 2019 OSHA Safety and Health training with Advanced Minnesota on April 23rd in Orr. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Lloyd Scott, second by Tom Kennebeck, to approve donation from Town of Willow Valley to the Orr Volunteer Ambulance. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Bruce Black, second by Ericka Cote, to approve the Orr Chamber of Commerce's request to use the hockey shack and tennis court area for the 5K Run during the July 3rd celebration. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Bruce Black, second by Tom Kennebeck, to approve Application for Exempt Gambling Permit for the Orr Lion's Club. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Motion by Lloyd Scott, second by Tom Kennebeck, to approve travel and training

Motion by Lloyd Scott, second by Tom Kennebeck, to approve travel and training request for Deputy Clerk Laura Manai to attend the League of Minnesota Cities' 2019 Clerks' Orientation Conference in Duluth. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

#### REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Liquor Store: Liquor Store Manager Chet Nieman reported sales were down for March. The Community Center hosted a large event on April 6th which required extra bartenders and other set up duties. Mayor Astleford commended City Maintenance and the Liquor Store employees for doing a good job. There were no complaints. The heat went out in the liquor store. Either the propane line froze or it is kinked under the street. Rainy Lake Oil has set up temporary tanks by the building until the frost goes out of the ground.

Water and Sewer:

Maintenance Supervisor Paul Koch reported all is going well. Paul received a Certificate of Commendation from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for exceptional compliance with MPCA Agency NPDES/SDS wastewater permits during 2018. A pump from the DNR lift station needed to be sent in for repair. He is still waiting for an estimate on cost to repair.

Airport: Airport Manager Rocky Hoffman reported an inventory of 1,049 gallons of Jet A, and 917 gallons of 100LL. The Jet A fuel pump is working again. The sanitary report from the Minnesota Department of Health indicated no deficiencies in the airport's water source, facilities, operation and system maintenance. Hangar 6 is still in need of repair. Rocky will be taking a week's vacation in May.

Ambulance: Ambulance Director Donna Hoffer was unable to be present but submitted a written report which

was read and placed on file. Community Center: Mayor Astleford reported the first weekend in April was busy with three events. The council gave Chet permission to look into what it would take to put in a juke box. The floor

Fire Department: No report.

should be buffed again.

Tourist Information Center: Clerk Cheri Carter reported tourist traffic has been slow.

Comments from Council/ Visitors:

The 2019 Local Board of Appeal and Equalization for Orr is scheduled for April 17th from 1:00-2:00 pm a the Old City Hall.

Paul Koch told the council he will be doing T-Ball starting in May.

Motion by Tom Kennebeck second by Bruce Black to adjourn. All in favor MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Joel R. Astleford, Mayor Cheri Carter, Clerk/Treasurer

Published in the Timberjay, May 17, 2019 Spri

### What's your carbon footprint? Ely homebuilder aims for ultra-high efficiency

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

LY—With the growing concern over climate change, many North Country residents are eager to do what they can to limit their impact on the environment by reducing their contribution to the carbon emissions that are the primary cause of global warming.

When we calculate our "carbon footprint," the home in which we live is a major factor in determining how much we are contributing to the destabilization of the planet's weather and climate.

The typical American single-family home is an energy hog, and we have plenty of them here in the North Country. But are there ways to turn that hog into a piglet or, better yet, to reach the ultimate goal of a net-zero home?

That's what Andy and Paula Hill hope to demonstrate with an ambitious project to

See ENERGY....pg. 2C



Above:

Andy Hill, with that characteristic twinkle in his eye, points to the foundation work now underway on the new ultra-efficient home he's building in Ely.

#### Left:

Making a statement. Andy Hill and his work crew, including (from left) Wes Patterson, Daniel DeVoss, Andy Hill, and Jacob Olson.

photos by K. Vandervort









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design and build a new home in Ely that reduces the roughly 40 tons of carbon emitted from the typical Minnesota household, just for heating and electric use, to one that produces all its own electricity renewably and uses less than 100 gallons of propane per year for heating, cooking, and domestic hot water.

"The driving force behind it is that I'm a firm believer that we need to live sustainable lifestyles," said Andy Hill. "Housing represents at least half of the resources most of us use. Our houses need to represent that," he said. "I casually tell people I'm doing this because I love your grandchildren."

Hill also recognizes that one ultra-efficient home can't make a difference on its own, which is why the project is equal parts homebuilding, educational opportunity, and experimentation - three objectives that mesh well with Hill's personality and passions. An inveterate tinkerer, with a strong interest in renewable forms of energy and a background in construction, it's just one more challenge for his creative imagination. Yet it's more than a thought experiment. The Hills recently sold their rural, off-grid homestead near Bear Island Lake, so Andy and Paula are building their dream home, located near the east end of Miner's Lake, in hopes of showcasing what's possible in terms of efficiency, even in an exceptionally cold climate.

They'll be working in conjunction with the Ely Folk School to highlight some of the construction methods and materials selections that will contribute to the goal of minimizing the home's energy use. And as the construction gets underway this spring, we'll be following its progress through a series of stories in upcoming editions of the Timberjay that will highlight the varied considerations and decisions that go into the new home's creation.

#### **Decisions, decisions**

Among the issues and considerations that Andy has had to delve into in depth are:

➤ Site location — Does it have the proper exposure to facilitate the use of the sun for electricity, daytime lighting, and passive heating? In Hill's case, the southerly exposure is open and the home will be located at the northern end of the property so he can ensure that his exposure isn't impeded in the future.

➤ Affordability — Is it a home concept that most people could afford to build themselves? "It's important to show you can do this without breaking the bank and without giving up creature comforts," said Hill.

➤ Repurposing of materials— By reusing or repurposing building materials and fixtures, can you not only reduce construction costs but further reduce your carbon footprint?

➤ Choices of building materials — You probably can't use all repurposed materials. So which materials have the least impact in terms of the energy use that goes into their production?

➤ Design for maximum benefit from the sun, with a passive solar design and the use of photovoltaic panels for electricity and solar heating panels for hot water.

➤ High efficiency throughout—That includes the most efficient types of appliances and LED lighting where artificial light is required.

► Heating options— This is a big one when it tion in a North Country home. According to Hill, the carbon footprint of heating an average Minnesota home can range from zero for a home heated totally by sustainably-grown and harvested wood, to 32.2 tons annually for a home heated with utility-produced electricity. While a ground-source heat pump is sometimes seen as a "greener" option for heating, Hill's own calculations show that it's actually second only to electric heating in terms of carbon footprint, in part because such systems require a lot of electricity. Even fuel oil is slightly better than a heat pump, while high-efficiency natural gas and propane are the better options if you aren't willing to burn wood.

In Hill's case, the biggest source of heat will be from the sun, through a passive solar design that will maximize the heat gained from sunshine. They'll mostly use wood for heating when the sun isn't shining.

➤ The financial tradeoffs — While the initial outlay for an ultra-efficient house will almost certainly be greater than a home built by traditional standards, the covings in the operational

expenses of the home can typically make up for the higher initial cost many times over. If you can trim your heating and electrical costs by just \$200 a month, that allows you to service a significantly larger mortgage for the same net cost per month. For example, a \$200,000 home mortgage, at 3.92 percent interest over 30 years, would cost \$946 per month. A \$240,000 mortgage under the same terms would cost \$1,135 per month, but if that additional upfront expense allowed you to invest in alternative energy production, more insulation, triple pane windows, and high-efficiency heating and lighting options, your monthly net housing cost would actually be about \$10 less. And your home is almost sure to generate a higher resale value.

➤ Hooking to the grid, or going solo — This was more of a financial decision for the Hills, as they recognized that hooking to the grid would represent an ongoing expense and would make it too easy to use more power during November and December, months where solar electricity production tends to be at a minimum in northern Minnesota. "Tying to big bowl of potato chips sitting on the table in front of you," said Hill."You're going to stick your hand in it and you won't be able to eat just one."

Going off-grid will also save the \$40 basic service charge that applies to a typical electric customer. Combined, that decision likely will save the Hills \$800-\$1,000 per year. At the same time, however, it makes the ultimate goal of achieving a "net-zero" home almost impossible to achieve since it will prevent the Hills from feeding the energy grid during the 6-8 months of the year when the house is likely to generate significantly more electricity that they use. Those inputs to the grid system count against other ways the house might use energy, helping to make a house a net-zero contributor to carbon emissions.

#### **Document everything**

Hill recognizes that hopes and expectations don't always mesh with reality, of course, which is why he will be conducting his own five-year study to closely track and document the effectiveness of various technologies from the heat generated from the passive solar design to the power gen-

comes to energy consump-

savings in the operational the grid is like having a



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erated from the planned three-kilowatt solar array.

"If the front-loading washing machine says it uses two-and-a-half gallons per load, we'll be checking to make sure that it does," Hill said.

He'll also be drafting what's known as an "as-built" set of blueprints so his final creation could be reproduced by others, or improved upon, depending on the results of his fiveyear study.

Watch for updates on Hill's project in upcoming issues of the *Timberjay*.





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### Carpet tiles a good option for sprucing up a basement

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA Timberjay staff writer

n October my husband and I bought our first house. When we toured it for the first time we immediately fell in love. It looked like it hadn't changed since the height of the 70s with harvest gold carpet and avocado, rust, and burnt orange accents. The attic has two connected bedrooms – all real wood. The only problem is that the house was built in 1937 and came with lead paint. Lead paint is a health hazard for anyone, but especially a concern for small children, who like to eat anything they can find. Mack and I have a oneyear-old son, Ed, and knew we had to address the issue sooner rather than later.

Most of the paint was in fine condition and was nothing to worry about, it may not have even been lead, but we painted all the walls on the main floor to be safe. The real monster lived in the basement. The previous owner had painted the concrete basement floor with a lead-based paint and it was chipping everywhere. We put down a lot of rugs, banned Ed from the basement, and got

to researching the best way to deal with this dangerous mess.

Options are to either remove or cover. Removal can be more dangerous, creating lead dust, or could be very expensive if we hired a certified contractor experienced in lead removal. We instead chose to cover. But what would safely do the job?

The paint was decidedly too deteriorated to paint over. That left wood, vinyl, laminate, or my personal favorite, carpet. But it's a basement. It's only our first year here so we don't know if our basement floods. The previous owners told us it didn't have a history of flooding, but anything could happen. The pipes running overhead could leak, the water heater could flood, the sewer could back up!

Carpeting a basement is risky business. Besides, we had already put a lot of stuff down there, a lot of heavy stuff. And there was a furnace and wood stove too that would make carpet a fire hazard and would be difficult to carpet around.

While shopping at a local home center, near the register right where they put the

See CARPET...next page





THRIFTY SOLUTIONS

Above: Carpet tiles are simply laid down onto the existing concrete basement floor. The tiles make it easy to work around areas that need to stay bare, and make it easier to deal with basement water leaks.

Below: The condition of the basement floor when the home was purchased last fall.





# Make the best use of limited storage space

Think vertical to take advantage of small spaces with these simple strategies

REGIONAL—Who hasn't, at one point in their lives, lamented a lack of space and organization at home? A lifetime's worth of items have to be kept somewhere, and without the right organizational strategy, clutter can quickly take over.

Especially here in the North Country, where many older homes are relatively small, storage space can be at a premium. In most homes, however, a significant amount of vertical wall space goes unused— and that provides opportunity for creative homeowners. Often, tapping vertical walls is the fastest way to maximize your storage capacity. Hooks, rods, shelving, built-ins ... the sky is the limit when it comes to finding additional storage and adding a bit of personality to tight quarters. Even homes that may have adequate space can benefit from vertical solutions.

Here are some ideas to put vertical and other less-utilized areas to work for you.

1. If you're a DIYer, consider some tall, built-in cabinetry along little-used walls. You'll lose very little square footage in the room while gaining a potentially significant amount of storage. Build-in a Murphy bed at the same time and you'll have a place for guests to sleep as well.

2. Choose furniture that is tall rather than wide. This can mean swapping out a dresser in a bedroom for an armoire or vertical chest of drawers.

3. Stack all the stuff you can, including washers and dryers, beds (with storage drawers underneath) and even stacking nesting tables.

4. Save on counter or cabinet space with hanging spice racks. These can be hung directly on walls or on the inside of cabinet doors.

5. Canvas bags hung on a towel bar on a wall can keep dirty clothes wrangled until it's time to wash them. This also eliminates clothes hampers on the floor.

6. Add a second rod or shelving to the inside of closets to create more space for clothing and other items.

7. Take kitchen cabinets all the way to the ceiling. Store



lesser used items on the uppermost shelves and the items you use each on the most accessible shelves.

8. Install a shelf over the entryway to a room to utilize this seldom-used space. Shelves also can be custom cut and placed in oddly shaped areas, such as in attic rooms under the eaves or on slanted walls.

9. Dowels or curtain rods

and some fabric can be used to fabricate slings to hold books or magazines.

10. Invest in some magnetic boards that can hold keys or notes by the front door or store knives on a kitchen wall.

11. Install two towel bars parallel to one another on the wall of a bathroom. These can hold extra toilet tissue or rolled hand towels.

Look at vertical, multifunction cabinetry in otherwise unused spaces of your house to greatly expand your storage space. Shelving can make productive use of vertical wall space and keep your items corraled.

12. Use rope plant hangers to store potatoes or onions near prep areas. The same plant hangers can wrangle stuffed animals and small toys in kids' rooms.

Utilizing vertical areas in a home is a great way to increase storage capacity and keep rooms more organized.

#### **CARPET**...Continued from page 4C

impulse buys, there was a stack of carpet tiles. I had never heard of such a thing! Of course I would have stacked them on the checkout counters right there, but Mack held me back and said it wouldn't work.

I didn't believe him. For me, this was the perfect solution. I did my research and eventually convinced him. We found a good deal on mismatched carpet tile and were ready to go.

The tiles were mismatched but I was willing to take the risk. The carpet tiles were described as "heavy duty, commer-



cial grade, long-lasting, and easy to pull up and replace." Perfect!

We ordered the first box of 50 tiles. I put them down myself. It was so easy and satisfying. I just had to vacuum the debris (with our HEPA filter vacuum) and put the tile down. It was that easy! It didn't even need to be glued down. The tiles have a rubber bottom and for the most part, just stay put. We subsequently ordered two more boxes and will need yet another.

We haven't finished carpeting the entire basement, it's a work in prog-

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ress, but walkways and main living areas have been covered and my mind is at ease. I no longer have to worry about tracking up lead dust with me, though Ed still won't be allowed in the basement anytime soon. Some yetto-be carpeted places are where the tiles wouldn't fit, like support poles and the staircase. The tiles are cutable,butI'll need to find a better tool than the box cutter I was using.

And bonus! When I was messing around with

the pipes and spilled a gallon or two of water on the floor, I was able to simply lift up the five affected tiles and set them up to dry. Wa-lah! For the summer, I placed carpet tiles near the wood stove and when the heating

season comes around again I can simply pick up the near-by tiles and get burning. And in case you were wondering, Ed's lead levels were checked recently and are in the safe range.





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### In old home restorations, don't forget wiring The electrical needs of modern homes are far greater than even 40 or 50 years ago

REGIONAL—Old homes can be charming and contain architectural elements not often seen in many modern housing developments. But what older homes may have in design appeal, they may lack in updated features.

While cosmetic changes are not necessarily difficult, one area of concern in historic homes - and sometimes even in houses built 40 or 50 years ago — is archaic wiring. Wiring provides power to every room of the home. In today's electronics-driven society, electricity that works is an essential component of daily life. Over time, wiring can be compromised through simple aging, pest infiltration, weather, or other conditions. Deteriorated wiring can present a shock hazard and also a serious fire hazard. Furthermore, the home improvement site This Old House advises that the amperage of old wiring may not be able to meet the needs of the devices used in homes today — overpowering the circuits. This can cause breaker blowouts and other problems, such as overheated wires that may spark and cause fires from within the wall.

Wiring often falls into the "out of sight, out of mind" category. Homeowners may make allowances for inadequate electrical systems, such as running extension cords or using multi-plug connectors to increase their wiring capacity. However, they may not be diligently keeping on top of upgrades needed to stay safe. Confirming that a home's electrical system is safe is a necessary part of home maintenance.

For those who haven't already done so, schedule an inspection with a licensed electrician to go over the home's wiring. He or she can determine if any areas pose a safety risk and/or do not conform to local code requirements and the National Electrical Code. Failure to meet code can lead to difficulty obtaining permits to make other home renovations, or difficulty selling a home later on.

The electrician can also go over improvements that can help maximize safety and function. Additional outlets, including GFCI outlets in kitchens and bathrooms, may be part of the plan, as well as rewiring a fuse box or circuit panel to allow for better flow of power around the house. Frayed wiring or underinsulated wiring also may need to be replaced.

Owners of old homes should recognize possible electrical system dangers that require attention. Plus, considering electrical codes change quite frequently, it is always in a homeowner's best interest to work with a qualified electrician to keep wiring inspected and up to date.

#### Right:

Rewiring an old house can be a major undertaking but is often a necessity depending on your family's needs.



#### MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR HOME

### More Americans are choosing to stay and renovate than to move

REGIONAL — Many home improvement television series showcase people deciding whether to improve upon their current homes to make them into the houses of their dreams or to put "for sale" signs in their lawns and move on to something new.

The question of whether to move or stay put depends on various factors. Such factors may include emotional attachment to a home, the current economic climate and the cost of real estate. Current data point to a greater propensity for people to invest and improve upon their current properties rather than trading up for something new.

Indeed, some studies indicate that the percentage of homeowners moving up to their next home is the lowest in 25 years. Many are opting to make starter homes permanent by expanding them and repairing homes for the long haul.

The National Association of Realtors said that, between 1987 and 2008, home buyers stayed in their homes an average of six years before selling. Since 2010, however, NAR says the

average expected length of time people will stay in their homes before selling is now 15 years.

Part of what's fueling this permanency is that many home buyers were able to acquire rock-bottom mortgage interest rates shortly after the 2008 recession. As a result, they're not inclined to walk away from those rates, even if doing so means getting more house. Also, a low inventory of available houses has stymied repeat buying for many people.

Those factors and others have led many

homeowners to invest in renovations instead. Realistic budgeting and comparing renovation project costs against mortgages and interest rates can further help individuals decide whether to remain in their current homes or move out. Very

often a smarter layout and more efficient floor plan can make meaningful differences in spaces. Renovations and redesigns can make sense and often are less expensive and disruptive than moving.







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#### NEIGHBORLY ADVICE

### In this deck project, too many cooks spoil the broth

pringtime brings about the desire to be outside enjoying nature, sitting underneath the blue skies, feeling the warmth of the sun on our faces, especially after such a stubborn winter. This past April, my husband Bill and I decided we would go ahead with plans to build a deck on the east side of our house, where we have the nice view of our second lot with its three big, beautiful birch trees. Decks are great spaces that add so much to any lifestyle. We envisioned mornings on our deck enjoying a cup of coffee and chattering together as a perfect start to our day. We didn't know that getting to that point would prove to be more of a challenge than anticipated.

Before I met Bill he had worked in the construction trade and had the experience of building many decks and houses. I have been around carpentry, designing and building structures such as our family cabin and previous decks, so I have some experience too, I really enjoy it! In fact, its a long-standing truth that my favorite date destinations are hardware stores and the dump! With this project I've gotten to do both. We had to get building materials and then rip out an old set of porch stairs to haul away to the dump. Purge the old and build the new!

Last fall, before the snowflakes flew, we had taken measurements and pretty much knew the plan for our deck. We bought the treated lumber in mid-April but with such a late spring kept it tucked away under tarps until the ground thawed enough to let Bill dig footing holes for the foundation. Ah, what excitement to finally be involved in this new project!

Bill originally seemed to prefer building a rectangular deck because it would be easy. This idea didn't rest well with my "design eye". I've long



ditional designs, preferring angled corners and stairs in contrast to the same plain old square designs that everyone seems to have on their decks. They just are not as interesting. Plain and simple is a good design for a Band-Aid but not a deck....in my opinion.

One side of the deck is attached to the house and the other follows the edge of the driveway, which is at an angle from the street to the garage. I told Bill it would absolutely drive me insane to not have the deck parallel with the edge of the driveway. Well we can't have insanity, not over a deck edge. This meant the front would be about 11 feet from the house and toward the back it would taper to five feet where there is a door going inside to my office. At some point in the future we plan to add a door on the other end of the deck which will access the kitchen.

Bill did a bit of head-scratching in order to get the deck framed and supported and it involved angle cuts, of course, and more bracing. I decided the best way to avoid traffic coming onto the deck from too many entrances was to have one staircase on the driveway side. Fine, good, it's all-a-go, our ducks were in a row and our plan clear within OUR minds, but our minds soon involved more than just us two

Our house in Soudan is on a street that gets quite a bit of traffic so it did not take long for folks to see that we had a project happening. Many offered their help to Bill if he needed it but it was slated



Bill Stone takes a break from the deck project at his house in Soudan.
s photo by S Stone

photo by S. Stone to be a project for US to

do together. Todate,Ihave worked

with him one day. There are some retired guys living nearby who like to come over and visit with Bill here and there. Well, since the start of the deck it's been MOSTLY HERE and less there. He certainly has appreciated their assistance with lifting the long 2x8 ledger boards and at various other times with a pleasant offer of an idea. It has now become my belief that men who live in small apartments and cannot have tools and "man caves" will gravitate towards these things in a heartbeat if opportunity arrises.

It soon became apparent to me, before the posts were even in the ground, that the deck I had planned to build with Bill was going to involve other characters with me being tossed aside like a deformed deck screw.

While we both enjoy having friends we didn't realize involvement in our project was adding so much meaning to their lives....it has become a balancing act at times. There is a fine line between helper and "sidewalk supervisor" and crossing the line has raised our hackles at times! I have heard lots of questioning about how and why we were doing things a certain way. One day we were standing outside and one of the sidewalk supervisors of a female persuasion suggested we just "saw off" the old steps from the back porch and "stick" them on the front of the deck. I exclaimed, waving my arms like an umpire calling someone safe, "There will be nothing sawed off or stuck on to the front of my deck where it doesn't belong and I know exactly what we want here!" Other times during this process

we've heard, "That looks crooked" and "you should do it this way." Bill is a kind southern soul and did not anticipate taking on the role of Dr. Phil in his deck building process! He has found it frustrating because he wants to give the guys that productive experience they crave and fears that putting his foot down may send one of them into a depression or something.

One day I was in the kitchen and Bill came flying into the house. dropping his tool belt on the floor, exclaiming that he was really annoyed with the constant questioning and negative comments that he was getting barraged with. I was cooking something but told him it was about time that I took a break and got some fresh air, so I said I would come out and visit. I provided a distraction so he could concentrate.

One of the guys and I attended the same high school so we find that exchange interesting. The distraction works, but why do we have to put up with it? There are many who would say, "Hey, we paid for the damn deck so let us do it our way, after all we aren't bumbling idiots!" I think, "Go home"

See **DECK**...*page* 9C



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#### KITCHEN STORAGE

### **Cabinet options virtually limitless in remodeling project**

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL-If a kitchen remodel is in your future, cabinets are almost certain to be one of the most important choices you'll make.

In terms of the overall look, cabinets are typically the dominant feature in a kitchen and they'll likely consume the lion's share of your remodeling budget as well.

That means it's important to make a decision that's right for you. But making the right decision isn't always easy, particularly these days when it seems the options are virtually limitless.

One sound recommendation to help you get started is to make a list of the things about your current kitchen that you'd like to change. Are your existing cabinets too small, in the wrong place, or are they simply falling apart? Do you want some of the newer convenience options, like slide out cabinet shelves, or do you want the feel of soft-close drawers?

Another initial decision you'll want to make is whether this is a DIY project or whether you're going to work with a designer at one of our area home centers. While many North Country residents are handy DIYers, if you're looking for a substantial redesign it helps to have some experience in your corner.

"The first thing that people really should do, is



to work with a designer," said Laura Montgomery at Anderson Furniture and Kitchens in Virginia. "There are so many scenarios involved. You have to think about budget, your flooring, and whether your remodel will include appliances."

A designer will help you understand the many options, considerations, and help walk you through the process of creating a kitchen that will work for you. They'll also come to your home and take measurements to ensure that everything fits where it's supposed to.

A designer is also likely to ask a lot of questions. "I ask all kinds of personal questions," said Greg Burckhardt, with Cook Building Center. "Do they cook a lot? Are they left-handed or right-handed? Do they entertain a lot, or just feed the family?" Burckhardt also asks about their pots and pans, whether they need a pantry and space to store small appliances. "We try to understand their lifestyle," he said. "Then we can design. We want them, when it's all done, to say, 'wow, this is nice.' That's the goal."

For the DIYer, it's just as important to ask yourself these questions, because you'll be the only one to blame if you end up with an end result that's unsatisfactory. Make sure you have enough cabinet space for your needs, while recognizing that too much cabinet space isn't money well spent. Having your pots and pans tucked away across the kitchen from the stove is inefficient.

#### Other considerations

Joe Alline, at The Floor to Ceiling Store, in Virginia, notes that with the average cost of a kitchen remodel running \$10,000 and up, it's a long-term investment. And given that most families spend a large portion of their time at home in their kitchen, "make sure you get what you want," he added.

Burckhardt agrees. "I tell them to pick out everything you want, exactly the way you want it. Then, if it's over their budget, we can adjust."

You'll also want to think about some of the other options available these days, like specialty drawers. "A popular one is the fold-in mix-master drawer," said Brandon Seppala at Pohaki Lumber in Virginia. Such specialty storage systems offer a great way to easily deploy heavier small appliances that can otherwise involve bending and lifting bulky mixers, food processers, and the like.

Pull-out shelves are another increasingly popular item that Seppala

said he encourages customers to consider, particularly for undercounter cabinets. Rather than having to bend down and reach in to get at items at the back of a floor-level cabinet, a simple slide allows you to pull the entire shelf out for easy access. "That's a popular one because most people hate having to get down on the floor," said Seppala.

Hardware is another major factor. Soft-close drawers and doors are popular, so much so that they've become a standard part of many types of cabinets these days.

Most kitchen design shops offer a range of products, from less expensive choices to the top-ofthe-line, which can make a big difference in the total cost. It helps to have some familiarity with the terminology you might run into once you start talking to suppliers or designers. "Stock" cabinets are the least expensive option but come in a relatively limited range of pre-manufactured sizes, typically in three-inch increments. You'll have few options for customization, which means it's more or less take-it-or-leave-it. The one advantage of stock cabinets is the price. You'll find, however, that most full-service home centers in our area don't generally carry stock cabinets, which are usually only carried by the limited-service "big box" stores.

'Semi-custom" cabinets are similar to stock in that they are pre-manufactured, but they come with a much wider array of choices and sizes than stock cabinets. You'll be able to choose from a number of different details to tailor these cabinets to your needs. Not surprisingly, they're more expensive than stock cabinets, but will generally still fit most budgets.

"Custom" cabinets are built to your exact specifications, and can be done in almost any size, material, shape, or color, but are generally the most expensive.

One way to save money on your project is to consider a face-lift for your cabinets, rather than replacement. If your current cabinets are the right size and are in generally good condition, perhaps you simply need new cabinet doors. You can order replacement doors for almost any size cabinet.Orstrip your existing cabinet doors, sand and re-stain and varnish for a fresh look. On a recent kitchen touch-up project at our own home, my wife Jodi and I decided we had too much natural wood in our log home and opted to paint our existing natural wood cabinet fronts in a two-tone color scheme.

Change the color or style of your cabinet doors, then add some new door knobs and drawer pulls, and you can make a significant change in the look and feel of your kitchen cabinets for a lot less than a full remodel.

### Design a more functional kitchen pantry

**REGIONAL-** Many homeowners wish they had more storage space, and kitchens are one area where people seemingly can always use more storage.

Despite a desire for more kitchen space, until recently, kitchen pantries fell out of favor. Builders and architects may have say cooking at home is their preferred way to prepare a meal.

And despite the wide array of restaurants, prepared meals and fast food options nearby, more than one-third of people cook at home daily, with nearly 50 percent cooking between three and six days a week.

In order to accommo-

home layout allows for this setup. Some homeowners need to move storage pantries into the garage, the basement or a mud/ laundry room.

Various factors should be considered before placing a pantry outside a kitchen. What is the climate? Will food spoil? Is there a possibility that vermin or insects can infiltrate the room and access food? These factors will dictate whether to have closed cabinets, air-tight bins or open shelves or if other modifications must be made to the room prior to building.

should be easily reached and grabbed as needed without having to move too many things.

Ideally, foods should be arranged in a single layer so that all items can be viewed at a glance. Shelves of various depths and heights can accommodate items of different sizes. Adjustable shelves are ideal because they can be modified as foods change. Sliding drawers can improve reach in cabinets. In smaller spaces, French door-style reach-in cabinets are convenient and flexible. In complete kitchen remodels or new constructions, walk-in pantries offer the most space and flexibility.



**Must-have** 

space in the pantry enables

thought that close proximity to supermarkets as well as multi-use cabinets in kitchens would offset the need for pantries.

But according to a recent survey from the National Association of Home Builders, a kitchen pantry is the most desirable kitchen feature for buyers in the market for a new home.

According to a 2016 survey from ReportLinker, 98 percent of Americans

date for spending more time in the kitchen, homeowners are directing additional attention to kitchen preparation and storage features. One recent trend in kitchen renovations is creating custom-designed pantries.

#### Locate the appropriate space

Ideally, pantries should be in or adjacent to the kitchen. But not every

#### Choose the type of pantry

Accessibility is essential in a pantry. Everything

#### features

Pantries serve different functions in different homes. For the bulk shopper, a pantry with plenty of room for large items will be needed.

Lighting can be beneficial in all pantries. Lights can improve visibility when trying to locate items. Others prefer an outlet for charging handheld vacuums or other small appliances. Counter

homeowners to unload groceries directly onto pantry shelves.

For pantries located outside of the kitchen, built-in freezers can maximize storage possibilities, especially for those who freeze-and-eat after bulk shopping ventures.

Pantries are popular features that homeowners can customize depending on their storage needs and the amount of time they spend in their kitchens.



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# When it can be smart to hire a painting professional

REGIONAL- Few things can revitalize a home more readily than a fresh coat of paint.

Thanks in part to the affordability of paint and its ease of application, painting is something that even novice DIYers can typically handle. According to the marketing advice guru Brandon Gaille, it is estimated that residential interior paint only lasts around three years before it needs to be updated. Exterior paint can fade, chip and peel due to various environmental factors. As a result, many homes can likely use a fresh coat of paint in at least one room.

As DIY-friendly as painting can be, when attempting to paint the interior or exterior of their homes, homeowners may learn that some painting projects are best left to the professionals. Painting requires skill, patience and a knowledge of how various paints — including finishes for particular applications — will hold up. Novice painters may do more harm than good by dripping paint on expensive carpeting or floors or failing to recognize the nuances that indicate a spot-on painting job.





Professional painters have spent hours upon hours learning the ropes of what works — and what does not. Painters often understand that painstaking preparatory work is crucial to getting pristine finished results. Walls and ceilings must be properly repaired and prepared even before a base coat is applied.

Professional painters also have an eye for details. And because professional painters make a business out of doing interior and exterior surfaces, they understand which techniques can improve efficiency. That means a professional job can typically be completed much more quickly than a DIY project.

Even though some people think they'll save money by painting their own homes, that's not necessarily true. Professionals already have all the equipment necessary, unlike novices who may need to make repeated and potentially costly trips to the hardware store for supplies. Plus, if mistakes happen, DIYers have to spend additional time and money fixing them.

Safety can be a large motivator for turning painting over to a pro. Navigating exterior areas or tall interior ceilings can be challenging and may require scaffolding or tall ladders DIYers do not have. Risk of falls or other injuries increase with lack of experience.

Painting can give a home a facelift, and oftentimes it is smart to turn the work over to professionals to ensure the job is done



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### **DECK**...

Continued from 7C

"Develop some better social skills are possibilities too!" I even joked with Bill one night after he put the tools away that we should sneak on our headlamps and work at night so no one would see us! What really got my undies-in-an-uproar was discovering that my ideas were nearly getting thrown to the dump with that old set of stairs!

This happened one day when a sidewalk supervisor told Bill that he should just go ahead and re-locate the garden hose up to the front of the deck rather than follow my plan to keep it at the back. Bill replied, T m going to do it the way Scarlet wants." The sidewalk supervisor quipped, "Oh she'll get used to it!" Bill looked at him with his eyebrows raised and said, "Oh no, that doesn't fly here!" That was the end of that. So what the heck, this deck has become a community mental health project with "Dr. Bill" in charge and I'm in the audience. At least I'm not cooking big company meals or anything like that and there's not a bunch of guys washing their dirty hands in my kitchen sink. It's still under control....and I'm getting through it alright thanks to my sense of humor. As of this morning,, with so much time spent defending our procedures to our supervisors, and company coming in one week, I'm glad we decided to build the simple steps rather than a semi-circle design. With the last half of the project underway, I am confident I will get at least one more day of hands on before its a wrap! I'm thinking that maybe the sidewalk supervisory crew could be distracted with a movie, bowling or a trip to Puerto Vallarta... "Oh wait, that happens on game shows not talk shows!" From the set of the Dr. Bill Show with Director Scarlet Stone in the back row of the audience..... "Have a great Home Improvement Season!"

Isn't it time to finish that project you've been dreaming about?

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#### **DO-IT-YOURSELF**

### Questions to ask before embracing a DIY project

REGIONAL- Home improvement projects are as popular as ever.

In its 2017 True Cost Survey, the home improvement site HomeAdvisor found that, between February 2016 and February 2017, homeowners spent an average of just over \$5,000 on home projects.

That marked a nearly \$1,900 increase from the year prior, indicating that homeowners are increasingly opening their wallets to transform their homes.

In addition to spending money to improve their homes, many homeowners are spending their time on projects as well.

While DIY projects can provide a sense of fulfillment and personal attachment to one's home, prospective do-it-yourselfers should ask themselves some questions before picking up their hammers and getting to work.

#### Physical limitations?

No matter how much home improvement television shows may simplify projects, prospective DIYers should know that such undertakings are typically very difficult and oftentimes physically demanding. Homeowners with existing health conditions or other physical limitations may not be capable of performing certain tasks or may need to take frequent breaks, which can delay projects.

#### Do I have time?

Many home improvement projects require a significant amount of time to complete. Homeowners whose time is already stretched thin with commitments to work and/or family may not be able to complete projects within a reasonable amount of time. That's fine if working on a part of the home that won't affect daily life, but can prove stressful or problematic if the project is in a room, such as a kitchen or bathroom, that residents of the home use each day. Novice DIYers should be especially honest with themselves about the time they have available to work on the project, as such homeowners are bound to experience a few time-consuming missteps along the way.

#### Can I afford it?

While DIY might seem more affordable than hiring a contractor, that's not necessarily true. Novice DIYers may need to buy or rent tools, costs that can add up. Contractors already have the tools necessary to begin and complete projects, so the cost savings of DIY might not be as significant as homeowners think. Before going the DIY route, homeowners should solicit estimates from contractors, comparing the estimates to how much a

project will cost if homeowners do it themselves.

#### Can I go it alone?

Many home improvement projects require more than one set of hands, and it's risky and even foolish for first-time DIYers to assume they can begin a project and see it through to completion entirely on their own.

Homeowners whose spouses, partners, friends, or relatives are willing to chip in may think that's enough. However, the DIY skills of those who volunteer may be a mystery until the project begins. Novice DIYers should enlist the help of a friend or family member with home improvement experience. If no such person is available, it may be wise to hire a contractor instead.

Prospective do-it-yourselfers must make honest assessments of their skills, time and budgets before taking on a DIY project.



#### BACKYARD LIVING

### Why you need a hammock or hanging chair in your yard

REGIONAL- Sunny days and warm weather beckon us to the great outdoors. A day spent in the pool or lounging around the patio is a great way to embrace the relaxing spirit of summer. But those who want to go the extra relaxing miles should consider adding a hammock or swinging chair to their backyard oasis. Hammocks and swinging chairs make great investments. Outdoor enthusiasts can take them on camping trips, and they're equally at home right in the backyard. People on the fence about these symbols of relaxation can consider these benefits of hammocks or swinging chairs.

#### Nap comfortably outdoors

Who needs an excuse to catch up on missing sleep? If the time presents itself, the sun and the fresh air can induce a deep sense of relaxation. Lying on a hammock or floating in a hanging chair provides that additional soothing rocking motion that can make a cat nap even more enticing.

### Use it indoors or outdoors

Create a retreat in any corner of your yard or home. A hanging chair can be hung in the corner of a bedroom to provide a spot to curl up with a good book or rock a baby to sleep. The same chair can be brought to a covered deck or patio so people can swing with the breeze when the weather allows.

### Super stargazing retreat

Hammocks and swinging chairs can make it easier and more comfortable to stargaze at night. With a double hammock or chair, bring a romantic partner along to snuggle and watch the cosmos. Or teach children about the constellations in the night sky.





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