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# the TIMBERJAY

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\$1<sup>00</sup>



## SULFIDE MINING

# Appeals court overturns key PolyMet permits

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

## Orders contested case hearing

REGIONAL— In a major setback for PolyMet Mining and its planned NorthMet copper-nickel project near Hoyt Lakes, the Minnesota Court of Appeals, on Monday, reversed two key permits for the proposed mine and ordered a contested case hearing before an admin-

istrative law judge.

The decision effectively rescinds PolyMet's permit to mine and two dam safety permits, which the Department of Natural Resources issued to the company in late 2018, and sets in motion a process that will provide critics of the proposal

an opportunity to challenge underlying information that the DNR relied upon in issuing the permits in question. The administrative review process and possible further appeals stemming from it could potentially

See...POLYMET pg. 9



## ST. LOUIS COUNTY



# Plow drivers strike

Union members  
remove snow from  
3,000 miles of roads

by E. M. SCHULTZ  
Staff Writer

REGIONAL— With a major snowstorm forecast for the weekend, St. Louis County's snowplow drivers went on strike Wednesday, after county and union negotiators failed to reach agreement on a new contract. After rejecting the county's latest offer on Saturday, the snowplow drivers' union filed an intent to strike notice, effective on Jan. 15.

With no settlement in place as of Wednesday, the snowplow drivers, represented by Teamsters Local 320, walked off the job. As light snow put a fresh coating on area roads, drivers were walking the picket line rather



Members of Teamsters Local 320 in Ely, top, and in Cook, above, walked the picket line Wednesday morning in near-zero temperatures at St. Louis County public works facilities. staff photos

than operating their plows.

The prospects for a quick settlement appear uncertain. "It's kind of frustrating," said St. Louis County

spokesperson Dana Kazel. "The ball is in their [the union's] court. Our

See...STRIKE pg. 10

## INFRASTRUCTURE

# Gov. Walz releases 2020 bonding plan

Vermilion State Park, Ely, Crane Lake among those to benefit from proposal

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL—Tens of millions of dollars could be headed to the region for new projects based on recommendations issued Wednesday as part of Gov. Tim Walz's bonding plan. Ely, Crane Lake, Lake Vermilion, and Virginia are among the communities included in the \$2.028 billion proposal that Walz unveiled in recent days.

Among the specific area projects recommended by the governor are these:

► Ely's west end trailhead project—The proposal calls for a \$2.8 million grant to to the City of Ely to fund a regional trailhead complex and visitors center serving the David Dill Taconite snowmobile trail, the Mesabi Bike Trail, and the Prospectors Loop ATV Trail. If fully funded, the grant would provide 68 percent of the cost of the estimated \$4.1 million project.

"This is big news," said Ely Mayor Chuck Novak, who credited the persistence of city officials in lobbying legislators and the governor's office for this kind of funding. "It makes a difference," said Novak. "It's always important to make the case."

► Crane Lake Visitors Center—The governor is recommending \$6.6 million for a grant to Crane Lake Township to build a visitor center, campground, boat ramp, and access road in Voyageurs National Park. The total project cost is estimated at \$8.6 million.

See...BONDING pg. 11

## TOWERGATE

# Teamsters drop representation for former city clerk

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER — The International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 320, has formally withdrawn its representation of former Tower City

Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith, which likely brings an end to any grievance process that might have restored Keith to her former position.

The Teamsters had been representing Keith in a grievance she filed with the union in the

wake of her dismissal in August of 2019, but the union never pursued the claim while Keith faced criminal prosecution for falsifying city records and, later, destruction of city property.

The state Bureau of Mediation Services (BMS),

which oversees union grievances, among its other roles, informed the city late last month that the Teamsters had withdrawn its representation for the city clerk-treasurer position.

BMS Commissioner Janet Johnson told the *Timberjay* this

week that the union's decision does not automatically preclude Keith from pursuing the grievance herself. "But going forward she would have to pay her half of the cost of arbitration

See...TOWER pg. 11



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# COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

## Community Meal is Jan. 23 in Cook

COOK- Come join us for a hot meal on Thursday, Jan. 23, from 4 - 6:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 231 2nd St E in Cook. Pasta, side dishes, and dessert will be served. Free and open to the public. No program – just great food!

## Ruby's Pantry, Jan. 25

BABBITT- Ruby's Pantry food distribution will be held at the Babbitt Municipal Center, 71 South Drive in Babbitt, on Saturday, Jan. 25 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Registration begins at 9 a.m. A \$20 cash donation buys an abundance of food. There are no income or residency guidelines. Please bring two large boxes or baskets. Ruby's Pantry is sponsored by St. Pius X Catholic Church. Volunteers are always welcome.

## Fiddler on the Roof auditions start Monday in Ely

ELY – Auditions for the 2020 Ely Community Spring Musical, Fiddler on the Roof, will be held next week at Vermilion Community College.

Come prepared to move, sing, and read from the script. It is not necessary to prepare audition pieces. Auditions will be held on Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 20-21, at 6 p.m. in the VCC Fine Arts Theater.

Family groups are welcome. There are roles for all ages in this classic tale of love, loss and redemption with many favorite characters and timeless music.

Rehearsals begin Sunday, Jan. 26. Performances are scheduled for March 26-April 4.

## Peace and Unity March and Rally, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan. 20

VIRGINIA- An MLK Peace and Unity March and Rally will take place on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, Jan. 20. The march will start at noon at the Miner's Memorial Building. The march will proceed down 9th Ave. to Mesabi Range College. Mesabi Range College students and other guest speakers will share thoughts and experiences regarding this important celebration. Music will conclude the event. The public is encouraged to attend.

## Immigrant, Emigrant and Migrant - The Journey Continues, at Mesabi Unitarian on Sunday

VIRGINIA- Mary Erickson will present "Immigrant, Emigrant and Migrant - The Journey Continues" on Sunday, Jan. 19 at 10:30 a.m. at Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church in Virginia. Mary will share thoughts on economic, political, religious and geographical forces that push and pull people in search of a better life. How are today's immigrant experiences different from or similar to the past? Who are we? And with millions of people on the move, what moral issues confront us? The church is located at 230 7th St. S in Virginia and is handicap accessible.

## Lake Country Power Scholarship open to high school seniors

REGIONAL – Scholarship season is underway at Lake Country Power (LCP). The rural electric co-op expects to award college scholarships to more than thirty high school students in 2020. Recipients can qualify for up to \$4,000 over four years to help pay for college or technical school. Scholarships are renewable for up to eight semesters, and students must maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher. They must have a full-time enrollment status at a technical school, community college, or university.

The online application process is currently open, and high school seniors whose parents or legal guardians are LCP members have until 11:59 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 31 to apply. The electronic application is available at [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop).

The Les Beach Memorial Scholarship honors a former co-op employee and recognizes student commitment and contribution to local communities. It is made possible through unclaimed capital credits. The State of Minnesota permits electric cooperatives like LCP to use unclaimed funds for charitable purposes, such as scholarships.

LCP also offers \$1,000 scholarships to five area community college foundations and three Minnesota line worker schools to support students in trade schools and community/technical college programs. Applications for these scholarships are available directly through the colleges.

## SNOW SPORTS

# Battle at the Bay takes place Saturday, Jan. 18 at Fortune Bay

TOWER- If you have a need for speed, then you'll want to stop by Fortune Bay's Marina on Saturday as the Battle at the Bay unfolds.

Over 150 snowmobile racers will do their best to shatter current Straight Line Speed Association (SLSA) records. There will be 47 different classes of races going on throughout the day. Races begin at 10 a.m. at the marina and there is no charge to watch the races.

"If the weather holds out, we might actually race until 5 p.m. due to the number of racers that will be on hand," said SLSA President Kurt Mohawk, who has been with the company for 20 years. "We've had to cancel four other events due to poor weather, so racers are ready to go for this event."

The Battle at the Bay brings in racers from all over the area and state, not to mention neighboring states as well. Anyone can enter and pre-registration takes place at the marina at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 18.

"I spoke with one guy from Milwaukee who will be coming up to race and he is raring to go," said Mohawk. "Our events bring in racers of all ages. We even had a 4-year-old racing in our 120 class, while there was a 74-year-old who also participated. These types of events amp everyone up."

Fortune Bay Marina Manager Byron Greenwaldt has been prepping



the track in anticipation of all of the racers and the fans who come out to watch the races.

Given the wild swings in weather, Greenwaldt has spent countless hours fine-tuning the track in preparation of the big weekend. It has been a constant struggle as he has dealt with poor ice conditions one day after the next.

In an effort to alleviate parking problems by the marina and on the ice, Greenwaldt said spectators coming by vehicle will use the overflow parking by the resort. Guests will then be shuttled to and from the marina.

"We'll come in to put the finishing touches on the track next week," said Mohawk. "We anticipate it will be a fast track and some of the racers will reach speeds of 175 to 180 miles per hour. It's what we like to call our

Snow Field of Dreams—if you build it, they will come."

Fortune Bay will once again be providing food and beverages, including hot chocolate, coffee, pulled BBQ chicken sandwiches, porketta sandwiches, chips, candy and pop/water. There will also be a cash bar set up for adults wanting to have a beverage or two during the day.

"People love to compete in these races," said Mohawk. "I talked to one guy who said he bought a sled for \$30,000 with the hopes of winning a \$10 trophy. It's a pure adrenaline rush for guys like that and with this being the first race of the season. It's going to be an amazing event."

For more race details, visit SLSA's Facebook page.

## FUNDRAISER

# Snowmobile Fun Run celebrates 20 years

Jan. 25 event raises funds for area snowmobile trails

REGIONAL - The 20th annual Fun Run, to support area snowmobile trails in the Ely, Tower and Babbitt areas, is set for Saturday, Jan. 25. As in the past, the event culminates with a wrap-up party that evening at Fortune Bay Resort Casino, where hundreds of prizes will be given away.

For a \$25 advance entry (\$30 on the day of the event) participants can increase their chances to win prizes by riding or driving between checkpoints in all three communities. Tank's Bar in Babbitt, Benchwarmers in Tower, and the Grand Ely Lodge in Ely serve as the events headquarters. These checkpoints serve as the Fun Run hot spots during the day.

Being an avid snowmobiler is merely optional for the family-friendly event. According to long time Fun Run Chairman and organizer Jimmy Zupancich, most people participate by car. The Fun Run set a record in 2018 with more than 1,000 participants, and last year's event included almost as many entries despite being held a week earlier than usual.

Door prize drawings begin at 7 p.m. sharp at Fortune Bay with hundreds of prizes, including gift cards, gift certificates, even a year's supply of toilet paper, given out in about 90 minutes.

All participants are entered into the grand prize drawing for \$1,000 cash as the top prize for the night.

Silent auctions and additional raffles are also part of the wrap-up party. In the Coca-Cola give away, pick the right bottle of pop and win \$100, Zupancich said. Separate drawings and giveaways are geared toward youth.

Zupancich said he is pushing to get \$20,000 in prizes for this year, including as many as five large-screen televisions. Prize donations can be dropped off at the Zup's store in Ely.

Sign up for the 2020 Fund Run online at [www.snowmobile-funrun.com](http://www.snowmobile-funrun.com). Registration forms are also available at Zup's in Ely and Blomberg's Cenex in Ely and Babbitt.

## ELY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# Northwoods Business Incubator classes beginning

ELY- The Ely Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce a new program designed to support the business community, entrepreneurs, and those seeking to start a business. The goal of the Northwoods Business Incubator is to develop, maintain and expand connections with area resources and make those resources available to the business community.

Monthly meetings are scheduled starting next week and running through April. Meetings will break for the summer season and resume in October. Meeting topics will include workforce solutions, business development classes, business resources and tours of area businesses.

Those seeking support and resources outside of the monthly meetings are welcome to stop in at the Chamber. Resource information is available and free of charge.

## Upcoming meetings

Jan. 19 at 9 a.m. at Frandsen Bank and Trust: Randy Back from NE Office of Job Training will be speaking on workforce solutions including on-the-job training, internships, and other programs.

Feb. 20 at 9 a.m. at Frandsen Bank and Trust: Sandi Larson from the Entrepreneur Fund will be discussing the Women's Business Alliance and a variety of Entrepreneur Fund

programs. Joining Sandi will be the Ely-area contacts for the EF.

March 19: Curt Walczak from the Northeast MN SBDC will lead a class on Creating DIY Websites and SEO for Small Businesses.

April 16: Betsy Olivanti from Northeast MN SBDC will lead a class on Developing Financial Projections.

If your business is interested in hosting or participating in a Northwoods Business Incubator meeting, please contact the Chamber office at 218-365-6123 or [director@ely.org](mailto:director@ely.org). Seating is limited, so please RSVP for the sessions.



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## CITY OF TOWER

# Setterberg appointed to fill city council vacancy

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER—The city council here, on Monday, appointed David Setterberg to fill the council seat left vacant by the recent resignation of Steve Abrahamson. Setterberg was one of two candidates who had filed for the opening, but the other candidate, Dick Larmouth, who already serves on the city's economic development authority and is treasurer for the Vermilion Country School, read a statement during public input recommending the appointment of Setterberg.

Setterberg, who lives on Eales Rd. in Tower, has a background in mechanical engineering and information technology and has worked on numerous private sector projects. Setterberg and his wife Deb, have become regular attendees at Tower City Council meet-

ings over the past year or so and Setterberg said he felt the time was right to get involved. "I believe I can help in some ways, with an open mind and opinion," he said. "I'm at most of the meetings, and felt there was no reason I couldn't step up and take a more active role. We'll see how that goes."

Setterberg and his wife have been coming to the area since the 1990s and purchased a house in Tower in 2000. They become full-time residents of the city in 2017.

Under the city's ordinance, Setterberg will serve in the position until the next general election, set for Nov. 3, 2020. Anyone elected to the position in November would serve only the remaining two years of Abrahamson's term per the city's ordinance.

In related business, the council reviewed a new resolution for council appointments

to city committees and commissions developed by clerk-treasurer Victoria Ranua as part of the city's annual reorganization. Ranua developed a new format for the resolution and researched the original authorizations for various committees and commissions to ensure that they are being consistent with council intent. Ranua said she found several deviations, including commissions with no apparent authorization, which she is recommending for abolishment. Those include the police commission, public utilities commission, liquor commission, budget and finance committee, and the gambling commission. The storefront loan committee would also be eliminated as a city committee because the oversight of the loan program is expected to be transferred to the Tower Economic Development Authority.

Ranua cited several other



Tower City Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua administers the oath of office to David Setterberg at Monday's meeting.

city commissions, boards, or position that are authorized by resolution or ordinance but do not appear to be filled. She said the city does not appear to have a designated blight officer, animal

control officer, landfill authority officer, or airport zoning administrator, all of which are authorized by prior council action.

See COUNCIL... pg. 5

## ELY SCHOOLS

# School board treads carefully on renovation project

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – The ISD 696 building expansion and renovation project here is moving forward with the development of architectural plans and a draft proposal for funding options, however, school board members don't entirely agree on committing district funds to the project.

Superintendent Erik Erie reported to the board Monday night that a meeting last week with Architectural Resources Inc. and the Costin Group included the distribution of a draft

proposal that district lobbyist Gary Cerkenik plans to present to Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation officials later this month.

School board members pushed to discuss and ultimately approve the funding proposal before it is presented to the IRRR. Board members James Pointer and Rochelle Sjoberg, in particular, requested the proposal be reviewed and approved before being presented to the IRRR.

"This is significant enough, that I feel support from the board is essential," Sjoberg said.

"What we hired the Costin

Group to do is to put this proposal together," Erie said. "If you are not comfortable with things in the proposal, we need to talk about that."

Pointer reiterated his concern. "We need to talk about it, then," he said.

Board chair Ray Marsnik agreed. "Before (the proposal) goes any further, we need to vote on this," he said. He suggested having a discussion at the school board's study session on Monday, Jan. 27, and possibly scheduling a special meeting then to take action.

Erie reminded school board

members that the state legislative session begins in early February and time is of the essence to get a campus renovation funding proposal, now referred to as the 21st Century Learning Facility Improvement Project, in place for consideration.

"You are totally changing the school," Pointer said, "and there are things that we need to discuss as a board, like whether we want to go this way, or we don't and look at other things."

Sjoberg said several factors, such as collaboration with other school districts, student and staff survey results and seven-period

school day considerations, are still up for discussion. "Some of this (proposal) sounds like we are committed, and I think we need dialogue and board approval," she said.

Before she could expound on particular points in the draft proposal, Erie warned Sjoberg the document is "intended right now for our own internal discussion."

Marsnik stressed that any final ISD 696 funding proposal coming from the IRRR must have full school board approval.

See SCHOOLS...pg. 5

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# OPINION

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

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

## Editorial

### Divide and conquer

President Trump stokes  
anti-immigration furor to gin up votes

Most Americans would be too ashamed to intentionally rile up their neighbors over nothing. Unfortunately, our current President, Donald Trump, is shameless in so many ways, which is why hundreds of St. Louis County residents have been up in arms in recent days over a proposed county board motion that would keep the county open to refugee resettlement.

It's a fight over nothing, ginned up by a President and his campaign tacticians who are willing to use fear and misunderstanding to divide Americans over issues invented from whole cloth. Let's be clear. There is no (repeat, NO) plan to bring refugees to St. Louis County, and the possible passage of the motion presented to the county board last week does not change that. The only reason that the motion was presented is because President Trump required it as part of an executive order that he issued last September. Under his order, counties and states are now required to pass a motion declaring whether they will, or will not, accept vetted, legal refugees within their borders.

No such declaration was ever required before, largely because the declarations are all but meaningless. St. Louis County, like virtually every county in the United States, has long been open to refugees, albeit purely in a technical sense. For practical reasons, refugees are invariably placed in communities where resettlement services are available to them, which has typically limited them to urban centers. St. Louis County, like most predominantly rural counties, hasn't seen a refugee resettled within its borders in years, and passage of a motion declaring the county "open" to resettlement won't change that.

This, of course, isn't really about refugees. President Trump's executive motion was a campaign tactic designed to bolster his re-election effort by fanning the flames of anti-immigrant sentiment and mobilizing and organizing those who fear immigrants. Because of Trump's action, Americans in every state and county across the country are waging pitched and angry battles over an insignificant issue that most don't even understand.

Unfortunately, it's just another example of the misinformation that is constantly fed into the national conversation around so many issues by people interested solely in manipulating others for their own benefit. And it isn't just nationally. Closer to home, misguided individuals are spreading false rumors about imagined plots to fill our own

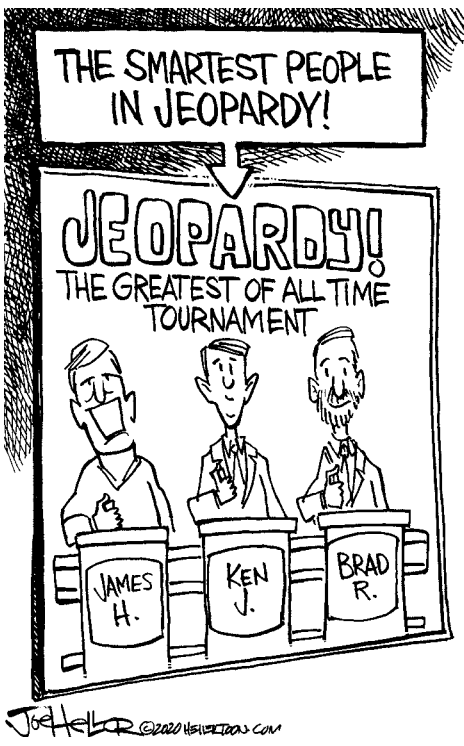
local communities with Somali refugees, stirring up animosity and division over made-up issues. It's no wonder that our country has become so divided.

Perhaps the saddest part of this story is that St. Louis County- indeed, all of northern Minnesota- could actually use some refugees. Our businesses are desperate for the work force and our stagnant and aging population could well cost us the Eighth Congressional District, which is at risk of elimination following reapportionment after the 2020 census.

While some of those who spoke at last week's county board meeting in Duluth expressed fears about the public cost of allowing refugees to settle in the area, in truth refugees very quickly become contributing members to society and the tax base. While some refugees are poor and have limited education, they're the exception, not the rule. In many cases, refugees are better educated than most Americans and come from cultures where self-sufficiency is a matter of pride. Far from the portrait painted by the fear-mongers, refugees work hard to better themselves, their families, and to achieve the same American Dream that brought most of our immigrant ancestors to this country.

It's worth remembering the poignant words in the late Tom Rukavina's last public statement, which appeared in a letter to the editor he wrote for this newspaper shortly before his death. He was being treated at the University of Minnesota for a rare form of leukemia and he wrote of the many immigrants who took care of him in any number of ways during his time there. Among them were the housekeepers who came to clean his room. "They are Somali or Ethiopian or Liberian," Rukavina wrote. "One was a male who stopped emptying the wastebaskets and talked to us. About how he came from Ethiopia five years ago because of tribal conflicts. He already had a master's degree in chemistry and is now working two jobs while going to school to become a pharmacist so he can give his three children a college education. He was particularly proud of his four-year-old daughter whose teacher told him was extremely intelligent. He told us his dream is that she will grow up to do something good for her country - this country, America."

That's the real story of America, the land of immigrants and refugees- and those are words to remember as we call out those who endeavor to keep us divided and afraid.



## Letters from Readers

### There are saints among us

After we attended a mining conference the first week of December in Reno, Nevada, Pat wanted to see Trump's border wall so we made a swing through Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas before returning to Minnesota.

While passing through Ajo, Arizona, we stopped to eat at a little Mexican restaurant and at a table near us I recognized Scott Warren from a picture in the newspaper. Scott is one of those Samaritans from No More Deaths who left jugs of water in the desert for the refugees who passed that way.

The feds took him to court to punish his benevolence and were rewarded with a hung jury. In a fit of Trumpian vindictiveness they drug him into court to try him again and this time he was awarded a verdict of not guilty. No More Deaths said that humanitarian aid is never a crime.

As a union member I frown on cheap labor from across the border but over the years as an electrician I've worked with a lot of Canadians on industrial projects in the United States. Despite their weakness for cribbage, darts, and beer, they were fun to work with.

If people coming across the southern border are working for substandard wages let's put the employers in prison and be good Samaritans to their victims.

I was a little concerned when my only brother said he needed a new heart valve, but he went into a Duluth hospital for surgery on a Tuesday morning and his cardiologist, who was born in Ethiopia, discharged him at noon Wednesday.

Whether immigrants are repairing damaged hearts or fleeing damaged countries they are human beings. They are entitled to our respect.

They are entitled to life.  
**Bob Tammen**  
**Soudan**

### Solid ambulance agreement will build trust from townships

In response to last week's stories about the Tower Area Ambulance Service problems: Yes, the agreement that the city has proposed needs to be scrapped. It's more like a fantasy than it is an actual agreement. A comprehensive, professionally-written agreement, with input and approval by the townships and their attorneys will ensure trust. The city's proposed contract, which is just a rehash of the old one, is weak and has resulted in cheating, including the \$800,000-plus that the city "transferred" out of the ambulance account to cover totally unrelated city general fund expenses. Sorting out a new agreement will take some time, and I hope the city doesn't attempt a "snow job". That would only come back to bite the city and perpetuate mistrust.

**Lee Peterson**  
**Greenwood Township**

### Time to stop believing in fairy tales

Climate change is not just local, but global. Melting ice caps, rising worldwide temperatures, tornados, fires and accelerating rates of wildlife extinction are indications of a growing international environmental crisis.

On the other side of our planet, Australia is experiencing deadly heat temperatures, diminishing availability of potable water and obliteration of wild animals, vegetation, and 24 humans by fire. The fires encompass more than 43,000 square miles, incinerating 1,700,000 sheep and 450,000 cattle so far. The smoke from the fire containing minute particles of pollution is blown by the wind hundreds of miles into surrounding population areas.

Unfortunately, Australia lacks political leadership to address the impact of climate

change. Prime Minister Scott Morrison does not relate to the causality of climate change for the vast destruction of his nation caused by ongoing fire. He manifested his disdain by avoiding the international climate meeting convened by the United Nations in Madrid.

His focus has been on promoting Australia as one of the world's largest exporters of coal and abolishing a carbon tax imposed by the former Labor government. He is famous for holding up a lump of coal in Parliament and telling the public there was nothing to fear. Recently he approved a huge new coal mine in Queensland.

An excerpt from a member of the emerging generation of new leaders, Greta Thunberg, in her admonition speech before the United Nations is relevant. "People are dying, entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of mass extinction and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth."

**Gerald Snyder**  
**Ely**

Where the  
North Country  
Sounds Off!

### We welcome your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words. Letters are subject to editing, primarily for length and clarity.

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

# How a gospel hymn and a dog opened my eyes

Rock my soul  
in the bosom of  
Abraham,  
Oh, rock-a my  
soul....

God only knows  
when these words  
and that unforgettable  
melody first took seed  
in my memory, but  
recently it bubbled  
up unexpectedly from  
the depths of my soul.  
With the clock ticking  
rhythmically in the



**KATHLEEN  
MCQUILLAN**

background and  
the nearby wood  
stove warming  
us, a little fuzzy  
puppy nestled  
into my chest and  
that song brought  
forth the most wel-  
comed and sat-  
isfying sense of  
peace I'd had in a  
long time. Duffy,  
with all eight  
pounds of him  
safely ensconced

in my arms, melted into the  
gentle swaying motion of my  
body.

Suddenly a thought popped  
into my mind, "The original  
version of this old gospel hymn  
had to have come from a matri-  
archal tradition. After all, it's  
not likely that Abraham had a  
"bosom". And iconic images of  
men embracing the distressed  
and vulnerable with an abiding  
warmth, comfort and protection  
are few and far between. Seems  
like mostly women do that!"

But, with all due respect for the  
exalting of "God the Father",  
as well as credit due African-  
American gospel music as the  
origin of this spiritual, drawn  
from the Book of Genesis, I still  
had to wonder what happened  
to Sarah, Hagar and Abraham's  
many other wives?

But back to the here and  
now. Duffy came into my world  
a few weeks ago. He'd been  
dropped off at one of our local  
animal shelters. I got a call from  
a friend who has a longstanding

connection with the Humane  
Society as a volunteer and Board  
Member. She informed me there  
was a puppy badly in need of a  
home. I'd once mentioned to her  
that "someday" I might like to  
get another dog. "But now?" I  
thought. It was with curiosity and  
a leap of faith that I responded  
to her call that morning.

I gathered myself for a trip to  
the Iron Range and after a short  
visit with shelter staff,

See **DUFFY...pg. 5**



# Letters from Readers

## Time for a new approach to agriculture

The “insect apocalypse” is a phrase scientists, beekeepers and government regulators know well. However, it seems many people are not aware of this ongoing and disturbing event. For most, remembered personal experiences from decades ago will include cleaning bugs of all sorts off the windshield of a vehicle, evading blood-sucking parasites, watching masses of dragonflies graze on their prey, and the sting of the unfortunate bumblebee stepped on while playing barefoot in a yard full of clover or dandelions.

These experiences have become rather rare, while the quietness of many landscapes has become too commonly eerie, reminiscent of Rachel Carson’s prophetic book from 1962, *Silent Spring*. The evidence to support the claim that we are in the midst of an insect apocalypse has grown to the point that monopolistic chemical corporations Bayer-Monsanto, Syngenta-ChemChina and Dow-DuPont can’t find a sober audience to listen to their message of “all is well, keep buying our chemicals”. In the U.S. some of this evidence includes the population of monarch butterflies falling by 90 percent in the last 20 years and the rusty-patched bumblebee dropping by 87 percent over the same period. A global

analysis of 452 species in 2014 estimated that insect abundance had declined 45 percent over 40 years. Currently, 41 percent of insect species are declining and global numbers are dropping by 2.5 percent annually. So what is causing this insect apocalypse? Many things. Habitat loss, weather changes, and the big one - pesticide use. The United States’ agricultural landscape is 48 times more toxic to insects than it was 25 years ago. A class of pesticides known as neonicotinoids accounts for a staggering 92 percent of this effect. Don’t look to government to cure this situation though; as is the case with so many other issues, big corporations and regulators have an overly

cozy relationship. At the last two meetings of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board where the pollinator report was given, state commissioners took NO action to address neonicotinoid effects, though scientists and citizen board members called strongly and repeatedly for such. If meaningful difference is to be made now it will be at the personal level, as a consumer. For those who haven’t done so already, making real, pesticide-free food priority one is of paramount importance, and local farmers and gardeners using regenerative growing methods are the best source of this high quality nutrition. When the last of the consumers awake and refuse toxic food or chemicals made by corporations,

the profit incentive for this chemical madness disappears, taking with it insect and human health problems. The “unwashed masses” will have bypassed the government-industry complex. Most farmers using chemical intensive methods today were born into agro-chemical dependency and to break free they and their land must undergo the same difficult life changes that any addict would. To do any less is to commit themselves to the sinking slave ship that is chemical intensive agri-business. Their freedom will be found in regenerative farming.

**Mike Tauber Backus**

## DUFFY...Continued from page 4

I agreed to complete the adoption application. I first had to pass their “background check”. They’d call me the following day once they’d contacted my references. I’d no more than buckled my seat belt to head home than I began doubting my decision. Was I ready for this commitment? Could I shift my daily routines for him? But more so, could I handle the grief should something take his life before mine? (Anyone who has loved an animal knows the pain of losing them.) But I had taken this trip, and I’d already said “Yes!” I guess I had to let the story unfold. Duffy’s first nine months of life were beyond sad. He’d been mostly confined to a kennel-cage,

seriously neglected with scant physical contact, no grooming, no “potty-training”, and now extremely timid and anxious. He would need a lot of attention, I was warned, especially in those first few weeks in his new home. My main challenge would be to gain his trust, provide a sense of safety and security, give him lots of loving touch, and basic training in the do’s and don’ts of a successful dog-human coexistence. After receiving the “okay” to take him home, I carried him to the car, secured him in the seat beside me, and turned the key. During the 25-mile journey north, I pondered my “to-do” list. I confess, there were some momentary surges of panic.

But now it’s Sunday morning three weeks later. I’m unquestionably immersed in life with Duffy and loving it. I’m filled with gratitude. First, just for him, but then also, for that impulsive side of my nature, the same one that has so often gotten me in trouble, but this time got me to “Yes!” Duffy’s presence reminds me of the countless creatures wandering the planet in need of shelter, acceptance, and protection. And not just critter creatures but human ones, too. I just learned that there are 18,000 refugees fleeing war and famine who have been fully vetted and are ready to receive the very same kind of caring from us here in the U.S. And I recall vividly

how often I considered fostering a child in need but held myself back, too afraid that I might fail. I regret that now, at 66 years, aged beyond my ability to accept that special challenge and opportunity. But my longing to care for others persists. Now I have Duffy. Recently I read that the “bosom of Abraham” is meant to symbolize a sense of absolute and enduring peace, of safety, warmth and protection. In that moment, while rocking my new puppy in my arms, I relished feeling his whole body slowly relaxing into mine. In that moment, we shared the true meaning of that spiritual. Duffy’s utter vulnerability reminded me of my own. We became one another’s blessing.



I only hope I can carry this awareness forward, a bit more willing to offer warmth and shelter to someone even when I’m feeling reluctant and unprepared. Maybe we can all be a little more aware. Innocent little Duffy opened my eyes and my heart, convincing

me that I needn’t be afraid to respond, whenever I might be called. Blessings to all of you reading this story who can relate. There are so many just waiting for us to say “Yes!”.

## COUNCIL...Continued from page 3

committees appear to lack the required number of members or have restrictions on membership that aren’t included in the original authorization. She noted that the authorization for creation of the airport commission calls for eight members, while the city has been appointing only five in recent years. She also noted that the authorization for the city’s forestry board requires membership by the mayor, which had been ignored in some prior years. At the same time, she said the length of terms for many city offices remains unclear based on her review of city records. Ranua asked council members to give her feedback on the format and her recommendations for changes prior to the council’s Jan. 27 meeting, when the council is expected to

make its annual appointments and designations. In other business, the council spent considerable time trying to address concerns raised by the ambulance commission about the lack of information on the ambulance service, which has been a recent complaint from township residents on the commission. Tower City Council member and commission member Rachel Beldo motioned to have Ranua direct ambulance director Steve Altenburg to develop a summary description and inventory of the ambulance service, including current mileage and ongoing costs of maintaining the service’s ambulances. Others on the council argued for a more comprehensive analysis, such as a business plan, but Ranua said that city hall

currently lacks the capacity to develop a more comprehensive look at the status of the ambulance service unless a third-party reviewer is brought in to conduct the analysis. She also questioned the value of conducting a forensic audit of the ambulance spending, to determine where surplus ambulance funds from prior years were spent. “We pretty much know that the community spent it on something else, so in the end, what does it get you to have that information?” she asked. Mayor Orlyn Kringstad appeared to agree, noting that the fund was unlikely to be rebuilt in either case given the city’s current financial straits. After considerable discussion, the council agreed that the summary description and inventory would be the first step in

a broader review of the ambulance service. They asked to have the initial report available for their review by Feb. 6. In other business, Ranua introduced a consent agenda into the council meeting for the first time. Ranua explained to the council that the consent agenda allows the council to approve any number of non-controversial or routine matters with a single motion, improving the efficiency of council meetings. Ranua said council members can pull any item from the consent agenda if they think it warrants further discussion. The consent agenda, this week, included approval of a letter of support for the Lake Vermilion Trail, a ski trail grant application, the establishment of a temporary committee to remake the city’s website,

and acceptance of a review of lease options for the cell tower on the city’s north hill. It also included final approval of the Tower harbor plat and the council quickly approved all the items in a single motion. In other action, the council: ➤ Approved a motion by council member Mary Shedd to create a hiring panel to review three applications for the city’s open maintenance position and bring a recommendation back to the city council. The council will ask current maintenance staff Tom Gorsma and Ben Velcheff, along with council member Setterberg and airport manager John Burgess, to serve on the hiring panel. ➤ Approved a request by the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board to serve as the fiscal agent

for interim financing for development of the new drinking water treatment plant. ➤ Reviewed the police contract proposal from Breitung Township and approved a motion to accept the new contract amount, including an increase that is slightly higher than the budget approved by the city council in December. The council approved a motion to dedicate fire department gambling funds toward the extra expense. The council also approved a related motion to accept a temporary suspension of on-call police services during the winter months, when activity tends to drop significantly.

## SCHOOLS...Continued from page 3

“We have to live and die with this decision,” he said. **Financial commitment** Last fall, the school board appeared to agree that the school district would show good faith if they committed a portion of their unassigned fund balance to the renovation project. But on Monday, Pointer backed away from that commitment. While earmarking \$500,000 of the \$2.1 million in the unassigned fund would diminish the monies available for unexpected expenditures by a substantial amount, it would still leave the district in compliance with its policy of maintaining a reserve equal to at least 20 percent of total expenditures. “By making this transfer, we would still have 22 percent on hand,”

Marsnik said. Tony Colarich made a motion, with support from Heidi Mann, to approve the \$500,000 financial commitment to the 21st Century Learning Facility Improvement Project fund. By James Pointer’s calculations, the \$500,000 commitment would leave just \$16,000 above the 20-percent goal. “Let’s say we have another gym issue where we have to spend \$40,000. What do we do?” he asked. He also asked for a cost estimate on the district’s current lead in drinking water issue. Erie said the district’s goal of maintaining 20 percent of expenditures in the unassigned fund would require financial adjustments if unforeseen expenditures dropped below that benchmark. “If we get to that point, we would have some decisions to make,”

he said. Marsnik added that the 20-percent unassigned balance goal is merely a recommendation. “That goal can be changed,” he said. He noted that the Long Term Facilities Maintenance Fund is also available to use for building repairs. Colarich said a soundproof covering is still to be added to the gym ceiling repair project. “At this point, I am uncomfortable with the \$500,000 (commitment) because of the unknowns. Maybe we could pull it back a little bit,” he said. Sjoberg asserted that through discussion over many meetings, the board decided that the financial commitment to the renovation project was important. “We told the community that we are willing to have skin in the game,” she said.

Erie noted that the draft proposal for the IRRR also indicates the board’s financial commitment to the project. Tom Omerza said the renovation project also includes infrastructure improvement. “We need to show outside entities that we are committed to this,” he said. “How many years have school boards here been wrangling over this? We need to look at the long term. Do we want to improve the campus? Are we the school board who is going to move this forward, or not?” Despite saying that he is “not opposed to giving the money” to the renovation project, Pointer was the lone vote against the motion. The motion passed on a 5-1 vote. **Other business** In other action, the

board, ➤ Heard from facilities director Tim Leeson on the status of the campus water issue. He said that four of the campus’s 14 water fountains have tested positive for the presence of lead. More testing, to narrow down the source, is being conducted and he is waiting on cost estimates for new filtered fountains. ➤ Elected Marsnik as board chair, Sjoberg as board clerk, and Omerza as board treasurer. ➤ Heard from the board’s auditor, and approved the fiscal year 2019 audit as presented. ➤ Designated the *Ely Echo*, the only publication to submit a quote, as the district’s legal newspaper for 2020. ➤ Designated Klun Law Firm as the district’s legal counsel for 2020. ➤ Established school

board compensation rates, with a 2.1-percent increase, at \$193 per month (plus \$30,000 in life insurance) for board members, and \$248 per month (plus \$30,000 in life insurance) for the board chair, and an additional \$55 per month for each board member for study session compensation, whether they attend the meeting or not. ➤ Hired Evan Omerza to the para-professional position, and accepted the resignation of Shania Braaten from the para-professional position. ➤ Hired Ruthann Griffin to the long-term substitute elementary teacher position. ➤ Approved Duane Lossing as a volunteer hockey coach for the 2019-2020 season.



TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY



Elsie Larson



Nico Lenci

Left: Trevor Zaitz shows his trophy to the first-graders after thanking his first grade teacher Jo Holen for teaching him to be such a good speller.



Trevor Zaitz



Christian Nelson



Kellin Pratt

# Trevor Zaitz wins TS spelling bee

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- With a cautious demeanor and a calm presence, Tower-Soudan fifth-grader Trevor Zaitz outlasted four other spellers to take top honors at the Tower-Soudan Spelling Bee. Five students competed at the bee on Tuesday. Two qualifiers missed the bee, they were among the 37 students out sick from school that day.

The five spellers, who had all won spelling bees in their own classrooms, went through three live rounds without missing a word. But in the fourth round, Nico Len-

ci faltered on the word burlap, which he didn't recognize, and Christian Nelson added an extra vowel to the suffix on stumbling. In round five, Elsie Larson and Kellin Pratt were unable to correctly spell their words (distressed, arrange). Trevor correctly spelled bluster in the fifth round, and then was given the word extremely, which he needed to spell correctly to win the bee. Trevor asked the judge to define the word, and then calmly spelled it out correctly, in the exact opposite of its definition of "in an intense manner" to win the trophy.

Students from grades four, five, and six were in the

audience for the bee. Former teacher Kathy Meyers was the head judge, and was assisted by Dan Boelk and Amanda Koivisto. Fifth-grade teacher Michelle Anderson was the reader.

After the bee, Trevor went to share the good news with his former first-grade teacher Jo Holen.

"Thank you for teaching me how to spell," he told her. First-graders were quite impressed with Trevor's accomplishment and the trophy he had received.

Trevor advances to the District Spelling Bee held at the Northeast Service Coop in Mt. Iron on Thursday, Feb. 6.



# New VCS computer lab open to the community



TOWER- The new computer lab at Vermilion Country School is open for community use, on days the school is in session, from 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

VCS students will be trained to help give beginning computer users assistance and tutoring on the computers, which are 12 iMacs models with up-to-date software and the full suite of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, etc) installed. Visitors must check in at the school office prior to use.

A printer has been ordered and will be set up for

public use.

The school is looking to partner with outside organizations that would be able to offer computer skills training, or for other uses for the new computer lab. The computer lab is taking advantage of the new broadband-speed network now installed at the school building.

"These computers should be very useful for our senior diners," said school administrator Frank Zobitz. The school offers senior dining for \$4 for any seniors aged 60 or older who have registered through the AEOA

(and \$5.75 for other guests). Senior dining is from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. on days the school is in session.

For more information on senior dining, call the school at 218-300-1447. Reservations are also appreciated. Diners need to register one-time with the AEOA at 1-800-662-5711 ext. 7323 to qualify for the \$4 per meal rate. The weekly menus are published in the local papers and are available on the school website at [www.vermilioncountry.org](http://www.vermilioncountry.org). There are no income guidelines for senior dining.

CookVFW
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

## Some competition on the ballot in the upcoming township elections

REGIONAL- Township filings for area townships that hold their elections in March closed on Jan. 14.

Breitung, Vermilion Lake, and Greenwood all hold their township elections in March. Eagles Nest, Kugler, and Tower hold their local elections in November.

In Vermilion Lake Township incumbent clerk Crystal Alaspa and incumbent supervisor Phil Anderson have both filed.

In Breitung Township, incumbent supervisor Greg Dostert filed. Two newcomers,

Robin Bjorgo and Diana Sundahl have filed for the open clerk seat. Incumbent clerk Polly McDonald is retiring.

In Greenwood Township, incumbent Paul Skubic is being challenged by former township chairman John Bassing for the Supervisor 1 seat. Incumbent Mike Ralston is being challenged by Barb Lofquist for the Supervisor 2 seat. Incumbent clerk Sue Drobac is being challenged by Debby Spicer for the two-year clerk seat.

Township elections are held on Tuesday, March 10.

## Heather Anderson and Tiffany Clemenson named to Dean's List at UW-Superior

SUPERIOR- Heather Anderson and Tiffany Clemenson, both of Soudan, have been named to the University of Wisconsin-Superior Dean's List for academic achievement during the Fall 2019 semester.

To be named to the Dean's List, students must have completed 12 degree-seeking semester credits and achieved at least a 3.50 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale).

## COLLEGE NEWS

## Gavin and Gunnar Olson named to President's List at Central Lakes College

BRAINERD- Gavin and Gunnar Olson of Tower have been named to the President's List at Central Lakes College in Brainerd. The President's List includes 268 students who earned a grade point average of 3.75 to 4.0 while enrolled for at least 12 credits.

## Sophie Lenz receives Dean's List honors at UMD

DULUTH- Sophie Lenz of Embarrass has received Dean's List honors at The University of Minnesota-Duluth. Lenz is studying Pre Civil Engineering in the Swenson College of Science and Engineering. To be eligible for the Dean's

List, students must have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

## Rebecca Nelmark receive Dean's List honors at MSU - Moorhead

MOORHEAD- Rebecca Nelmark of Embarrass has received Dean's List honors at Minnesota State University Moorhead. Nelmark is a Northeast Range graduate and is studying Social Studies.

Nelmark has been named to the Dean's List in recognition of academic achievement fall semester 2019. Students must be in degree-seeking status and maintain a 3.25 or higher grade point average while completing a minimum of 12 graded credits to qualify for the honor.

Online each week at  
[www.timberjay.com](http://www.timberjay.com)



## Breitung holding open house on Thursday

SOUDAN- The community is invited to an open house at the recently remodeled Breitung Town Hall complex on Thursday, Jan. 23 from 2 – 6 p.m. There will be opportunities to tour the new facility and to enjoy refreshments and food.

## Joint Powers Recreation Board meets Friday, Jan. 31

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board will meet Friday, Jan. 31 at 8:30 a.m. at Good Ol' Days. Requests for funding must be made in writing and should go to Teri Joki-Martin at Tower City Hall or to Julie Suihkonen. The board is funded with donations from the city and townships in the Tower-Soudan School attendance area, and helps to fund athletics, arts, and recreational programs for area youth.

## Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, Feb. 2 at St. Martin's

TOWER- Mark your calendars, the St. Martin's youth will again be making and serving their famous booyah dinner on Super Bowl weekend. The booyah, along with a variety of desserts, will be prepared on Saturday. The meal will be served on Sunday, Feb. 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the church social hall. Take-outs will be available. The cost is a freewill offering– all proceeds go to the Tower Area Food Shelf.

‘Souper Bowl of Caring’ began as a senior high youth fellowship that has spread nationwide. It enables young people to see that by moving beyond themselves and working together, they can make a difference in their community.

## St. Paul's Lutheran hold its 132nd annual meeting on Sunday, Jan. 19

SOUDAN- St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Soudan will hold its 132nd annual meeting on Sunday, Jan. 19 after worship. All members and non-members are encouraged to attend.

## Finlander Bocce Ball set for Saturday, Jan. 18

SOUDAN- Play bocce ball the Finlander way, on the ice, on Saturday, Jan. 18 beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Soudan skating rink. **Teams much be preregistered by 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 17.** All teams must be two men and two women, 18 years of age or older. Sign up at Good Ol' Days or D'Erick's in Tower, on the Events Board Facebook page, or with Julie Johnson. Cost to play is \$10/person, with 100-percent payout to the top four places. Payment must be made before playing starts. Due to the ice conditions on the lake,



by GINA EMPEY  
Timberjay contributor

TOWER- Winter's back and it's time for frosty outdoor fun like ice fishing, sledding and beautiful walks in the woods. The snow cover serves as protection from tick bites, now that ticks are hibernating and waiting for the spring thaw. There is some good news on the Lyme front. I was happy to read that the state of Illinois is passing a bill to allow their doctors to treat Lyme patients as they see fit without potential disciplinary action.

This bill was written in response to the case of a 12-year-old girl named Lauryn Russell who is very ill from Lyme. She had to go out-of-state

# Tick Talk

for treatment. She and her mother have been fighting for this bill and were successful. Daniel Swanson, of Woodhull, gave an accurate speech explaining how doctors were only allowed to give three weeks of antibiotics previously and how it takes much longer to treat this disease. The Illinois doctors will be able to treat as they see fit and the insurance companies will cover the claims as of January 2020.

I believe I would not be here today without being prescribed long-term antibiotics, which I was able to receive from a doctor in Wisconsin. I am grateful that there are also many herbal remedies that are available to help with the continued treatment of this disease. Former U.S. Senator Kay

Hagan of North Carolina lost her three-year battle with a rare tick-borne illness, the Powassan virus. This virus causes encephalitis, which causes brain inflammation, and made it difficult for her to speak or walk. The Kay Hagan Tick Act unanimously cleared the Senate Health Committee and was introduced in the House. The bill calls for \$100 million to fight Lyme and other tick-borne diseases. The Tick Act would help expand research, improved testing, and treatment. It would also help fund five centers located at universities in New York, California, Florida, Texas, and Wisconsin. The bill

would authorize the CDC to spend \$20 million per year that would be awarded to state health departments to improve data collection and analysis, support early detection and diagnosis, and raise awareness.

Thank you to the people who came to our Lyme meeting on Oct. 3 at the Civic Center. It was a very good turnout with many interesting discussions. We will be having monthly meetings at Kugler Town Hall on the second Wednesday of each month, starting Feb. 12, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

If you have questions or concerns, feel free to email LVLYme@yahoo.

## Bookmobile Schedule

<b>Wednesday, Jan. 15; Feb. 5 and 26</b>	
Bois Forte Boys/Girls Club	11:00-11:30 a.m.
Greenwood Town Hall	12:00-12:30 p.m.
Soudan Fire Hall	1:45-3:00 p.m.
Tower Civic Center	3:15-4:15 p.m.
Embarrass, Four Corners	5:15-6:00 p.m.

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

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

games will be at the Soudan skating rink this year.

Spectators are encouraged to stop by throughout the day to cheer on the teams.

Good Ol' Days will have food and beverages available. Coolers are allowed. For questions, contact Julie Johnson at 218-750-7242.

## Chimpy's Skating Parties set for Sunday/Wednesday

SOUDAN- Chimpy's Skating Parties are now underway. Stop by the Soudan Skating Rink on Sunday, Jan. 19 from 12 noon - 2 p.m. and on Wednesday, Jan. 22 from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

This week's parties are sponsored by Dick Johnson, Jordan Rice, and Sheldon Majerle.

These community family-friendly events welcome skaters of all ages. The warming shack has loaner skates in most sizes and boot skaters are also welcome. Adult volunteers are also needed to help supervise skaters outdoors as well as to help serve the hot food indoors.

There will be no skating parties Jan. 17 and 18 due to the Finlander Bocce Ball Tournament set for Saturday, Jan. 18 at the skating rink. This event is sponsored by the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board.

The skating rink warming shack is open daily, weekdays from 4 p.m. until closing, and weekends from 11 a.m. - closing. The rink will be closed due to inclement weather, and will be posted in such instances.

## Tower-Soudan Athletic Association to hold annual meeting on Thursday, Jan. 23

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Athletic Association will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, Jan. 23, following the end of the Vermilion Country School Board meeting at approximately 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Vermilion Country School.

TSAA is a local booster club that raises money at its annual fall auction to fund athletics and activities at the Vermilion Country School, summer baseball programs, and special elementary athletic opportunities at Tower-Soudan Elementary. In 2019, the group donated for youth activities, including Tower-Soudan Little League and Babe Ruth; programs at VCS, including the annual open house, winter camping supplies for VCS students, and a Giants Ridge ski trip; Minnesota State High School League and choir fees for VCS; online music lessons from the University of Minnesota's McPhail Center; paying the entry fees for Tower-Soudan Elementary students who participated in the Ely Kids Marathon; and Tower-Soudan Elementary track and

field day prizes.

Funds available for donation vary depending on the success of the annual auction. This year's auction raised almost \$1,000 more than previous years, so the group will have additional funds available.

The 2019 officers were Marshall Helmberger, president; Joan Dostert, vice-president; and Jodi Summit, treasurer. The 2020 officers will be elected at the annual meeting. Anyone wishing to learn more about the group, or to request funding, can contact Jodi Summit at [vcs.charter@gmail.com](mailto:vcs.charter@gmail.com).

## Friends of Vermilion Country School holds annual meeting on Thursday, Jan. 23

TOWER- Friends of Vermilion Country School will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, Jan. 23 at the Vermilion Country School, at approximately 6 p.m. The group is a booster club for the school, and all money raised goes to support school activities and other needs that are not funded through the regular budget.

The group sponsors senior bingo, which is held at the Tower Civic Center on the first Monday of each month from February through December. This year bingo raised, on average, \$370 per month. Students from VCS volunteer each month at bingo, helping run the event. The group also sponsors the Fourth of July 10K run/walk, and writes grants to support school activities and community events. In addition, Friends sponsors the annual December Craft Show at the Tower Civic Center.

Friends also works with the school's student council, helping to support student fundraisers and activities such as dances. School activities supported in 2019 included paying for educational field trips to the International Wolf Center, North American Bear Center, and the Bois Forte Heritage Center; funding positive behavior reward trips to Pier 77 Mini Golf, the trampoline park in Duluth, and paintball (for students who have met attendance, behavior and academic goals); supplies for the art program and library; a new audio system for the theater and choir program (as well as school-wide use); supplies for the school greenhouse; and help with the school's marketing efforts to attract new students.

The 2019 officers were Muriel Scott, president; and Jodi Summit, treasurer. New officers will be elected at the annual meeting.

Friends would like to send special thanks to its regular adult bingo volunteer crew of Muriel Scott, Joan Dostert, Dick Larmouth, Jodi Summit, and Sheldon Majerle.

## 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 218-300-1447 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.

<b>Week of Jan. 20</b>	
Monday-	Taco Soup, Tostitos
Tuesday-	Orange Chicken over Fried Rice, Bread Stick
Wednesday-	Lasagna, Dinner Roll
Thursday-	Tater Tot Hot Dish, Dinner Roll
Friday-	No school, no lunch served

## Week of Jan. 20

### Monday

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

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

### Tuesday

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

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

Call to Subscribe

(218) 753-2950

[www.timberjay.com](http://www.timberjay.com)



the *TIMBERJAY*

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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.

Tuesday Group

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

**Jan. 21** - Laverne  
Dunsmore - Hiking in  
King's Canyon

**Jan. 28** - David  
Kess and Margaret  
Sweet - Ely-Winton  
Historical Society

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.elycommunityhealth.org](http://www.elycommunityhealth.org).

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.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



moonlit winter nights  
clear bright skies, cold winds howling  
hidden in the woods

WINDOW INTO YESTERDAY



'Wanna' go show?

Theaters, movie houses part of Ely's past

by DAVID KESS  
Ely-Winton Historical Society

Back in the day, movies were a big part of life in Ely—from young children up through adults. "Wanna' go show?" was the buzzword for many, especially for the young kids.

Older Elyites will recall two movie houses in town: the State Theater and the Ely Theater. They both ceased operations some years ago but the renovation of the State Theater will soon bring the "silver screen" back to town.

Fewer people remember the Opera House or Elco theaters, predecessors of the State and Ely theaters. The Ely Bowling Center, now closed, occupies the Opera House building. It was originally built in 1895 by the Vesi Temperance Society. Besides encouraging abstinence from "strong spirits" the Society provided many other activities for the young single men who had come from Europe to work in the woods and mines.

Five hundred people could be seated for lectures, concerts, musicals, light opera, and brass band performances. Other activities included dinners, meetings, and a gymnastic club. The Temperance Society was also much involved with the women's suffragette movement. Various visiting artists of many varieties appeared regularly such as the magician Augustus the Great. Vaudeville shows followed.

Activities began to dwindle as families and churches came to the frontier town but silent movies took their place. Those led to the first "talkies." It still called was the Opera House when it later became a movie theater although the date of the changeover is not certain. We do know it was an active movie theater in the 1920s.

In 1897, the Elco Theater opened on Chapman St. It began as a vaudeville theater, then showed silent movies, and ended with the "talkies." It accommodated 350 patrons. The Elco closed in the later 1930s and was torn down in 1944, leaving the lot to stand empty for many years. It was replaced by the Masonic Building which is now home to Heavy Metal Sports and Pool Hall.



The Ely Theater, above, was located on Chapman St. submitted photo

Some of our oldest senior citizens may still be able to recall being admitted to a movie there with an empty Arco Coffee can. Others recall sneaking in the alley door to get in. A number of the original theater seats are located in the historical society museum at Vermilion Community College.

There have been reports of a Bijou Theater in Ely around 1908 but no evidence has verified this. Other semi-private small movie theaters operated in those early years, one of which is said to have been in the back room of Mary's Spinning Wheel.

The Swanson brothers operated the first movie theater in the Opera House. In 1935 they announced plans for a new movie theater building on Sheridan Street. Built by local contractor John Rautio it was originally to be called the Rio. It opened as the State Theater on Oct. 15, 1935, with the movie "My American Wife" starring Francis Lederer and Ann Sothorn.

The building was designed in an Art Deco style typical of the 1930s. There were 350 seats. Plans originally included a rather elaborate set of cast sculptures which were never used, most likely due to the hard times brought on by the Depression. Going to the movies during this era remained one of the main forms of public entertainment.

The Ott family, doing business as Alley A Realty, has recently taken on the impressive renovation of the State Theater. This has included exterior brick and stone restoration, re-roofing, an entirely new infrastructure, renovation



The renovated State Theater, above, is open again. Brennan Rue, top, rehearses Tuesday in the State Theater for the upcoming production of The Quiltmaker's Gift. photos by K. Vandervort

of the entire interior including seating, and more. Those costs have already exceeded a two million dollar investment, far more than the original cost of the building even calculating the change in the value of the dollar. Be sure to look for the production of The Quiltmaker's Gift this month—a milestone for Ely.

Although the Ely Theater building still stands on the 100 block of Chapman St. it shows no sign now of having been a movie theater. It was built by the Baehr Brothers of Bemidji. Construction was to have started in 1928 but the Depression postponed this until 1935. The Ely Theater opened in 1936. It seated 900 and housed two retail shops, six apartments, fifteen offices, and a mezzanine level with an enclosed "crying room" for unhappy youngsters. Rowdy children were quickly removed by uniformed ushers during performances.

Double feature matinees were regularly shown on Wednesdays and Saturdays. For many years the cost of admittance for children up to age eleven was nine cents (with a penny left for a caramel). Popcorn was a dime. So as the late Stanley Kunstel put

it, "On Saturdays every kid was eleven!"

Even today's Baby Boomers will recall the Saturday afternoon westerns featuring Roy Rogers, Dale Evans, the Lone Ranger, Tonto, Gene Autry, Andy Devine, Hopalong Cassidy, Cisco Kid, Diablo, Tom Mix, Sky King, Rocky Lane, John Wayne and others.

Gone except on videos and DVDs are the likes of Mae West, Greta Garbo, Clark Gable, Marilyn Monroe, Tyrone Power, Charlie Chaplin, Will Rogers, Ronald Reagan, Helen Hayes, Lionel Barrymore, Elvis, King Kong, and oh, so many more! Elyites also got news of World War II and the Korean Conflict from Movietone News in a way that radio broadcast could never portray. Movie going was a real social event. Theaters were community meeting places. Something like this now happens at the supermarket.

A display of pictures and playbills from all four of Ely's theaters is located at the historical society at Vermilion Community College. It will be there throughout January and February and then move to the Ely public library for two more months.

the TIMBERJAY

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ISD 696

# Quiltmaker's Gift added to school lessons

Folk school offers special classes for students on Monday

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – The Ely Community Resource organization sent costumed reading pals into Washington Elementary classrooms, students made quilt fabric bookmarks, and each classroom was presented with a copy of the award-winning children’s book by the Ely Kiwanis Club as a kick-off to several events planned to celebrate The Quiltmaker’s Gift production.

Muffin Nelson, a member of the organizing committee for the week of activities, added that the Ely Folk School will also host a fun morning forelementary students on Monday, Jan. 20:

► Create a Free Form Bracelet with Kay Vandervort, 9-10 a.m., tuition is \$10 plus \$5 for materials, ages 12 to 20. Students will learn how to make free-form bracelets using multiple cords and a variety of interesting beads. “Free-form” means each bracelet is unique, not made from a set pattern, as the students learn how to create their own pattern. Students will learn about appropriate cord and bead choices, color selection, and techniques for finishing the bracelets.

► Experimenting with Watercolor with



**Ely Memorial High School art students, from left, Madeline Kallberg, Madeline Perry, and Lily Tedrick designed quilt squares depicting Ely businesses for a class quilting project this week as part of The Quiltmaker’s Gift production.** photo by K. Vandervort

Claire Taylor and Sandy Brandley, 10:30 a.m. – noon, tuition is \$15 plus \$5 for materials, ages 7-11. Students will make watercolor note cards with instruction on how to pick a subject, compose a drawing, and watercolor it, covering the basic components of composition, position, and color. Students will experiment, creating colors from three primary colors and using a variety of materials to create interesting effects with the paint. Participants are welcome to bring personal additions for the cards like photos, lace, sparkles, etc.

► Making a Mini-quilt Wall Hanging with Cecilia Rolando, 1 - 2:30

p.m., tuition is \$15 plus \$5 for materials, ages 12 to 20. Students will each make a mini-quilt wall hanging using fabric. The focus will be on design and color with students making choices from the materials provided and learning about the process a quilter may go through in designing and creating a quilt. Participants are welcome to bring additional notions like buttons, ribbon or charms to add to their creation.

Scholarship funds are available. Call 218-235-0138 for more information and to register.

Several classes from Washington Elementary will attend a dress rehears-

al of The Quiltmaker’s Gift on Thursday, Jan. 23 at Ely’s Historic State Theater.

“Ely Memorial High School art students got a taste of the important mathematical component of quilts construction by creating quilt squares, relevant to life in Ely, that will be fashioned into a quilt for display,” Nelson said.

The Ely Public Library has a limited number of children’s tickets to matinee performances of The Quiltmaker’s Gift on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 25-26.

Tickets will be given out on a first come/first serve basis.

## OUR COMMUNITY

# Foreign policy discussion group begins Jan. 23

ELY – The public is invited to participate in the Great Decisions foreign policy discussion group that will begin on Thursday, Jan. 23. The sessions, which take place from 4 -5:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of the month, are free and open to the public.

The program consists of eight sessions, scheduled in classroom 124 at Vermilion Community College. A discussion guide on the topics being covered is available for purchase at a cost of \$35 each at the Front Porch in

Ely. Two copies are also available at the public library to read there. Each session has between six and ten pages of information on the topic as well as discussion questions.

Participants are not required to attend all sessions or to register in advance.

The dates and topics are:

► Jan. 23 - Climate Change and the Global Order by Ronald Bee

► Feb. 13 - India and Pakistan by Barbara Crossette

► Feb. 27 - Red Sea

Security by David Shinn

► March 12 - Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking by Ronald Weitzer

► March 26 - U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle by Michael Shifter and Bruno Binetti

► April 9 - China’s Road into Latin America by Margaret Myers

► April 23 - The Philippines and the U.S. by Julio Amador and Deryk Matthew N. Baladjay

► May 14 - Artificial Intelligence and Data by Susan Ariel Aaronson

The Great Decisions Discussion Program, started nationally by the Foreign Policy Association in 1954, is designed to encourage debate and discussion on some of the important global issues of our time. The format of the program is intended to promote thoughtful discourse and bring people together to express ideas and learn from each other. For more information, e-mail khv771@gmail.com.

## Learn to make Dorothy's root beer

ELY – Learn how to make root beer like Dorothy Molter did. This event, scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 9, from 10-11 a.m. at the Dorthy Molter Museum, 2002 E. Sheridan St. features a guided program through the Winter Cabin focused on Dorothy’s root beer history, free time to look in other cabins, and root beer supplies to make 32 ounces of root beer to take home.

The cost is \$10 perperson, ages 8-plus. Pre-registration is required. Call 218-365-4451 or email info@rootbeerlady.com.

Dress for the weather and temperature as the historic cabins are drafty and unheated.

## Ely Winter Festival seeks sponsors

ELY – The Ely Winter Festival, scheduled to run Feb. 6-16, seeks sponsors, including businesses and organizations in the Ely area, to help support the independent, non-profit organization.

The group relies and depends on sponsorships, grants, and gifts in-kind to keep the festival running, marking 26 years.

Despite support from all sectors of the Ely community, and having received a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board for specific expenses, they still depend on sponsors for their ongoing operation.

If you are interested in being a sponsor, contact the festival at 365-SNOW or at their website, https://elywinterfestival.com/.

The Ely Winter Festival and Ely ArtWalk are funded in part by grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board, the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council (thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund).

## Library hosts Hogwarts School

ELY – Aspiring witches and wizards in grades 2-5 will have an opportunity to try out four of the classes at Hogwarts - Divination, Transfiguration, Care of Magical Creatures, and Quidditch at the Ely Public Library’s Hoqwarts Prep School.

School will be in session on Friday, Jan. 31 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Master the skills of wizards to earn your wand and make some great creations.

Register at the library in advance for this event; class size is limited to 20 spaces.

This program is sponsored by Friends of the Library.

## 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.

## 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.

## News in Brief

### Local student recognized for academic achievement

ELY – Brianna Austin, of Ely, was among six students who were recently inducted into the National Elementary Honor Society for students in grades four and five in recognition of their outstanding academic achievement and service to the community.

The Minnesota Connections Academy students from St. Louis County were among the 34 recently inducted into the National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society and National Elementary Honor Society.

“At Minnesota Connections Academy we have the opportunity to work with students and families from many different backgrounds who come to us seeking a academic setting where they can thrive,” said Melissa Gould, MNCA principal. “I congratulate these students for their persistence and for maintaining such a strong commitment to succeeding in the classroom and making a difference in the communities in which they live.”

The National Honor Society is a nationwide organization that recognizes students for achievement in four areas; scholarship, leadership, service and character.

To qualify students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.3 or higher, attended MNCA for at least one full semester, committed to have attending meetings throughout the school year, and be committed to completing 50 volunteer hours throughout the school year.

MNCA has three chapters that include the Elementary Honor Society for students in grades 4-5, the Junior Honor Society for students in grades 6-9, and the National Honor Society for students in grades 10-12.

## Higher Education

### Ely students honored at Gustavus

ST. PETER- The Fall Semester Dean’s List at Gustavus Adolphus College includes two Ely students, Emma Larson and Susan Cook.

The list includes those students who have earned a 3.7 grade point average (based on a scale in which 4.0 = A) or higher for the semester ending in December 2019.

### Ely student honored at MSU Moorhead

ELY – Aaron Peterson, of Ely, studying construction management, was named to the Minnesota State University-Moorhead Dean’s List in recognition of academic achievement fall semester 2019.

Students must be in degree-seeking status and maintain a 3.25 or higher grade point average while completing a minimum of 12 graded credits to qualify for the honor.

### Local students honored at UMD

DULUTH – The University of Minnesota-Duluth (UMD) Dean’s List for Fall Semester 2019 includes three Ely-area students. The three students are:

► Stewart F. Cox, Swenson College of Science and Engineering, Computer Science BS;

► Emma R. Kari, School of Fine Arts, Graphic Design BF A;

► Daniel R. Mattila, Swenson College of Science and Engineering, Pre-Electrical Engineering.

Students on the Dean’s List have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

## Yesterday's news, this week

from the archives of

## THE ELY MINER

*Courtesy of the Ely-Winton Historical Society*

**January 16, 1920**

### New iron company organized

The Mesaba Iron company has been organized with a capital of \$3 million, eight percent of cumulative convertible preferred stock and 150,000 shares of common stock of no par value, for the purpose of developing and working low-grade iron deposits on the eastern portion of the Mesaba Range.

Directors of the company are: Charles Hayden, chairman of the board; Daniel C. Jackling, president; John D. Ryan, W.E. Corey, Percy A. Rockefeller, C.M. McNeil, Sherwood Aldrich, W. Hinckle Smith, Alva C. Dinkey, Seeley W. Mudd, Horace V. Winehell, K.R. Babbitt, W.G. Swarr and J. Carson Agnew.

The organization of this company means much to the ranges. The low grade ores will come into use and by their use will develop immense territory. It is estimated that the company has control of 100 million tons on one property near Sulphur on the branch line from Mesaba.

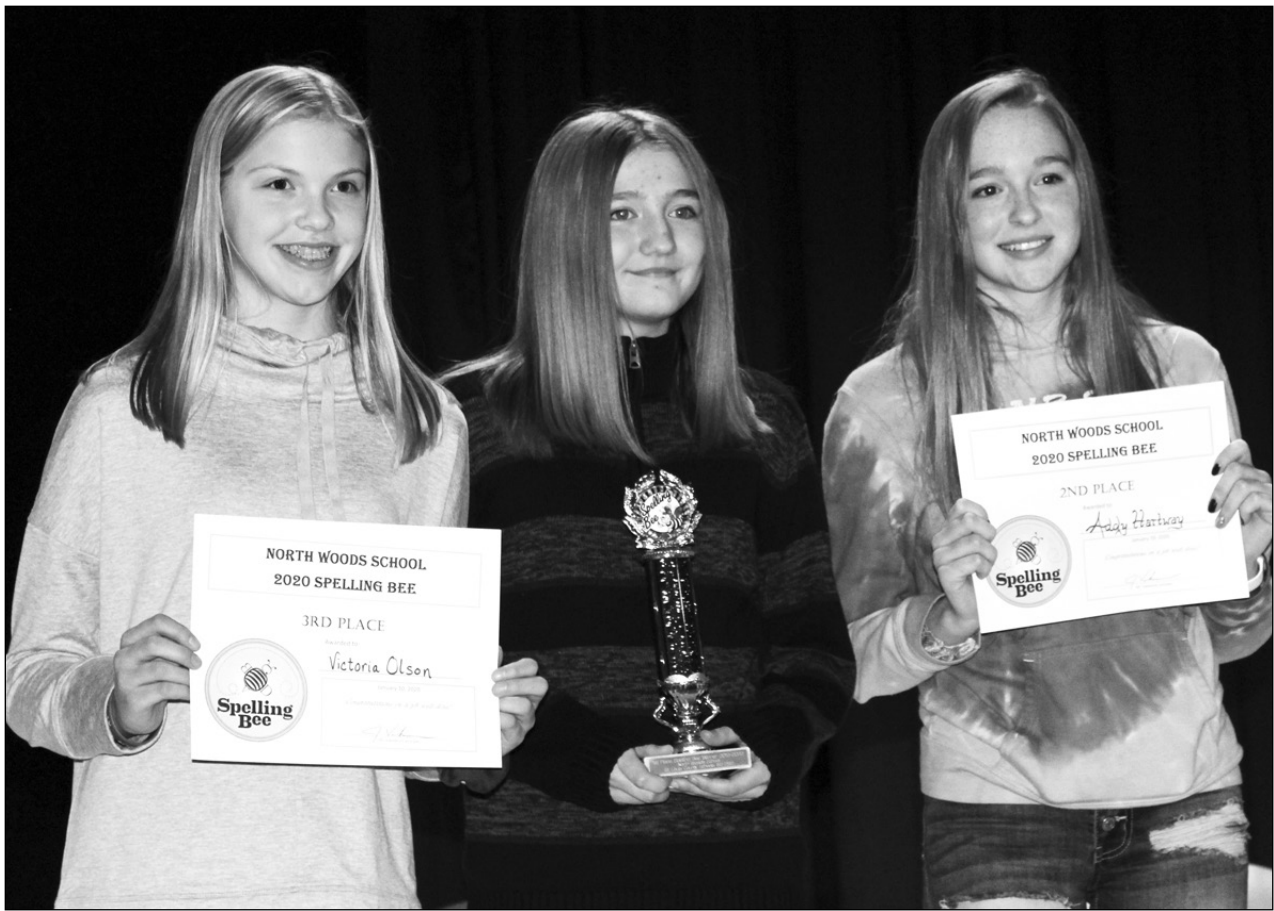
It is also known that the deposit extends south of this city nearly to Lake Superior with immense amounts of ore at present not marketable, but which, by a new system just perfected will be made merchantable. The White Iron Mining Co. south of Ely has much of this ore, and the Cyrille Fortier claims much more.

There are also prospects that electric power will come into use for the handling of this ore and if this is contemplated, the water powers of this vicinity will be utilized.



NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

# Nia Gaskell and Addy Hartway advance to regional bee



Top left: Victoria Olson (3rd), Nia Gaskell (1st), Addy Hartway (2nd) were the top placers. Top right: Nia Gaskell spells emphatic. Bottom: left to right: Marley Peak, Merilee Scofield, Victoria Olson, Addy Hartway, Nia Gaskell, Victoria Ryan, Kaiden Chosa, Carson Johnson participated in the competition. photos by E.M. Shultz



by E. M. SCHULTZ  
Staff Writer

COOK – The word “lacrosse” proved the winner for seventh-grader Nia Gaskell who won the North Woods Spelling Bee last Friday, Jan. 10, edging eighth-grader Addy Hartway in the ninth round. Both she and Hartway will represent

the school at the Regional Spelling Bee, which is set for Thursday, Feb. 6 at the Northeast Service Cooperative in Mt. Iron.

A total of eight students participated in this year’s bee, which took place in front of a crowd of parents and other students in the North Woods commons. Along with Gaskell and Hartway

were fifth-graders Carson Johnson and Merilee Scofield, sixth-graders Kaiden Chosa and Marley Peak, seventh grader Victoria Ryan, and eighth-grader Victoria Olson. Kim Jirik acted as this year’s pronouncer, while Liz Burton, Amy Nelson, and Randy Swenson served as the judges.

All eight of the students survived until the third round but most were eliminated over the next few rounds. Gaskell had a chance to win it during the seventh round, but she misspelled asparagus, and the competition moved to an eighth round. This time, it was Hartway who had the opportunity to clinch the title with

the word synesthesia, but missed. Then, in the ninth and final round, Hartway misspelled playwright, while Gaskell correctly spelled the word apollo. She then spelled lacrosse correctly to take home the trophy.

Following the ninth round, Scofield, Olson, and Peak returned to the stage for an additional

two rounds to determine who would take third place. During the second round, Peak misspelled ramparts, while Scofield missed the word assistance. Olson correctly spelled menthol during this round, then correctly spelled autographs, to take the third-place title.

## ORR Center opens the Giving Cupboard

by E. M. SCHULTZ  
Staff Writer

ORR – The ORR Center is adding the Giving Cupboard to their already long list of projects. A cupboard has been placed in the center’s main entryway, where individuals may place items they wish to donate, such as diapers, non-perishable foods, and toiletries. Those in need may then take those items out of the cupboard and put them to good use. The concept is simple, yet effective.

It’s also a more private way for the less fortunate to receive some of the things they need, as the cupboard is not being run by anyone, but rather, is meant to be self-sustaining. If you wish to donate items or need to access the Giving Cupboard, it is open and available during the ORR Center’s regular hours from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays.



### Other news

The Center is currently holding a dollar-an-item sale at the main thrift store. Anything that previously cost \$1 or more is available for \$1 throughout the month of January. According to Wendy Purdy, the center will also be opening the Sale Closet within the next two weeks, where you can fill a bag with clothing items for \$1.



## Shirley Sanborn, Cook Hospital trustee, earns advanced certification through MHA

COOK- Shirley Sanborn, Cook Hospital and Care Center trustee, was one of fourteen hospital trustees from across Minnesota who were recognized for earning certification through the Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) trustee certification program. Sanborn was also one of five to obtain advanced certification. The comprehensive certification process prepares hospital trustees to effectively meet the growing demands of serving on a hospital board and to be strong health care and community leaders.

By participating in MHA’s voluntary certification program, hospital trustees receive training on current health care trends, governance best practices, ethics, government regulations, patient safety and quality. Participants undergo 35 hours of coursework, making Minnesota’s initiative the most comprehensive in the nation.

Trustees who have completed MHA board certification are eligible to participate in an additional eight hours of coursework to obtain advanced certification, which provides education to ensure excellence, innovation and accountability in health care governance.

The Minnesota Hospital Association represents hospitals and health systems, which provide quality care for their patients and meet the needs of their communities.







## VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL

# Volunteers needed for test-run of new digital piano lab

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

Test lesson set for Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 1 p.m. at Vermilion Country School

TOWER- Ever wondered what it would be like to take those piano lessons you never had as a child? Vermilion Country School is looking for as many as nine area adults interested in doing a test run of the school's new digital piano lab.

A one-hour group lesson will be offered on Wednesday, Jan. 29 from 1–2 p.m. No experience is necessary, but players from beginners to advanced are welcome. Please call the school office at 218-753-1246 to reserve your spot.

The digital pianos are played like a traditional piano, but the player wears headphones to listen to their piano. The class instructor can listen to individual players, or the group as a whole. The pianos can also be played without the headphones, and sound like a traditional piano.

The school is also looking for piano teachers who might be interested in using the piano lab during after-school hours for lessons. The pianos will be used during the school

day for the school's music program. The piano lab area also has a wall-mounted computer monitor, that can be used for teaching music.

The pianos were purchased with a Blandin Broadband grant and take advantage of the school's new broadband-speed wireless internet network.

"Music is the gateway to brain power," said Karin Schmidt, who teaches language arts and music at VCS. "I want to get all our kids playing."

Schmidt noted that many area schools have been cutting their music programs, but at VCS there are plans to get all students involved in music either through choir or music lessons.

"This is a high-tech solution for our kids and teachers," she said.

VCS has offered music lessons on a one-to-one basis on piano and other instruments, as well as offering group lessons using online teachers from the MacPhail Center for Music in Minneapolis. The VCS Choir



program participates in the state high school league choir contest as well as the Boundary Waters Music Festival program.

Schmidt's goal is to have all VCS students learning to play the piano and to read music.

"Kids need to learn the universal language of music,"

she said.

Schmidt noted that there are great resources for teaching music available online, and that students are very adept at finding the resources they need to learn the music that interests them.

School administrator Frank Zobitz said the pianos can also

be connected to the new computers in the computer lab, which means students could record their own music, and produce podcasts and videos.



## New scholarships available for VCC students

ELY- Vermilion Community College, with the assistance of the Minnesota Legislature, Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, and the Vermilion Foundation is enthusiastic to announce the renewal of several scholarships to be awarded to students for the 2020 school year.

Twenty-five \$2,500 Workforce Development Scholarships will be awarded to incoming fall 2020 students. To qualify, students need to be Minnesota residents who are enrolled in the Veterinary Technician program. These scholarships come from the Minnesota Legislature targeting students pursuing degrees in high-demand sectors of Minnesota's economy.

Vermilion College will also be awarding \$37,500 in scholarships to students who live and graduated in St. Louis County, Minnesota. Supported by the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, undergraduates enrolled in fall 2020 classes are eligible to apply for a \$500 to \$2,000 St. Louis County Mineral Royalties Scholarship.

Also, the Vermilion Community College Foundation will again be awarding a variety of scholarships to new, continuing, and graduating/transferring students. The foundation helps students achieve an exceptional, affordable education through supporting students in all academic programs and backgrounds.

Learn more about all of the scholarship options at [www.vcc.edu](http://www.vcc.edu). If you have any questions, feel free to contact the admissions team at [admissions@vcc.edu](mailto:admissions@vcc.edu)

## CELEBRATE WINTER

### Button up! 40th Annual Icebox Days is now underway

INT'L FALLS- In the cold of January 1981, hardy Icebox of the Nation residents set in motion a festival that's now entering its 40th year. Through the decades, "the button" has always been a mainstay of this fabled winter festival in Minnesota's northern borderland.

For 2020, the International Falls Area Chamber of Commerce has chosen a throwback to the original 1981 button design, featuring its iconic icicle-encased blue icebox. "To mark the milestone, 40 years of Icebox Days, we wanted to honor the original button and the people who began it all," said Tricia Heibel, president of the Chamber.

Designs and materials have changed over the years. Some have

been wood, metal or felt. A few buttons have featured thermometers or famous "Frostbite Falls" characters Rocky, Bullwinkle, Boris and Natasha, while others carried snowmen, beaver, under-dressed runners or voyageurs. Throughout the decades, Icebox Day buttons have been as much a part of the festival as the Freeze Yer Gizzard Blizzard Run and the "original" Smoosh races.

For \$5, anyone may purchase the official 2020 Icebox Day button at local outlets including the Chamber office, City Drug, Coffee Landing, or Forestland Sales and Service. But act quickly! A limited run of 500 buttons were minted. They are on sale now through Jan. 19.

Every button purchase includes entry into a drawing to be held at the Chamber office on Monday, Jan. 20 for three separate \$100 Chamber Dollars prizes. Winners will be contacted and posted on the Chamber website and social media.

The public is also welcome to view the Chamber's collection of all 40 Icebox Day buttons in "The First 40 Years of Icebox Days" exhibit, presented by Koochiching County Museums and open at Backus Community Center on Friday, Jan. 17 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 18 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Heibel added with a smile, "We hope everyone comes out for the fun of Icebox Days ...and don't forget to button up!"

## Operation Round Up® gives more than \$50,000

REGIONAL- Through the contributions of Lake Country Power's participating members, the Operation Round Up® Trust Board recently approved \$51,160 in assistance to local community programs during its quarterly meeting.

The cooperative's Trust Board reviewed and considered 50 grant applications and distributed funds to 43 projects and programs this past quarter. Since the program's inception in October 2004, more than \$2.3 million has been distributed to community-based projects and programs.

All funds generated through Operation Round Up® are set aside in a trust fund. A voluntary Trust Board of nine co-op members administers the trust. Of the funds collected through the program, 100 percent is distributed to charitable organizations through an application and selection process. The trust board uses special guidelines and policies when choosing recipients.

Most recent recipients in our area included Second Harvest North Central Food Bank, Well Being Development – Northern Lights Clubhouse, Northeast Range Ely Swim Boosters, North Woods School Community Education, Loon Country Quilters, First Lutheran Church Ely Ladies Aid, St. Louis County Volunteer Rescue Squad, Ely Memorial Middle School/High School Library, Northern Lakes Amateur Radio Club, The Salvation Army of Hibbing, Project Care Free Clinic, Care Partners, Vermilion Housing Corporation, Ely Winter Festival, and Ely ArtWalk.

Operation Round Up® is a charitable program unique to electric co-ops, and is designed to provide financial assistance to worthwhile activities and community projects by "rounding up" members' electric bills to the nearest dollar. The average donation of each participating Lake Country Power member is less than \$6 annually.

More than 73 percent of Lake Country Power members participate in the program through voluntary contributions. Interested members can opt into the Operation Round Up® program by calling Lake Country Power at 800-421-9959 or using an online form at [lakecountrypower.coop](http://lakecountrypower.coop).

Applications are available online at [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop) (My Cooperative > Community > Operation Round Up®). The next application deadline is Feb. 15.

Lake Country Power, [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop), is a Touchstone Energy® cooperative serving parts of eight counties in northeastern Minnesota. The rural electric cooperative provides services to nearly 43,000 members and has offices located in Cohasset, Kettle River and Mountain Iron.



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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Tower EDA lays groundwork for an active 2020

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editorw

TOWER—The Tower Economic Development Authority, at a special meeting Jan. 9, laid the foundation for operating as an independent entity for the first time in several years. The change marks a return to the original intent of the Tower City Council, which created TEDA in 1996 as an independent

authority under both its founding documents and state statutes.

City officials, in recent years, had denied TEDA information about and access to its own revenues and blocked or stymied efforts by TEDA to implement its development plans.

TEDA, now operating as its own authority at the recommendation of the city's new clerk-treasurer Victoria Ranua, approved

a 2020 budget back in December and, on Jan. 9, hired Marshall Helmberger as its new part-time executive director. Helmberger will handle administrative functions for the authority, assist the board with strategic planning, oversee management of TEDA facilities, advance identified projects, manage the authority's budget and assist businesses interested in development in Tower.

The part-time position sets a maximum of 40 hours per month. Helmberger, the former president and vice-president for TEDA, was among three candidates who applied for the open position.

In other action, TEDA: ➤ Recommended the appointment of Miranda Kishel to fill the board position vacated by Helmberger. Kishel, of Tower, has a background in business

and finance, is employed by the Entrepreneur Fund and runs her own local business.

➤ Approved the creation of a Tower Harbor Development Committee to restart efforts to bring development to the city's harbor district. With the harbor plat now finally completed, developers associated with Tower Harbor Shores are considering possible new approaches for devel-

oping the area and will be working with TEDA representatives to further define those ideas.

➤ Discussed options for addressing ongoing roof leakage at the local charter school as a result of ice-damming. Recent leakage did damage some school contents and materials and may require an insurance claim. The school building is owned by TEDA.

## ISD 696

## Ely teachers settle payroll deduction lawsuit with school district

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY — School officials and teachers here reached a tentative settlement of a lawsuit brought by 17 Ely teachers against the Ely School District in late 2018. School board members went into closed session following their regular business meeting Monday night to consider and ultimately agree to the terms of the deal.

"The board approved the settlement agreement, however, it has not been executed," ISD 696 legal counsel Kelly Klun said on Tuesday. "The terms of this agreement will be

made public upon filing with the court and dismissal of the cases," she added in an email to the *Timberjay*.

The case stems from alleged unauthorized payroll deductions made by the district. The district originally mistakenly overpaid the teachers during the 2017-18 school year, then reclaimed the money over several consecutive pay periods, according to court records.

A lawsuit originally filed by teacher Krista Moyer claimed those deductions were unauthorized and in violation of the law. Other teachers affected by the deduction

later signed on to the suit.

As previously reported by the *Timberjay* in December 2018, the other 16 teachers, who filed their own separate claims, included Paula Anderson, Kelly Chick, Tiffany Davis, Kaley Hotaling, Mariah Jeske, Tara Johnson, Jennifer Kerntz, Risto Kultula, Cory Lassi, Jason Limp, John Meyer, Kelly Noble, Molly Olson, Michael Rouse, Amanda Vanderbeek and Megan Wognum.

Moyer said in court documents that she was overpaid \$1,088.10 over 13 paychecks between August 2017 and May 2018. To recoup the

claimed overpayment, Moyer said the school district, through a payroll adjustment, deducted \$155.44 from seven paychecks. She sought twice the amount of the deduction, allowable under state statute, in the amount of \$2,176.20, plus filing fees and costs, for a total of \$2,251.20.

The teachers, represented by an attorney from Education Minnesota, the state teachers' union, claimed the district erred by taking money from their paychecks.

Moyer claimed she did not provide written authorization for the deduction, citing state law that

forbids employers from making any deduction to recover claimed indebtedness unless the employee voluntarily authorizes the employer in writing to make this deduction. State law says employers who violate the provisions "shall be liable in a civil action for twice the amount of the deduction or credit taken."

ISD 696 officials said that all teachers were fully compensated as required in their contract, and the case pertains to payroll calculation mistakes that arose after the school district and Ely teachers settled a new two-year contract. The mistake was

discovered several months later.

On behalf of the school district, Klun filed a counterclaim, saying that in Moyer's case, the overpayment was actually \$1,674 and that Moyer owed them that money, plus fees and costs of \$1,080, for a total of \$2,754.

"Both parties are in agreement with the proposed resolution and look forward to its finalization," Klun said.

Board chair Ray Marsnik referred all questions in the matter to Klun.

## POLYMET...Continued from page 1

delay development of the project for at least one to two years, and it raises considerable uncertainty about the future of the proposed mine.

The decision also raises serious questions about the DNR's decision-making process and undermines the arguments of mine supporters that state agencies are adequately vetting mine proposals. Documents cited by the court, for example, highlight how the agency's own consultants predicted that the tailings basin dam, as approved by the DNR, would eventually fail and cause downstream impacts.

The decision is a major victory for a long list of environmental organizations, including Water Legacy and the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, and the Fond du Lac Band, which have argued for years that the DNR's decision-making on the PolyMet project has been flawed.

The court did affirm a decision by the DNR to transfer an existing tailings basin permit, originally issued to LTV, to PolyMet. That decision had been challenged by the Fond du Lac Band. The decision does not impact PolyMet's water discharge (NPDES) permit, which was issued in late 2018 by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. That permit is the subject of separate legal proceedings and both state and federal investigations into the alleged suppression of concerns about the permit by experts from the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

## The court's reasoning

The decision, written by Chief Judge Edward J. Cleary, found that the DNR had erred when it determined in November of 2018 that it did not need to conduct a contested

case hearing on a number of issues that critics of the project had raised. While mere criticism of a decision is typically insufficient to require an agency to hold a contested case hearing, the court in this instance found that environmental opponents of the permits had presented sufficient factual basis and expert opinion to conclude that a contested case hearing on several issues was mandatory under state law.

Indeed, the judges cited concerns and objections raised by the DNR's own consultants about provisions within the dam safety permit, including the use of "upstream construction," which is widely known to be among the least stable types of tailings dam, as well as the proposed wet closure of the tailings basin and the use of bentonite clay as a kind of seal on the tailings.

"Most notably, one DNR consultant stated: 'The bentonite seal is a Hail Mary type of concept in my opinion. I believe it will exacerbate erosion and slope failure and will eventually fail,'" noted the judges. The consultants further stated: "The methods and assumptions used to place the bentonite to control the infiltration and tailings saturation are unsubstantiated, and wishful thinking. We do not believe it will function as intended, because of the unproven application methods."

In addition, the court cited concerns expressed by the DNR's own experts about the proposed "wet closure" of the tailings

basin, which leaves standing water on top of the basin. DNR consultants had advised that the plan would require perpetual and costly maintenance and would pose a significant risk of water contamination. As the court noted: "The DNR's senior dam engineer 'favor[ed] dry closure,' and expressed concern that 'the proposed wet cap will significantly increase the potential for a dam failure, and will result in costly monitoring and maintenance over the life of the project,' wrote the judges. The consultant had further stated: "I envision that PolyMet's reclamation plan could work for a while, but I don't see how it will function forever without falling apart unless it is continuously maintained; which is a major leap of faith... I believe it will eventually fail and release the sulfates."

The court also found fault with the DNR's handling of the financial assurance portion of PolyMet's permit to mine, noting that environmental opponents had provided substantial expert opinion raising doubts about the viability of the assurance package and, in particular, allowing PolyMet to hold off on substantial cash funding of a trust fund for mine closure until nearly ten years into operation. A number of financial experts, including former state auditor and Gov. Arne Carlson, cited concerns that the timeline for financing the trust fund would likely impact project economics and increase the odds that PolyMet would cease

operations after ten years, in hopes of avoiding the cost of funding the trust.

The court also found sufficient evidence to believe that the DNR should have considered Glencore as an additional permittee, and a contested case hearing is likely to explore that issue in depth, particularly given the fact that Glencore now owns nearly 72 percent of PolyMet's stock. At the time the DNR issued the permit to mine, Glencore was still a minority owner, although it has been the project's primary financial backer for years.

While courts are required to show deference to well-founded agency decisions, the judges in this case determined that the DNR's decision-making was flawed. "The DNR's decision to deny a contested-case hearing in relation to the NorthMet project was based on errors of law and unsupported by substantial evidence," concluded the judges.

At the same time, the court determined that the DNR had erred when it failed to set a term of expiration on the permit to mine. "The plain language of the statute expressly requires a 'term,' which is commonly understood as a fixed period of time," noted the court.

## Reaction mixed

Environmental opponents of the proposed mine were elated with this week's ruling. "This is an enormous victory for the

people of Minnesota and the rule of law," said Water Legacy attorney Paula Maccabee. "By ordering a contested case hearing, the court has dragged the PolyMet permitting process into the light. PolyMet's toxic threats to water, human health, downstream communities, and taxpayers will finally get the scrutiny they deserve."

Chris Knopf, of Friends of the Boundary Waters, suggested the DNR had let Minnesotans down by approving permits that did not meet the requirements of state law. "The DNR did not protect the taxpayers from being stuck with the long-term costs of this mine and failed to come clean on the role of Glencore," said Knopf. "The DNR did not do its job, and the court made the right call."

Mine supporters, like the group Jobs for Minnesotans, viewed it differently. "We are deeply disappointed by today's decision from the Minnesota Court of Appeals, which creates uncertainties for the PolyMet NorthMet project and consequently hundreds of jobs for northeast Minnesota," wrote the group in a release. "While litigation is now an expected part of the regulatory review process and this ruling is a setback, we are confident that PolyMet will bring a safe and responsible copper-nickel mining industry to our state while also protecting the environment. We

encourage PolyMet to pursue all avenues to move this project forward and will stand strong with our members and allies — leaders in businesses, labor organizations and communities across the state — who believe this project is right for Minnesota."

Eighth District Congressman Pete Stauber also expressed his disappointment, which he said will "needlessly delay" a project that he said will bring decades of prosperity to northeast Minnesota. "I applaud the Minnesota DNR for issuing permits based on sound science. It is unfortunate that the Minnesota Court of Appeals overruled these experts at our state agencies. I remain hopeful this misguided decision will be reversed, so that Minnesota's hard-working union members can begin construction on the PolyMet mine..."

In a statement issued in the wake of the ruling, the DNR noted that it was "carefully reviewing" the court's decision, noting that it has implications not only for PolyMet but for the role of contested case hearings in the state's permitting framework more broadly. "Notably, the Court's opinion does not draw conclusions about the validity of the scientific analyses underlying the DNR's decisions. We remain confident in the solid foundation of our technical work."

The DNR has 30 days to appeal the decision.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

# Tower-Soudan Elementary closes due to flu-like illness

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editorw

TOWER- With over 75percent of the student body out sick as of Wednesday, the Tower-Soudan Elementary School is closing on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 16 and 17. There was no school scheduled on Monday, Jan. 20, so classes will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 21. The school reported 59 students out sick on Wednesday, up from 38 the day before. According to school staff on Tuesday, at least 10 students had confirmed cases of influenza. Vermilion Country School, the grade 7-12 school in Tower, is not reporting any flu-like illness at this time. ISD 2142 Superintendent Reggie Engebritson said they

are not seeing similar outbreaks at other district schools, but that Mt. Iron-Buhl, where she is also superintendent, had 80 students out on Wednesday. As of Jan. 4, 308 schools statewide have reported outbreaks of ILI, but only one in St. Louis County. Overall, the state is reporting that influenza-like illness (ILI) is widespread. Schools are required to report to the state department of health when at least five percent of the student body is out with ILI or if three or more students from the same classroom are out with ILI. The department does not recommend that schools close to prevent flu transmission but notes that schools can choose to close if a large number of absences prevent normal school functioning.

The illnesses have struck both students and school staff. Several paras and other support staff have been out sick, as well as one teacher. Teachers said they have been coming in early to try to disinfect their classrooms and are making sure students practice good hand hygiene. Several early elementary classrooms were missing at least half their students on Tuesday.

**What can schools do to prevent the spread of flu?**

- Promote flu vaccination for all students, staff, and families throughout flu season.
- Be aware of flu symptoms: fever headache

fatigue  
cough  
sore throat  
body aches

- Promote hand hygiene, covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or sleeve, and staying home when sick for both students and staff.
- Give students and staff tissues to cover coughs and sneezes as well as liquid soap, paper towels, and time to wash their hands.
- Routinely clean and disinfect commonly used areas and frequently touched surfaces. Flu can remain on surfaces for up to eight hours.
- Follow package instructions when cleaning for contact time and dilution.

**Should students with influenza-like illness (ILI) be excluded from school?**

Yes, students and staff with ILI should stay home from school and school activities. ILI is defined as a fever (at least 100°F) and a cough or sore throat. Students and staff who become ill during the day should be immediately isolated from others and sent home. Students and staff can return to school 24 hours after their fever is gone without fever-reducing medication, (e.g., Tylenol or Advil). They should also be well enough to participate in school before returning.

SUSTAINABILITY

# Rutabaga Project receives grant for new initiatives

by E. M. SCHULTZ  
Staff Writer



REGIONAL—A local foods effort, known as the Rutabaga Project, has been named as one of forty-nine programs throughout the country to receive a \$300,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farmers Market Promotion Program grant. According to Project Manager Kelsey Gantzer, the money will go toward market analysis and outreach, recruitment and training, and support for farmers and farmers markets. The end goal is to establish lasting relationships between local producers and consumer markets, such as restaurants, school districts, and grocery stores. Those involved with the project plan to accomplish those goals through four key objectives, including:

- Conducting market analysis, which means

meeting with restaurants, schools, and grocery stores to find new opportunities for incorporating local products into these establishments, as well as to identify challenges that may exist in doing so. It also means meeting with local farmers to discover the opportunities and challenges they face when it comes to increasing sales and production. Representatives of the project also plan to create a food council to complete an economics of local food systems toolkit.

- Recruiting six new farmers. These farmers, along with those who are already involved in the project, will be trained to grow for and sell through the new outlets that will be established through

the first objective. This will include individual business planning for each farm, a new aggregated CSA, and a business-to-business event.

- Implementing outreach and promotion to help expand the sale of locally-grown food in restaurants, farmers' markets, and grocery stores. This will include taste-testing and other promotional events and heavy promotion of the Arrowhead Grown brand, as well as marketing training for the four farmers' markets that are involved with the project.
- Increasing the presence of locally-grown food in area school districts. At Mesabi East, where there is already a farm-to-school program, the Rutabaga

Project will focus on recruiting more farmers. They will also attempt to establish a farm-to-school program through the Eveleth-Gilbert-Virginia school district merger. Along with the four objectives set by the new grant, the group is also planning multiple upcoming events and opportunities for farmers and others to learn more about food, meet like-minded individuals, and get a jumpstart on growing. One such opportunity is the new Farmer Microgrant program at Natural Harvest Food Co-op in Virginia. The co-op will be awarding two \$1,000 grants to local farmers who provide produce, meats, or eggs to the co-op, to help them produce more high-quality, sustainably-grown food. Applications must be received by Feb. 28. To learn more or apply for the grant, visit <https://natural-harvest.coop/community/microgrant-program/>.

Other opportunities for farmers and non-farmers alike include a SEEDY class that will teach attendees about plant families, flower and seed anatomy, seed selection, drying and processing seed considerations, and more. The class takes place on Saturday, Jan. 11 from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Clair Nelson Center in Finland and costs \$5. There will also be a Northern Growers and Marketers Conference in St. Cloud on Jan. 16 and 17. Visit <https://www.mfvga.org/> to learn more and register for the event. For those who can't make it to that conference or would like to attend another, an Emerging Farmers Conference will take place at the University of Minnesota Continuing Education and Conference Center in St. Paul on Jan. 24 and 25. To learn more or register, head to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/15th-emerging-farmers-conference-strength-and-creativity-in-farming-registration-76505926285>.

The Rutabaga Project was formed in December 2015 as a shared initiative between Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA), the Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability (IRPS), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAPed), Essentia Health, Healthy Northland and numerous other community organizations, local food producers and residents. Since it began, it has helped provide access to quality produce through the establishment of farmers markets, community gardens, and Community Supported Agricultural (CSA) shares. To learn more, follow the Rutabaga Project on Facebook or contact Kelsey Gantzer at [kelsey.gantzer@aeoa.org](mailto:kelsey.gantzer@aeoa.org).

## STRIKE...Continued from page 1

last, best, and final offer is exactly that— they said no.”

While Kazel said the county is in frequent contact with the state's

Bureau of Mediation Services, there were no plans in place as of Wednesday for new talks. The two sides have already spent more than 30 hours in mediation, without settling key sticking points.

Meanwhile, Kazel said the county has a contingency plan in place that should allow for clearing of county roads, although that may prove a challenge if the widespread and heavy snow predicted for the weekend actually arrives. According to Kazel, the county has about 35 other employees, mostly supervisors and others with appropriate licensure, who will be available to plow. But that would cover only about a third of the 108 snowplow routes in the county, which could mean a significant delay in the event of a widespread snowfall.

## Two-tiered benefits a sticking point

Union representative Craig Johnson said drivers are seeking an equitable agreement that they say is fair to all drivers. Currently, about forty percent of the county workers are on an old contract system, while sixty percent are on what's known as "Appendix A," which provides fewer benefits for workers than the old contract. For example, they cannot accumulate sick leave the same way as older employees and get less sick time and paid time-off overall. The drivers say they don't believe the two-tiered system is fair and that all workers should receive the same benefits. "People seem to

believe county workers make a ton of money right off the bat," says one picketer, who didn't want to be identified. "The starting wage is \$18.08, and then you have to pay \$400 a month for medical and dental insurance. No one is getting rich off this." Drivers complain that soaring health insurance costs have undermined their ability to negotiate needed wage increases. While the county did offer a modest pay increase as part of the latest round of negotiations, workers out on strike Wednesday noted that once their insurance costs are considered, the raise amounts to only about \$17 a month. The picketers also mentioned that the county is currently spending \$85,000 a week on security for the buildings where drivers are picketing, despite the picketers' insistence that they are not hostile and do not want to create a hostile environment. For the picketers, this was just one more example of money wasted by the county. "They've always called us drivers the dirty dogs," said one picketer.

"The dirty dogs are the ones up above us. There's something shady going on there." The shady issues he and others were referring to include the trucks the county provides to foremen and superintendents, which they are allowed to take home with them. These trucks are meant to be used for work, but the drivers don't believe this is the only use they are getting. "They don't need to be out on the roads all weekend checking the conditions," says one picketer. "We wait for the 911 call and then take care of things." While those on strike brought up many issues they have with the county, they also made it clear that they don't want to be on strike. They even cleaned up the roads Tuesday night after the snowfall that occurred across much of the county, despite having the right to refuse. According to those at the picket line in Cook, they did so to show good faith and because the job is important to them. They say they want to keep the roads clear, but they also want a fair and equitable contract for everyone.

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# Council approves amendment to city's blight ordinance

Ambulance Director Donna Hoffer says they have a new member who is currently taking an EMT course. They also have four people who wish to attend the Arrowhead

The city is considering a bid from Thomas Long & Son Trucking for snow removal. Tony Vukelich, who previously took care of snow removal from downtown, informed the city he will no longer be

➤ Approved expenditures in the amount of \$172,388.49.

➤ Approved a slight increase of \$176 for Liquor Liability insurance for

➤Appointed Astleford and Kennebeck to the 2020

► Approved election judges Dana Erkila, Rosie Hoffer, Carol Woerhle, and Paulette Scott. Erkila will act as the head judge.

# Two area credit unions announce plans to merge

The expected date of the merger is Jan. 31, 2020.

Centers to local police and fire stations – are in desperate need of 21st century upgrades. This proposal will make sure that our emergency services, as well as aging roads and bridges, are repaired and upgraded so Minnesotans can have peace of mind in their day-to-day lives.”

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ISD 696

# Lots of Little Free Libraries coming to Ely

## Auction to fund Story Portage, Memorial School collaboration

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY —With support from the Essentia Health Foundation, Story Portage—a local non-profit literacy organization—is collaborating with Ely Memorial High School to create Little Free Libraries.

Following design and construction last fall of the “yard art” by Rob Simonich’s Woodworking I and II students at Ely Memorial High School, students in Heather Cavalier’s creative writing course created nature haikus and poems that are now being interpreted by Kelly Chick’s art students and incorporated onto the exteriors of the miniature libraries.

A total of 10 libraries are under construction, according to Jeannette Cox. “Most of the units will be auctioned off during a school art show/band concert in the spring to raise funds that will sustain the project, as well as be used for other student-driven, creative, community programs,” Cox said.

One library will be installed on the front lawn of the ISD 696 campus for community use. Two other libraries will be donated to the Ely Area Food Shelf and Ely Community Resource. “These two libraries will be ‘tricycle height’ so that children will have an opportunity to select books,” Cox said.

Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization that inspires a love of reading, builds community, and sparks creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world. “Through Little Free Library book

**Ely Memorial High School students in Kelly Chick’s art class are decorating and painting several Little Free Libraries this month. This library will be installed in the school’s front yard.**  
photos by K. Vandervort

exchanges, millions of books are exchanged each year, profoundly increasing access to books for readers of all ages and backgrounds,” Cox said.

“Academically, children growing up in homes without books are on average three years behind children in homes with lots of books, even when controlled for other key factors, according to research,” Cox said. “One of the most successful ways to improve the reading achievement of children is to increase their access to books, especially at home.”

Story Portage was founded in April 2017 and participates in school-initiated literacy and literary projects, including partnerships and collaborations between Ely High School, Northeast Range School, and Vermilion Community College.

Celebrating its 20th grant, Story Portage’s volunteer board has spent each grant dollar locally, supporting area businesses, Cox said. “Story Portage also received funds from Lake Country Power Operation Round-Up to support this project,” she added.

For more information on Story Portage, visit [storyportage.org](http://storyportage.org) or [storyportage.com](http://storyportage.com). Tax deductible donations can be sent to Story Portage, P.O. Box 286, Ely MN 55731.



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-750\* FORD CREDIT CASH  
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-5,033 FOH DISC

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-1,569 FOH DISC

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#24056

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-500 SELECT INVENTORY CASH  
-1,808 FOH DISC

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Art student Abigail Thompson, above, mixes paints for the Little Free Libraries project, while Ely exchange student, Captain Jirapinyopas, paints Dr. Suess details. The “yard art” will be auctioned off this spring.







# SPORTS

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## NORDIC SKIING

# Ely skiers continue to dominate

Boys top field in Two Harbors and Duluth; girls take first and second

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

TWO HARBORS – Ely skiers continue to dominate in regional competition. On Tuesday, the Ely boys took first while the Ely girls finished in second place at a classic ski competition in Two Harbors, continuing a streak of strong performances in recent days. Both the Ely boys and girls teams finished in the top spot over the weekend

at the Marshall Sprints relay races in Duluth.

At Two Harbors, the Ely boys edged Cloquet-Esko-Carlton for the top spot. Standout skier Jasper Johnston led the way with a first place individual finish with a time of 19:58.5 in the 5K classic-style race. Gabriel Pointer finished in fifth place with a time of 21:24.1, followed by Ethan Bremner, in seventh place, at 22:05.2. Nate Nettifee was right behind in eighth place, with a

**Right: Ely girls skiers Ava Skustad (l) and Claire Blauch, both eighth-graders, compete in the Marshall Sprints on Jan. 11.**

photo by L. Anderson

time of 22:14.2, while Jon Hakala finished tenth at 22:27.4. Other Ely racers include Micah Larson, 15th, at 23:13.0, and Adam Williamson, 47th, at 28:54.7.

See SKIING...pg. 2B



## BOYS BASKETBALL

# Two more wins for the Grizzlies

Rally to top Fond Du Lac, dominate Mt. Iron-Buhl

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

CLOQUET— The Grizzlies had to come from behind to beat Fond Du Lac 90-77 on Tuesday in a tough and very physical contest. Sophomore guard TJ Chiabotti had a huge night as he sparked the North Woods rally, pouring in 39, including eight treys.

“This was the most physical game we’ve played to date,” said North Woods Head Coach Will Kleppe. “It was a good test for our younger players to play in a game that rough. While we struggled to score early, TJ eventually caught fire. It was good to see our guys overcome some of the frustrations early and find a way to get the job done.”

Fond Du Lac held the lead through much of the first half and went into the break up 38-36. But the Grizzlies dominated the second half, outscoring Fond Du Lac 54-39 in the stanza.

While TJ Chiabotti led scoring for the Grizzlies, he had help from freshman Jared Chiabotti, who



North Woods senior Trevor Morrison tussles for the ball with an MI-B player. Morrison scored 35 points in the game to lead the Grizzlies to an easy win.

photo by C. Stone

See GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B

## HOCKEY

Olson scores eight to lead Ely to season’s first victory

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

SIREN, Wis. – Ely’s Luke Olson scored eight goals last Friday night, Jan. 10, to lead the Timberwolves to their first victory of the season over a combined Wisconsin team known as the Blizzard.

“The puck went in the net easily for him that night,” said Ely Head Coach Ben Johnson about Olson’s efforts, which lifted the Wolves to a 10-1 final margin. The senior standout started his scoring early, with just 1:38 gone in the first period. Sean Prigge

See HOCKEY...pg. 2B

## Sports week

### BOYS B-BALL

**Friday, Jan. 17**  
Ely at Mountain-Iron Buhl, 7:15 p.m.

**Saturday, Jan. 18**  
Ely hosts Duluth Marshall, 3:45 p.m.

**Tuesday, Jan. 21**  
North Woods hosts Cherry, 7:15 p.m.  
Ely at Fond du Lac, 7:15 p.m.

### GIRLS B-BALL

**Saturday, Jan. 18**  
Ely hosts Duluth Marshall, 2 p.m.

**Monday, Jan. 20**  
North Woods at I-Falls, 7:15 p.m.

**Tuesday, Jan. 21**  
Ely hosts Bigfork, 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, Jan. 23**  
North Woods at Red Lake, 7:15 p.m.  
Northeast Range at Cherry, 7:15 p.m.

## HOCKEY

**Friday, Jan. 17**  
Ely hosts Red Lake Falls, 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, Jan. 21**  
Ely hosts Proctor, 6 p.m.

## NORDIC SKIING

**Saturday, Jan. 18**  
Ely at Cook County, 11 a.m.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Cherry defense stymies Ely

Wolves rally for late win against Cook County

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

E L Y — The Timberwolves struggled offensively on Tuesday as they fell 63-30 to Cherry.

“We ran into a very good team tonight and struggled to hit our shots,”

**Left: Ely freshman Taylor Gibney advances the ball around a Cherry defender.**

photo by J. Greeney

said Ely Head Coach Darren Visser. Senior Erika Mattson scored 17 points but was the only Ely player to reach double figures. Meanwhile, Cherry junior Jessa Schroetter dominated scoring, with 29 points.

Ely managed just 12 points in the first half as the Tigers’ defense kept the Wolves off balance.

Also scoring for Ely were eighth-grader Grace LaTourell, with five points, freshman Rachel Coughlin, with four points, and senior

Brielle Kallberg, with three.

The Wolves found the winning formula this past Saturday, playing at Grand Marais. With time expired in their matchup with Cook County, Ely’s Mattson, who led Ely scorers with 18 points, calmly walked to the free-throw line and sank her shot to give the Timberwolves a come-from-behind victory, 50-49.

See ELY...pg. 2B





# LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

**Friday**  
  
**22 15**

	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
01/06	28	13	0.00	
01/07	29	6	0.00	
01/08	16	-21	0.01	0.2"
01/09	16	-24	0.02	0.6"
01/10	24	8	0.01	0.3"
01/11	8	-27	0.00	
01/12	6	-28	0.00	
YTD Total			0.13	58.4"

**Saturday**  
  
**21 -5**

	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
01/06	28	13	0.00	
01/07	29	6	0.00	
01/08	16	-21	0.00	
01/09	16	-24	0.03	0.4"
01/10	24	8	0.02	0.4"
01/11	7	-27	0.00	
01/12	15	-28	0.00	
YTD Total			0.05	32.9"

**Sunday**  
  
**5 -14**

	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
01/06	28	13	0.03	0.5"
01/07	29	11	0.00	
01/08	16	-16	0.00	
01/09	13	-9	0.06	1.0"
01/10	23	6	0.11	1.8"
01/11	7	-31	0.02	0.2"
01/12	0	-33	0.00	
YTD Total			0.22	36.2"

**Monday**  
  
**4 -11**

	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
01/06	30	10	0.00	
01/07	21	-9	0.00	
01/08	9	-26	0.00	
01/09	19	10	0.18	2.25"
01/10	16	-15	0.02	
01/11	5	-29	0.00	
01/12	16	-6	0.00	
YTD Total			NA	37.0"

**Tuesday**  
  
**12 3**

	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
01/06	28	10	0.00	
01/07	29	8	0.00	
01/08	10	-28	0.00	
01/09	17	-28	0.04	1.0"
01/10	24	6	0.00	
01/11	6	-33	0.00	
01/12	5	-33	0.00	
YTD Total			0.04	37.0"

on 12 of 47 three-point shots, but they couldn't keep pace with the Grizzlies' consistent offensive attack. The Grizzlies also helped themselves from the charity stripe, connecting on 12 of 15 shots, compared to just four of ten for the Rangers.

North Woods dominated the boards as well, grabbing 56 rebounds compared to just 21 for MI-B.

Morrison had a big night, adding 13 rebounds to his 35 points for a double-double. Goggleye followed suit with 16 points and 21 rebounds. Brenden Chiabotti just missed

his own double-double with 13 points and nine assists. TJ Chiabotti was the fourth Grizzlies player in double digits, with 12 points, while Jared Chiabotti added eight. Levi Byram and Alex Hartway added four points apiece.

The Grizzlies were set to host Cherry next Tuesday. Game time is set for 7:15 p.m.

**Right: North Woods junior Darius Goggleye takes a jump shot under the basket during last Friday's contest against Mt. Iron-Buhl.**

photo by C. Stone



**Ely's Gabe Pointer looks focused as he powers his way up a hill during competition on Saturday in Duluth.**

photo by L. Anderson

Zoe Devine paced the Ely girls team with a time of 24:21.4 for a fifth-place finish. Other Ely girls racers, with place and time included, Phoebe Helms, 9th, 24:57.5, Kalyssa Eilrich, 15th, 25:38.1, Julia Schwinghamer, 16th, 25:39.8, Ana Bercher, 23rd, 26:28.8, Gracie Pointer, 34th, 27:28.7, and Cora Olson, 36th, 27:42.1.

"Today was fun," said Ely Nordic Ski Coach Paula Anderson. "It's a very different meet in that it's old school, a single lane through the woods, making it difficult to pass. They had four inches of snow in the night so it was VERY soft. Boys won and girls were second to Mesabi East." The Giants were missing their fourth skier, while Ely's Brooke Pasmick was out due to illness, which likely affected the final outcome on the girls

side. "It might be a tight contest at Sections," said Anderson. "It will probably come down to a couple of points for second place."

In Duluth on Saturday, both the Ely boys and girls topped the field in a 1.2K sprint relay event.

The Ely boys swept first-place finishes in all three classes of sprint relay freestyle races. Jon Hakala and Ethan Bremner won the Class C race with a time of 18:52.8. Nate Nettifee won the Class B race with a time of 18:03.3. Jasper Johnson and Raif Olson won the Class A race with a time of 18:45.1.

For the girls, Ely's Kalyssa Eilrich and Julia Schwinghamer took first place in the Class C race with a time of 21:38.9. Cedar Ohlhauser and Ana Bercher finished in second with a time 22:24.6. Phoebe Helms and Brooke Pasmick

finished second in Class B race with a time of 21:25.2. Cora Olson and Zoe Devine finished in fourth place, with a time 21:22.3, in the Class A competition.

In the Mixed Class varsity sprint relay freestyle race, the Ely team of Micah Larson and Sydney Durkin finished fourth with a time of 23:06.9. Marshall School was first in that race with a time of 20:45.1.

“Individually the boys are getting faster each week which is good,” said Anderson. “The closer they can finish to Jasper the better— closing that gap a little will be the key to success later on in the season. The girls were solid... we have depth but we are still young.”

The Timberwolves will travel to Cook County on Saturday.

It was an improbable turnaround after a slow start left the Timberwolves down by as much as 16 points in the first half. But the Wolves slowly whittled away at the Vikings' lead and closed the gap to eight points as of halftime. Ely closed that gap further and the lead changed hands a few times in the final minutes. With six seconds left, Ely regained

possession in their end with the score tied but couldn't advance the ball as the Vikings applied a full press. As time ran out Mattson hurled a Hail Mary shot from mid-court

and was fouled in the process, giving her the chance to win the game.

“This was a game in which our team showed a lot of grit and determination,” said Visser.

“Playing short-handed due to injuries and players being gone, our team really stepped up and rose to the challenge.”

Ely’s Kallberg had a strong night, tallying 16

points and 12 rebounds for a double-double. LaTourell added ten points while sophomore Andre Visser had four points.


added a power play goal at 9:07 in the first period on an assist by Jimmy Zupancich and Olson. The Timberwolves needed just the two shots on goal in the first period to take the 2-0 lead.

In the second period, Ely scored five more times. Dalton Schreffler opened the second period with a goal in just 48 seconds, with an assist by Zupancich and Prigge. Olson added four more to the net in the second, with an assist by Prigge and three more unassisted. He added two more unassisted goals in the third period before the Blizzard got on the scoreboard. Olson added his eighth goal of the night at 16:30 to close out Ely's scoring.

Ely defenders kept the Blizzard away from goalie Chase Sandberg during the first two periods, not allowing a single shot on goal. Sandberg turned away a flurry of 32 shots on goal in the third period. Ely took 31 shots at the net in the entire game.

"It felt good for the whole team to get their first win of the season," Johnson said. "They have been working so hard every week and have continued to stay positive. A win really changes the energy for the whole team, especially for the younger players who are competing at the varsity level for the first time."

Ely hosts Red Lake Falls on Friday, Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. They travel to Mora on Saturday, Jan. 18 and return home on Tuesday, Jan. 21 against Proctor at 6 p.m.



# Memories of the Early Days

A fascinating look back at the early history  
of the Lake Vermilion area

Written by Marshall Helmberger • Published by the Timberjay

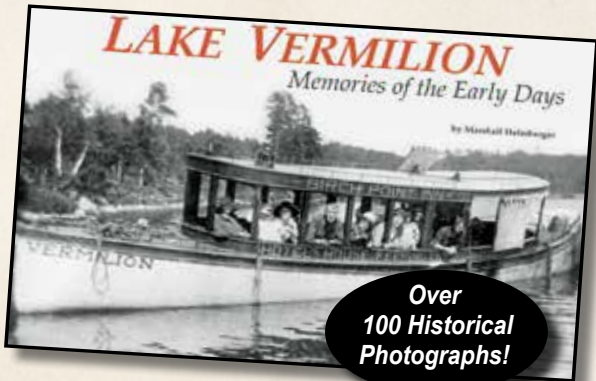
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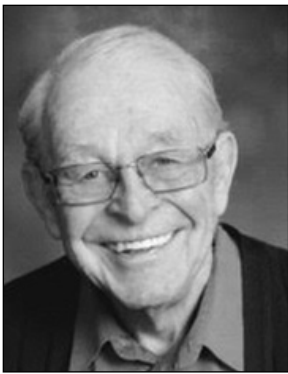
# Bring the library to you with Mail-A-Book

**REGIONAL** – Winter is here and driving can be more difficult; it's time to consider using the Mail-A-Book service from the Arrowhead Library System (ALS). This tax-supported service, available to rural residents and residents of cities without a public library, delivers paperback books, DVDs, audiobooks on CD, music CDs, and video games right to your mailbox at no charge to you. The items arrive in a canvas bag with a return label and prepaid return postage to make the process of returning your items as simple as possible.

Mail-A-Book is available

in the Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and St. Louis Counties. Catalogs listing the available items are sent out twice a year and more specific lists are available upon request. The catalog is also available online at [https://arrowhead.ent.sirsi.net/client/en\\_US/MAB](https://arrowhead.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/MAB). To order an item, visit [www.alslib.info/services/mail-a-book](http://www.alslib.info/services/mail-a-book), send an email to [mailbook@alslib.info](mailto:mailbook@alslib.info), or call 218-741-3840. You may also find Mail-A-Book on Facebook. We are always happy to respond to your questions.

## Obituaries and Death Notices



# Roger W. Johnson

Roger Wallace Johnson, 93, of Ely, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020. A spring 2020 memorial will be planned. The family wishes to thank Paul and Marisa Haraldson, Mary Louise Icenhour and Toni Mitchell for their kind assistance at this time.

Roger was born in Chisholm in 1926. He served in the U.S. Army from 1945-46, stationed in Sendai, Japan. He married Irene May Peterson on Sept. 3, 1949. Roger was a graduate of the University of Minnesota Institute of Technology. He worked for Electromotive in LaGrange, Ill., and transferred to General Motors Tech Center in Warren, Mich., as senior manager staff engineer. Roger retired to Ely in 1981. He served as a Supervisor on the Fall Lake Township Board and as Chair of the Ely Area Ambulance Study Committee. He drafted the re-design layout for the Ely Golf Course expansion. Roger sang bass in community choirs, including the choir at Grace Lutheran Church, where he was a member. He excelled at Finnish dialect and was known for telling ethnic Finnish jokes.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Irene; brother, Darrel (Rosemary); daughters, Susan Johnson (Daniel Arnold), Becky Johnson, and Jody Johnson (David Paluch); seven nieces and nephews; seven grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

## Jean A. Holappa

Jean Adair Bystrom Holappa, 100, formerly of Tower, passed away on Monday, Jan. 13, 2020, at Good Samaritan Society Nursing Home in Blackduck. Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 18 at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower with Pastor Doug Workman officiating. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church. Spring burial will be in Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home of Virginia.

# County approves pilot program for online tax-forfeiture land sales

**REGIONAL** – The public will have a new option for purchasing tax-forfeited properties in St. Louis County. In November, the St. Louis County Board approved a pilot program to offer tax-forfeited properties for sale through an online auction site. Until now, the County has offered three live oral auctions of state tax-forfeited properties each year. Any properties not purchased at auction are then available for purchase over the counter on a first come, first served basis through the Land and Minerals Department. The goal of these sales is to return these properties to private ownership, encourage economic development, and

expand the property tax base. A recent change in state statute provides greater flexibility and efficiency in public land sale procedures. Through this pilot program, the county will re-offer properties that were on the County's Available Lands List through an online auction. These are properties that have already been offered for sale at public auction and have received all necessary approvals to be sold. The online auction will run continuously until the properties are sold, placed back on the available list, or withdrawn from sale. The properties will first be offered at a fair market value, but prices may automatically be adjusted

if they remain unsold after a predetermined time frame. Eligibility requirements for someone to participate in the online auction are the same as for someone wanting to bid at the traditional live oral auctions. Bidders cannot have any delinquent property taxes on property they already own in St. Louis County. People who have delinquent property taxes must first pay what they owe before purchasing from the auction. The first online auction was expected to begin Monday, Jan. 6. Future auctions can be found at [www.publicsurplus.com](http://www.publicsurplus.com). To learn more, visit [stlouiscountymn.gov/landsales](http://stlouiscountymn.gov/landsales).

## Arlee D. Olson

Arlee David Olson, 89, of Cook, passed away on Monday, Jan. 6, 2020, at the Cook Hospital. A funeral service was held on Saturday, Jan. 11 at the First Baptist Church in Cook. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.



## Roberta R. Stepan

Roberta Ruth Stepan, 80, formerly of Ely, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020, at Corinth Rehabilitation Suites on the Parkway in Corinth, Texas. Private services will be held in Minnesota during the summer of 2020. Condolences may be made online on facebook, or mailed to Barb Bunnell, 130 Midway Circle, Lewisville, TX 75057. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Stroke Association at [www.stroke.org](http://www.stroke.org).

Roberta was born on Aug. 9, 1939, in Ely, the oldest daughter of the late Robert John Mattila and the late Betty Ruth (Purdy) Mattila. On Sept. 5, 1959, she married Edward Anthony Stepan, who preceded her in death on

July 30, 1995. Berta grew up in Ely, about 15 miles from the Canadian border. Her father worked in the iron mines and her mother worked in the ticket office of the Ely Theatre. In her early years, they lived in a small two-bedroom apartment where her mother would fill a washtub with hot water in front of the fire for everyone to take a bath. They lived through the black-outs of World War II, a polio epidemic, and the collapse of the mining tunnels under Shagawa Lake. She enjoyed watching the pontoon planes from her Grandma Purdy's home on Shagawa Lake, camping as a Girl Scout on Fenske Lake, and being a member of the Job's Daughters (part of the Masons and Eastern Stars).

In high school, Roberta was a member of the Water Babes synchronized swim club and the Future Homemakers of America. She dated her future husband, Ed Stepan, as a junior in high school, when he was a high school senior in nearby Tower-Soudan. She graduated in 1957 in a class of 121 students. After she got married in 1959, she worked as a stenographer until her daughters were born, Lori Ruth in 1962 and Barbara Jo in 1964. They lived in Minneapolis until 1966 when they bought a house in Roseville, and she worked for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. After her daughters were grown, she and Ed moved to Slidell, La., across Lake Pontchartrain from New Orleans. She worked at Gilsbar Inc. and greatly

enjoyed the festivals, parades, seafood, boating and warm weather there for many years. After a stroke in 2018, she moved to Texas to be closer to her family.

She is survived by her two daughters, Lori Ruth Stepan and Barbara Jo (Stepan) Bunnell (Dean); four grandchildren, Nicole Miller (John), Jasper Van Der Sluys, Christien Van Der Sluys (Felix) and Nicolaas Van Der Sluys; great-grandson, Tyler Miller; sister, Nancy (Mattila Lakner) Sterbenk (Ted); and brother, Jack Mattila (Joanne).

# William T. Bailey III

William "Bill" "Mumps" "Buck" Thomas Bailey III, 87, of Naples, Fla., and Pelican Lake-Orr, passed away suddenly on Monday, Dec. 30, 2019, after falling from the spreader of a sailboat mast to the deck of his boat. He was transported by helicopter to the Trauma Center in Fort Myers where, surrounded by family, he slowly moved to a better place. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2020, at the Naples Museum of Military History. There will be another celebration at Pelican Lake in Minnesota on July 4, 2020. Details will follow.

The family would dearly welcome your attendance at either event. In lieu of flowers, consider a donation to the Naples Military Museum.

He is survived by his  
loving wife, Lise; sons,

William (fiancée Amy) and Doug (Karen); and grandchildren, William T. Bailey, Ann Blyth Bailey, Jack E. Bailey and Griffin E. Bailey.

# Emma M. Ronkainen

Emma M. Miklaucic Ronkainen, 96, of Virginia, formerly of Ely, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020, at the Virginia Care Center. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday, Jan. 13 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Virginia with Rev. Fr. Brandon Moravitz as celebrant. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery in Virginia. Arrangements were with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her children, Shirley Fetzich, Donald (Sue) Ronkainen, Jerry (Sally) Ronkainen and Michael (Lynda Davis) Ronkainen; grandchildren, Kimberly (Brad) Gohman, Jason (Becky) Fetzich, Sara (Steven) Warner, Leah (Nathan Branson) Ronkainen, Aaron (Liz) Ronkainen and Bryan (Jess) Ronkainen; great-grandchildren, Gabe, Michaela, Charles, Emma, Mallory, Della, Lyla and Piper; sisters-in-law, Laurel (Myles) Butler and Phyllis Miklaucic; nieces and nephews; and special friend, Joan Gustafson.

## Olga Feroni

Olga Skraba Feroni, 97, formerly of Ely, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020, at Waterview Pines in Virginia. A Mass of Christian Burial was

held on Monday, Jan. 13 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. Burial was in the Ely Cemetery. Family arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

She is survived by her son, Dennis (Mary Lou) of Virginia; granddaughter, Christina (Brien) Lumppio of Saginaw; great-granddaughters, Alina and Erika Lumppio; sisters-in-law, Myrtle Feroni and Anne Skraba; and many nieces and nephews.

# David L. Stickney

David Lawrence Stickney, 81, of Embarrass, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020, at his home, surrounded by his family. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 17 at Range Funeral Home in Virginia with visitation for one hour prior. Deacon Dan Schultz will officiate. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his wife, Judith "Judy" K. Gehlsen Stickney; children and grandchildren, Rick (Melanie Bird), Josh and Joe; Kate (Bryan Hendrickson), Mike, Alyssa and Abby; Dave Jr.; and Sara (Wes Bruemmer), Nathan, Logan, Brennan, Genevieve and Tristan; brother, Jerry; brothers and sister-in-law, Jane Haight, Jerry (Christine) and Jack Gehlsen; nieces and nephews.

# PUBLIC NOTICES

## Nett Lake School • ISD 707 • Fiscal Year 2019 and 2020 Budget

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Division of School Finance

1500 Highway 36 West

Roseville, MN 55113-4266

District Revenues and Expenditures

Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 and FY 2020

ED-00110-42

General Information: Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.10, requires that every school board shall publish the subject data of this report.

District Name:	NETT LAKE					District Number:	707
Fund	FY 2019 Beginning Fund Balances	FY 2019 Actual Revenues and Transfers In	FY 2019 Actual Expenditures and Transfers Out	June 30, 2019 Actual Fund Balances	FY 2020 Budget Revenues and Transfers In	FY 2020 Budget Expenditures and Transfers Out	June 30, 2020 Projected Fund Balances
General Fund/Restricted	\$ 312,845		\$	\$ 312,845	\$	\$	\$ 312,845
General Fund/Other	\$ 734,861	\$ 2,585,827	\$ 2,210,669	\$ 1,110,019	\$ 2,175,145	\$ 2,398,381	\$ 886,783
Food Service Fund	\$ 1,948	\$ 105,344	\$ 103,598	\$ 3,694	\$ 63,100	\$ 119,782	\$ (52,988)
Community Service Fund	\$ 52,921	\$ 37,110	\$ 4,591	\$ 85,440	\$ 36,536	\$ 36,536	\$ 85,440
Building Construction Fund	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Debt Service Fund	\$ 109,173	\$ 107,947	\$ 74,094	\$ 143,026	\$ 111,209	\$ 36,800	\$ 217,435
Trust Fund	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Internal Service Fund	\$						
* OPEB Revocable Trust Fund	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
OPEB Irrevocable Trust Fund	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
OPEB Debt Service Fund	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total - All Funds	\$ 1,211,747	\$ 2,836,228	\$ 2,392,951	\$ 1,655,023	\$ 2,385,990	\$ 2,591,499	\$ 1,449,514
Long-Term Debt				Current Statutory Operating Debt per Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.81			
Outstanding July 1, 2018	\$ 42,067,353.00			Amount of General Fund Deficit, if any, in excess of 2.5% of expenditures 06/30/2019		\$	
Plus: New Issues	\$ 1,672,577						
Less: Redemmed Issues	\$ 16,000			Cost per student - Average Daily Membership (ADM) 06/30/2019			
Outstanding June 30, 2019	\$ 43,723,930						
Short-Term Debt				Total Operating Expenditures		\$ 2,283,177.46	
Certificates of Indebtedness	\$			FY 2019 Total ADM Served + Tuitioned Out ADM + Adjusted Extended ADM		97.46	
Other Short-Term Indebtedness	\$			FY 2019 Operating Cost per ADM		\$ 23,426.82	

The complete budget may be inspected upon request to the superintendent.

Comments:

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 24, 20120



# DISEASE

# Hot Spot

---

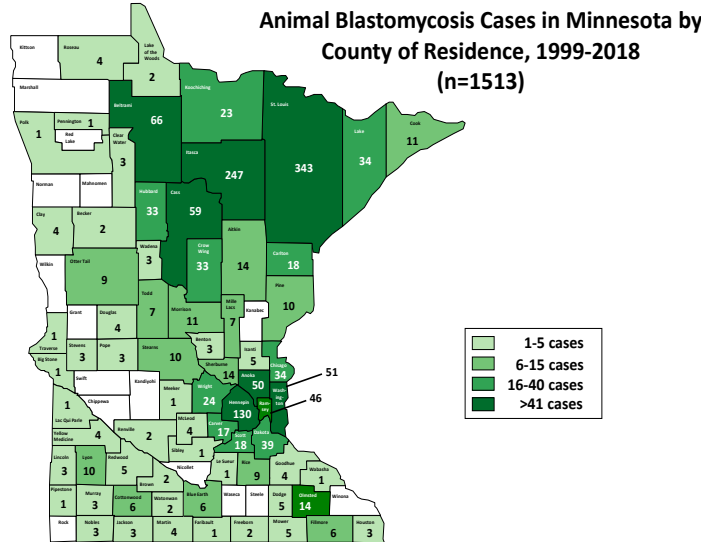
by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

The disease isn't known to be contagious. You won't catch it from your dog or a neighbor's dog, and dogs don't spread it between themselves. Instead,

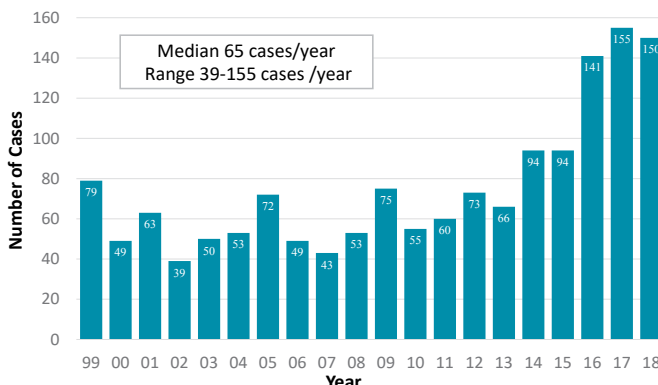
The Minnesota Department of Health issued an advisory this past September which advised healthcare providers that blasto cases had been higher than expected in 2019 and to watch for the symptoms in their patients. The most common symptoms of blasto in humans include cough, fever, chills, weight loss, night sweats and chest, joint or back pain. The MDH bulletin advised doctors to “ask patients about travel and outdoor activities, particularly

“Our clinic is the hottest in the state for blasto.”

**Ely Vet Chip Hanson**



### Animal Blastomycosis in Minnesota by Year, 1999-2018 (n=1513)



When diagnosed, a vet will typically prescribe an anti-fungal medication that can be both effective and very expensive. In most cases, the dog will need treatment for at least three-to-four months before being re-tested for the presence of the fungus. More typically, the treatment lasts six months and

treated.

Debt as a financing choice

Perhaps surprisingly, many cases of blasto are diagnosed in the early-to-mid winter here in the North Country, even though the fungi that cause blasto are frozen in the soil and typically covered with deep snow. It appears most dogs are infected in the late summer or fall, which is an active growing period for many fungi, yet the disease typically requires a one-to-three-month incubation period before symptoms appear. So, if your dog develops an unusual cough, or has weepy or goopy eyes, even in January, a trip to the vet is definitely in order. You just might be saving your

## YOUTH



# Take a Kid Fishing for free this holiday weekend

**REGIONAL** — Over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend, Jan. 17-20, Minnesota residents age 16 or older can fish or dark-house spear without an angling or spearing license if they take a child younger than 16 along with them.

“Ice fishing is a fun way to get outdoors during Minnesota winters,” said Jeff Ledermann, education and skills team supervisor with the Department of Natural Resources. “Ice conditions are highly variable this year. If you want to start, try asking someone familiar with ice fishing and ice conditions to take you out or check out an organized activity.”

Always check local ice conditions before heading out to a lake or river. Visit [mndnr.gov/icesafety](http://mndnr.gov/icesafety) for ice safety guidelines and the DNR's learn to ice fish page for more information about ice fishing.

## Fishing reports

## Kab-Nam area

Anglers are finding fishing to be inconsistent with the bite varying greatly. Snowmobile, ski and snow shoe trails are all in excellent shape!

Even before the snow we received recently the snowmobile trails were in great shape. With more snow forecast for this weekend it should only get better! In Voyageurs National Park most snowmobile trails are open and staked. We have been getting numerous riders coming through saying the trails are fantastic! The few that have gone on the Chain of Lakes trail and up to Kettle Falls reported awesome riding conditions. Throughout the area there are still lots of slushy areas with more wet spots showing up. For the most part, the snow has firmed up nicely which is keeping riders from having issues with these areas, but the park service still advises caution when traveling off the trail. All trails beyond the park are groomed and in excellent shape with groomers out daily. The ice road has not been plowed and all indications are that it won't happen this week. All ski trails are packed and tracked with the exception of the Kab/Ash trail. All snowshoe trails are open.

Fishing has been inconsistent. It's been frustrating for anglers as they are marking fish but they're just not biting. Reports are all over the map. When the fish are active it's been in depths from 18-35 ft. Edges of reefs and shoreline points as well as deeper water over soft bottom are seeing some activity. Bigger walleyes still seem to be the majority of fish caught with a few smaller ones as well as the occasional perch and north



# Check Out These... Snowmobile **HOT** Spots



## Area Trail Conditions

### Taconite Trail

Very Good Condition  
1-4" base, 14-33" snow on ground  
Groomed

### Arrowhead Trail

Very Good Condition  
1-4" base, 12-30" snow on ground  
Groomed

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- Friday fish fry
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www.goodolddaystower.com

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF ELY  
NOTICE FOR LEGAL  
PRINTING BIDS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the Council of the City of Ely, St. Louis County, Minnesota, until Friday, January 24, 2020, 2:00 P.M. for doing legal printing and display advertising for the City of Ely, Minnesota for the year 2020.

Bids shall be securely sealed and endorsed upon the outside wrapper: "Bids for City of Ely Printing for 2020".

The City Council reserves the

right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities therein.

Specifications, instructions and bid forms for interested bidders are available at the office of the Clerk/Treasurer, 209 E Chapman St, Ely, Minnesota 55731.

BY THE ORDER OF THE ELY CITY COUNCIL  
Harold R Langowski, City Clerk/Treasurer

Published in the Ely Timberjay, Jan. 10 & 17, 2020

CITY OF ELY  
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

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

Airport Commission

1- three year term  
\*resident or non-resident

Cemetery Committee

1- one year term  
1- two year term  
\*resident or non-resident

Heritage Preservation Commission

1- one three year term  
\*resident or non-resident

Library Commission

1- three year term  
\*resident or non-resident

Park and Recreation Board

2- three year terms  
\*resident or non-resident

Planning & Zoning Commission

1- two year term  
\*resident or non-resident

Police Commission

1- three year term  
\*resident or non-resident

Telecommunications Advisory Board

1- three year term  
\*subscriber/resident

For more information on the committees go to [www.ely.mn.us](http://www.ely.mn.us) - City Government – Commissions, Committees, Boards. If you are interested in serving on a committee please remit a letter of interest or fill out the "Application to serve on city commission" and remit to the Ely City Clerk's Office, 209 E. Chapman Street, Ely, MN 55731 or email [casey.velcheff@ely.mn.us](mailto:casey.velcheff@ely.mn.us). Questions, please contact the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at 218-226-5474 or 218-226-5449.

Casey Velcheff, Deputy Clerk

Published in the Ely Timberjay, Jan. 17 & 24, 2020

EMPLOYMENT

Office Manager

Flexible hours. Competitive pay.  
Experience using QuickBooks,  
Excel and Microsoft Word.  
Bookkeeping experience required.

To apply: Send resume to  
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Worker- Environmental Services  
Apply by 1/21/20  
Engineering Aide Trainee  
(Temporary) Apply by 2/14/20

[www.stlouiscountymn.gov](http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov)  
or call 218-726-2422

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The Timberjay has an immediate opening for a full-time editor/reporter who has experience and interest in serious, independent community journalism. Wide-ranging community beat provides opportunity for a reporter to pursue their journalistic passions. We do everything from environmental and investigative reporting to local human interest to high school sports. See recent feature in Columbia Journalism Review for more: [https://www.cjr.org/united\\_states\\_project/timberjay-helmberger-trump-staub-er-mining.php](https://www.cjr.org/united_states_project/timberjay-helmberger-trump-staub-er-mining.php).

In addition to reporting and editing, job will include pagination (InDesign), photography, web content management and social media.

Join our small but dedicated crew covering life in the North Country. Competitive salary and benefits. Send resume and clips to Marshall Helmberger, The Timberjay Newspaper, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790, or email to [marshall@timberjay.com](mailto:marshall@timberjay.com).

CITY OF ELY – NOTICE OF  
Absentee Voting for the  
Presidential Primary Election

To the Electors of the City of Ely in the County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: that the Presidential Primary Election will be held at 27 South 1st. Avenue East (the Senior Center) on TUESDAY, March 3, 2020, at which time the polls will be open from the hours of 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Anyone who wishes to vote by **ABSENTEE BALLOT** can obtain an Absentee Ballot Application by:

**Call** - City Hall, Clerk's Office - 218-226-5449  
**In person** – Clerk's Office, 209 E Chapman St, Ely MN.

**Hours:** Monday –Friday 8am-4:30pm,  
Saturday, February 29 10am-3pm  
Monday, March 2 8am-5pm

**Email** - [deputyclerk@ely.mn.us](mailto:deputyclerk@ely.mn.us)

**Online** - [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org) - Elections and Voting – Other Ways to Vote

Once an Absentee Ballot Application is received, a ballot will be available to you.

Harold R Langowski, City Clerk/Treasurer

Published in the Ely Timberjay, Jan. 17 & 24, 2020

KUGLER TOWNSHIP  
NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020, at 6 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall.

Julie Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 17, 2020

EMPLOYMENT

POSITION OPENING

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Superintendent/Principal Search  
Nett Lake Public Schools ISD 707

The Nett Lake School District 707 is seeking applications for a full-time Superintendent/Principal. A complete job description and application can be found at [www.nettlake-school.org](http://www.nettlake-school.org) or you may stop by the Nett Lake School. Compensation package will be based on qualifications and work experience. The district will begin reviewing applications on January 31, 2020.

Questions?  
Contact Superintendent James J. Varichak, 13090 Westley Drive, Nett Lake, MN 55772.  
Email: [jvarichak@isd707.org](mailto:jvarichak@isd707.org)  
Phone: 218-757-3102.

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2020

Looking for steady employment  
as a truck driver?

Edwards has openings for good driving candidates that have at least a Class B license and 20,000 miles in a larger straight truck/dump truck or 50,000 miles in a tractor trailer and a Class A license. We offer 40+ hrs. each week with some OT available, year-round job on a regular schedule. Steady paycheck, full insurances, maintained equipment. 4 positions to fill close to Ely, Babbitt, Tower area.

Apply soon to: Edwards Oil and Propane, 820 Hoover Road North, Virginia MN 55792  
OR Edwards Oil and Propane, 620 E Sheridan, Ely, MN 55731. 1/31

Super Crossword

Answers

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

City of Orr  
Ordinance 2020-01

An ordinance amending Ordinance No. 96-01 Adopted On January 8, 1995, and titled an Ordinance Relating to: "Prevent, Reduce or Eliminate Blighting Factors within the City of Orr and to Provide Penalties for the Violation Thereof."

Section 1. Causes of Blight or Blighting Factors. It is hereby determined

that the uses, structures and activities and causes of blight or blight described herein, if allowed to exist, will tend to result in blighted and undesirable neighborhoods, so as to be harmful to the public welfare, health and safety. No person, firm or corporation of any kind shall maintain or permit to be maintained, any of these causes of blight or blight upon any property in the City of Orr owned, leased, rented or occupied by such person, firm or corporation.

**NOTICE:** This publication is only a summary and the full printed text of City of Orr Ordinance No. 2020-01 is available for inspection by any person during regular office hours at the office of the City Clerk. A copy of the entire text of the ordinance shall also be posted at the Orr City Hall, 4429 Highway 53, Orr, MN 55771.

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 17, 2020

EMPLOYMENT



Vermilion Community College  
College Lab Assistant 1 – Study Skills

Working within Vermilion's Academic Resource Center as an academic support specialist, this position will provide professional tutoring to serve a diversified student population, particularly student athletes, and facilitate the afternoon/evening Athletic Study Tables program. Part-Time Temporary Hire for Spring Semester 2020

Minimum Qualifications

- Post-secondary coursework sufficient to provide support services for community college students OR
- 6 months of teaching/tutoring experience at the high school level or above OR
- An equivalent combination of education and work experience.

Preferred Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in content area or related subjects, Associate degree acceptable with related experience
- Demonstrated knowledge of TRIO and SSS programs
- Experience or training in study skills strategies, learning styles, tutoring, and working with students with disabilities
- Effective time-management, communications skills, and digital literacy
- Demonstrated knowledge of and commitment to diverse cultures and populations

**Approximate Start/End dates:** February 3, 2020 - May 20, 2020

**Rate of Pay:** \$17.33 - \$17.98 per hour, 30 hours a week

**Application Procedure:** Send a letter of interest and current resume to: Michelle Zupancich, Vermilion Community College, 1900 E. Camp St., Ely, MN 55731, [m.zupancich@vcc.edu](mailto:m.zupancich@vcc.edu)

**Review of applications will begin on January 27, 2020 until the position is filled.**

*This position is 60% institutionally-funded and 40% funded by a TRIO Student Support Services grant from the U.S. Department of Education to serve students who are first generation, low-income, or having a disability and persons who are from these groups are encouraged to apply. 1/17*



OPEN POSITIONS

10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

Laboratory

Full-Time Medical Lab Technician

Care Center

FT Director of Nursing- LTC (sign-on bonus)  
PT Nursing Assistant

(sign-on bonus- wage starting at \$15.88/hr.)

PT Restorative Nursing Assistant

(sign-on bonus- wage starting at \$15.88/hr.)

Adult Day Services

Casual ADS Director

Rehabilitation

FT Physical Therapist (sign-on bonus)

Dietary

Full & Part Time Dietary Aide/Cook

(Wage starting at \$12.80/hr.)

Imaging

Full Time Radiologic Tech (sign-on bonus)

Full Time Imaging Manager (sign-on bonus)

Environmental Services

Casual Housekeeper & Laundry Aide

(Wage starting at \$12.80/hr.)

TO APPLY:

[www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/](http://www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/)

More Info? Contact Human Resources

**218-666-6220**

[humanresources@cookhospital.org](mailto:humanresources@cookhospital.org)

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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# TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS


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

## AUTOMOTIVE

**Langevin Auto & Truck Repair**  
*Full Service Auto Repair & Garage*



Hours: 8 AM-5 PM M-F  
2 Miles South of Tower  
**218-749-0751**



**NAPA PARTS CENTER, INC.**  
45 E. Chapman Street  
ELY  
**365-3132**

## DAY CARE

PJ's DAYCARE- Located in Soudan. Openings for ages infant to age 10. Hours 6am – 6pm. Paige Olson and Jesse Hinkel, operators. Licensed through the State of Minnesota. CPR and First Aid Certified. For more information, contact Paige Olson at 218-780-7217 or email [paige-hinkel41@gmail.com](mailto:paige-hinkel41@gmail.com).

## HAIR CARE

DREAMWEAVER SALON & DAY SPA- Open Monday-Friday 8:30 – 6:30. 218-666-5594. tfn

## HANDYMAN/REMODELING

MURRAY'S QUALITY SERVICES- Handyman/ Remodeling • Saunas • Custom Built-Ins • Woodworking • Insured. Call Andrew at 218-750-7136. 2/7v

**HOSPICE**

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](mailto:vhhpdirector@gmail.com). This ad is paid for by Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners.

## LICENSE BUREAU

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

HOME FOR SALE IN COOK: 4 BR/2.5 bath, on double lot with detached double garage. Great location (Vermilion Blvd), walking distance to anywhere in town. Wooded backyard view. Very spacious home! New double oven in 2018. New roof in 2017. Price reduced: \$175,000. Check out pictures on Zillow and call us for a showing! 218-750-1247. Reasonable offers considered! 1/31

## SNOW REMOVAL

VERMILION SNOW MANAGEMENT- Serving the entire Lake Vermilion area. Roads, Driveways & Sidewalks. Free estimates, insured. tj@vermilionsnowmanagement.com or 218-290-0966. Online at [vermilionsnowmanagement.com](http://vermilionsnowmanagement.com). tfn

## WANTED

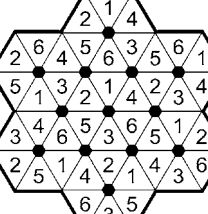
**PAYING CASH FOR OLD MOTORCYCLES**  
**\*\*ANY CONDITION\*\***



**612-991-3222**

## SNOWFLAKES

**solution**



## BUILDING SERVICES

EAST DHU RIVER SAWMILL INC



*"Put A Piece Of Northern Minnesota In Your Home"*

*Superior Quality*

• Plank Paneling  
• Trim  
• One-Of-A-Kind Moldings  
• Industrial Lumber

**218-744-1788**  
8825 Hwy 101, Iron, MN 55751

## WANTED

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](http://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

HIRING PART-TIME HELP- Get the application at The Great Outdoors, 419 E Sheridan St., Ely. 1/24

## RETIREMENT

AMERICAN SENIOR BENEFITS Retirement planning specialist Janice Johnson-Jacka **218-780-1185** Annuities/retirement rollovers Cancer insurance, dental plans, burial/final expense, home health care, life insurance Medicare supplements, long-term care. 2/7

## DOG GROOMING



*Boundary Waters Dog Grooming*

**218-753-1228**

305 Birch St, Tower  
*(behind Jeanne's Cards & Gifts)*



Owner  
Eileen Kronmiller  
Over 30 years experience!



## Classifieds run in all 3 editions of the Timberjay.

Line classifieds cost 30¢/word, \$6.00 minimum. Classified ads can be run a second time at half price (private parties only). We now accept payment by Visa, Mastercard and Discover. Call your ad in to 218-753-2950. Display (boxed) classifieds are billed by the "inch"- please call for prices and information on discounts. Call Today – 218-753-2950 or 218-365-3114

## MARINE



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Covered Wet & Dry Boat Storage  
Lease or Purchase Options  
Marina • Mechanic on Duty  
Convenience Store  
24-Hour Fuel • Live Bait

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[www.shamrocklanding.com](http://www.shamrocklanding.com)



LAKE VERMILION, TOWER  
Located two miles southwest of Tower on Hwy. 169

Winter Hours:  
Mon-Fri: 9 AM-5 PM  
Sat & Sun: By appointment

Storage • Complete Service • Sales



• Boat launch, rental, store & repair

• Cabins for a great, fun vacation

See us at: [www.grubens.com](http://www.grubens.com)  
Call us at: 218.753.5000  
4296 Arrowhead Point Rd,  
Tower MN 55790



**Frank's Marine**

Sales & Service, Orr, Mn 55771  
Mercury Outboards, MerCruiser, Crestliner,  
Lund, Spartan Trailers, Ercoc Pontoons.  
Call 218-757-3150

## MOCCASIN POINT MARINE

4655 Moccasin Point Rd  
Lake Vermilion  
**218-753-3319**

Storage, Boat Rentals,  
Service/Repairs/Sales  
Mechanic on Duty

[moccasinpointmarine.com](http://moccasinpointmarine.com)



## 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](http://ftc.gov/credit). A message from The Timberjay and the FTC.

**SCRAMBLERS**

*solution*

1. Prawn; 2. Wobble;  
3. Arrange; 4. Typical

*Today's Word*

**PRAYER**

## Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

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			
31	32	33				34					35	36				37				38
39				40				41						42				43		
44				45		46		47				48		49			50	51		
				52		53				54	55	56				57	58			
59	60							61						62						
63						64	65		66			67		68				69	70	71
72						73		74					75					76		
77						78					79				80		81			
						82				83		84			85			86		
87	88	89								90					91	92				
93								94						95				96		97
99						100	101	102		103		104	105	106		107		108		109
110				111				112						113				114		
				115				116						117			118			
119						120			121	122	123				124				125	126
128								129							130					
131								132							133					

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## MARINE



ON LAKE VERMILION  
**218-666-2434**  
7401 Oak Narrows Rd • Cook, MN

Cabin rentals  
Year round boat  
storage and dockage  
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rental  
Convenience store  
Gas, bait & liquor

[timbuktumarina.com](http://timbuktumarina.com)



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**Marina Services**  
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RV Sites • Marina Slips • Boat Storage

Service Hours: M-Fri 8-5, Sat 8-4, Sun 9-3  
No Mechanics on Sunday

**Store**  
Ice Cream Cones • Clothing & Gifts • Gas & Bait

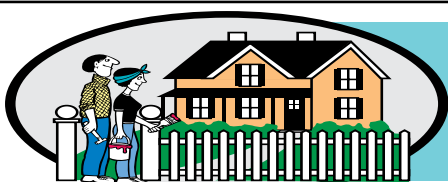
Store Open: 7 days a week 8 AM-7 PM

Read us online at  
**timberjay.com**  
**218-753-2950**

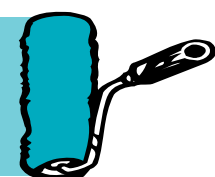
## Super Crossword THE LATEST FASHION

- ACROSS**
- 1 Stuff pumped into a 747  
8 Bracing devices  
14 Teeny bit  
20 "Stephen," to the French  
21 Rip into  
22 Untrue rumor  
23 Start of a riddle  
25 "Ironic" singer  
26 Enzyme name ender  
27 Solo for a 41-Across  
28 Not feeling well at all  
30 Set aflame  
31 Riddle, part 2  
39 Shar- —  
40 No, to Burns  
41 Certain opera singer  
42 Actress Joanne  
43 Bit of slander  
44 Neighbor of a Croat  
46 The, to Josef  
48 Apt rhyme of "grab"  
50 — -O-Fish (McDonald's sandwich)  
52 Riddle, part 3  
59 Very pungent
- 61 Certain opera singer  
62 Adders, e.g.  
63 Most blaring  
66 Sculling tools  
68 As blind as —  
69 Elegant tree  
72 Pharmacy amount  
73 Riddle, part 4  
76 Blackthorn  
77 Fire residue  
78 Lady Grey  
79 Sauce brand since 1937  
80 Stays away from  
82 Total or Life  
84 Neighbor of a Swede  
86 Goes fast  
87 Riddle, part 5  
93 NATO part  
94 Mineo of "Tonka"  
95 Knighted one, e.g.  
96 Pleasant  
99 The Beatles' "— Loser"  
100 "Citizen X" actor Stephen  
103 Equine noise  
107 Do a lawn chore  
109 Relo vehicle  
110 End of the riddle
- 115 Dir. from Del. to Vt.  
116 Busy mo. for a CPA  
117 Big particle physics lab in Switz.  
118 "Hail, Nero!"  
119 Big name in sneakers  
121 Riddle's answer  
128 Lenient  
129 Beethoven's Third, familiarly  
130 Mark Antony's wife  
131 Local lingoes (mil. group)  
132 Wet slightly  
133 Wee baby
- DOWN**
- 1 Seder celebrant  
2 Ordinal number ender  
3 Carrere of "True Lies"  
4 Beyond embryonic  
5 Oneness  
6 Baja California resort port  
7 Permit to  
8 Biblical angel  
9 Chicana, e.g.  
10 Many flying creatures  
11 Got together
- 12 Compadre  
13 "Shrek!" author William  
14 Like time, speed and temperature  
15 Bad, to Luc  
16 Including everything  
17 Author Steel  
18 More sandlike  
19 MS markers  
24 "Yuk" relative  
29 PC screen variety  
31 Special — (mil. group)  
32 Toll, for one  
33 Atomizer for spraying paint  
34 Turned right on a horse  
35 Has no life  
36 — Ark (biblical boat)  
37 With 57-Down, supporter for a caterer's dishes  
38 Pets' docs  
45 Groom's partner  
47 Microwave brand  
49 Unoriginal  
51 Indefinite things  
53 Keats verse  
54 Gobs  
55 Railing locale  
56 Hurricane relative  
57 See 37-Down  
58 Green-lights  
59 Alan of "White Mile"  
60 Doves' calls  
64 Horrify  
65 Reasonably muscular  
67 Lactose, e.g.  
69 Unrequired course  
70 Rob of the Brat Pack  
71 Disorder  
74 Gets close  
75 Mom or dad's sister  
76 "Da Doo Ron Ron" singer  
78 — Tull (rock band)  
81 — -Magnon man  
82 Persian, e.g.  
83 Country singer Rimes  
85 Suffix with lion  
87 Army group  
88 Ball of perfume in a closet  
89 Exhausting  
90 Urged in defense  
91 Intentions  
92 Close friendship between guys  
97 "Wheels"  
98 Nav. officer  
101 Expunges  
102 African viper  
104 Implant that helps in returning a lost pet  
105 Athens' land  
106 Husband of Lily Munster  
108 Greet with a hand motion  
111 Resulted in  
112 Followed a curved path  
113 Hit skit show since '75  
114 "— & Kel" (1990s teen show)  
119 — Khan  
120 Height fig.  
122 Hunters' gp.  
123 — de plume  
124 Cyclotron bit  
125 Actress Longoria  
126 Apt humor  
127 Letter encl. to facilitate a reply





# HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



## Real Estate Closing Services, Title Insurance & Abstracting

**Northeast Title Company** has competitive rates and professional services assuring peace of mind for our customers before and after closing. We take pride in our service and have a proven history of being a leader in the industry. Customers can expect quality services and products along with a professional staff that takes pride in every closing. Our warm, friendly, and professional approach in all of our transactions ensures our customers a level of comfort that is unmatched in the industry.

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Phone (218)365-5256  
Fax (218)365-6164  
**Angie Mikulich**  
Office Manager/Closing Specialist

**VIRGINIA OFFICE**  
612 13 St S • Virginia MN 55792  
Phone (218)741-1515  
Fax (218)742-9383  
**Jodee Micheletti**  
Owner/Closing Specialist

**COOK OFFICE**  
P.O. Box 539 • Cook MN 55723  
Phone (218)666-3174  
Fax (218)742-9392  
**Sharon Maronick**  
Office Manager/Closing Specialist

[www.netitle.com](http://www.netitle.com)

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Cement Trucks, Building Materials  
Septic-pumping Trucks, Dirt  
Well-drilling Equipment  
Propane Delivery

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**Anderson Barging, Inc.**

Cell 218-780-4955  
[www.andersonbarging.com](http://www.andersonbarging.com)

Covering all of Lake Vermilion



**Steven Ratai**  
(Owner)  
1816 Hwy 25  
Cook, MN  
218-780-1124  
[sandsratai@aol.com](mailto:sandsratai@aol.com)  
Lic# BC396541

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kitchen & bathroom,  
remodeling & flooring

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- Remodels
- Additions
- Site Planning

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[www.cadlinedesign.us](http://www.cadlinedesign.us)

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Site Planning and CAD Drafting Services

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"CABIN GRADE" End Matched

80¢ linear ft

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST



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Hours: Mon. Fri: 7-5, Sat: 8-12  
[eric@cookbuildingcenter.com](mailto:eric@cookbuildingcenter.com)



### SCRAMBLERS

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

Crustacean  
WARP N

Waver  
BELBOW

Organize  
GRANEAR

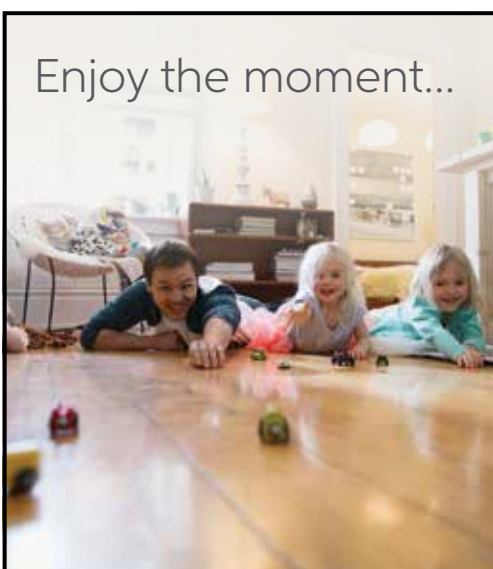
Ordinary  
CAPITYL

"Great news! They're going to allow  
\_\_\_\_\_ in cooking class."

TODAY'S WORD

## INSURANCE

Enjoy the moment...



Knowing your local independent  
agent, and the company that stands  
behind them, has your family covered.

**Tower-Soudan  
Agency**

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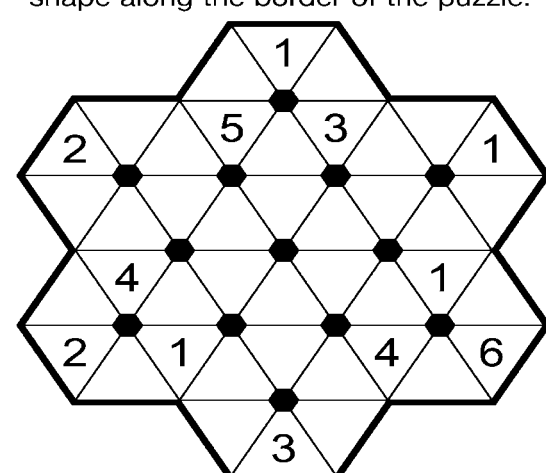
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## SNOWFLAKES by Japheth Light

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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## REAL ESTATE



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