



We hope you enjoy this special holiday greeting edition. Deadline for the Dec. 27 paper is on Friday, Dec. 20. Please note: No Timberjay will be published on Jan. 3.

The Timberjay office will be closed Monday, Dec. 23 - Friday, Jan. 3.

the TIMBERJAY

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\$1⁰⁰



SULFIDE MINING

Twin Metals releases mine plan

Over 25 years, operation would produce an estimated 180 million tons of ore

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Twin Metals Minnesota has submitted a mine plan to the Department of Natural Resources, a milestone that may one day lead to sulfide-based copper-nickel mining near the

edge of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, near Ely. The proposal, released by Twin Metals on Wednesday, calls for a 20,000 ton-per-day underground mining operation located in Lake County, near the shores of Birch Lake, about nine miles southeast of Ely. Over the 25-year anticipated

mine life, the operation would produce an estimated 180 million tons of ore from what's known as the Maturi deposit, and would produce an average of 174,000 tons of copper concentrate, and 84,000 tons of nickel concentrate, along with far smaller quantities of platinum group metals.

The mine itself would extend about three and a half miles in length, passing underneath Hwy. 1 and coming within approximately two miles of the BWCAW. It would roughly parallel the South Kawishiwi River, a major

See...PLAN pg. 11



SEASONAL SCENES



Winter Waldemarsen, 2, enjoyed cookie frosting at the Mrs. Claus Party in Ely last Saturday.



Sara Anderson, above, shows off the gingerbread house she made at the Cook Library. Tuuli Nelson, left, was on her best behavior while visiting with Santa Claus at Fortune Bay. staff photos

CITY OF TOWER

Council OK's eight-percent levy increase

Drained reserves and higher costs put city in tight spot going into 2020

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — After a few fits and starts, the city council here, on Monday, approved a general fund levy increase of eight percent for next year as city officials grappled with the implications of financial decisions made by the previous administration. The final levy increase was a modest reduction from the ten-percent preliminary levy increase the council set back in September.

City council members indicated reluctance to approve the tax increase, but noted they are dealing with a host of items that are fueling higher spending, without the reserve funds that were once available to the city to help pay for them. In addition, the city will need to repay at least \$50,000 in emergency funds provided by the League of Minnesota Cities to cover the city's bills in 2019. The city obtained \$250,000 from the League back in October as it struggled to pay the cost of a trail project around the harbor and other expenses. The city's previous administration had largely stripped the city's financial reserves, leaving Tower forced to rely on irregular sources of funds to operate.

Those problems aren't likely to go away in 2020. Ranua advised the council

See...LEVY pg. 9

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Ely community steps up to replace funds stolen from nursing home

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY — Despite a visit by the Grinch to the Boundary Waters Care Center here last Friday, money stolen from an activities donation jar at the nursing home during a family Christmas lun-

cheon has been replaced — and then some.

Donations meant to be used for craft supplies and bingo prizes for the residents were taken during a family Christmas event, according to BWCC Activities Director Bonnie Forsman.

In response to the

Grinch-like behavior, Forsman said in a Facebook post: "What a wonderful Christmas luncheon we hosted at Boundary Waters Care Center. Thank you to all the families that joined us. To whomever stole the money raised for our residents, we hope that you

have a Merry Christmas. Our Activity Department works very hard raising money throughout the year for our residents. It is really disheartening that someone would steal from them."

Another BWCC employee also posted a Facebook message to the

thief. "You are not taking that money from me. You have taken it from my residents! Veterans who have served our country, mothers and fathers who have taken care of us. All that they have done for our country to make it great and now to be in a nursing home and have so little,"

said Kyle Stella, BWCC Recreational Therapy Assistant.

Once the incident was put on Facebook and word spread in the Ely community, dozens of people stepped forward to help replenish the stolen cash.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES



Ten-year-old Sarah Greenwald, of Tulsa, Okla., is excited for the premiere of the Quiltmaker's Gift at the Ely State Theater in January. Sarah was in Ely visiting her grandmother Muffin Nelson. photo by K. Vandervort

Tickets now available for Quiltmaker's Gift

Ely State Theater production set for Jan. 24-26, 2020

ELY - Tickets for The Quiltmaker's Gift, a musical, at Ely's Historic State Theater are now available at two locations in Ely, Potluck Kitchenware at 101 E Chapman St. and Art and Soul Gallery, 421 E Sheridan St.

Adult tickets are \$10, students K-12, and children ages 2-5 are \$5. A lap child gets in free.

According to ticket sale coordinator Jodi Chaffin, a limited number of "premium tickets" for each showing at \$25 per seat are available online at QuiltmakersGiftEly.com.

"The purchase of these center front seats also includes entrance to an on-site gathering following the show with the author and illustrator and light refreshments," Chaffin said. The website offers credit card purchases; the two local sites will accept cash or checks.

Free children's tickets for ages 2-10 (maximum two per family) to the Saturday and Sunday matinees will be available in early January at the Ely Public Library courtesy of Lake Country Power.

All remaining tickets will be available two hours before show times at the State Theater Box Office on performance days, Friday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 25-26 at 2 p.m.

SONGS OF THE SEASON



A Classic Christmas

The Tower-Soudan Area Singers put on a not-to-be-missed concert in Tower last Sunday. The concert featured a large choir with 32 voices, one conductor, two pianists, one guitarist, two bell ringers, one trumpeter, one drummer, and a flutist.

The group sang a selection of religious seasonal music, including Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. The second act included classic carols with plenty of audience participation, plus a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. photos by J. Summit



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COUNTY PLANNING

New rules for short-term rentals draw fans, critics

Board of Adjustment sends recommendation for approval to the St. Louis County Board

by E. M. SCHULTZ
Staff Writer

REGIONAL — Those who rent out their homes or cabins on a short-term basis may soon have to meet a new set of county regulations. The St. Louis County Board of Adjustment voted on Thursday, Dec. 12 to recommend new short-term rental rules to the county board, which will have the final say after a 30-day review period. The board of adjustment made its decision following a public hearing that sparked considerable testimony both for and against the new regulations.

Under the current ordinance, a short-term rental is defined as any building that provides sleeping accommodations to the public on a nightly or weekly basis for less than a thirty-day period for financial compensation. More simply put, renting anything from a room to an

entire residence, will likely make a property subject to the new rules, assuming it isn't already registered as a hotel, resort, campground, or other

“It could cost \$5,000 to get a surveyor out there to settle things.”

Mark Drobac
Greenwood Township

service-oriented business. That will require, among other things, that you will need to obtain a new performance standard permit, which must include the following:

►Emergency contact information for police, fire, hospital, and septic tank pumper.

►Contact information for the property owner/operator, which must also be provided to

the St. Louis County Planning and Community Development Director.

►Aquatic Invasive Species prevention guidelines for watercraft use.

In order to obtain the new permit, property owners will need to provide some type of visual demarcation of the property lines, whether on a map posted in the rental unit or on the property itself. Mark Drobac of Greenwood Township, who spoke at the hearing, said he found this aspect especially concerning.

“What happens if neighbors don't agree on the property lines?” he asked. “It could cost \$5,000 to get a surveyor out there to settle things.”

In fact, such surveys will now be a requirement for those who wish to rent, should the new language be adopted. The only way to avoid using a licensed land surveyor to locate the prop-

erty lines is by filing an agreement with the county between the adjoining property owner and the short-term rental operator. If that's not possible, property owners will need to have a survey completed, potentially adding significant cost. Drobac wasn't alone in his concern, as a number of residents spoke to the issue.

Proposed quiet hours and screening requirements were another point of concern. Some believed these were important items to include, while others thought they imposed unfair rules on property owners who rent. Jim Crais of Hermantown liked the idea of quiet hours but said they should be implemented across the board rather than simply on renters.

“One person's property rights shouldn't trump another's,” he told the board.

Crais, who rents out his family's property from time to time to help defray the costs of

owning a cabin, noted that he had recently removed some of the vegetation from his property as it posed a fire hazard. Anything new that was planted wouldn't grow overnight, so there would need to be some type of timeline on when the new standards have to be met. The board mentioned fencing as an option, but as Crais pointed out, this could lower the property value.

Tony Sjoberg of Duluth noted that installation of fencing or planting vegetation would not be possible until spring. Should the St. Louis County Board choose to adopt the board of adjustment's recommendation, however, the new regulations would likely go into effect almost immediately.

According to Commissioner Keith Nelson, this rush to pass the new ordinance wording is due to the fact that they want

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ELDER CARE

New management in place at Vermilion Senior Living

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — Vermilion Senior Living is now under new management, about a year and a half after the former management team took over operations of the 20-room facility located on the north edge of town.

Emily Sipola, a long-time Tower area resident and a registered nurse, was promoted to facility

manager on Nov. 27. She'll be managing the facility under the auspices of a new management company known as MN Signature Care, a small family-owned business based in central Minnesota. The current ownership of the facility remains unchanged.

MN Signature Care President and CEO Matt Pallansch said the small facility fit well with the

goals of his company. “Our motto is quality care close to home,” Pallansch said. “Our goal to operate in small communities, so seniors can remain close to home.”

MN Signature Care is a small management company that currently oversees operations at six other assisted living facilities in Minnesota and saw Vermilion Senior Living as an opportunity to expand.

“This facility fit our portfolio well,” said Pallansch.


The change in management did result in some staffing changes at the facility, and Pallansch said he intends to boost the level of care at Vermilion Senior Living to provide more services for residents experiencing dementia. “It's important in small communities that that

See SENIORS... pg. 5



Vermilion Senior Living in Tower is now being managed by MN Signature Care, a family-owned company focused on serving small communities.


photo by HelMBERGER




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OPINION

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Editorial

Environmental review

Sen. Bakk revealed why a mineral withdrawal study makes sense

Sen. Tom Bakk spoke the truth at a recent community joint powers board meeting in Ely, and in doing so he highlighted why those concerned with the risks posed by the just-released Twin Metals mine proposal have pushed for completion of a study on a proposed mineral withdrawal.

For years, Twin Metals supporters have claimed that the study was somehow short-circuiting the established process, and that any attempt to foreclose the possibility of a mine short of the completion of an environmental impact statement is somehow illegitimate.

“Let’s follow the science. If it’s proven it can be done safely, then let’s do it,” has been the standard line from mine supporters for the past several years.

Unfortunately, that isn’t the question that the environmental review process is designed to answer. As Sen. Bakk noted, the environmental review, which is the initial part of the permitting process, is designed to better understand the risks and attempt to mitigate those risks to the extent that’s financially feasible. That process is not designed to answer the more fundamental questions of whether a proposed project makes sense or poses too great a risk to allow to move forward.

“So, once they start down that road of applying for those permits it’s pretty hard to stop,” said Bakk.

Whether the Twin Metals project can be done safely would not be addressed by an environmental impact statement (EIS) or a permitting review, which is why mine supporters are being disingenuous, or simply reflecting their misunderstanding, when they claim otherwise. The reality is that a major sulfide mine is going to have significant, negative environmental effects. It will never be “safe” from an environmental perspective. Whether those effects or risks are acceptable is a political question, not one that will be determined or even considered by an EIS or the subsequent permitting process. Major industries have long understood that once a project begins the environmental review process, the larger political decision has essentially already been made that the project should advance. As Sen. Bakk stated: “The truth is, the environmental review process is not intended to stop projects.”

So, when does society ask the fundamental questions? Such as, is a sulfide mine located directly upstream from

the nation’s most spectacular water-based wilderness a good idea? And how will the economic costs balance out against the economic gains that such a mine might bring?

There actually is a process for reviewing these larger public interest questions associated with a project like Twin Metals— and that’s the study that was underway as part of the proposed mineral withdrawal, at least until the Trump administration opted to end it just months before it was due for completion.

Rather than spend a decade and hundreds of millions of dollars conducting an environmental review of a project that could ultimately be disastrous for the region’s long-term economic and environmental health, the two-year study was supposed to assess the economic costs and benefits of the proposed mine and answer the larger question of whether this was the right place for this most dangerous form of mining.

This wasn’t a made-up process simply invented by environmentalists to try to scuttle the Twin Metals proposal. The mining withdrawal process was established in federal law decades ago as a way to protect other public values from exploitive uses or for reserving federal lands for a particular public purpose or program. The withdrawal process, which invariably includes a study, examines the bigger questions about the costs and benefits associated with a project, or whether its location is appropriate given the inherent risks.

These are the broader questions that Minnesota and the Walz administration must have answers to before agreeing to undertake any kind of environmental review. The administration should not only insist that the Trump administration release the data gathered to date for the aborted federal withdrawal study, but that the feds actually complete the study through a fair and transparent process. If not, the state of Minnesota should conduct its own examination of those issues. Only then, can Minnesotans make a fully-informed decision about the actual merits of a sulfide mine just upstream from the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. If a state EIS begins on a mine plan, those fundamental questions will never be answered and Minnesota will risk losing one of its most spectacular assets without ever really having a debate.



Letters from Readers

Had Obama acted anything like Trump

For the 46 percent of us who voted for Donald Trump in 2016, it’s time to take the hypocrisy test. When the Republicans controlled both houses of Congress, if Barack Obama had said and done then the things said and done now by Donald Trump, what would have happened? The Republicans in the House of Representatives would have voted to impeach him, and the Republicans in the Senate would have voted to remove him from office.

Jim Ganahl
Cook

Remembering the reason for the season

Today, we tell of The First Story, making it a celebration of pomp, an affair of gold-embroidered vestments and costly columns and altars of marble, and choruses of choirs, of jeweled windows and incense, of the extreme abundance of gifting and getting.

Yet, we are unable to find and feel the simple spiritually-edifying peace and pleasure in the formerly plain and humble stable. The brown-haired, grave-eyed peasant girl, with her little baby, unable to see the beauty in the crumbling mud walls and the low ceiling of the stable, where the only incense was the sweet smell of the cow’s breath.

The only vestments were the baby’s swaddling clothes, rough, coarse, fibered from the hand looms of Nazareth.

The only pomp, the simple gifts of three men, the only chorusing, the quiet crooning of a young mother holding her first born babe upon her breast.

A little child lies in the midst of the stable with simple people, his mother and father, and three travelers, who were led there by a star in the night. Here lies a little child who would come to stand in the midst

of wise men and the learned. They would be gently taught, not to be of selfish conscience, and to be defined only by their riches, but to explore the unplumbed depths of the human heart, to set aside their learning, their wisdom, and their earthly mammon, so that in the end, after all trial has been made and every expedient tested, they would discover that the simplest way is the best, and humblest means the surest.

It was this little baby, who would become our most profound community organizer, whose only act of aggression was turning over the tables of the money-changers in the Temple in Jerusalem, who would change the heart of man by teaching the enduring, loving spirit of justice and mercy for all mankind.

It was the helpless child in the stable, whose first bed was a feedbox for animals, that would come to spark the mind of man, a spark that would kindle the world with the flame of eternal light.

The little child, who was to be the bread of life for human beings, who sacrificed his life at the age of 33, tenderly taught that each of us must always offer our gifts of loving kindness, warm hearts, and the outstretched hand of tolerance and love. He showed mankind how love and altruism will always surpass individual greed, and that justice for all was truly the moral test of our spirituality, the simple gifts that make peace on earth, our transcendent duty, our Christmas Story.

Tim Duff
Tonka Bay

Trump fiddles while the planet burns

“It’s another lost year, another lost decade. I don’t want to belittle the important things that have happened and are happening, but they are not enough. People will look back at us and wonder, “What were you doing?” These gloomy comments were spoken by Rod Jackson, a professor of Earth

Science at Stanford University and Chair of the Global Carbon Project, held in Madrid.

Global greenhouse emissions hit yet another record high this year. Carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels and industry totaled 36.8 billion tons.

The impact of climate change upon planet Earth is not evenly distributed. There are major variations and different degrees of destruction of housing, transportation and communication systems. This devastation is taking place in diverse geographical locations due to multiple causes of climate devastation. There are no boundaries.

Nothing is immune to the forces of climate change and it is manifested in numerous forms such as floods, droughts, fires, winds, disease, lack of potable water, and food scarcity.

It seems paradoxical that, after years of study, an international seed vault was established on the Svalbard archipelago, Norway. It was expected to be viable for many centuries and to withstand even a nuclear bomb. The billions of flora seeds from all around world are stored in the vault to be used at times when climate change has eradicated various types of vegetation. It was designed not to rely on potentially-vulnerable mechanical refrigeration equipment, but to be kept constantly cool by the natural environmental permafrost. Ironically, due to climate change, the permafrost is beginning to melt,

Sad to say, neither the President nor any member of the White House staff attended the Paris accords conference even though the United States is a prime contributor to the adverse elements causing global climate change.

Global climate change is decidedly an international issue and the administration should not ignore the issues, but participate in seeking remedies for this realistic threat to humanity.

Gerry Snyder
Ely

Here’s how to survive a blue Christmas

I once made up my mind to get a divorce on Christmas morning. My alcoholic husband had not come home. It wasn’t the first time, and Christmas wasn’t this holiday, but this was my Christmas morning. It wasn’t what I deserved, and it wasn’t what my little girl



JEAN
GENDREAU

deserved.

Another Christmas, my heart hurt so badly I could barely go outside. My new baby had died. I had his blanket, but he was gone. I didn’t want to live because it hurt too much. And Christmas— every image of Mary holding baby Jesus— made me cry again.

When your heart is broken,

Christmas can really hurt. It’s easy to drown in false family images and media hype. It feels impossible to swim against the tsunami of “should’s” and “if only’s.”

Here’s how to survive a blue Christmas.

1. See the hype for what it is.

The first step is to see the media hype for what it is: lies told by advertisers. Every advertisement wants to sell you an emotional image because that’s how the companies make

money. They don’t know you personally and they don’t care about who you are. They know that manipulating people’s dreams increases sales. Images of happy families and romantic couples sell products but do not tell any truth about real families, real couples or real life.

So shut out the false images. Turn off your TV. If you watch old movies, remember that the movie producers needed to make money too. You can sing “White Christmas” all you want, but in

the real world, snow is cold and needs to be shoveled.

2. Look to January.

Try taking your mind past the Christmas season. January is real, so go there. Make concrete plans to start new things in January. If your heart is broken, try experimenting with online dating in January, just to see how it feels. Maybe you’ll learn something new. Is there a hobby you’ve always wanted

See **FAMILIES...**pg. 5

Letters from Readers

How to help those down on their luck

When people are re-homing after hospitalizations, evictions, incarceration, or maybe just a series of bad breaks with no friends or family ready and able to take them in, they need help now more than ever.

Direct financial contributions would get the most bang

for the buck, but if you'd like to see something put together with your own hands, here's an idea - a bag full of stuff they can actually use.

This list has been developed after asking street people "What is actually needed and useful?"

Most of these items are available at Dollar Stores and used-a-bit places for about a dollar apiece, aiming at a budget of about ten to twenty

bucks per bag.

1. Towel and wash cloth (no, they don't have to match).
2. Small bottles of shampoo, hand lotion, conditioner (Avoid items containing alcohol).
3. Boxed bar of soap.
4. One or two pairs of sweat socks
5. A pair of warm gloves - size medium or large.
6. A hat and/or scarf
7. Pack of three or four

Peppermint Lifesaver rolls.

8. Snickers/granola/"energy" bars; beef jerky/sausage sticks.
9. Toothbrush with cover for the brush head, with a small tube of toothpaste.
10. Water bottle.
11. Grocery-size durable bag with handles or draw strings to put this stuff in.
12. Blanket, if possible - these are hard to find for less

than ten bucks apiece, though.

Food items should go into one separate Ziploc bag, toiletries in another. Another item that is always very much appreciated - a \$10 gift card to McDonalds or Burger King, allowing the luxury of being indoors with a warm meal.

Dave Porter
Minneapolis

FAMILIES...Continued from page 4

to try? Sign up for a class in January and do it now.

3. Be honest about family.

Family dysfunction is a third source of Christmas pain. Even if we only see our family once a year, Christmas really rubs our noses in the yuck. Not only do we get all the old patterns shoved in our face, but myths about so-called happy families make everybody crazy.

It's a myth that all families are happy or should be. What's real is that families are happy sometimes, but all families—all families—have hidden, unhealthy, unhappy patterns. Some have a few, and some have many, but all families have problems.

There's only one way to move towards a happier family, and that is to openly work on what is not working. But media and our culture pretend that none of that exists. We think, "Wow, what's wrong with me?"

One way to handle this is the temporary patch, the "I can do it for a few days" technique. If it makes your

mother happy that you go to church with her, you can try doing it, telling yourself that it's only one day a year. As you sit in church, you can plan amazing and creative January rewards for yourself.

But what if sitting with your belittling, criticizing father makes you feel hopeless and crazy? There are good people who do not go home for Christmas.

Just because it's family does not mean it is good. Just because someone says they love you does not mean they know how to love you in the best way. Some of the cruelest wounds from families happen when a family member says they are loving you when in fact they are manipulating, hurting, belittling or abusing.

Maybe you need to find other family. Not blood family, but people who support you and care for you.

And you need to talk to a therapist. Many family patterns destroy individuals with their cruelty. A therapist's job is to support

you while you learn how to love yourself better.

Perfect families—which is such a part of Christmas hype—are a fantasy that hurts people. Even though most people want to hide family problems, denying them is exactly what causes emotional pain and illness.

Lasting joy comes when we see the unhealthy along with the healthy. I am whole and so are you—but we are complete, complex packages with both good and challenging qualities. And that is okay.

Being happy and whole with your own family is possible. There are truly happy families—but their joy is neither automatic nor easy. Taking the first steps towards real family happiness means seeing a sympathetic therapist and getting open-hearted, non-judgmental support for the real you. Then you can scrape off the fake roles and discover the truth of love that might lie hidden underneath. A real family loves the authentic you, not the pretend you.

4. Look for the light beyond despair.

But what if someone you love has died? There's no quick fix. Turning off the TV and making new plans won't touch that pain.

Think instead about love itself. The love that person had for you still exists because love itself never ends. Yes, it's easier when they have their arms around you in physical form. But real love is an unseen, eternal thing. You still have that love now, today. You always will. If you sit quietly and close your eyes, you can still feel the love.

Buddhists teach that after death the family or loved ones should send thoughts of encouragement and love to the dead person. The idea is that the one who has died can then feel that it's okay to move on into another level of existence.

Try sitting quietly and sending your loved one a message of encouragement and gratitude. Even if your loved one died in pain, you can feel gratitude

that the pain has ended and that your loved one is free and at peace. It doesn't bring them back, but it might help you see today in a new way.

If there is just no relief from your grief, then see a therapist. The death of a loved one can feel like trying to carry 1,000 pounds. You don't have to carry it alone.

Light in the Darkness

In the end, Christmas—like life—is about light in the darkness. I've been in despair. What I know for sure is that, if I get help and keep breathing, the year turns. It happens slowly, but the light comes back. Not in the way I wanted, maybe. After all, my marriage was really over. My dead baby was really gone. But eventually something changed because things always change. I had three more perfect, exquisite babies. Eventually I found a partner who cherished me as I really was.

And, so, sit with me now in the darkness. Breathe with me. The darkness around us is complete and that is okay. Darkness

is the womb of hope. The year always turns. The sun always rises. Death is a beginning, not an end.

Breathe slowly with me. Be gentle to yourself. Wrap yourself in kindness like grandma's quilt and wait.

I know something that you don't know. The love inside you is a seed. Your only job is to wait for the sun.

Christmas matters because it is the darkest time of the year. It is the longest night. Our job is to trust that change happens. I promise you that the light will come again.

In Ely, Minnesota, we will have a "Longest Night" service for people who feel quiet, thoughtful or sad at Christmas. The service will be at the First Presbyterian Church at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 19. This will be a gentle, quiet, heart-energy service of love and remembrance. Everyone is welcome, whether or not you are Christian.

RENTALS...Continued from page 3

to give property owners time to prepare before the rental season hits. But some at the hearing noted that not everyone rents solely during the summer months. It's unclear what those who rent during the winter will have to do about current bookings if the new regulations are adopted this winter.

In part because of such concerns, board member Roger Skraba argued that the county was moving forward with the changes too quickly and he urged the board to table the issue for further consideration of some of the concerns raised by the public.

One of these concerns is the proposed minimum buffer of 300 feet between short-term rentals, which Jeff Lovgren, of Lake Vermilion, raised during the hearing. He told the board it would lead to potential friction between neighbors if they both wanted to rent but only one could obtain a permit to do so. The ordinance does include a conditional use permit which would allow a way around this issue, but as Lovgren noted, a CUP would come with a different set of

requirements, meaning one neighbor could end up paying a lot more to rent out than another.

This imbalance of power was one of Tanya Nichols' main concerns. Nichols lives in Duluth and currently rents out her family's property on Little Pequaywan Lake. She argued for a better way of resolving issues between rental property owners and neighbors, especially when it comes to heavily emotional situations. Sjoberg agreed with her, saying there should be an opportunity for corrective action rather than the owner immediately losing their permit.

Another one of the major concerns brought up during the public hearing was the potential for the new regulations to drive current rental property owners out of business. Several of those who spoke to the board stated that they would likely have to sell their properties if the new ordinance language was adopted. Mike Mellesmoen of Embarrass argued that people might dump their properties and drive down property values. He, and several

others, said they were simply seeking fair treatment for all property owners, which they believe the proposed ordinance language changes are not currently providing.

There are several other regulations and standards that property owners will have to meet should the board adopt the new language, including:

► Obtaining general liability insurance for the property in an amount consistent with St. Louis County board coverage requirements. A copy of the policy must be provided to and kept on file with the county.

► Properties that are used primarily for renting purposes will be deemed Commercial Use-Class II properties and will be subject to ordinance requirements regarding commercial use.

► Accessory dwellings cannot be used for rental purposes unless a permit is obtained for the overall property.

► Performance standard permits for rental properties will not be transferable upon a change in ownership. This includes properties that change

hands within a family.

► Rental dwelling units must be located on a conforming lot.

► Only one dwelling per parcel may be rented. Additional renting of recreational vehicles, tents, garages, accessory structures, pole barns, sheds, fish houses, boathouses, or other similar structures will not be allowed.

► Conditional use permits may be applied for in the case of more than one dwelling unit being present on the same parcel or in the case of single units on contiguous parcels under common ownership. In some cases, this may also constitute a resort and will be subject to the applicable standards for such.

► Obtaining and maintaining an applicable Minnesota Department of Health Lodging License and other applicable licenses. A copy of said licenses must be provided to and kept on file with the county. They must also be posted in a prominent location within the rental dwelling.

► Sufficient on-site parking must be provided to the renters and no person shall ever be allowed to

park a vehicle or motor vehicle on or within the limits of any road or right-of-way.

► Providing a Minnesota tax identification number and other applicable identification numbers to the St. Louis County Planning and Community Development Director.

► Sewage treatment and the disposal of solid waste must comply with St. Louis County Subsurface Sewage Treatment System Ordinance 61 and Solid Waste Ordinance 45 respectively, along with their successors or replacements.

Not everyone who spoke at the Dec. 12 hearing had hesitations regarding the potential regulations. Several people told the board they believed things were heading in the right direction and that they were pleased with the work the board was doing. Lisa Clausen and John Wilson, both of Big Pequaywan Lake, said that health, safety, peace, and quiet were all factors the board should consider.

Clausen, who lives next door to short-term rentals, said the impact of

having a constant rotation of strangers has "ruined the dream" she and her husband had of living there. According to her, those who rent are using the buildings for commercial purposes in a residential zone. The turnover has been a lot for her family to deal with and the property owners don't seem to care if there are issues unless it's after 10 p.m.

Bonnie Dresen of Little Pequaywan Lake also had concerns regarding renters who come into the area for a short period of time. She and her husband have lived in their lake home for forty-eight years and are concerned about the renters not being invested in the area or the properties in the same way as full-time residents.

The new ordinance language is currently undergoing a 30-day review process. The full county board is expected to take the new rules up some time in January, and the public will have at least one more public hearing opportunity when they do. The county will announce that date once it's set.


SCHOOLS...Continued from page 3

service is available because it helps keep seniors closer to family," he added. Pallansch acknowledged that operating a smaller facility can be challenging, but he said it can be done successfully with the right staff in place.

Unlike some senior facilities, which only accept private pay res-


idents, Pallansch said Vermilion Senior Living is open to elderly who rely on Medical Assistance or other public funding sources for their care. You can contact Vermilion Senior Living at 218-753-7788.

We Send Holiday Wishes To You
from BOB'S SERVICE & TOWING



Winning Artist • DAVID WEISINGER
Grade 5

SEASON'S GREETINGS!
from BREITUNG TOWNSHIP



Artist • JACK RANUA
Grade 4

READ the Timberjay!

Blue Christmas Worship at Immanuel Lutheran on Sunday, Dec. 22

TOWER- While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Grief, illness, aging, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time. A Longest Night/Blue Christmas service may provide a time and place of solace during the often-frenetic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas. We come together seeking healing and room to share grief, sadness, loneliness or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays.

Join us on Sunday, Dec. 22 at 6 p.m. for a time of worship, silence, songs, prayer and togetherness. Immanuel Lutheran hosts this service of hope and healing during this time of hustle, bustle and holiday preparations. All are welcome to attend.

Christmas Eve Service at St. James Presbyterian Church of Tower

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower will have its Christmas Eve Service on Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. The theme for the service will be "Christmas – A Time of Lights" from John 1:6-9. John was the witness to the light. What was that light, and what does John's testimony tell us about our role in Christmas? There will be special music with a solo flute and more. The service will be followed by a "Birthday Party for Jesus" in the Fellowship Hall downstairs.

St Paul's Lutheran Christmas Eve Service

SOUDAN- St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Soudan will hold their Christmas Eve Service at 4 p.m. Rob Mattson will be the guest musician.

Christmas at the Movies at St. James every Sunday in December

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church of Tower's Advent series continues on Sunday at 10 a.m. All are welcome. The Advent theme this year is "Christmas at the Movies."

Sunday, Dec. 22: It's A Wonderful Life – What would it have been like if Jesus had never been born?

Cook VFW

Open Daily at Noon
CLOSED on TUESDAYS

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

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

Free hockey skates and sticks

SOUDAN- Ben Johnson from Heavy Metal Sports in Ely has donated 25 pairs of hockey skates, 30 hockey sticks, and assorted hockey gear to give away to area children. The gear will be available at the Soudan Skating Rink. Anyone interested in receiving a pair of skates, a hockey stick, or other equipment should contact Greg "Dusty" Dostert at 218-248-0648. "This is really a great gift," said Dostert.

The Soudan Skating Rink is usually open for skaters starting in late December. Chimp Tuominen hosts weekend skating parties at the rink throughout the winter.

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY



A classroom at Tower-Soudan Elementary was transformed into a holiday shopping experience for students, who got to choose from the hundreds of donated gifts (both new and next-to-new) for their family members, which were then expertly wrapped by a group of adult volunteers.

Top: Claire Jonas, Shaye Isham, and Bentley Young browse the tables full of gifts for all ages.

Santa's Workshop



From left: Jack Ranua, Mathias Boshey and Arlene King write out their gift tags.



Volunteer Cindy Myre (also helping was her husband Jerry) wrapped a gift for Sophia Medicine. photos by J. Summit

Share the Spirit of Christmas Year 'Round from Benchwarmers



Winning Artist • RENA BUCKANAGA
Grade 6

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!
from D'Erick's Tower Liquor



Artist • TREVOR ZAITZ
Grade 5

Season's Greetings To You All!
from Frandsen Bank - Tower



Winning Artist • IVY RUSSELL
Grade 1

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS!
from GOOD 'OL DAYS BAR & GRILL



Winning Artist • THOMAS ALDRICH
Grade 5



Warm Wishes to You!

from
LANGEVIN AUTO

Winning Artist
DENIKO DUPREE
Grade 2

DECK THE HALLS & MERRY CHRISTMAS
from Nordic Home North & The Marjo Motel



Artist • LAELA JAMES
Grade 5

MEMORIES OF OLD SOUDAN

Remembering the 1940s in Soudan...

Editor's note: John Zavodnick, who grew up in Soudan but now lives in Spooner, Wis., read the story of holiday memories from the coffee ladies at the Soudan Store in the North Country Christmas magazine, and wanted to send in some of his own.

Remember when..... Many homes in the 1940s had ice boxes before they could afford the new Servel refrigerator. The ice truck came twice a week. The ice delivery man would use his axe to cut a piece and used the ice tongs to grab it and toss the chunk onto his shoulder where he had a heavy piece of leather to keep the ice from melting and to prevent a cold shoulder. The chunk of ice cost about 25 cents. Each summer a small man walked the streets with a music box and monkey to call attention to his scissor sharpening. Cost was 10 cents. He did a great job and neighborhood kids were entertained by the monkey.

Families at the end of Soudan had farm plots at the edge of town. Each was about 50'x100'. The farm had a rickety shed for shelter when it rained and tools were stored inside. Families who had cows would bring them from town in the morning to graze and bring them home at night for milking. Most people raised potatoes at the farm and would have a garden for other vegetables. Most families raised cabbage to make sauerkraut. Many people had a cow and a pig to butcher in the fall. When I rode my bike along Jasper Street, I had to zigzag to avoid the cow pies.

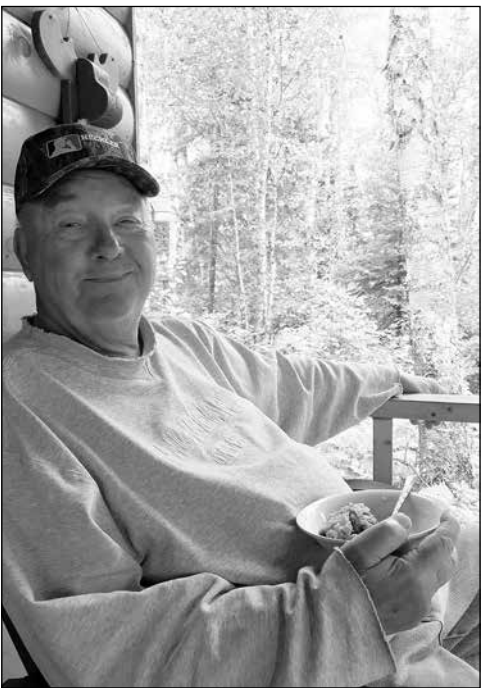
All homes were heated with wood. Each summer the men and boys would cut firewood, split and

stack it to dry. All the wood cutting was done with a crossbow saw and two-bit axe.

Each July, the Catholic Mens Club had a family picnic at their club on Fifth Avenue across from our house. They had food, pop and kegs of beer. An old woodshed in disrepair by the alley served as an out-house. As time went on in the afternoon, they would sing songs from the old country. Some would cry as they reminisced about the family they left behind to come to the Iron Range to work in the mine. The party ended when the beer was gone and a few belligerent men started fist fighting. Us kids got sick from drinking too much pop.

Our bunch of eight to ten kids spent many days playing on the DM&IR tracks from the Old Thompson Road east of Soudan. We walked up to an old log shelter where the railroad crossed the Murray Road. The shelter was made of railroad ties that were creosote-treated. It was cool inside as we guessed what the men talked about that stopped by. We all had pocket-knives so we carved our initials in the benches. We did the same on the steps of the Jasper Peak fire lookout that was actively manned by a woman. The sight of Lake Vermilion from the tower was spectacular.

My father had a '46 dump truck he used to haul gravel. He also contracted with Breitung Township to haul garbage. He did it on Saturday, his day off. He was paid \$35 a



week for the whole town of about 100 homes. He hated when fishing opened on Vermilion because a few thoughtless or cruel people, you decide, would put their unwrapped fish guts in their garbage can on the alley. As he lifted the can into the truck box the rotting guts sometimes fell down the back of his shirt. He never forgot who those people were.

When my parents were married in 1940, they rented the upstairs of the Baptist parsonage. The Baptist leaders never said a word if the \$25 monthly rent payment was late because my parents were short of money. The rent was always paid in full within a few days of when it was due. Years later, when finances were better for dad and mom, each Christmas they sent a \$50 check to the Baptist Church. My father did that until he died some fifty years later.

Letters from Readers

Jesus: "All I want for Christmas is you!"

Christmas is a time for gifts and presents. I don't know of any family that doesn't do some sort of gift giving for Christmas. And we give these gifts to the ones that we love, our family members, and friends. And this is fine, there is nothing wrong with it. But whose birthday is it? Is it not odd that so much of our focus during Christ-

mas is on us and not on Jesus Christ our Savior, the birthday boy? Imagine going to a birthday party in which everyone gives everyone else gifts and presents, but forgets about the Birthday Boy himself?

So what is it that you can give to Jesus for his birthday? What is it that Jesus wants? Well, Jesus wants the only thing from you, that he can't take from you. Jesus is God, so he could take your things, your house, your money. He could take your job or your health away. He could even take

your life away from you. He doesn't want any of that. He only wants that which he cannot force from you. He wants the only thing that you have the freedom not to give to him—your love. And love for Jesus isn't just having nice feelings or emotions for Jesus. Because Jesus is God, love is repentance of sin, it's obedience to his commands, it's worshiping him.

When Jesus was dying on the cross, he said, "I thirst!" He wasn't only speaking about having his literal thirst quenched.

He was saying that he thirsts for your love. He loved you to the point of sacrificing himself to redeem you and he wants so badly to receive that love from you in return. This Christmas, let's not forget about the Birthday Boy. Give Jesus the only thing he wants from you, they only thing he can't take from you because it's yours to give or not to give. Give Jesus your love!

Father Nick Nelson, Pastor of St. Martin's, St. Mary's, and Holy Cross

OPERATION SANTA

Volunteers from the Tower-Soudan Civic Club once again shopped, sorted, and bagged warm clothing, hats and mittens for Operation Santa families. The club received a \$3,500 grant from Lake Country Power's Operation Roundup program, and many individual donations from club members and the wider community. Pictured from left: Kathy Lovgren, Operation Santa co-coordinator, Mary Oman, Bergetta Indihar, and Elaine McGillivray.
photo by J. Summit



Transfer station

Soudan Canister

Expanded 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

Winter hours now in effect
Thursday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Recycling canisters available at the canister site when open.
For info: 1-800-450-9278

Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, Jan. 15; Feb. 5 and 26

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

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

AEOA Senior Dining Menu

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

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

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

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

Week of Dec. 23

School closed all week, no lunches served. School resumes on Jan. 6.

Week of Dec. 23

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 Jan. 21.

Greenwood Fire Dept.- Meetings on the first (business meeting) and third (drill) Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

SEASON'S GREETINGS!
from TOWER AUTO PARTS

Artist • CHRISTIAN NELSON
Grade 6

the TIMBERJAY

The Tower-Soudan Timberjay and Cook-Orr Timberjay are published weekly on Friday by The Timberjay, Inc. Offices are at 414 Main St., Box 636, Tower, MN 55790 [218-753-2950], and PO Box 718, Ely, MN 55731 [218-365-3114]. Fax number is 218-753-2916. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Visit our website at www.timberjay.com.

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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.

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

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

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
AA - 7 p.m. Mondays, and 7:30 p.m.
Wednesdays, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely
WOMEN'S AA - Noon Mondays, St. Anthony Church basement, Ely
BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church
AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely.
For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.
BABBITT AL-ANON Thursdays, 7 p.m. at Woodland Presbyterian Church.
CO-DEPENDENTS' 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Ely.
ELY FOOD SHELF - Third Wednesday each month, 15 W. Conan St.
ADULT BASIC EDUCATION
GED - Study materials and pre-test available. Tower by appointment.
Call 365-3359, 827-3232, or 1-800-662-5711.

Game night

ELY - Smear tournaments are held the first and third Mondays, and cribbage tournaments are held the second and fourth Mondays at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S First Ave E, starting at 6 p.m. There is a \$5 entry fee, plus 25 cents per set.

Senior lunch offered daily

ELY - The Ely Senior Lunch program is held daily at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S First Ave E, from noon to 1 p.m. Must be at least 60 years of age to participate.

Ely Free Clinic


ELY - The Ely Community Health Center is open every Thursday 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.ely-communityhealth.org.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2019



moving to Christmas colored lights against white snow
quiet or lack of



the **TIMBERJAY**

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VERMILION COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Law enforcement grads honored




The 2019 class of the Vermilion Community College Seasonal Park Law Enforcement Ranger Training (SPLERT) was honored last week. submitted photo

ELY - Vermilion Community College's 2019 Seasonal Park Law Enforcement Ranger Training Program (SPLERT) graduation ceremony included 28 students last week.
The students completed the semester-long academy including six specific courses in enforcement operations and techniques, legal aspects, practical skills, behavioral science, and natural resource law, according to VCC enrollment coordinator Jeff Nelson.

The VCC academy serves as both a Minnesota Peace Officer Academy and a Federal Academy for the National Park Service. CJ Ross, program coordinator and instructor, supervised the academy. VCC graduate Jeff Quam, Voyageurs National Park Ranger, addressed the graduates during the ceremony.
Squad Leaders for the class of 2019 included Derrick Dye, Osceola, Wis., and Tristan Lobe, of Bear Creek, N.C.

Program graduates included Amy Banfield, Benjamin Bauer, Anders Carlson, Hunter Churness, Joseph Dulik, Roy Fearing, Sawyer Flynn, Jacob Gabry, Marcella Garcia, Andrew Gaub, Aren Green, Eric Gruninger, Erik Halvorsen, Cole Hoffman, Dylan Horne, Erik Houle, Michael Illenberger, Nicholas Kanazawa, Melina Lamer. Krista Pofert, Jacob Rankila, Gavin Robinson, Alexandra Thompson, Zachary Ward, Ethan Yost, and John Zupancic.

CITY OF ELY POLICE DEPARTMENT



Ely Police Officer Christian Deinhammer was ready to begin his rounds in the department's new Dodge Ram pickup truck last Friday. The new rig is the EPD's first pickup truck patrol vehicle. Photo by K. Vandervort

SUPPORTING THE ARTS

State Theater is on the rise with community's help



More fundraising is needed for Ely's Historic State Theater. A grand opening celebration is planned for February. photo by K. Vandervort

ELY - The curtain "went up" twice at Ely's Historic State Theater recently, with a third in the offing as the non-profit board works toward its fundraising goals.
On Thanksgiving evening more than 1,400 people poured in to see the new stage and seating, lights and lobby. "We saw 1,321 enthusiastic visitors by actual count," Board Chair David Wigdahl said. "More streamed in before we started counting, and some slipped in through the exit doors."
"We are so grateful to the community for its outpouring of support, both financially and in person. We believe that Ely is ready to have the State Theater showing movies again, and this was the earnest proof," he said. "A huge thank you goes out to all who came to see the progress and to the volunteers, the board members who acted as tour guides, and former theater operator Ron Forsman, who manned the popcorn machine."
A literal curtain "went up" last week when a crew hung the 1,000-pound burgundy stage curtain that matches the carpeting and restored theater seats. Black curtains were hung on the exit doors and on the rear brick wall. "The movie screen will arrive," Wigdahl said.
Additional theatrical lighting and a new sound board are also due for installation for the inaugural theatrical performances of The Quiltmaker's Gift on Jan. 24-26.
"We have received so many generous donations thus far, from major donors to coins, a foundation grant and some anonymous contributions," Wigdahl added.
"The curtain can "go up" for the third time when we have raised the \$78,000 it will take to purchase the projector and movable seating," he said. "Assuming the necessary funds are donated, we hope to begin screening movies in February. A 'soft opening' film series could happen as early as the Winter Festival and Wolf Track Classic sled dog race event, perhaps even including a movie that features the streets of Ely."
Grand opening ribbon-cutting events will follow in late February. "Those who contribute any amount by the end of 2019 will be named Founding Donors and will be recognized on rolling credits at the start of movies in 2020," he said.
"A few more major donors are essential at this point for the purchase of the projector. We hope the community's outstanding support will "raise the curtain" one more time," he said. To donate, go to www.elystatetheater.org/.

NEW ELY RECYCLING CENTER



The new Ely recycling center is now open at a new location adjacent to the softball complex on the city's east end. Several recycling bins were moved east last week, following the closure of the old recycling area, to make room for the new west end development of Ely's trailhead project that will extend Fifth Avenue West from Highway 169 to the Ely Hospital campus. The recycling center is now available for use by city residents around the clock and every day of the week. According to City Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski, one significant change with the relocation is that compost, brush and mulch, along with cardboard, will no longer be collected at the new location. Wood ash is still allowed. Those materials should be taken to the St. Louis County Transfer Station on Highway 21. "Security cameras will be installed at the new recycling area to guard against those who may bring trash or other prohibited items," he said. For more information, go to www.ely.mn.us. photo by K. Vandervort

'TIS THE SEASON



The Ely Memorial Middle School and High School Choirs presented a winter concert last Thursday that featured many seasonal selections. photos by K. Vandervort



At left, Oliver Weideman, 3, and mom, Jaclyn, work on a holiday project Sunday afternoon at the Kids Christmas Workshop event at Ely's Grace Lutheran Church. Bryce Houde, 6, discusses his Christmas list with Santa Claus, right, Sunday afternoon at the Grand Ely Lodge. Below, First Lutheran Church Ladies Aid members. from left, Elaine Hartleben, Donna Esterberg and Elaine Perko, cut and serve desserts at the Cookie Sale Saturday afternoon.



News in Brief

Senior Center seeks donations

ELY - The Ely Senior Citizen Center is seeking donations to remodel their 40-year-old kitchen and dining area.

They are a nonprofit organization, and many community organizations and groups use the building. AEOA meals are served Monday through Friday and meals are delivered to the home-bound by the AEOA bus.

Donations can be sent to the Ely Area Senior Center, 27 S 1st Ave E, Ely, MN 55731 or to Ely Senior Citizen Building Fund C/O Frandsen Bank, 102 E Sheridan St., Ely, MN 55731.

Contact Terri Muhvich at 218-365-4305 for more information.

Yesterday's news, this week

from the archives of

THE ELY MINER

Courtesy of the Ely-Winton Historical Society

December 19, 1919

Game Warden makes a haul

Matt Jarvi, Natta Voutila, and Emil Lappi were arrested Friday by Game Warden Oscar Heikkila near Moose Lake, charged with having moose meat and venison in their possession illegally.

He found the meat in a woodpile near where the men were camped. All of the trio are aliens and no record is found where they secured a license.

They were arraigned before Judge Schaefer Monday when Jarvi pleaded guilty to the moose meat charge but denied the venison charge. Voutilla and Lappi pleaded not guilty and another hearing was set for next month when County Attorney Boyle will be present and prosecute for the state.

The warden also discovered a large amount of I.W.W. literature in the cabin occupied by the trio and it is the impression that all were members of the red outfit.

Red Cross notes

Of the 100,000 women in the United States who are asking to or have taken the Red Cross course in elementary principles of household sanitation and nursing offered under the peace program, 1,250 are in the Northern Division states of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana.

WASHINGTON D.C. SENIORS

Spaghetti Dinner

F+U+N+D+R+A+I+S+E+R

ALL-U-CAN-EAT Spaghetti Dinner

Friday, December 27 • 2-7 pm
Ely High School Cafeteria

Spaghetti w/Meat or Veggie Sauce
Tossed Salad/Dressings/Bread Sticks
Cookies/Beverage

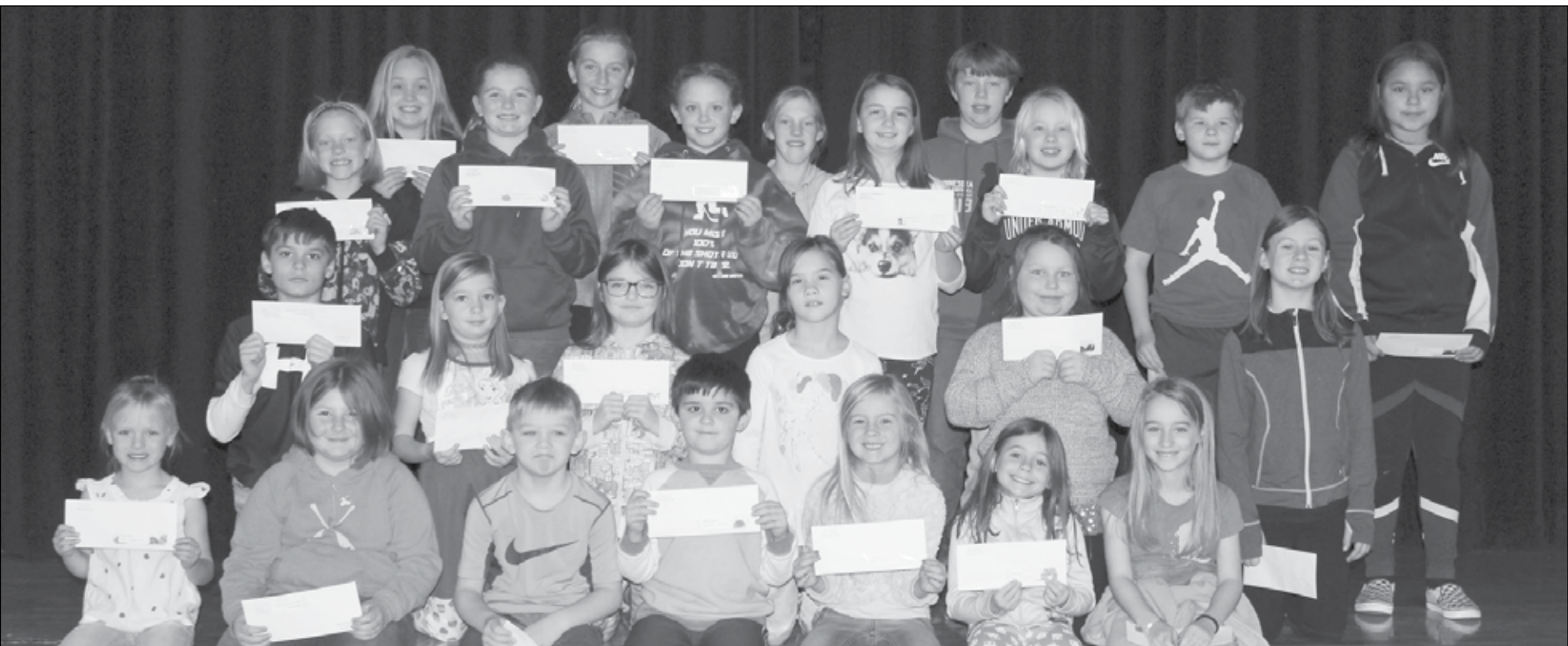
Adults \$7 • Students (with school ID) \$6
Seniors \$6 • Children Grades K-6 \$4
Age 4 And Under FREE

1 PM Girl's Basketball: NE Range vs. Wrenshall
2:30 PM Girl's Basketball: Carlton vs. South Ridge
4 PM Girl's Basketball: Deer River vs. Ely
5:30 PM Girl's Basketball: Bigfork vs. Cook County
7 PM Girl's Basketball: Isle vs. Ely



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NORTH WOODS SCHOOL



Timberjay Christmas card contest winners

The results are in for the 2019 Timberjay Christmas Card Contest. Children in Kindergarten through sixth grade at North Woods and Tower-Soudan participated in the contest this year. First, second, and third-place winners are selected from each school for each grade and are given cash prizes for their

artistic efforts. This year was a tight contest, with ties occurring in several instances.

Winners from left to right:

Row 1: Nora Anderson, Nova Rutchasky, Hudson Sheffer, Christian Tschida, Leah Las, Vera Bryson, Lucy Talberg

Row 2: Jordan Herdman, Bridget David, Rylie Gibson, Ava Johnson, River Deatherage, Zoey Wilcox

Row 3: Rebecca Koch, Carsyn Burnett, Sophie Bangs, Alice Sopoci, Brittan Koskela, Carson Johnson, Latise Strong

Row 4: Isabelle Koch, Brittin Lappi, Lauren Burnett, Tristan Vidal.

Look for all of these young artists' drawings in today's paper.

photo by E.M. Schultz

COOK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Gingerbread fun at the Cook Library



Clockwise from left: Lucy and Chester Talberg enjoy a proud moment with their gingerbread houses. Teens decorate giant gingerbread pieces that are on display in the library. The library was full of creative, decorating energy. Photos by E.M. Shultz

by E. M. SCHULTZ
Staff Writer

COOK – Children of all ages gathered at the Cook Public Library on Dec. 12 to decorate gin-

gerbread houses during the annual gingerbread event put on by Friends of the Cook Library. Pre-made houses and endless decorative treats lined a table in the middle of the

room, giving kids plenty of time and opportunity to adorn their houses to perfection.

When they were finished with the houses, the children were given a gingerbread cookie to decorate and enjoy. These cookies were a great way to keep the kids from eating the houses, which they could then bring home with them.

There was also a handful of teenagers present at the event. Rather than houses, they were given giant gingerbread sculptures to decorate. These pieces, which include a tree and a gingerbread man, are on display at the library now.



Get Caught-Up In Christmas!
from AMERICAN BANK COOK & ORR



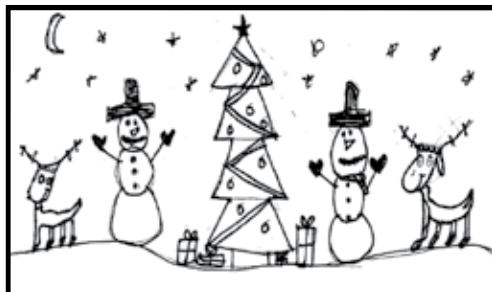
Winning Artist • LAUREN BURNETT
Grade 6

Merry Christmas to Creatures Great & Small
from Arrowhead Paint & Repair



Winning Artist • ALICE SOPOCI
Grade 4

May Your Holidays Be Merry & Bright!
from HANDBERG'S MARINE



Winning Artist • CARSYN BURNETT
Grade 4

Have a Very Merry Christmas!
from LUMBER ORR HARDWARE



Winning Artist • LEAH LAS
Grade 1

COMMUNITY NEWS



Zup’s rebuild quickly progressing

by E. M. SCHULTZ
Staff Writer

COOK – The Zup’s rebuild project is now well underway, and things are moving along nicely. The foundation has been laid and the walls are in the process of going up. A new mock-up of the new building shows just how ambitious the project is and what the end result of all the construction will hopefully be. With a color scheme of Iron Ore,

Summit Gray, and Sun-Dried Tomato, it appears that the potential building will be both striking and sleek.
“It’s going to be the best Zup’s ever,” says Jim Zupancich. Zupancich hopes the new building will be open by May 5, but JPJ Engineering, the construction company in charge of the rebuild, has put the opening date as May 21.

NORTHWOODS FRIENDS OF THE ARTS

Curious and Creative Classes at NWFA

COOK- Register for the following classes at Northwoods Friends of the Arts at 210 S River St. Participants must pre-register for Curious and Creative Winter Classes. Participants can pre-register by phone by calling Alberta at 218-666-2153,

register by email at nwfamn.org@gmail.com, or by snail mail at NWFA, PO Box 44, Cook, MN 55723.
Each non-profit class requires a \$10 fee for NWFA members and \$20 for non-members. Annual NWFA membership is

\$25. More information about NWFA is available at nwfamn.org. See, also, the list of regularly scheduled events at NWFA.

The Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery is open three days a week, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

NWFA is a non-profit membership arts organization supporting over 40 artists year-round with classes, concerts, writing, drawing, carving, fiber arts, pottery, exhibit space and art sales. See nwfamn.org and communicate by email at nwfa.org@gmail.com.

will focus on color etching.

Almost Picasso class on Jan. 7

What do you know about Picasso? Come learn a bit about this complex character who shook up art history. Did you know that Picasso made sculptures, ceramics and prints as well as paintings, collages and drawings? Be inspired by his artwork and make some artwork of your own on Tuesday, Jan. 7 from 6-8 p.m. Class size is 10, so call Alberta at 218-666-2153 to pre-register.

Paint a Feather class, Jan. 25

On Saturday, Jan. 25 from 1-3 p.m., Let’s Paint a Feather participants will learn to draw and paint a realistic feather with instructor Lyn Reed. This is a watercolor class; grays are made using complements.

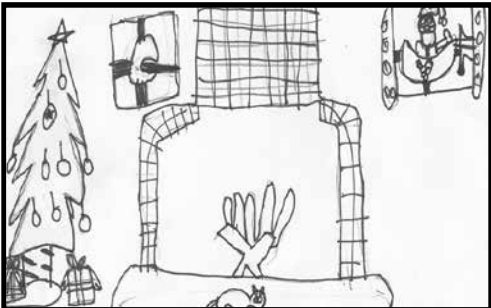
Simple Etching class on Jan. 4

Yes, you can! Lyn Reed will teach a simple etching class on Saturdays, Jan. 4 and 18, from 1-3 p.m. Participants must pre-register by calling Alberta at 218-666-2153. Week one students will learn design and print etching; week two



A painting by instructor Lyn Reed in the style of Picasso.
submitted photo

Wishing You A Cozy, Comfy Christmas!
from North Star Insurance



Winning Artist • ZOEY WILCOX
Grade 3

Warm Wishes This Festive Season!
from Voyageur Log Homes



Winning Artist • Christian Tschida
Kindergarten

EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION



Left: Oliver and Sean Oveson reading a book Oliver received as a gift.

Below left: Hadley Bundy and Callum Oveson decorate cookies.

Below: Addie Holter playing with jingle bells and dressed as Elsa from Frozen.

pphotos by E.M. Shultz




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the TIMBERJAY

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GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Board discusses limits on deputy clerk, treasurer hours

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- The town board here, on Dec. 10, declined to take action on a motion by board chair Carmen DeLuca to set the pay and office hours for the town clerk and treasurer and their deputies. Instead, the board agreed to consider drafting a written policy on the question sometime after the first of the new year.

DeLuca appeared upset that the board had authorized payment, at this meeting, for \$100 in pay for a deputy clerk or treasurer in the previous month. The elected clerk and treasurer each select their own deputy, per state law, to fill in if they are unable to perform their duties.

"We talked about this in October," he said. "We don't need someone sitting here when Sue [Drobac]

is gone."

Drobac said she occasionally, less than once a month, has had to be out of the town hall office during the regularly scheduled office hours, for personal reasons such as medical appointments. The township office is normally open three days a week and the clerk and treasurer have used deputies to fill in when they can't be in the office.

"I called today and John Bassing [the deputy clerk] answered the phone," said DeLuca during the board meeting. He said Bassing informed him that Drobac was at a clerk's training.

"John didn't answer my question," said DeLuca.

Drobac noted that a policy that allowed the clerk to take unlimited time away from the office, and just post they were gone, could be abused in the future.

"I am not going to

abuse it," she noted, but added that she sometimes did have to be away during her regular office work schedule.

Drobac is scheduled at the town hall office for 20 hours a week.

Currently, township treasurer Pam Rodgers is out of the area for the winter, and while she is able to do much of her work remotely, the deputy treasurer, Janelle Swenson, is working at the township office about three hours a week.

Supervisor Mike Ralston said the board should take some time to develop a written policy to cover the matter, and not act on the motion that DeLuca proposed. DeLuca rescinded his motion and it is expected the board will consider the issue again in January.

Ambulance subsidy

The board did vote, unanimously, to send the township's second half of the 2019 ambulance subsidy to the city of Tower. The township is under contract to pay \$15 per resident to the Tower

Area Ambulance Service. The board had authorized the payment at last month's meeting, but they had voted to wait to mail the check until they had more information from the city.

Supervisor Larry Tahija, along with DeLuca, had attended the meeting in Tower earlier this month that discussed the ambulance service.

"We won't have a new contract to sign until June," Tahija said. "We can wait to see what the other townships are going to do, and then decide what we are going to do."

Tahija said the township does need to pay "one way or another" if they are going to have ambulance service.

Resident Lee Peterson urged the board to be more proactive.

"You should have our attorney look at the existing contract and make some suggestions on changes that would give us protections," he said.

Peterson said that while six governmental units are part of the Tower Area Ambulance Commission, only the city of Tower makes decisions and spends the money.

Ralston said the township doesn't have any risk, noting they are just contributing a per capita amount. The per capita subsidy helps pay the cost of purchasing new ambulances. "I agree that we need a new contract," Ralston said, "and we are not going to sign off until we have an agreeable one."

Resident Joanne Bassing said the township should be able to review the ambulance department's budget. "They have never provided one," she said.

DeLuca said the city's new clerk-treasurer is working on providing that information, and Ralston agreed.

Peterson pointed out the city has had issues with their finances. "Everyone is well aware of that," said Ralston. "It is in the past. The people running it now are working to get it back on a level playing field. It just won't happen overnight."

Other business

In other business, the board:

- Set the Board of Audit for Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020, after the regular meeting

- Appointed head election judges Kathy Lovgren and Carol Maus; election judges Colleen Lepper, Julie Stoehr, Ruth DeLuca, John Milbridge, Joan Mueller, Beverly Peterson, and Sue Drobac; alternate election judges Nancy Ralston and Steven Rodgers; and absentee ballot judges Kathy Lovgren and Colleen Lepper. The board was required to pass special resolutions noting the hiring of spouses of board members Carmen DeLuca and Mike Ralston and asserting their pay would be the same as other election judges at \$15 per hour.

- Will review the

questions on the sample broadband survey submitted by CTC. The township will need to pay costs associated with distributing the survey. The survey itself will be able to be completed online, but the township would need to send out notices of when it is available and how to access it.

- Discussed purchasing a security camera system for the town hall. The township currently has a quote for the installation of a two-camera system but discussed adding additional cameras in other areas. Supervisor Paul Skubic said he felt the township needed to have the security cameras in place to protect the female township employees. Joanne Bassing, in the audience, noted that this concern was sexist, and the township had a responsibility to protect all its employees. No action was taken, and the township will get a new quote to cover the option of adding additional cameras.

- Held the second reading and adoption of the updated fire department Standard Operating Guidelines.

- Passed a resolution agreeing to increase the PERA amount for fire department members who are vested in the pension to \$2,500 per year, from \$1,900 per year, effective Jan. 1, 2020. Fazio noted that the town board needed to understand that once raised, this amount cannot be lowered.

The Greatest of Holiday Wishes!

from Tim Johnson-State Farm Agency



Winning Artist • River Deathrage
Grade 3

Happy Holiday To You & Yours!

from Fortune Bay Resort Casino



Winning Artist • CORA GOODBIRD
Grade 1

We Wish You A Very Merry Christmas!

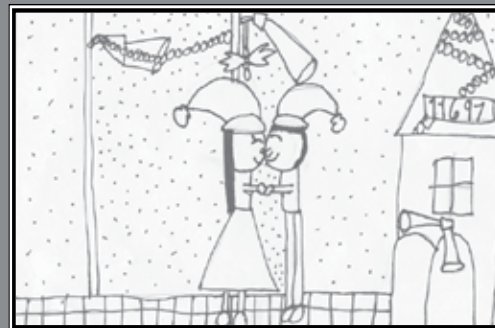
from GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP



Winning Artist • SHERRIE PETERS
Kindergarten

Enjoy Mistletoe Moments!

from Mel George's Elephant Lake Resort



Winning Artist • REBECCA KOCH
GRADE 4

PEACE TO ALL THIS CHRISTMAS!

from Lamppa Manufacturing



Winning Artist • NOVA RUTCHASKY
Kindergarten

We Wish You A Fun-Filled Christmas!

from COOK McDONALDS



Winning Artist • RYLIE GIBSON
Grade 2

Have A Happy Holiday Season!

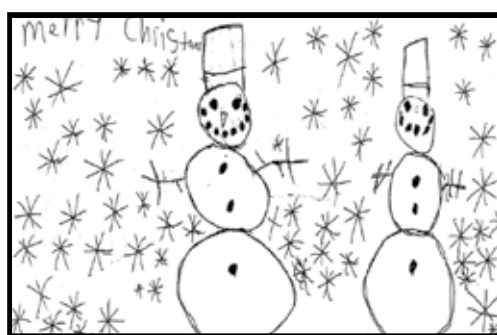
from The Cook Hospital



Winning Artist • CARSON PANICHI
Grade 5

Have A SNOWY Christmas!

from LAKES GAS



Winning Artist • BRIDGET DAVID
Grade 2

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

from Embarrass Vermillion Credit Union



Winning Artist • RAEANNA MEDICINE
Grade 5

Safe & Happy Travels This Christmas!

from COOK VFW



Winning Artist • LATISE STRONG
Grade 5

LEVY...Continued from page 1

that cash flow is going to be “very tight” this year and that the city will need to do everything possible to keep a lid on spending, including limiting new projects.

Adding to the cash flow concern is the need to pay the remaining cost of purchasing a new ambulance, which is now expected to arrive early next year. The city still owes \$164,994 on the vehicle after paying \$65,000 towards the purchase of the rig in 2019. The city currently has \$121,409 remaining in its township subsidy account, leaving the city to cover \$43,342 of the purchase price from remaining city funds. That amount could still drop if other townships provide their second 2019 subsidy payment before the ambulance arrives.

While the city’s ambulance has long been a source of income and cash flow, that has changed dramatically since the adoption of a paid staffing model in early 2018, which has sent the cost of running the ambulance service far higher, without sufficient additional revenues to maintain the roughly \$100,000 annual margins that the ambulance service enjoyed up until 2018.

Budget data presented by clerk-treasurer Victoria Ranua showed the ambulance service had cleared just \$4,460 in 2018, while the year-to-date budget for 2019 showed a \$130,701 deficit. Ranua noted that the current figure was misleading in part because a portion of the ambulance cost was paid in 2019. She said she would prefer to see larger capital purchases pulled out of the operating budget, since they can distort the numbers. Also impacting the 2019 figure is a roughly \$80,000 accounting adjustment that transferred revenue booked this year to the 2018 books. Correcting for those factors, the ambulance service is likely to finish the year close to break-even. There’s little indication of improvement next year, as the preliminary 2020 ambulance budget shows a deficit of \$135,463, including the remaining cost of ambulance purchase.

The 2020 budget does not include any funds for training of paramedics or any push towards developing a part-time ALS service. However, at the insistence of Ambulance Supervisor Steve Altenburg, it still includes \$6,500 to pay for

restaurant meals, snacks, and groceries for department members, an expense item that Ranua had originally zeroed out in the budget. The budget also includes \$11,240 to pay for the rental and maintenance of ambulance staff quarters.

The budget that Ranua presented to the council on Monday included a total general fund levy of \$402,072, but the council reduced that amount to \$394,761, an increase of eight percent over the \$365,520 the city levied in 2019. As usual, the total levy included an additional \$5,000 assessment for the Tower Economic Development Authority.

Ranua said she would have to spend more time with the budget in order to bring the spending plan in line with the reduced resources, but the council authorized the 2020 spending plan with that understanding. “The budget’s a guideline,” said Kringstad, who said the city will need to find additional savings over the course of the year.

Among the other spending pressures the city is facing is a nearly \$100,000 anticipated bill for engineering and legal costs associated with the plan to replace the city’s main water transmission line. Those costs would likely be reimbursable, however, should the city obtain funding for the line replacement, which is planned as part of a larger project to upgrade the city’s drinking water treatment plant.

The city also continues to face fallout from the 2018 Hoodoo Point campground sewer extension. Ranua added funds to cover an anticipated settlement with Utility Systems of America

as final payment for that work. The city has, to date, withheld just over \$36,000 over a dispute about sags in a sewer main. Since the city has no more bond proceeds to pay for the final settlement, it will have to come out of existing city revenues. The additional expense forced Ranua to reduce the city’s expected draw from the campground operations, from \$60,000 to \$45,000 next year.

Other related council action demonstrates the challenges the city will face as it attempts to cut costs in the coming year. With the city facing a major cash flow challenge by late winter or spring, the council approved a two-year contract with its AFSCME employees that includes a six-percent pay increase in the first year and a four-percent increase the following year.

Ranua said the higher pay is intended to bring the city more in line with wage rates for similar positions in other cities on the Iron Range. AFSCME representatives had brought an analysis to the city council during a recent closed session, which suggested that the city of Tower’s pay scale was about 25-percent less than other nearby communities. The city will be losing its maintenance supervisor Tom Gorsma early next year after he accepted a position with Breitung Township. In her memo on the budget, Ranua stated that such staff changes disrupt the functioning of a small city like Tower.

Meanwhile, the council voted 3-1, with council member Sheldon Majerle voting no, to authorize payment of double time for ambulance staff hours

worked on six holidays, including Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s.

In her memo on the issue, Ranua noted that she could find no authorization for the holiday pay, despite the repeated claims of Supervisor Altenburg to the contrary. The city has already been paying the holiday pay throughout the year on Altenburg’s insistence although there is no evidence the council ever authorized the spending as Altenburg claims.

While Majerle said he supported the higher pay for workers, he said he was frustrated by Altenburg’s lack of candor. “Our employees should be telling us the truth and not lying to us all the time,” he said. Majerle had investigated the issue after the council tabled the question at their Dec. 9 meeting. “I could find no policy, no council approval, and no list of holidays it even applies to,” said Majerle. “Someone gave an order to pay these people without authorization.”

But Ranua argued that the pay premium was a separate issue from the question of previous authorization. “We shouldn’t be putting employees in the crossfire,” she said.

Council member Rachel Beldo motioned to approve the holiday pay, but council member Mary Shedd offered an amendment to revisit the issue by the Fourth of July and conduct a broader analysis of the ambulance service in the meantime.

“There’s pay, there’s

on call, there’s mattresses, there’s staff quarters, there’s training, and then there are deficits that we are trying to deal with,” said Shedd. “We are piecemeal trying to understand the issues about the ambulance and emergency services that keep coming before us. There’s a lot of debate and disagreement about everything from on-call to housing, to time paid, to training. I find it difficult as a councilor to keep up and make good decisions without seeing the big picture.”

Shedd said she’d like to see a comprehensive management review by some kind of outside expert to better understand the range of issues the council is trying to address with the ambulance service. “I just feel like we’re spinning our wheels.”

In the end, Beldo accepted Shedd’s amendment although it remains to be seen if the council follows through on her request for a management review.

In other action, the council:

- Approved Altenburg’s request to send at least seven members of the ambulance staff to attend the annual EMS conference in Duluth from Jan. 22-26. Ranua estimated the cost at about \$600 per member, including registration fees, hotels, and meals, for a total of about \$4,200 for seven participants. Some councilors questioned whether the conference was actually important as continuing education but, in the end, they approved the expense.

diture.

- Approved setting aside \$21,671 to cover half of the remaining cash needs for the ambulance purchase. The township ambulance subsidy account will cover approximately \$121,000, leaving the city still on the hook for \$43,342, so Monday’s set aside will reduce that remaining cash need to \$21,671.

- Took no immediate action on a proposal to apply for Blandin broadband funds to help pay for an upgrade to the city’s website. Shedd said the city council did establish a task force for that purpose earlier this year and that she would like to convene it in January in order to determine a work plan for a new website. John Bassing, representing the local broadband committee, told the council that about \$9,000 of the Blandin grant remains to be allocated, with a deadline of June. He noted that the Tower Economic Development Authority had already submitted their own request for funds to create a new TEDA website.

- Approved hiring Como Oil to install gas lines needed for a new gas range at the city’s civic center.

- Approved a proposal by Ranua to switch the city from a monthly payroll schedule to twice monthly.

- Approved having Beldo and Shedd attend the League of Minnesota Cities training on Jan. 24 and 25. The budget impact is \$275 per attendee, plus possible mileage and hotel expense.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

New year means new minimum-wage rates

REGIONAL — Minnesota's minimum-wage rates will be adjusted for inflation beginning Jan. 1, 2020, to \$10 an hour for large employers and \$8.15 an hour for other state minimum wages.

As of Jan. 1, 2020:

Large employers must pay at least \$10 an hour when the employer's annual gross revenues are \$500,000 or more.

Small employers must pay at least \$8.15 an hour when the employer's annual gross revenues are less than \$500,000.

The training wage rate, \$8.15 an hour, may be paid to employees younger than 20 years of age for the first 90 consecutive days of employment.

The youth wage rate, \$8.15 an hour, may be paid to employees younger than 18 years of age.

For 2020, an estimated 206,000 jobs will pay the \$10 or \$8.15 state minimum-wage rates. These rates will not apply to work performed in the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, which have higher minimum-wage rates.

Small Business Development Center adds two consultants

REGIONAL - The Northeast Minnesota Regional office of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) announced the addition of two new business consultants: Rob Sjostrand to work from Grand Rapids and Kate Welch from Duluth.

Sjostrand will work from the Itasca Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) office located in Grand Rapids.

Previously, the Grand Rapids native worked as a Senior Sourcing Specialist for Cirrus Design.

Welch will work from the SBDC offices at the Duluth Tech Village. Welch has a banking background, working most recently as a branch manager with US Bank in Duluth.

"Both Kate and Rob bring diverse skills and great experience to serve area SBDC clients

and we are really pleased to have them on board," stated Michael Colclough, Northeast Minnesota SBDC Regional Director.

The SBDC provides technical assistance to help businesses start up, manage, and grow. It is a federal program supported at the state level and hosted regionally by the Northland Foundation, with funding support from numerous partners.

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-750** TRADE ASSIST
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ELY...Continued from page 1

Area businesses, including Sir G's Italian Restaurant, Lakeshore Liquor and Zaverl's Bar donated a portion of their sales last Saturday to help the BWCC.

The total amount of money taken from the jar was estimated at about \$300, according to BWCC Executive Director Adam Masloski. "In response to all the publicity about the incident, the Ely community really stepped up. It has been amazing. We received donations from all over the place. We even heard from children who donated their piggy bank money. It really shows how great our community is and why we all love to live here," he said.

"So far, we have raised over \$2,500 through the gracious donations of community members," Masloski said late Tuesday.

"Any donations can be brought directly to the Activities Department," Forsman said. "During after hours/weekend times, please give your donation to the nurses and they will lock it up in their med carts. Thank you again for your kindness and generosity. Your donations will be appreciated and help enrich the lives of our residents."

Donations can be sent to: BWCC, Attn: Activities Dept., 200 West Conan Street, Ely, MN 55731. Write checks to: Attention Activities Department.

The Northeast Range girls swim team will host a bake sale on Sunday, Dec 22 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Zup's Market in Ely to raise funds to give back to the Boundary Waters Care Center activity department.

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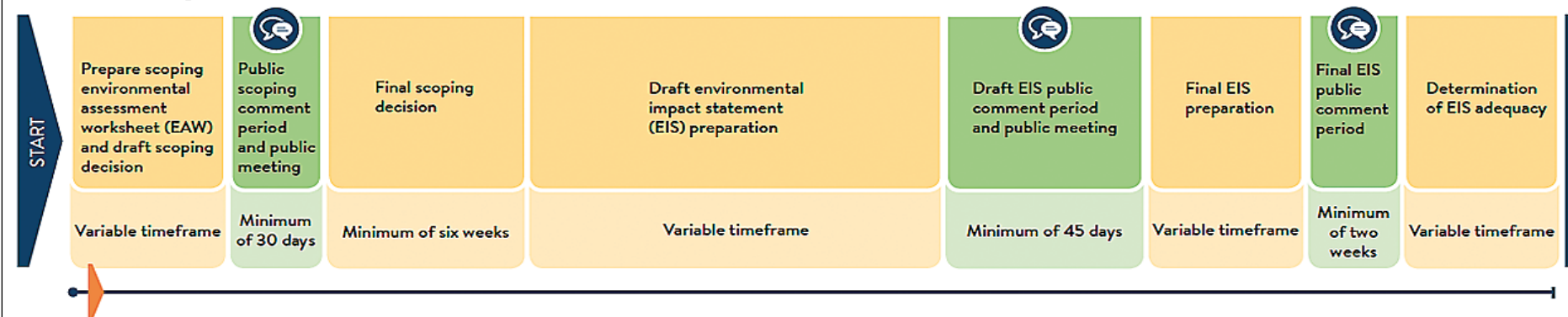
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Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Environmental Review Process Timeline



PLAN...Continued from page 1

river system within the BWCAW and would be located upstream of the 1.1 million-acre wilderness. The proposed mine would range in depth from 400 feet to as much as 4,500 feet. According to the company, approximately half of the tailings generated through ore production and processing would be backfilled underground as part of mining operations. The remaining waste would be stored in a massive “dry stack” tailings storage facility, measuring about a mile and a half across. The company proposes to build a new ore processing plant near the mine entrance.

The company released the proposal to both the DNR and the federal Bureau of Land Management, which will both conduct their own separate environmental reviews. “I truly believe the Twin Metals project will be a model for modern, sustainable and environmentally responsible underground mining,” said Kelly Osborne, TMM chief executive officer. “We’ve pulled together the best professionals in the industry who’ve put in thousands of hours to make this an extraordinary project, and I’m proud to lead this team.” Twin Metals is a subsidiary of Antofagasta, a Chilean-based copper mining giant.

Plenty of questions about the project still remain to be answered. At a press conference on Wednesday, DNR officials mostly avoided questions about the proposal itself, focusing instead on the process moving forward. Assistant DNR Commissioner Barb Naramore said her agency will begin its review of the Twin Metals submittal immediately to ensure that it contains all the information the DNR will need to begin an environmental review process. If so, she estimated the

initial scoping process for the environmental impact statement, or EIS, would likely take one-and-a-half to two years to complete. Once scoped, the actual study would begin, although Naramore was unwilling to estimate how long that process might take, only that it would likely be the longest phase of the process. Naramore noted that the EIS process includes several opportunities for public input and that the volume and detail of those comments will likely have an impact on how long the review could take. The company would be allowed to actually apply for mine permits after the EIS is completed.

Ely Mayor Chuck Novak, who has been strongly supportive of the Twin Metals project, called the release of the mine plan exciting early morning news. “The time for speculation and unfounded scare tactics is over. Prove what can’t work with facts, real science - not emotion,” he said. “The economic impact of jobs in the mining industry is a major financial contributor to the entire state as well as local economies. The total compensation for one mining job is equivalent to the compensation of four seasonal employees in the tourism economy.”

The economic impacts of the mine proposal are not clear. Unlike the 43-101 technical report that Twin Metals prior owner, Duluth Metals, issued in 2014, the latest submittal does not

appear to contain any estimates of the project’s financial viability or estimates of employment. Antofagasta acquired the outstanding stock in Duluth Metals for pennies on the dollar shortly after the release of that technical report, which showed profitability for a significantly larger project than Twin Metals is now proposing.

Naramore said the DNR has not sought financial data at this point in the process. “Where project economics do become important, is in the realm of financial assurance,” Naramore added. Those considerations typically are finalized as part of the permitting process.

Whether the project ever gets to that stage remains uncertain. Former Gov. Mark Dayton was openly opposed to the Twin Metals project out of concerns for its potential impact to the BWCAW, and current Gov. Tim Walz has supported his own DNR’s decision to conduct its own environmental review of the company’s mine proposal. The DNR and the U.S. Forest Service had combined forces to conduct a similar EIS over the proposed PolyMet copper-nickel mine several years ago, so the decision to conduct a separate state review has been viewed by many as reflecting skepticism within the Walz administration over the project.

The release of the mine plan comes in the same week that Republicans in

Congress fought off a Democratic effort to reinstate a two-year study of a potential mineral withdrawal affecting the area that Twin Metals hopes to mine. The company currently has two federal mineral leases affecting several thousand acres of the Superior National Forest, which the Trump administration restored in 2017. That action is currently the subject of a federal lawsuit, with a district court judge expected to rule soon.

For now, U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber was effusive in his praise of the project. “This Mine Plan of Operation represents the future of our mining industry, as our friends and neighbors will target another key section of the Duluth Complex to supply the world’s demand for precious metals,” he said.

While supporters of the mine lauded the company’s mine proposal, opponents were sharply critical of both the plan and the ability of state and federal regulators to protect water quality in the BWCAW. “Today’s announcement by Antofagasta comes in the midst of the failure of regulatory agencies to protect Minnesotans from pollution at PolyMet’s proposed sulfide mine,” stated Aaron Klemz, with the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. “The PolyMet water permit scandal has shaken Minnesotans’ confidence and shown that our mine permitting system is broken.”

Currently, four permits issued by the

DNR and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for the PolyMet mine are suspended by the state Court of Appeals pending further proceedings. At the same time, state and federal investigations into the suppression of concerns, expressed by federal Environmental Protection Agency scientists remain ongoing.

MCEA CEO Kathryn Hoffman urged Gov. Walz and the DNR to use their legal authority to protect the Boundary Waters from the threat of the Twin Metals mine. “The time is now to stand up and demand that they use this authority to defend the Boundary Waters and Lake Superior.”

Meanwhile, the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters called the

development a “perilous time” for the Boundary Waters. “The Trump Administration has corrupted the federal environmental review process and jammed the Twin Metals project into a state process that was never intended to protect pristine locations like the Boundary Waters,” said former DNR commissioner and current chair of the campaign, Tom Landwehr. “If elected leaders don’t act we could lose the Boundary Waters as we know it.”

The public can learn more about the Twin Metals proposal at a special website set up by DNR to make information available. That information can be found at www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/twinmetals/index.html



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ISD 696

Ely school renovation plan comes into focus

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

New building would result in one complete structure

ELY – School officials here Monday considered a more ambitious building and facilities option with an eye toward the future, while addressing the immediate goal of providing a safe and secure learning environment for students and faculty at ISD 696.

With a price tag of nearly \$20 million and a timeline for completion in 2023, the plan, presented by Architectural Resources Inc. president Scott Sosalla, won strong support from the district's lobbying firm and officials from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation who were present at the school board's study session.

While not making any official decision, school board members generally agreed to move forward with the ambitious plan that calls for the replacement of the Industrial Arts building with a new structure between the Washington and Memorial buildings.

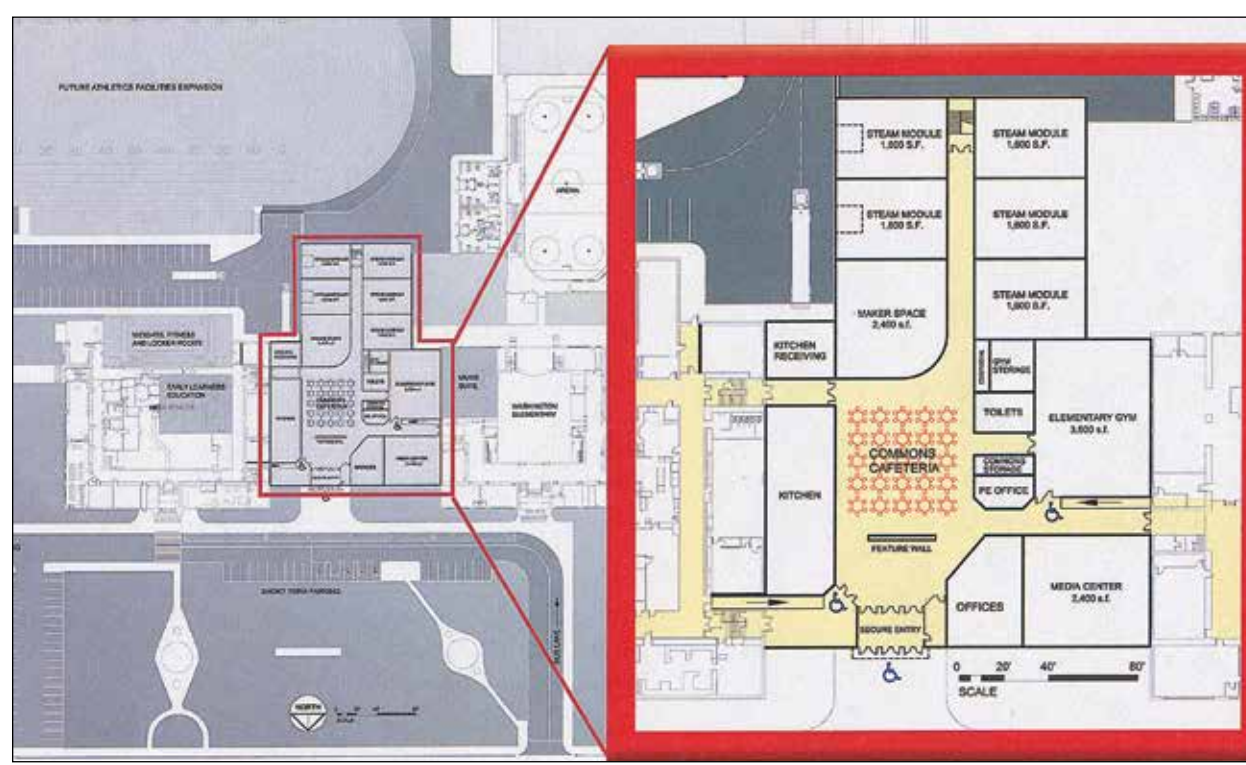
The facility renovation would provide for a secure school-day entrance, an open commons/cafe area, new kitchen receiving area, relocated district and administrative offices, a combined media center, an elementary physical education area, multiple learning areas or modules for industrial arts, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) education, and a maker space or community learning area.

In addition, campus-wide renovations would include a new music education suite, early learning education area, updated locker rooms with possible community access to a weight room and fitness area, relocated district vehicle garage, and improved traffic flow around the campus to allow for safer school bus and student drop-off.

Future growth for athletics, including a new stadium and competitive track and field facilities, would also be possible.

Superintendent Erik Erie, essentially the point-person on any district facility renovation, presented his justification for the school board, staff, students and community to consider the plan.

"The school board and community have been talking about plans like this for over a decade," he said. "There have been many conversations and now we think the timing



A proposed replacement structure for the Industrial Arts building at ISD 696, which would be positioned between the Memorial and Washington buildings, could include a new secure entrance, commons/cafe area, media center, elementary gym and several learning pods.

is right. The voters have said, through the recent community survey, that they are prepared to invest in the future of Ely's public school and their students."

He reviewed the considerations that went into the facility improvement process, starting with the need for a safe and secure learning environment by linking the campus buildings. "The goal of many schools is to create a small, quality, state-of-the-art learning environment and community within their school," he said.

With the renovation plan, according to Erie, new tools for students at ISD 696 would include upgraded technology with access to one-to-one devices, STEAM pods (flexible learning areas) or classrooms, new fine arts teaching and physical education spaces, 21st century industrial technology and education for the trades and manufacturing, preschool and early childhood education, a 21st century media center, and spaces available for community use.

School administration recently surveyed staff and students on the needs for future learning. K-5 Principal Anne Oelke related a conversation she had with a fourth-grade student. "He wants to be a professional skate boarder," Oelke said. "He said he will need to learn a lot of foreign languages and culture studies so he can travel the world."

Megan Anderson, 6-12 principal, said she is impressed with the diverse opinions received from students in their surveys about 21st century learning needs.

Erie noted that one option for the Ely school district to consider in providing more learning opportunities for students is to modify the school day from a six-period to a seven-period learning environment. "I am hoping we can soon have more discussion and study on that," he said.

ISD 696's lobbying firm, the Costin Group, made the case for considering the \$20 million facilities renovation plan. Gary Cerkenik, who originally floated the idea of replacing the Industrial Arts building with a more modern learning environment, said he recognizes the need for Ely school officials to maintain their independence and financial strength while at the same time modernize and leveraging to increase the resources available to reach those goals.

"We recognize the community doesn't have unlimited tax capacity and we have to put forward a conservative, reasonable plan that addresses your long-term needs," Cerkenik said. "In working with Scott (Sosalla from ARI), we have to respect the architectural heritage of your buildings. You have a nice campus that people are proud of."

He noted that safety and security, along with respecting the activities that already take place on campus must also be maintained. "Having good traffic flow around the campus, and having multiple uses for the spaces are also important considerations," he said.

Financing and a timeline

The proposed plan could cost close to \$20 million. According to the community survey, district voters may be willing to absorb a property tax increase over the next 20 years amounting to as much as \$10 million. "Let's keep it simple," Cerkenik said. "If we can figure out where we get a dollar from the community and a dollar to match, I think then we have something that we can be proud of selling to the community that they would buy into. How do we get to \$19.8 million when we have \$10 million?"

He started with the \$500,000 in state safety grant funding coming to ISD 696. The school board has indicated that as much as \$500,000 in General Fund dollars could be used for the project. About half of the Long Term Maintenance Fund

levy, \$1.6 to \$1.8 million could be applied to the project's roof and window replacement components.

"Add those things together (assuming a \$10 million bond referendum passes) and you are up to \$12.5 to \$13 million," Cerkenik said. "How do you come up with the rest of it? That's where we go to the IRRR agency and elected officials to see if they will support that."

Additional school bond funding from the Department of IRRR and increased Taconite Tax Relief are two possible avenues for funding of the Ely school project. "If you look at how much support we are getting now from the taconite tax, we can justify some expenditures to modernize your facilities," he said.

IRRR staff members Roy Smith and Chris Ismil were at the study session and indicated their approval of the developing project and funding options. "They have been helping to guide us and are here to listen," Cerkenik said. "Today, we are just trying to get a feeling from (the school board) on

whether or not you want us to continue, to put together further documentation and meet with the IRRR staff on this."

Costin Group principal Jeff Anderson offered additional advantages of the rebooted facilities project. "The reduction in square footage of the buildings, and added efficiencies, are projected to save the district \$40,000 a year, and will ultimately be cost effective in terms of long-term facilities maintenance," he said. "The project also prepares the school campus for future athletic complex development. This is not something we can look at today, but we can plan for five or ten years out."

According to Anderson, a project timeline calls for community meetings and IRRR engagement, before the school board makes a final decision in May 2020 on a referendum vote for next August. "With that approval, this project could be bid next September with construction starting as early as April 2021 and completion by 2023," he said.

School board members were generally in agreement with the new proposal, but voiced concern about the lack of a second competition-sized gymnasium and no immediate plan providing for a competition running track around the football field.

"I want to see this (facility renovation) come to fruition," said Rochelle Sjoborg. "We just need to make sure that our community hears us. We have seen the survey results. We know where we are, and we will be respectful of the community's support. I want to make sure that we are expressing clearly as a board so our community is assured that we are not looking at a \$19.8 million project and coming to them. That's not what we are doing."

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BOYS BASKETBALL

A game of milestones

North Woods tops T-Wolves as players and coaches set career marks

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

FIELD TWP — It was a night of milestones for the Grizzlies as they faced a tough contest against Ely here on Friday. North Woods senior Trevor Morrison poured in 26 points to surpass the 1,000-point mark during the contest and Head Coach Will Kleppe notched the 300th win of his coaching career.

Meanwhile, Ely's junior

guard Brock Latourell led all scorers as he notched a career-high 27 points, including seven treys, to help keep the game close throughout. The seventh-ranked Grizzlies pulled it out in the end, 77-66, to remain undefeated so far this season.

"I thought we competed well against them," said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald. "But we really had a hard time containing their size and they just wore us out in the second half." The Wolves

Right: Ely senior guard Eric Omerza goes up to the glass while Jared Chiabotti and Darius Goggleye attempt to block the shot.

photo by C. Stone

kept it tight from the start, but the Grizzlies gradually built their margin. They led by five at the half and outscored Ely 37-31 in the second frame to pad their lead.

See **MILESTONES...**pg. 2B



Right: Ely senior skier Nate Nettifee works his way up a hill during competition last Saturday in Grand Rapids. Nettifee finished in fourth place overall, helping lift the Ely boys team to a first-place finish.

Below: Ninth-grader Cedar Ohlhauser during girls competition on Saturday.

photos by
L. Anderson



NORDIC SKIING

Ely finishes 1-2 again

Timberwolves dominate at Grand Rapids even without their top skier

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

COLERAINE – Ely's Nordic ski teams posted another one-two finish last Saturday at the Grand Rapids Invite at Mt. Itasca, and did so even without their usual top finisher Jasper Johnston. The Timberwolves' boys team took first place for the second meet in a row, while the girls brought home yet another second-place finish.

Six Ely boys skiers finished in the top 10, including Gabriel Pointer, who finished the 5K race in second place with a time of 15:03.1, just 11 seconds behind winning

Grand Rapids skier Matej Cervenka.

Raif Olson was next in the parade of Ely skiers with a third-place time of 15:08.1, followed by Nate Nettifee, in 4th, at 15:47.4, Ethan Bremner, in 5th, at 15:53.7, Jon Hakala, in 8th, at 16:27.0, and Micah Larson, who finished 10th, at 16:40.5.

The Ely boys team posted 390 points, followed by Grand Rapids, at 369, Mesabi East, at 345, Cloquet-Esko-Carlton, at 343, and Proctor-Hermantown, at 336.

"It was nice to see the boys win without Jasper," said Head Coach Paula Anderson. "He was at the

Junior National qualifying event held last weekend. He's hoping to make it to Cross Country Junior Nationals again this year, which involves four week-ends of racing, so he'll be gone for our meet Thursday as well."

Zoe Devine finished in third place for the Wolves with a time of 18:06.4. Other Ely finishers, with place and time, included, Phoebe Helms, in 7th, at 18:53.4, Kalyssa Eilrich, 8th, at 18:59.0, Brooke Pasmick, 10th, at 19:03.3, Cora Olson, 12th, at 19:16.6,

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



GIRLS BASKETBALL

Kallberg hits 1,000th point as she leads T-Wolves over Chisholm

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY — Senior Brielle Kallberg poured in 30 points against the Bluestreaks on Monday, as she easily surpassed the 1,000-point mark

Left: Ely senior forward Brielle Kallberg lit up the boards on Monday, scoring 30 points to surpass the 1,000-point mark in her career.

photo by J. Greeney

and led the Timberwolves to their fifth win of the season, 72-50. "It was a real milestone for Brielle," said Ely Head Coach Darren Visser. "It was nice that she reached the 1,000-point mark in front of a home crowd."

The game looked a bit touch-and-go for a time as Ely started out slowly. They took a 31-24 lead into the break before blowing the game open in the second half.

"In the first half we strug-

gled some with Chisholm's aggressive defense," said Visser. "In the second half we were able to make some offensive adjustments that allowed us to pull away."

While it was Kallberg's big night, she had plenty of help from freshman Madeline Perry and senior Erika Mattson, who scored 12 points apiece. Freshman Rachel Coughlin scored ten

See **WOLVES...**pg. 2B



HOCKEY

Quick start fades for Wolves

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Ely senior forward Luke Olson led an early onslaught for the Timberwolves last Friday night, but despite his hat trick, the Wolves finished on the losing end of a 10-3 contest with Moose Lake.

Olson scored ahead of the five-minute mark with assists by Dalton Schreffler and Jimmy Zupancich and he scored again to make it 2-1 after the Rebels had momentarily evened the score. Ely's Seann Prigge notched the assist on Olson's second goal.

Moose Lake went on to score three more times in the first period to take a 4-2 lead and added three more goals in the second before Olson answered with his third goal of the contest with an assist by Schreffler to leave the score at 7-3. The Rebels scored three unanswered goals in the third period to boost their final margin to 10-3.

The Timberwolves took a total of 31 shots on goal for the night, while the Rebels made the most of their 37 scoring chances against sophomore

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

Sports week

BOYS B-BALL

Friday, Dec. 20
Ely hosts Cherry, 7:15 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 27
Ely Holiday Tourney, 7:15 p.m.

GIRLS B-BALL

Friday, Dec. 20
Ely at Two Harbors, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 26
North Woods at Esko Coaches Classic. 7:15 p.m.
Ely Hoops for Hopes Tourney, 7:15 p.m.
Northeast Range vs Carlton at Ely, 4:15 p.m.

HOCKEY

Thursday, Dec. 26
Ely at North Shore Tourney, TBD

MILESTONES...Continued from page 1B

Four Grizzlies made it to double figures. In addition to Morrison, junior Darius Goggleye scored 16 points, sophomore TJ Chiabotti scored 14, and freshman Jared Chiabotti scored 13. Morrison also grabbed 17 rebounds for a double-double on his big night.

While Latourell dominated scoring for Ely, senior Dylan Fenske added 20 points and fellow senior Eric Omerza added 13 along with seven assists.

North Woods Head Coach Will Kleppe was effusive in his praise for Morrison. "Trevor's accomplishment is another achievement for a young man who

is at the top of his class in academics and a force on the basketball court. Trevor exemplifies what it means to be a team player and mentor to our younger players. He's the first one to volunteer to help our elementary programs on Saturday and the younger kids really look up to him."

As for reaching his own career milestone, Kleppe said his work with student athletes has been "an honor and a privilege" and he thanked his family for their years of support despite the time commitment that coaching entails. "My wife Tara and our two sons, Chase and Davis, have stood beside

me through the highs and lows of the job and I owe a lot to their love and support. Coaching high school sports has changed dramatically since I first took the job but having support from family, the teams, the school and community has been very rewarding."

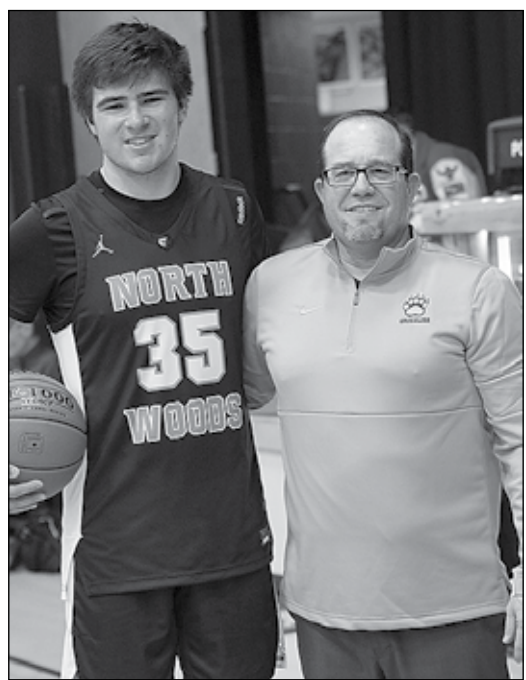
Kleppe credited his players for allowing him to reach the career milestone. "It's a testament to their hard work and is very humbling when I think of all the athletes who were a part of all the teams I have coached, many of whom I count among my friends today."

Kleppe also paid tribute to assistant coaches he

has worked with over the years. "Leo Wilenius, Brian Anderson, Joel Anderson, Ron Waggoner, Rick Viita, Rob Goggleye, Matt Bergman, Tom Burnett, Dan Squires and last but not least my friend and mentor Jerry Chiabotti. I couldn't have asked for a better bunch of guys."

Right: North Woods senior Trevor Morrison (r) scored his 1,000th point last Friday while his coach Will Kleppe won his 300th game as a coach.

photo by C. Stone



NORDIC...Continued from page 1B

Julia Schwingamer, 13th, at 19:18.3, Gracie Pointer, 16th, at 19:50.7, Ana Bercher, 18th, at 20:20.6, and Abigail Thompson, 29th, at 24:38.7.

The Ely girls team scored 376 points, just behind Mesabi East, with 384 points.

"It's nice to see them starting to come into some

ski and race form," said Anderson. "The field was smaller as Duluth East, Denfeld, and Marshall weren't there. The boys were solid and the girls

are making progress as well. There are many young girls vying for top spots on our team this year which should raise the bar for all a bit. Mesabi East

has a very competitive girls team again which will make Sections interesting."

The Timberwolves were scheduled to compete

in the Cloquet Invite on Friday, Dec. 19, and will host the Ely Time Trials at Giants Ridge on Saturday, Dec. 28.

HOCKEY...Continued from page 1B

goalie Chase Sandberg. Ely's Zupancich was called for tripping in the first period, and Justin Nyman went to the box on a hooking penalty in the second period.

E-G 12, Ely 0

After recent weather-related postponements and a schedule change, the Wolves lost 12-0 to Eveleth-Gilbert on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

The Golden Bears, with more than a dozen seniors, attacked the net early, scoring a minute into the game, and overwhelming Timberwolves' goalie Ben Cavalier with 29 shots on goal to take an 8-0 lead in the first period.

Eveleth-Gilbert added another goal in the second period on 13 scoring chances, and added three more goals in the last frame on 10 scoring chances.

The Timberwolves took nine shots on goal. Justin Nyman served a total of 17 penalty minutes on three infractions.

Head coach Ben Johnson is in Europe this month as coach of the U.S. National Sled Hockey team.

The Timberwolves will take part in the North Shore Tourney over the holiday break with games scheduled for Dec. 26-28. They travel to International Falls on Jan. 3.



Ely's Luke Olson celebrates the first of his three goals against Moose Lake last Friday. K. Vandervort

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

and grabbed ten rebounds for a double-double. Winter Sainio and Sarah Visser scored four points apiece.

The Wolves travel on Friday night to take on the

Agates in Two Harbors. Tip-off is set for 7:15 p.m. They'll be back in action next Thursday at the Hoops for Hope Tournament.



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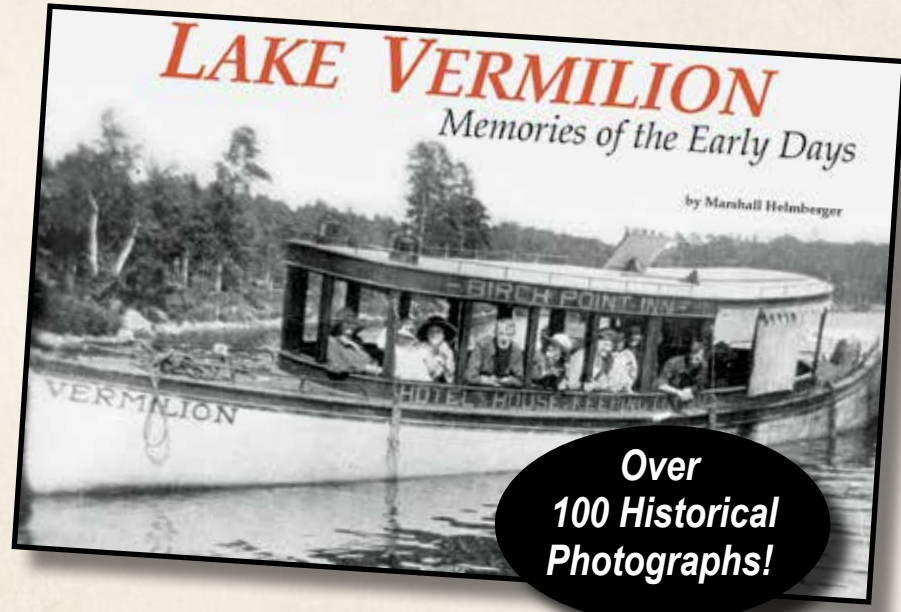
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DNR seeks input on deer goals

REGIONAL — Over the next few years, the Department of Natural Resources will begin holding a series of small group discussions around the state as the agency works to involve more members of the public in its goal setting for whitetail deer.

The workshops will replace the citizen advisory committees and public meetings that were used during the last round of deer goal setting in 2017. One of the first of those meetings is set for next month in International Falls.

“Using workshops to gather input opens the doors to include more participants and more viewpoints than the advisory committees used previously, and we’re really looking forward to hearing the conversations and recommendations,” said Barbara Keller, DNR big game program leader. “We encourage anyone who has an interest in deer management to attend these workshops and give feedback on future deer population trends in the areas where they live, work and recreate.”

Using the workshop format is a change based on information from Minnesota’s hunters about how they prefer to provide input, exit interviews of participants from the last round of population goal setting, and consultation with the statewide Deer Advisory Committee.

The DNR sets deer population goals – how much of an increase or decrease is desired in a deer population in a particular deer permit area – as part of managing the state’s wild deer herd. Deer population goals will be updated on a staggered basis in 14 regional goal-setting blocks that are made of multiple deer permit areas. The population goals established in this process will provide

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



CITIZEN SCIENCE

Count the birds



Christmas Bird Counts set to begin across the area starting Saturday

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — It may seem like the natural world goes to sleep in a North Country winter, but for the relative handful of bird species that remain here through the worst of the season, the focus now is on finding food and shelter. And for bird enthusiasts around the area for the next two weeks, the focus will be on finding those birds as they go about their quest for survival. It’s all part of the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC), now celebrating its 120th year.

The CBC is actually many counts — hundreds, in fact — now held all across the Americas, from the northwestern tip of Baffin Island in the Canadian Arctic to the Drake Passage off the southern tip of South America. Here in the North Country, counts are planned for Ely, Cook, Isabella, and Aurora.

First up is Ely’s count, set for Sat, Dec. 21, so you’ll want to contact Bill Tefft (218-235-8078) right away if you’d like to take part in this popular count. If you need more notice, there are other area counts coming up over the next ten days. See contact information in the sidebar below.

Each of the Christmas counts is conducted within a 15-mile-wide count circle, centered on a specific point. CBC participants count all the birds they see on that day within the count circle. Some birders spend the day skiing or snowshoeing through the woods. Others drive the backroads, and still others count the birds at their feeders from the comfort of their living room.

While the count is open to all and is free of charge, all participants will want to contact the count compiler ahead of time so they know where you plan to count or can assign you

Local Christmas bird counts

► **ELY** — Saturday, Dec. 21. Contact Bill Tefft at efnbill@gmail.com or 218-235-8078

► **COOK** — Saturday, Dec. 28. Contact Julie Grahm at 218-666-2450 or jg.grahm@gmail.com.

► **AURORA** — Monday, Dec. 30. Contact Steve Falkowski at debfalk@gmail.com.

► **ISABELLA** — Saturday, Jan. 4. Contact Steve Wilson at 218-753-6110 or clevergrayjay@gmail.com.

a count area.

It’s a fun way to spend a day, but it’s also important scientific work that has helped professional researchers document changes in bird populations over the decades. And that data becomes more valuable with time and consistency.

You don’t have to be a bird expert, since in many cases you could be teamed up with an experienced birder, which could make the count a great way to

expand your knowledge about our feathered neighbors and how to identify them. Winter is a good time to learn to identify our year-round resident birds, since the number of species found in the area this time of year is much lower than during the summer months. So, don’t waste another day sitting at home. Get out and take part in this year’s Christmas Bird Count.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
26 15					31 20					35 21					27 16					26 12				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
12/09	30	5	0.19	6.3"	12/09	29	4	0.31	6.3"	12/09	29	3	0.07	1.5"	12/09	7	-9	0.24	3.5"	12/09	29	2	0.35	5.4"
12/10	6	-15	0.03	1.5"	12/10	4	-10	0.06	1.5"	12/10	4	-10	0.03	0.7"	12/10	-2	-15	0.00		12/10	6	-17	0.00	
12/11	0	-23	0.00		12/11	-3	-27	0.00		12/11	-4	-20	0.00		12/11	1	-18	0.00		12/11	-3	-17	0.00	
12/12	3	-20	0.00		12/12	0	-21	0.01		12/12	-1	-20	0.02	0.2"	12/12	16	-6	0.02	0.2"	12/12	-1	-17	0.03	0.3"
12/13	17	1	0.02	0.4"	12/13	14	0	0.03	0.4"	12/13	11	-4	0.04	0.5"	12/13	21	9	0.06	1.0"	12/13	15	-1	0.00	
12/14	23	12	0.09	2.2"	12/14	25	0	0.12	2.2"	12/14	21	10	0.14	2.0"	12/14	18	-11	0.00		12/14	22	8	0.32	3.1"
12/15	14	17	0.01	0.1"	12/15	10	-25	0.00	0.1"	12/15	10	-22	0.00		12/15	7	-29	0.00		12/15	8	-27	0.00	
YTD Total			22.51	43.9"	YTD Total			27.25	28.7"	YTD Total			24.51	23.1"	YTD Total			NA	25.2"	YTD Total			28.75	24.4"

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Ely council approves one-percent levy increase

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – City council members here approved a certified levy of \$1,768,590 for 2020 at a brief end-of-year business meeting Tuesday night.

“We came in with a preliminary levy increase of 2.69 percent,” said Mayor Chuck Novak, “and our final levy shows just a one-percent increase. That is less than the rate of inflation even though our costs are going up.”

He noted that some additional costs came up, but the budget committee decided not to tap into

the city’s reserves. “Our reserve policy is set. We are able to reserve half of the general fund and library expenses for next year, plus all debt service. That protects us from any negative actions taken at the Capitol.”

Novak also added that the city has a \$200,000 land purchase in the wings for next year. “That will balance us out pretty much,” he said.

“The city is in good stead. And it is well run,” he said. “Some cities are looking at a levy increase of 11 percent or more. We can brag about this. We can thank the LGA (Local Government Aid) that is

back to the 2002 levels. That’s what helps us here to keep this levy down.”

Council member and budget committee member Al Forsman added that the city continues to engage in major infrastructure upgrades. “Next year, with the James Street project, the city is on the hook for about \$1 million. We don’t know that we will get all the grants we applied for. To be able to hold at a one-percent increase is significant.”

Council member Heidi Omerza thanked the city staff. “They leverage our hard-earned money and make it go further,” she said.

Novak noted that he likes to say the city staff is “frugal” at times. “We have an excellent staff and our accountant has the numbers down pat,”

he said.

Council member Jerome Debeltz also noted that Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski continues to use city employees

on much of the streets and infrastructure work. “There used to be a lot of that work here done by

See ELY...page 8B

DEER...Continued from page 4B

direction for management over 10 years, with a mid-point review every five years.

The goal-setting process will take four years to complete statewide, with several geographic blocks addressed each year. This year focuses on blocks in the northwestern and western parts of the state, including deer permit area 108, which encompasses parts of northwestern St. Louis County and much of Koochiching County.

The DNR will host two of the workshops in International Falls. The first is set for Wednesday, Jan. 29, with a second one set for Thursday, Feb. 27. Both workshops will be held from 6-9 p.m. at Rainy River Community College.

Goal setting for much of the rest of St. Louis County, including permit

areas 119, 177, 176, and 178, is currently set to be undertaken in 2021.

Join in the goal-setting process

There will be a pair of workshops for each block, each three hours long. During the first workshop, participants will work in small groups to identify key issues of interest and priorities to guide management of the deer population. In the second workshop, participants will discuss solutions to the issues and create recommendations for the deer populations in those blocks.

Anyone may attend these workshops, regardless of affiliation or knowledge of the process. Background information

will be provided. Attendees are highly encouraged to RSVP on the DNR goal-setting webpage.

Those who are unable to attend the workshops can still participate in the goal-setting process. There will be online comment opportunities supplementing the workshops, including an online questionnaire that will be on the DNR website in January. The public will also be able to comment on the draft population goals that result from the goal-setting process.

In addition to goal setting, there are other ways to provide input about deer management. As in prior years, anyone can talk directly with area wildlife managers or attend deer open houses at their area DNR wildlife office.



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& Happy New Year

46 W. Camp • Ely • 218-365-3291

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM ALL OF US!**

**ELY AUTO
SERVICES**



1614 E. Harvey St, Ely • 218-365-5994

**Joe's Marine &
Repair**

**Merry Christmas
To You!**

25 W. Chapman St., Ely
365-6264



*Wishes for Jolly Holidays to all
from the Kwazy Wabbit Crew!*
11 N Central Ave, Ely • 218-365-2333

Season's Greetings from...



JERRY FINK
218-343-1318 • 203 E Sheridan St., Ely



*We Wish You A Merry Christmas
And A Joyful New Year*

1203 East Sheridan St, Ely, MN
(218) 365-5013



MODERN & VINTAGE KITCHENWARE

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

101 E Chapman • Downtown Ely
218-365-6135



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Sheridan St, Ely • 365-3216
Open til 3 PM Dec. 24
Closed Christmas Day

*Mike & Kathy Brandau
& the Crew from
Brandau Plumbing & Heating
....wish all our customers, old & new,
a "Very Blessed Christmas."*

1111 Hwy. 169
Ely, MN
218-365-3985



VERMILION CLUB

& POOR GARY'S PIZZA

Celebrate With Us!

New Year's Eve Specials

- (3) 4 oz. Marinated Lamb Chops
- Surf & Turf w/ Whiskey Sirloin and (4) Scallops

Served with Potato, Soup or Salad & Dessert

\$25⁹⁵

Hours: Mon-Thurs: 3 PM-Close; Fri, Sat, Sun: Noon-Close
Dining Room: Sun-Thurs: Open daily to 9 PM, Fri & Sat: Noon to 10 PM
Poor Gary's Pizza: Sun.-Wed. to 9 PM; Thurs. to 10 PM
Fri. & Sat. to Midnight

3191 Hwy 77, Tower (Daisy Bay, Lake Vermilion)
753-6277 Bar/Restaurant / 753-5707 Pizza
Reservations Appreciated • Take Out Available



Reservations
Apprciated!

Ely Community Health Center

Open Every Thursday 5:30-7 p.m.

Providing NO COST basic healthcare and referrals
111 S 4th Ave E, Ely
Volunteer opportunities also available

Subscribe Today

(218) 753-2950

Wishing You Health & Happiness!


from ZUP'S GROCERY-TOWER



Winning Artist • SILAS SNYDER
KINDERGARTEN

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU!

from Tower-Soudan Agency



Kasen Dostert
Grade 3

Community Notices

Faith and the Winter Solstice

VIRGINIA – Marlise Riffel will lead a service at the Mesabi Unitarian Church in Virginia on Sunday, Dec. 22 at 10:30 a.m. In her words, “We will celebrate the Winter Solstice in story and song, reflecting on the ways in which, around the world, each faith marks it differently. To quote a saying I read on the back of a paper holiday ornament, ‘It’s your holiday song. No belief is more true or right or wrong. When our faith calls our name, someone else’s does the same. Hallelujah!’”

Free Welding “Boot Camp” for high school seniors, Dec. 26 and 27

EVELETH- High school seniors are invited to a welding boot camp to be held Thursday and Friday, Dec. 26 and 27, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Mesabi Range College, Eveleth campus. The class is open to high school seniors only, with a maximum of 20 students. Participants may bring their own equipment, but it is not mandatory. Equipment will be provided if needed. The class includes introduction to GMAW, SMAW, and shop safety. There will be no charge for these classes, but space is limited so register today. Lunch will be provided. For questions, contact instructor Randy Washenesky at 218-744-7532 or r.washenesky@mesabirange.edu.

Indoor Walking at Timber Hall underway

EMBARRASS- All are welcome to attend indoor walking at Timber Hall on Hwy. 21 in Embarrass on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 7:30-9 a.m.

Obituaries and Death Notices

Kenneth J. Schlueter

Kenneth Joseph Schlueter, 74, of Babbitt, went home to be with his Lord and Savior at Carefree Living in Babbitt on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019, surrounded by his

loving family. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 20 at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Babbitt with Pastor John C. Bonk officiating. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will be in the Argo Cemetery in Babbitt with military rites accorded by the Babbitt Honor Guard. A Ken-inspired lunch will be provided at the church; unfortunately, no confiscated walleye or moose meat will be served. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his mother, Mildred (101 years old on Friday, Dec. 13, 2019); wife, Wendy; daughter, Amber (David); grandson, Davie; and daughter, Crystal.

ELY...Continued from page 5B

outside contractors, and I think that makes a big difference,” he said.

Other business

In other action, the council:

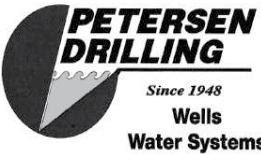
- Approved three-year employment agreements with AFSCME Local 1490 essential and base employee units that calls for wage increases of 2.5 percent in 2020 and 2021 and 2.25 percent in 2022.
- Named members of the new Sanitation

Committee, including citizens Phillip Hegfors Jr. and John Lahtonen, Planning and Zoning member Mauro Caruso, Ely Utilities Commission member Warren Nikkola, and council members Al Forsman, Paul Kess and Ryan Callen.

- Approved the purchase of a 32-inch commercial grade Toro Snow Blower from J&L Hardware for \$1,611.75.
- Authorized payments of \$1,603 to Dollar General and \$1,195 to

Razor’s Edge from the Conservation Incentive Program.

- Approved the hiring of Louis Gerzin to the Ely Fire Department pending results from a background check, drug test and physical.
- Approved in-kind services and Right of Way Obstruction permit for the WolfTrack Classic sled dog race, Feb. 22-23, 2020.



- PUMPS
- WELLS
- HYDRO-FRACKING

1-800-662-5700
Spring Park Rd.
Mt. Iron, MN 55768

ENJOY CHRISTMAS MORNING !

from VERMILION RIVER TAVERN



Artist • CASH RUTCHASKY
Grade 5

Enjoy A Wonderful, Snowy Christmas!

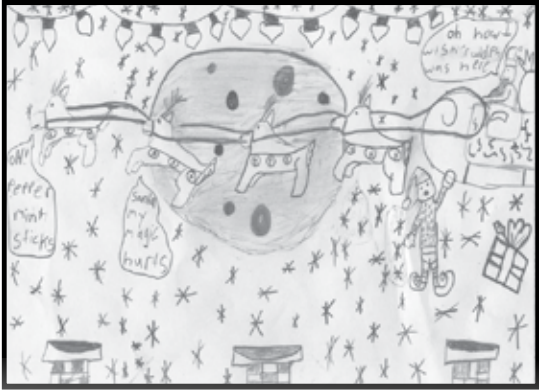
from TIM JOHNSON-STATE FARM INSURANCE



Artist • TIKKA DEBELTZ
Grade 3

Have A Safe & Happy Holiday!


from The Timberjay



Artist • EVA LARSON
Grade 4

It's A Wonder-Filled World at Christmas

from Vermilion Senior Living



Winning Artist • ELSIE LARSON
Grade 6

We Extend Greetings to You!

from the VERMILION CLUB

Winning Artist
DYLAN CREGO
Grade 1

Sending Wishes for A Fun Christmas!


from Vermilion Fuel & Food



Winning Artist • KAYLA DRIFT
Grade 2

HAVE A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON!

from The Y-Store



Artist • SKYE'LA JAMES
Kindergarten

Merry Christmas to all Creatures!

from Ubecha Antiques & Uniques



Winning Artist • JADA MEDICINE
GRADE 6

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF ELY
Council Minutes -
December 03, 2019
Regular Meeting
Ely City Council – City
Hall, Council Chambers

1.CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Novak called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

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

3.APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2019 Public Hearing for the Sale of Land to the Cunningham's, the November 19, 2019 Public Hearing for the Vacation of ROW to the Cunningham's, the November 19, 2019 Regular Council Meeting (added in the additions) and the November 26, 2019 Truth in Taxation Public Hearing. Motion Carried Unanimously.

4.ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:
A. Addition 9.A.i 530 E Camp St Demolition Bids
B. Addition 13.G Resolution 2019-046 Resolution Calling for a Public Hearing on a Modification to the Tax Increment Financing Plan for Tax Increment Financing District No. 3
Additions A and B were added without objection.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT
Mayor Novak thanked Council Member Debeltz for sitting in for him at that Christmas Parade and the Christmas Tree Lighting in Whiteside Park.

6.CONSENT AGENDA:
A. Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda
Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the Consent Agenda

item A. Motion Carried Unanimously.

7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR: None

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS: Standing/Special Budget Committee
A.Forsman/Omerza moved to approve the recommendation from the Budget Committee to direct the City Attorney to report the status of Storefront and Rehab Loan delinquencies to the Budget Committee. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Heritage Preservation Committee: Minutes Included in the Packet

Telecommunications Advisory Board
Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the recommendation from TAB to approve the purchase of a new disk recorder for \$4,113 from Ely Custom Theaters. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Employee Relations
Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve the recommendation from ER to hire Zachariah Jackson the Police Officer candidate from the hiring list to start after January 1st pending the psychological background, physical and fitness test.
A.Forsman indicated that this was brought through the budget committee and was factored into the 2020 budget. Motion Carried Unanimously.

9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:
A. Clerk-Treasurer
530 E Camp St Demolition Bids
Debeltz/A.Forsman moved to approve the demolition bid for the demolition of 530 E Camp St be awarded to GMen Environmental Services for \$9,002, pending IRRRB grant award. Motion Carried Unanimously.

A. Fire Chief

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

C. Police Chief
Chief Lahtonen welcomed Zack Jackson to the Ely Police Department. Chief Lahtonen commended the Public Works Crew for their work during the snow storm this last weekend. Langowski asked residents to not push snow into the streets or into the sidewalks as it is against city ordinance, think about your neighbors.

D. City Attorney

E. City Engineer

10.COMMUNICATIONS: Matter of Information
A.Northwoods Partners Newsletter

11.CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:
A. City and EUC claims for December 3, 2019 – \$119,505.07
B.Community Economic Development Joint Powers Board 2019 Dues for \$400.00
C. SEH Invoice #376927 for \$903.00 for the Prospector ATV Trail
D. Benchmark Engineering Invoice #1906-51 for \$2325.00, Invoice #1908-42 for \$1625.00, Invoice #1910-12 for \$105.00, Invoice #1906-52 for \$500.00, Invoice #1908-43 for \$1500.00, Invoice #1909-41 for \$625.00, Invoice #1910-13 for \$377.50, and Invoice #1911-11 for \$1437.50 for the Quad Cities ATV Trails.
E.Pay Estimate #5 for the 2018 Pavement Rehabilitation Airport Project for \$38,778.87 to KGM Contractors, Inc. for State Project #A6920-49
F.Pay Estimate #5 for the 2018 Pavement Rehabilitation Airport Project for \$76,817.00 to KGM

Contractors, Inc. for State Project #A6920-48

G.Pay Estimate #5 for the West Camp Street, Pattison Street East Improvements project for \$135,933.55 to Utility Systems of America, Inc.
H. Pay Estimate #3 for the West End Redevelopment District, Phase 1 project for \$266,054.32 to Utility Systems of America, Inc.
Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the Claims for Payment items A-H.

Langowski gave a status update on the projects. Langowski indicated that the Airport projects that we did this year were the access road, parking lot and the apron; those projects are about 99% complete. West Camp and Pattison street are complete up to the point of wear course bituminous, and some seeding and restoration of landscaping. The West End Development Project was going strong up until the day before Thanksgiving when we got the snow storm. The drillers were going to possibly be coming back next week to finish drilling the area that needs to be drilled for utility installation. Recycling Center is open at the current area on HWY 169; we are working on getting the new area down at the Softball Fields on the Old Airport Road plowed and ready for the Recycling bins. Langowski also indicated that Compost, brush and ash are no longer accepted at the recycling center. Motion Carried Unanimously.

12. OLD BUSINESS:
A.Forming a Sanitation Committee – 3- Council Members, 1 – EUC Member, 1- Planning & Zoning Member, and Advertising for 2 Citizens at large.
Omerza/A.Forsman moved to advertise for the 2 Citizens at large and to inform the committees to nominate

someone and to bring to the next council meeting on December 17th. Motion Carried Unanimously.

13. NEW BUSINESS:
A. Debeltz/Omerza moved to accept John Braun's Retirement Notice and to send him a letter of thanks for his 20 years of service to the City of Ely as a Public Works Employee. Motion Carried Unanimously.

B.Debeltz/Omerza moved to accept John Lahtonen's Retirement Notice and to send him a Thank you for his 26 years of service with the Ely Police Department and 10 years of service as Police Chief after he retires. Motion Carried Unanimously.
Mayor Novak indicated that this position is a direct report to the council, so the council will do the hiring for the new police chief.
Attorney Klun indicated that according to the City of Ely Hiring Policy first the city council will have to approve the position, job description, and search process. Klun indicated that the council should make a committee to determine the process for hiring a new police chief.
Mayor Novak, Omerza and Callen volunteered for the committee.

C.Lakeshore Liquor requesting Parking Space in front of Business
Langowski indicated that the current city code Section 9.09 Subd.5 indicates that any merchant whose place of business abuts the street with controlled parking may reserve one parking space for the use of said merchants customers only, and said merchant may place a sign restricting that parking place to its customers upon application to the Clerk's Office and approved by resolution of the Council. The fee shall be approved by resolution and shall not be less than

\$10 per month or more than \$50 per month.
Langowski indicated that the previous owner of Lakeshore Liquor had a sign, but it was stolen and never replaced.

Kess indicated that this could open the door to numerous other businesses requesting a parking spot.
Debeltz/Omerza moved to direct this to the Projects Committee to research reserved parking spots. Motion Carried Unanimously.

D.Debeltz/Callen moved to approve all 2020 Tobacco License renewal applications as indicated on page 62 of the council agenda packet, pending the receipt of all required documentation and payment for the term of 1/1/2020-12/31/2020. Motion Carried Unanimously.

E.Omerza/Campbell moved to approve Resolution 2019-045 Resolution Authorizing The City of Ely to Make Application to and Accept Funds from IRRRB Residential Redevelopment Grant Program for the Demolition of 530 E. Camp Street. Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman- Yes, Kess-Yes, Debeltz-Yes, Omerza-Yes, Callen-Yes, Campbell – Yes, and Mayor Novak-Yes. Motion Carried Unanimously

F.December Study Session – Debeltz/Omerza moved to cancel the December Study Session. Motion Carried Unanimously.

G. Omerza/Campbell moved to approve Resolution 2019-046 Resolution Calling for a Public Hearing on a Modification to the Tax Increment Financing Plan for Tax Increment Financing District No. 3.
Langowski indicated that TIF #1 was the Grand Ely Lodge Project and the entire Business Park, TIF #3 was

the over lay of the Department Revenue Building when the utilities were extended for the Department of Revenue Building. A few years ago we had to go to the School Board, County Board, and the State Legislature to get our TIF district modified to blend the two together and extend the duration to collect enough funds from the TIF district to pay the debt service on the districts. There are additional adjustments that are being required by the state auditor that just came up a month ago, which puts us in a time crunch because this needs to be done by the end of the year for us to be able to collect the TIF Fund to get enough debt service to pay the debts. We also need to get a waiver from the school district and the county board indicating that they waive the 30 day notification. If we can get this adjustment made we will be done with these TIF districts in 2022. Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman- Yes, Kess-Yes, Debeltz-Yes, Omerza-Yes, Callen-Yes, Campbell – Yes, and Mayor Novak-Yes. Motion Carried Unanimously

14. OPEN FORUM
John Esse- 344 W Harvey St
Esse discussed the packet he gave to the council several weeks ago about all the different money the City has received from the IRRRB. Esse stated that the Ely Economic Development Authority website has done a really good job at listing all the places that business owners can get funding.

15. ADJOURN
Mayor Novak adjourned the meeting at 6:18pm without objection.

Casey Velcheff
Deputy Clerk

Published in the Ely
Timberjay, Dec. 20, 2019

Best Wishes for Your Christmas!
from Sunrise River Boatworks



Winning Artist • HUDSON SHEFFER
Kindergarten

Merry Christmas from Santa & the Team
from Pelican Bay Foods



Winning Artist • JORDAN HERDMAN
Grade 2

May Your Holidays Be Merry & Bright!
from Northwoods True Value



Winning Artist • NORA ANDERSON
Kindergarten

Deck The Halls This Christmas!
from Rolando Noyes Construction



Winning Artist • Rogelio Noyes
Grade 6

Jingle All The Way This Christmas
from Scenic Rivers Medical & Dental-Tower



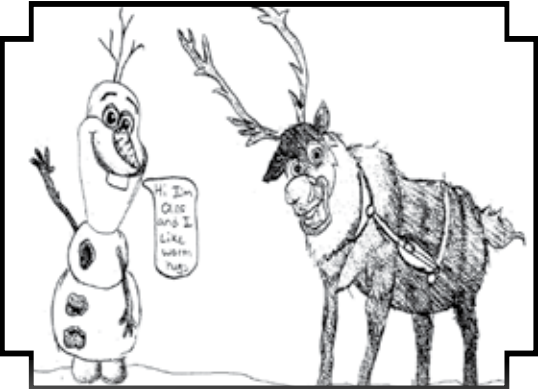
Winning Artist • LARENZO STELLA
KINDERGARTEN

Have a Happy and Fun Christmas!
from Russ Hyppa Accounting



Winning Artist • VERA BRYSON
Grade 1

Hug Somebody This Christmas!
from Scenic Rivers Medical & Dental-Cook



Winning Artist • BRITTIN LAPPI
Grade 6

Happy Holidays to all Northerners!
from ORR MUNI LIQUOR STORE



Winning Artist • AVA JOHNSON
Grade 2

Share A Jolly Spirit This Christmas!
from Tech Electric



Winning Artist • NOLAN LENCI
Grade 2

PUBLIC NOTICES

**State of Minnesota
County of St. Louis
Sixth Judicial District
District Court
Probate Division
Court File No.
69VI-PR-18-180**

NOTICE AND ORDER FOR
HEARING ON PETITION
FOR DESCENT OF
PROPERTY

Estate of Kenneth Lyle
Perry, aka Kenneth L. Perry,
Kenneth Perry, and Ken
Perry,
Decedent

A Petition for Determination
of Descent has been
filed with this Court. The
Petition represents that the
Decedent died more than
three years ago and that
the Decedent died leaving
property in Minnesota. The
Petition requests the probate
of the Decedent's last Will,
if any, and the descent of
such property be determined
and assigned by this Court
to the persons entitled to the
property, in a consolidated
proceeding.

Any objections must be filed
with the Court prior to or
raised at the hearing. If prop-
er, and no objections are filed
or raised, the Petition may be
granted.

IT IS ORDERED and Notice
is further given, that the
Petition will be heard on Jan.
15, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. by
this Court at 300 South 5th
Avenue, Virginia, MN 55792.

1. Notice shall be given to
all interested persons (MINN.
STAT. 524.1-401) and per-
sons who have filed a
demand for notice pursuant
to Minnesota Statutes section
524.3-204.

2. Notice shall be given by
publishing this Notice and
Order as provided by law
and by mailing a copy of this
Notice and Order at least 14
days prior to the hearing date.

Dated: Nov. 26, 2019

BY THE COURT
Michelle Anderson,
Judge of District Court
Amy Turnquist,
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
Angela E. Sipila
Sipila Law Office, LLC
412 S 1st St.
Virginia, MN 55792
Attorney License No: 024501X
Telephone/Fax:
218-741-5000
Email: ange@sipilaw.com

*Published in the Timberjay,
Dec. 20 & 27, 2019*

**FILING NOTICE
GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP**

Affidavits of candidacy may be filed with the
Town Clerk during regular office hours at
the Town Hall from December 31, 2019 to
January 14, 2020. Filing fee is \$2.00

This March election will be for the election of:
Supervisor Position 1– 3-year term
Supervisor Position 2– 3-year term
Clerk Position– 2-year term

The Greenwood Town Hall office will have
extended hours during filing days – December
31, 2019 and January 14, 2020 to 5:00 pm.
The dates are the first day and the last day
to file. Greenwood Town Hall office will
be closed Wednesday, January 1, 2020 in
observance of New Year's Day.

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY POLLS OPEN
Primary Date is Tuesday, March 3, 2020
Greenwood Township polls are open from
7:00 am to 8:00 pm
Township Election Day is Tuesday, March 10

Sue Drobac, Clerk, Greenwood Township

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 13 & 20, 2019

**CITY OF ELY
NOTICE FOR BIDS**

Notice is hereby given that
sealed bids will be received
by the City of Ely, Minnesota,
St. Louis County until Friday
January 8, 2020, 2:00 p.m.
at which time the sealed bids
will be opened at the Ely
City Hall for the following
equipment with the required
specifications. If you have a
vehicle which does not meet
all of the following specifica-
tions please provide your bid
with the equivalent specifica-
tions it does have or provide
a list of the specifications it
does not meet, it will be at the
discretion of the City of Ely as
to how the bid is awarded for
this vehicle. Please include
sales tax and any delivery or
other charges on the bid.

Public Works Vehicle.
"New" 2019 or newer with
warranty

White in Color
GVWR of 19,500 lbs or equal
Gas engine and automatic
transmission
4x4 Regular Cab, dual rear
wheels
Power windows, power/ heat-
ed mirrors, am/fm radio and
air conditioning
Bench seat and vinyl floor
169" Wheel base
Stainless steel dump box
with see through head ache
rack, fold down sides w/tail-
gate
Rear fenders
Plated rear frame w/ receiver
hitch w/ pintle
9'-2" V- Plow w/ back blading
blade lock
Strobe light
Spare tire and wheel

Bids shall be directed to the
Ely Public Works Department
and may be filed with the
Clerk-Treasurer on or before
2:00 p.m. Friday, January 8,
2020, at which time they will
be publicly opened and read

aloud.

Bids shall be securely sealed
and labeled: "Bids for Ely
Public Works Vehicle"

The City of Ely reserves the
right to reject any and all bids
and to waive any informal-
ties therein.

Bids can be mailed to: 209
East Chapman Street, Ely,
MN 55731. Any questions
concerning the bids can
be directed to Harold R.
Langowski, Clerk-Treasurer:
elyod@ely.mn.us or 218-
235-3083

BY ORDER OF THE ELY
CITY COUNCIL

Harold R. Langowski P.E.,
Clerk-Treasurer

*Published in the Ely
Timberjay, Dec. 20, 2019*

**ESTATE SALE - LOG HOMES
PAY THE BALANCE OWED ONLY!!!**

**AMERICAN LOG HOMES IS ASSISTING JUST RELEASED
ESTATE & ACCOUNT SETTLEMENT ON HOUSES.**

4 Log Home kits selling for BALANCE OWED, FREE DELIVERY

1) Model # 101 Carolina \$40,840...BALANCE OWED \$17,000
2) Model # 203 Georgia \$49,500...BALANCE OWED \$19,950
3) Model # 305 Biloxi \$36,825...BALANCE OWED \$14,500
4) Model # 403 Augusta \$42,450...BALANCE OWED \$16,500

**BEFORE CALLING: VIEW at www.loghomedream.com
Click on House Plans**

NEW - HOMES HAVE NOT BEEN MANUFACTURED

- Make any plan design changes you desire!
- Comes with Complete Building Blueprints & Construction Manual
- Windows, Doors, and Roofing not included
- NO TIME LIMIT FOR DELIVERY!

BBB
A+ Rating

OFFER NOT AVAILABLE TO AMERICAN LOG HOME DEALERS

SERIOUS ONLY REPLY. Call (704) 602-3035 ask for Accounting Dept.

EMPLOYMENT

Economic Development Position

The Tower Economic Development Authority is
looking for a part-time Executive Director to assist
in furthering the goals of the authority. The individ-
ual selected will direct all aspects of the economic
development for TEDA, including administrative
tasks, strategic planning, business engagement,
property management, budget management, and
grant writing.

See full job description at the City of Tower website
at www.cityoftower.com.

Hours: Approximately 10 hours per week
(maximum of 480 hours per year).
Compensation: \$20 per hour. No benefits.

Send resumé and letter of interest by Jan. 6, 2020,
to: Rachel Beldo, at rachel@cityoftower.com with
subject line "TEDA Executive Director Application,"
or by mail at Tower Economic Development
Authority, P.O. Box 576, Tower, MN 55790. 12/20

FRANDSEN BANK & TRUST

Your Bridge to Financial Success for Life

Customer Service Representative

Frandsen Bank & Trust is a growing com-
pany looking for a Full-time Customer
Service Representative for our Tower, MN
office. Responsibilities will include handling
routine financial transactions while ensur-
ing a positive interaction with customers/
non-customers; handling customer inquiries
and research; FB&T product knowledge and
cross selling product as appropriate.

The qualified individuals will provide pro-
fessional, superior customer service to both
internal and external customers. A pleasant
disposition and ability to communicate clearly
and effectively to new and existing customers
is a must. Candidates must have an eye for
detail, work efficiently and cooperatively, and
be flexible. Teller experience is preferred.

Frandsen Bank & Trust is owned by Frandsen
Financial Corporation ("FFC"), an inter-state
bank holding company with \$1.7 billion in
assets and over 30 offices. To learn more
about our company please visit www.frandsenfinancial.com. 12/20

COOK
HOSPITAL & CARE CENTER
Our Specialty is You

OPEN POSITIONS 10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

Maintenance
Full-Time Maintenance/Plant Operations
(Monday-Friday, on-call rotation) Possess, at
a minimum, specialist boiler license and must
become Second Class C Certified within 6
months of hire.

Laboratory
Full-Time Medical Lab Technician

Care Center
PT Nursing Assistant
(sign-on bonus- wage starting at \$15.42/hr.)
PT Restorative Nursing Assistant

Imaging
Full Time Radiologic Tech (sign-on bonus)
Full Time Imaging Manager (sign-on bonus)

Rehabilitation
FT Physical Therapist (sign-on bonus)

Dietary
Casual Dietary Aide/Cook
(Wage starting at \$12.43/hr.)

Environmental Services
Casual Housekeeper & Laundry Aide
(Wage starting at \$12.43/hr.)

TO APPLY:
www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/
More Info? Contact Human Resources
218-666-6220
humanresources@cookhospital.org

The Cook Hospital & Care Center offers competitive pay and benefits
including PERA retirement, Health and Dental coverage, Life and LTD.

Equal Opportunity Employer/ Affirmative Action Employer

**Information
Receptionist
Position**

The Ely Chamber of
Commerce has an
opportunity for an individual seeking full-time
work (37.5 hours per week). The posi-
tion involves data entry, filing, stocking and
assisting the public with business and area
information, along with other office tasks.
Knowledge of Microsoft Office programs
is necessary. Lifting up to 35 pounds is
required. For more details, please contact
the Chamber office at 218-365-6123 or at
director@ely.org. Office located at 1600
E. Sheridan Street, Ely. 12/27

**REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY
DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional
Railroad Authority is seeking
a Deputy Director.

Interested individuals can apply at
www.stlouiscountymn.gov
or call 218-726-2422
Apply by 01/03/2020

Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 12/27

**POSITION OPENING - ELY PUBLIC
SCHOOLS, ISD No. 696**

**Long Term Substitute 1.0 FTE
Elementary Teacher**

Starting approximately January 31, 2020
through March 27, 2020. Salary and fringe
as per Master Agreement between ISD
#696 and the Ely Education Association and
School Board policy. Include district appli-
cation, resume, transcripts, letters of rec-
ommendation and current Minnesota teach-
ing license; background check required.
Application available at www.ely.k12.mn.us,
or at the District Office, 2nd floor of the
Memorial Building; return materials to: Ely
Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600
E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731. Application
review to begin January 3, 2020; open until
filled.

Published in the Ely Timberjay, Dec. 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2019

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SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then
rearrange the board letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Gleam REKLASP

Charter TYRATE

Wretched JETCAB

Cylinder POINTS

TODAY'S WORD

"In case I get any electronic toys,
this is for Santa to fill up with
_____."

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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VIRGIE HEGG HOSPICE PARTNERS can provide help for patients and their families in ways such as: comfort care, massages, last wishes and more. For more information, contact Program Director Becca Bundy at 218-780-5423 or vhhpdirector@gmail.com. This ad is paid for by Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners.

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COOK AREA LICENSE BUREAU- 221 S. Hwy 53, Cook. Open-M-F 9-5, FastTrack Title Service-MVR-DNR-Limited DL, CDL/ Motorcycle/ Drivers Manuals. Now accepting Visa/MC/ Discover/AmEx. Questions call 218-666-6199. tfn

REAL ESTATE

Search ALL MLS listings at www.pfremmerrealty.com. tfn

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COOK: 4 BR/2.5 bath, on double lot with detached double garage. Nice neighborhood, walking distance to anywhere in town. Wooded backyard view. Spacious kitchen with new double oven in 2018. New roof in 2017. \$180,000. 218-750-1247. Reasonable offers considered. 12/27V

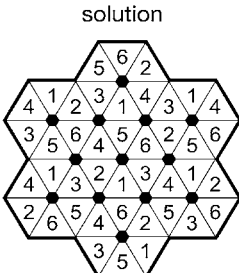
RENTAL

MOBILE HOME IN TOWER- with garage. Available immediately. \$300/month plus utilities. Call Good Ol' Days at 218-753-6097 tfn

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SELIGA CANOES WANTED: We'll buy old Seligas in Good Shape. Turn your classic canoe into cash. Call Steve at 365-6745. tfn

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

HELP WANTED

WANTED: VOLUNTEERS interested in Public Relations. Become acquainted with publicizing events online, newspapers and radio for the non-profit arts organization, Northwoods Friends of the Arts, in Cook. Call Judith at 218-750-4304. 1/10

SCRAMBLERS

solution
1. Sparkle; 2. Treaty;
3. Abject; 4. Piston

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SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Timberjay!

Answer

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

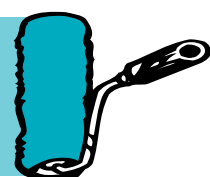
Super Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Creole cooking pod
5 Early Andeans
10 Concert stage items
14 Disgrace
19 Cover thickly
20 Declines
21 Wrongful act, legally
22 Of the ear
23 Grabs hold of a fish?
25 Give a fish medication?
27 Choose (to)
28 Baseball stat
29 Like spoiled cooking oil
30 Clamor
31 Fish smeared with black gunk?
34 Cheeky
37 Have bills
38 Mineo of "Giant"
39 Suffix for an enzyme
40 Not as cruel
41 Turn liquid
44 Old horse
47 Fish drifting about aimlessly?
50 Actor Stiller
51 Baseball stat
53 Hoppy quaff
- 54 Wash. bigwig
55 Fish covered with more grit?
59 Modifies
64 Conceal
65 Fake ID
66 1,051, in old Rome
68 Larch, e.g.
69 Makes a fish more softhearted?
71 Honey-colored fish?
74 Score — with (impress)
75 It's south of Can.
76 Eye parts with irises
77 Splits
78 Triplets of adjacent nucleotides
80 Cures a fish by salting and drying?
85 Western treaty inits.
87 Hide — hair
88 Actress Davis of "The Matrix Reloaded"
89 Ending for Bronx
90 Fish that's a sainted guardian?
- 96 O'er there
97 For fear that
98 Runner Bolt
99 "Botch- —" (Rosemary Clooney hit)
100 It precedes Sept.
102 Barely obtain, with "out"
104 Gratify, as a base instinct
106 Accept a Facebook request from a fish?
112 Boat in Genesis
113 Twilled fabrics
115 Old's opposite, in German
116 Yellow tropical fruit
117 Teach a fish privately?
120 Catches a fish in a net?
122 Flee to get hitched
123 Lance cpl.'s org.
124 Free-for-all
125 Fair shelter
126 Philly's train system
127 Light meal
128 French river to the Rhone
- 129 Singer Anita or Aubrey
- DOWN**
- 1 Eightsome
2 Aussie critter
3 Leaf-gathering tool user
4 Had to admit an error
5 Theoretical things
6 Unclothed
7 Bow of "It"
8 Holy tables
9 Atlanta-to-Miami dir.
10 Perfumery oil
11 Bards' A.M.
12 On-the-nose
13 Furniture finishers
14 Went unused
15 Palette part
16 Erté's style
17 Seafarer
18 Hyundai compact
24 Crock-Pot meal
26 Grid stats
29 Puts more ammo in
32 Al — (pasta preference)
33 Seafarer
35 Long side up
36 Max. or min.
39 "I'll second that"
- 41 Samantha Bee's station
42 Expulsion
43 Earthworm, e.g.
45 2009 "Star Trek" director J.J.
46 Seepage of methane, e.g.
48 Heavyweight great
49 Put on TV again
51 Suffers
52 Dog part
56 "I'll second that"
57 Informer
58 Envoy's building
60 Just clear of the bottom, as an anchor
61 Boarding school student, informally
62 Some china ensembles
63 Divinity sch.
67 Not as much
69 Bud
70 Actress Sarandon
71 Rd.'s cousin
72 No more than
73 Cheese type
76 Hubbubs
79 Not a soul
- 81 As to
82 Old man
83 Baseball Hall of Famer Ralph
84 On Soc. Sec., often
86 Operated on smaller than a national level
90 Transforms, as larvae
91 In general
92 Sleeveless casual shirt
93 Free (of)
94 Lovingly, in music
95 Rapa —
97 Ushered in
101 Music styles
103 53-Across containers
105 Q-U queue
106 Sell for
107 Writer Zora — Hurston
108 Super- —
109 Got along
110 A Trump ex
111 Spruced up
114 They support teeth roots
118 Choose (to)
119 Stephen of "Utopia"
120 Texter's "Didn't need to hear that!"
121 Notice

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13		14	15	16	17	18
19					20						21					22				
23				24							25				26					
27						28					29								30	
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98						99				100		101			102	103				
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112						113			114				115			116				
117					118	119						120				121				
122							123					124					125			
126							127					128					129			



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Super Crossword

Answers

Answers

O	K	R	A		I	N	C	A	S		A	M	P	S		S	H	A	M	E
C	O	A	T		F	A	L	L	S		T	O	R	T		A	U	R	A	L
T	A	K	E	S		K	A	T	E		T	R	E	A	T	T	E	T	R	A
E	L	E	C	T		E	R	A			R	A	N	C	I	D			D	I
T	A	R	R	E	D		A	R	T	E	R		I	N	S	O	L	E	N	T
			O	W	E			S	A	L		A	S	E			N	I	C	E
T	H	A	W		N	A	G		R	O	A	M	E	R	R	E	M	O	R	A
B	E	N		A	T	B	A	T		A	L	E		S	E	N				
S	A	N	D	I	E	R	S		A	R	D	I	N	E		A	D	A	P	T
	V	E	I	L		A	L	I	A	S			M	L	I		T	R	E	E
M	E	L	T	S	S	M	E	L	T		A	M	B	E	R	B	R	E	A	M
A	H	I	T		U	S	A			U	V	E	A	S		R	I	P	S	
C	O	D	O	N	S		K	I	P	P	E	R	S	S	K	I	P	P	E	R
			O	A	S		N	O	R		E	S	S	I	E		I	T	E	
P	A	T	R	O	N	T	A	R	P	O	N		Y	O	N		L	E	S	T
U	S	A	I	N		A	M	E		A	U	G		E	K	E				
P	A	N	D	E	R	T	O		F	R	I	E	N	D	R	E	D	F	I	N
A	R	K		S	E	R	G	E	S		N	E	U		G	U	A	V	A	
T	U	T	O	R	T	R	O	U	T		T	R	A	P	S	S	P	R	A	T
E	L	O	P	E		U	S	M	C		M	E	L	E	E		T	E	N	T
S	E	P	T	A		N	O	S	H		I	S	E	R	E		O	D	A	Y

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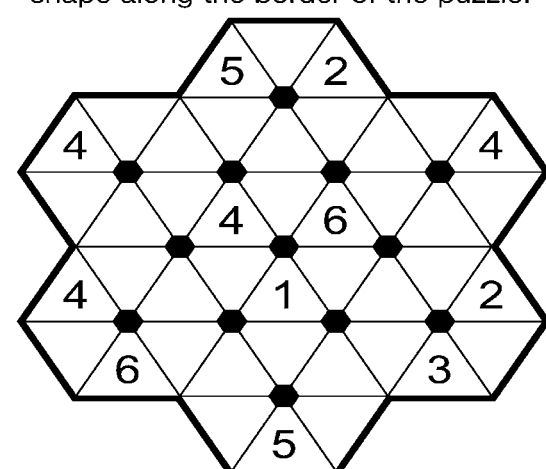


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SNOWFLAKES by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆ ◆ ◆

◆ Easy ◆ ◆ Medium ◆ ◆ ◆ Difficult

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