

**Inside:** School renovation plans...See /10 Local Sports... See /1B Snowmobile Hot Spots...See /5B



#### SEASONAL CHALLENGES

## Mild winter spells disaster for logging industry

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL- Plentiful snow and mild temperatures may be ideal for most winter recreation in the area. For those in the logging industry, however, the conditions couldn't be much worse.

"It's been a disaster," said

Scott Dane, executive director for the Associated Contract Loggers and Truckers.

Last fall's wet conditions, early and heavy snowfall, and milder-than-normal temperatures so far this winter, have combined to create the worst possible conditions for loggers. Here in northern Minnesota, loggers rely on the intense cold

We're among those who actually root for the cold weather.

**Ray Higgins, Minnesota Timber Producers** 

typical of this time of year to freeze up swamps and wetlands in order to gain access to timber. "We're among those

who actually root for the cold weather," said Ray Higgins, with the Minnesota Timber Producers. "We cut two-thirds of our wood in the wintertime,' he noted.

But this year, many of the areas normally accessible to heavy logging equipment are still too wet for loggers to reach. "There's absolutely no frost in the ground in many areas," said Dave Skurla, north area lands

See...LOGGING pg. 9



#### by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY-The biggest and best winter party in northern Minnesota gets underway here starting next Thursday. The annual Ely Winter Festival, Feb. 6-16, is guaranteed to shine some welcome light into the dark days of winter, according to board member Lynn Evenson.

The Ely Winter Festival has been a mainstay in the community for more than a quarter century. It's the ultimate celebration of the season and event planners expect roughly 10,000 attendees for what is billed as Ely's largest art festival of the year. "Will it be cold? We hope so," she said."The folks who are the International Snow Sculpting Symposium like it



## **Tower council** struggles with

CITY GOVERNMENT

## reorganization

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER

Managing Editor

TOWER - Past practice ran into questions of legal foundation here on Monday as clerk-treasurer Victoria Ranua provided a lengthy report to the city council about the lack of records to support several city commissions or other positions that are typically filled during the city's annual reorganization.

Ranua also recommended abolishing several commissions that haven't met in years, and some city positions where duties are ill-defined or unnecessary.

It was all part of Ranua's stated mission to better ground the city's actions in its charter, ordinances, and state law.

"Sometimes things have been done that don't follow state law or the city's own ordinances," said Ranua.

See...ELY pg. 11



Whiteside Park will soon be transformed into a winter sculpture garden as professional and amateur snow carvers descend on Ely to embrace the season during the annual Winter Festival celebration. Timbetjay file photos

That process will clearly take time and the council didn't act on most of Ranua's recommendations on Monday.

Instead, councilors tabled action on most parts of the reorganization to give them time to review options and consider Ranua's recommendations, including the abolishment of the police, public utilities, gambling, and liquor commissions as well as the budget and finance committee.

She also recommended abolishing the city's storefront loan committee and transferring authority for managing the program to the Tower Economic Development Authority.

She also proposed abolishing the city's blight committee since it's only defined function is to hear appeals of citations issued by the city's non-existent blight officer. Ranua noted that other city entities, like the tourism and development authority, which was established by ordinance in 1967, has no

See...TOWER pg. 9

#### BUSINESS

## Frontier Communications bankruptcy filing expected soon

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The primary telecommunications provider for thousands of customers in northern St. Louis and Lake counties is expected to file for

bankruptcy within weeks.

That's according to Bloomberg News, which reported late last week that top company executives with Frontier Communications have asked major creditors to help them craft a turnaround plan for



the troubled telecommunications giant.

As part of that plan, company executives told creditors that the company will be filing for bankruptcy protection ahead of a \$356 million payment due on March 15.

According to Bloomberg, Frontier CEO Bernie Han

told creditors during a Jan. 16 meeting that the company will seek a pre-packaged agreement ahead of the mid-March payment deadline.

As the Timberjay has pre-

See...FRONTIER pg. 10



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## COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

#### Embarrass Pancake Breakfast set for Saturday, Feb. 1

EMBARRRASS- Head to the Embarrass Timber Hall for a pancake breakfast to support the Embarrass Fair on Saturday, Feb. 1 from 8 – 11 a.m. Breakfast is all-you-can-eat pancakes, ham or sausage links, fruit cup, juice and bottomless coffee. Breakfasts are held the first Saturday of each month through May. Adult breakfast costs \$5, children 6-10 years are \$3, and children under 5 are free. This event is sponsored by the Embarrass Region Fair Association.

#### "The Strongest Four-Letter Word" at Mesabi Unitarian on Sunday

VIRGINIA- On Sunday, Feb. 2, at Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church, Rev. Eric Northard with present "The Strongest Four-Letter Word." In a world that can seem abrasive, cold and uncaring, one word can help us navigate the toughest times. That word is "love" and it is exactly the message we need to keep front and center in our lives as compassionate, caring human beings. In February we celebrate love in its many forms. The service is at 10:30 a.m. and the church is located at 230 7th St. S in Virginia. The building is handicap accessible.

#### Vermilion Dream Quilters meet Feb. 6

TOWER- The Vermilion Dream Quilters will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 6 at St. Martin's Catholic Church Social Hall in Tower. At this meeting, our program will be One Block Wonder Quilt design. Please bring any One Block Wonder quilts to share. Presenter will be Diane Frerichs. In addition to the presentation, we look forward to seeing everyone's Show and Tell. Our hostesses are Dede Yapel and Joyce Swanson. Our members are from throughout the Iron Range. We encourage, instruct, and share tips with each other. Guests and visitors who are interested in quilting and creative sewing are welcome. For more information, please contact Corrine Hill at 218-753-4600.

#### Hockey Day in Soudan on Saturday, Feb. 8

SOUDAN- Everyone is invited to attend this year's Hockey Day in Soudan on Saturday, Feb. 8 starting at 11 a.m. at the Soudan Skating Rink.

Boot hockey games will be played from 12 noon - 2 p.m. Players are asked to come with their own teams.

The premier event, the Tower vs. Soudan game, will be played at 2 p.m. Teams will be picked prior to the start of the game. Players do not have to live in Tower or Soudan to play.

Food and beverages will served by Good Ol' Days. A 50/50 raffle will be held. The last three years, the raffle raised enough to purchase a new sound system for the warming shack. This year, organizers are raising money to purchase a preowned ice-smoothing unit.



#### NORTHERN PROGRESSIVES Cook-area couple to discuss their experience living abroad in Yemen

Group to meet on Wednesday, Feb. 5 at The Crescent in Cook

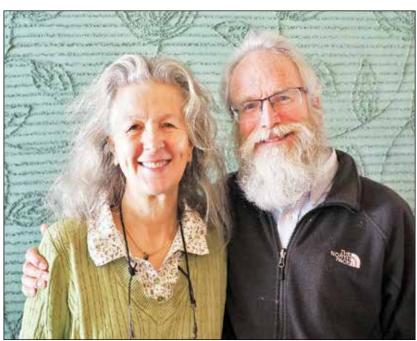
COOK- Cook-area residents Sharon Beatty and David Stanton will share their long-term experiences of living abroad, at the Northern Progressives meeting at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 5, at the Crescent Ball & Grill at 9257 Olson Road in Cook.

Theirpresentation, "Perspectives from a Quarter Century in Yemen," will focus on how living in a foreign culture and experiencing the vast cultural changes in the country over several decades has affected their lives.

"We will talk about the positives that came with these cultural changes as well as what's been lost," Beatty said. "And we'll share what we learned about how to be a good citizen in another country– how much you learn and how you are changed."

Beatty, an RN and pediatric nurse practitioner with a master's degree in International Health, went to Yemen as a Peace Corps volunteer in 1977. Except for a five-year stay back in the United States, she remained in Yemen until 2014 and raised three children there. She worked in a variety of roles in public health and in monitoring the impacts of foreign aid assistance in the country.

Beatty arrived in Yemen just as a revolution ousted the ruling imam in favor of a republic. "These



Sharon Beatty and David Stanton.

were Biblical times," she says, as they watched the country transition through many cultural changes over the years.

Stanton is a teacher who first went abroad as a Peace Corps volunteer to Botswana. He moved to Yemen in 1991 to teach in an international school. Except for one year in Kyrgyzstan, he lived and taught in Yemen until 2014.

After leaving Yemen, the couple lived in Vietnam where Stanton

continued to teach in an international school and Beatty continued her work monitoring the effects of foreign aid. They retired to Cook, where Beatty grew up, and where they have renovated a historic barn that is now their home.

For more information about this event or about Northern Progressives, contact Leah Rogne, 218-787-2212 or leah.rogne@gmail.com.

#### Second Harvest distributed a record amount of meals in 2019

REGIONAL- Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank hit a record 5.1-million-meal distribution mark in 2019. This is the most food ever distributed by the organization in its nearly 36-year history.

"It's bittersweet," shared Shaye Moris, executive director. "On one hand, we're extremely proud of the work that our donors, volunteers and agency partners helped us accomplish. On the other hand, we haven't ended hunger in our region."

Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank is the region's only "food bank" and rescuer of nationally and regionally-donated food for 180 non-profit charitable programs and approximately 44,000 people in need throughout NE Minnesota (St. Louis, Carlton, Lake, and Cook counties) and NW Wisconsin (Douglas, Bavfield, Ashland and Iron counties). Second Harvest was started in 1984 in Gilbert, to assist laid off iron mine workers and their families during an economic recession that had crippled the region. Second Harvest now reaches every corner of the Northland. We couldn't do our work without the support we receive from individuals and organizations throughout our region," Moris shared. "We should be proud as a region that we've provided so many meals to our neighbors in need." In addition to distributing a record amount of food, Second Harvest distributed a record 1.76 million pounds of fresh produce

Food bank proud of region for feeding neighbors



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Students from Vermilion Country School in Tower help unload the monthly order from the Northern Lakes Food Bank at the Tower Food Shelf. file photo

and engaged the most volunteer hours ever. Regional volunteers contributed a record 16,072 hours, the equivalent of 7.73 full-time positions which the food bank estimates saved an estimated \$217,000 in staff expense.

In addition to providing food to other non-profit programs, Second Harvest provides services to over 4,400 people per month as part of its Food Shelf, Mobile Food Pantry, Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors (NAPS) and Back Pack Programs. Over the last year, Second Harvest has rescued and distributed 6.1 million pounds of food or enough food for 4.9 million meals for those in need throughout the Northland. For more information, visit www. northernlakesfoodbank.org.



#### **BREITUNG TOWNSHIP**

## **On-call hours for Breitung police suspended** 24-hour service will resume May 1

by Stephanie Ukkola

Staff Writer

**BREITUNG-** For the next three months, Breitung police officers will only respond to calls when on-duty, which will require residents to rely on St. Louis County sheriff's deputies or the state patrol for emergency calls during other parts of the day. Breitung officers are typically on the job for 10-12 hours each day, but are scheduled as "on-call" at other times to provide coverage 24 hours a day.

The Breitung Town Board, during their regular meeting on Jan. 21, decided to suspend the on-call hours for February through April in an effort to cut costs. The move will save both Breitung and Tower about \$333 per month. Breitung officers, their union rep, and the city of Tower all agreed to the temporary change.

Chairman Tim Tomsich said they chose these months because late winter is typically the slowest time of the year and they are less likely to see a negative impact to the communities at that time. "If, in February, we find out there are just too many calls, we can reevaluate, so it's not all or nothing,"Tomsich said. He noted that he has already contacted the county sheriff's office to make them aware of the change and that they would do their best to respond to true emergency calls in a timely manner. Some of the minor assists that Breitung officers provide, such as addressing barking dogs or helping people locked out of their cars, are not considered emergencies.

#### Other business

► Heard from Tomsich about a site visit inspection from Mai Neng Moua, grants specialist coordinator with Parks and Trails at the DNR. Moua visited

McKinley Park to ensure the park met requirements from past grant funding. Moua asked the board to install a sign acknowledging grant funding from the DNR for McKinley Park development between 1976-1983 and to install an accessibility ramp at the edge of the playground.

► Heard that police officers received a 75-cent raise per hour for this year and will receive a two-percent raise in January 2021 and January 2022.

► Will close the warming shack at the Soudan Rink if no one is skating and will extend hours on skating party days.

► Accepted an estimate from Perpich TV and Appliance for \$1,775 for the purchase and installation of a television in the Breitung Community Room.

► Approved Fire Department officers for 2020.

► Approved a \$55,310 payment to Mesabi Bituminous for work on the Breitung



Community Center parking lot.

► Will purchase a new voting machine for \$5,000. Half of the cost will be paid with a grant from the county.

► Will seek to purchase a 10-foot strip of tax-forfeited property near the Soudan Baptist Church Rectory to use as a utility path.

► Tabled signing a contract with Midco, in order to go over terms with a representative.

► Set the next township board meeting for Tuesday, Feb. 25 at noon.

> Heard that the township's annual meeting will be held Tuesday, March 10. Voting for township offices was set for 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. the same day with the annual meeting to follow the counting of the votes, at approximately 8:30 p.m. Clerk Polly McDonald will not be seeking reelection, Dianna Sunsdahl and Robin Bjorgo have both filed for her seat. Supervisor Greg Dostert is running, unopposed. for reelection.

#### CITY OF ELY

## Ely focuses on economic development for 2020

by KEITH VANDERVORT Elv Editor

ELY-For the Ely Economic Development Authority, the priorities for 2020 look a lot like those advanced in 2019. In a relatively short meeting here on Tuesday, EEDA board members agreed that more of the same is in order since many of their initiatives are long-term in nature.

City council members, acting as the city's economic development authority, met with economic advisor John Fedo to develop a priority list for the coming year. "We are not looking at a huge change, but we can safely say that we took a good bite out of this list going forward," Fedo said.

The city's west end development project, encompassing many facets of economic growth in the city, including the construction of a recreational trailhead, converging trails for motorized and non-motorized users, relocation of the city's Chamber of Commerce,

extension of city streets, expansion of the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH), funding for the proposed Ely **Regional Community Complex** and developing workforce housing, remains a top priority.

"We have been able to impress on our supporters, both in the state House and Senate, that this is a regional/ statewide project that has a number of facets in terms of job creation, tourism, healthcare and housing," Fedo said.

He noted that as EBCH

continues to grow and to add employees, the hospital is realizing an increased need for more nearby housing. "We are looking at ways to make housing as a compatible element to the whole west end development project," he said.

Fedo suggested keeping the West End Redevelopment District as the authority's number one priority for the new year.

Mayor Chuck Novak added that securing funding for the project is the top priority for 2020, noting that Gov. Walz's See DEVELOPMENT....pg. 5

state bonding proposal includes \$2.8 million for the Ely's trailhead development. He said he will continue his efforts at the state capitol this spring to help secure that funding during the legislative session. "That project is huge and requires lots of support," he said.

"The city's budget and capital investment funds are already dedicated this year. There is not a whole lot to be adding, so the development

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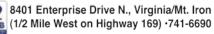
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## **Editorial Troubling actions**Minnesotans have a right to expect

better from state agencies

In recent weeks, Minnesotans have had a peak into the inside operations of two major state agencies— the Department of Natural Resources and the Pollution Control Agency. We should all be alarmed at what we have seen.

For years, particularly as these agencies have reviewed and issued permits for copper-nickel mines in our region, Minnesotans have been able to take some comfort in the notion that these agencies were utilizing a sound decision-making process, based on the best available information. Yet recent legal proceedings should have shaken the confidence of Minnesotans, even those who support these projects.

The revelations last week that the PCA wiped the computers of former commissioner John Linc Stine and the former head of the mining division, Ann Foss, within weeks of their departures, appears not only to violate the agency's rules and state laws on records retention, it looks an awful lot like destruction of evidence. That's particularly so given that PCA officials acknowledged that they not only wiped the former commissioner's computer, but actually destroyed it. That has an awfully familiar ring, especially to residents of the Tower area.

Top officials with both the DNR and the PCA were well aware that litigation was almost certain in the wake of permit approvals for PolyMet. In fact, they had sought extra funds from the Legislature to allow them to hire top-shelf legal teams to defend them. For the PCA to now suggest they had no reason to believe these computers might have held records relevant to that litigation is simply not credible. And there's more. A former Environmental Protection Agency official testified in a Ramsey County court room last week that PCA officials had asked that his office not submit written comments on the state's proposed water discharge permit, something no state agency had asked of him before. He testified that one PCA official told him they didn't want written comments in

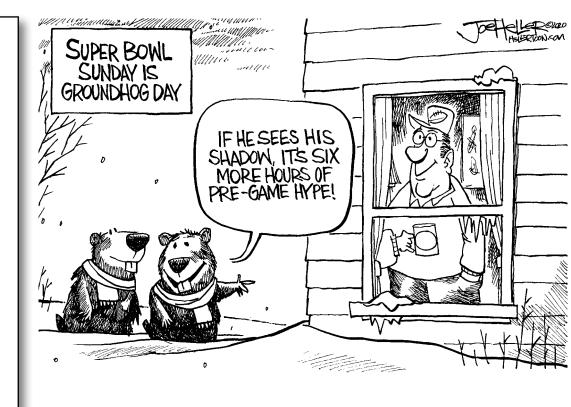
order to avoid press coverage of the EPA's numerous concerns about the legality and enforceability of the permit in question.

The legal case against the DNR, while perhaps less suggestive of a coverup, certainly raises troubling questions of its own. In their recent ruling on three permits issued by the DNR to PolyMet, the Minnesota Court of Appeals cited numerous concerns raised by the DNR's own consultants about PolyMet's proposed tailings dam and plans for a "wet closure" of the tailings pile once mining was completed.

Those experts described the permitted dam construction method, known as upstream construction, as "inherently less safe" than viable alternatives. They also noted that "the only reason" to use "upstream construction, over a conventional downstream-type approach, is to save money."

The DNR's own consultants called a plan to use bentonite clay as a cap on the tailings pile a "Hail Mary type of concept" based on "unsubstantiated, wishful thinking," and stated that the permitted wet closure plan "will significantly increase the potential for a dam failure, and will result in costly monitoring and maintenance over the life of the project."

The DNR's experts also questioned the viability of PolyMet's proposed land disposal of highly toxic residue from the planned hydrometallurgical concentrator. "The soft ground beneath the proposed residue facility consists of up to 30 feet of slimes, peat and tailings concentrate. This will not be an adequate foundation for the 80-foot-high basin," they stated. This is not what Minnesotans should expect from some of their top state environmental agencies. While supporters of the PolyMet project have regularly cited the length of the review and permitting process as evidence of thoroughness, the recent revelations surrounding both the DNR and PCA permits for the project suggest it was not time well spent. Minnesotans have a right to expect better.



#### Letters from Readers

#### Don't buy the promises of the rippers and skippers

OPINION

Friend Ted writes: "Modern mining does not harm the environment."

Unfortunately, Ted, history tells a different story:

1. The profit-takers (PTs) first set up a shell company, "Twin Metals," for example. That shell company has no assets other than the worth of its unsold, processed ore. 2. For as long as the mine is open and operating, the profit is transferred to the parent company. That company is NOT a signatory to the shell company's mining plan or permit. Thus, while it is free to take the mine's profit under various "loan" arrangements, it assumes no liability for future harm. The ore plays out. 3. It always does, right? 4. With no remaining assets, the shell company declares bankruptcy. 5. A bankrupt company cannot be expected to continue tailings maintenance, dewatering or water treatment operations. So those efforts are soon abandoned. Heavy metals contamination to ground and surface water soon follows. 6. Cleanup costs, astronomical with any abandoned industrial mining effort, are then necessarily transferred to the state taxpayers. THIS is what's coming. Ask me how I know. Ted, if you disagree, please provide the names of the principal officers and shareholders of Twin Metals' parent company. Then show us their personal signatures or other acceptance of financial responsibility on the approved mining plan and permit. If you can't do that, we must assume that THIS operation is just another "rip and skip" scheme, exactly like all that have come before. **Duane Ellis Behrens** Elv

## Dear Quiltmaker audiences,

It sounded like you had as much fun watching the Quiltmaker's Gift as we had putting it on. You probably noted that the pit Irene Hartfield directed was comprised of Mesabi Symphony Orchestra musicians. If you liked what you heard, consider joining the MSO on Saturday, Feb. 22 at 2:30 p.m. in VCC's Fine Arts Theatre. We'll play a fulllength concert featuring this year's winners of our Young Artists Competition. It'll be a completely different event from the Quiltmaker, but every bit as solid musically, and every bit as enjoyable. Hope to see you there.

Lynn Evenson String Bass & Percussion Ely

#### Excluding nonprofits from Ely festivals is short-sighted

According to the Ely ChamberofCommercewebsite, the purpose of the Chamber is "To promote the economic, civic and social welfare of the Species. Once we get these nasty critters, we can't get rid of them, and they seriously affect the quality of fishing and swimming in our area lakes. They are working extremely hard to protect the quality of our lakes and rivers.

The Ely-Winton Historic Society gets the bulk of its yearly budget from book sales at these two festivals, showing off Ely's rich history and its hard-working people.

The Ely Winter Festival not only makes thousands of dollars in sales of pins, T-shirts, and mugs, but they hand out thousands of rack cards meant to inspire people to come back to Ely in the winter. They bring visitors to Ely in one gigantic art event.

Visitors eagerly approach the Dorothy Molter booth to talk about when they met Dorothy when they were on a canoe trip as a teenager. If you talk to the multitudes of folks retiring to Ely, they inevitably start with, "I came here for a canoe trip," or "I came here for a dogsled trip." Then they came back, again and again.

The reason the Chamber gave for excluding us is the loss of revenue, due to nonprofits paying \$50 less for a booth. 10 booths "cost" them \$500 in revenue. The Ely Winter Festival will lose much more than this in income. They will also fail to reach thousands of people, talking to them about coming back in the winter. An "investment" of \$500 that provides much more support than that is a fabulous investment in the economic, civic, and social welfare of the people of the Ely area. Nonprofits, please ask yourself what your membership in the Ely Chamber of Commerce gets you when it is time to renew. Residents of Ely, please consider the nonprofits you are involved with, how they make life in Ely so much better, and please advocate on behalf of them remaining in the festivals. Linda Ganister Ely

people of the Ely area."

I believe that their decision to exclude nonprofits from the Blueberry/Arts Festival and the Harvest Moon Festival is extremely short-sighted. The nonprofits in this community make Ely a great place to live, whether they are supporting our hospital, working to keep AIS out of our lakes, or working hard to attract visitors to Ely in the winter season.

I had my appendix out at the Ely-Bloomenson Hospital, and I always put \$5 in the jar at their booth. I had an MRI this fall that the hospital foundation helped pay for. When a family decides to move here, access to good healthcare is one factor in that decision.

At the WICOLA booth, visitors get a chance to see firsthand how they can affect the spread of Aquatic Invasive

## Discovering the mystery of memory

I once heard a comedienne do a riff on getting older. She said, "When I was young, I thought getting lucky meant I went out and met someone I wanted to see again. Now I think I "got lucky" if I walk into a room and remember why I went in there." Memory...or lack of it...is often the



topic of conversation with older folks along with an ever present fear of Alzheimer's, but I hear people of all ages saying things like, "I don't know what's wrong with me...I can't seem to remember anything these days." There are many reasons beyond aging, too broad to cover in this article, but one tidbit that scientists have figured out is that walking through a doorway into a different space does affect memory. Scientists have learned a lot about memory science, but much still remains a mystery.

The topic has always fascinated me, because I have always thought I had a poor memory, and swore when I was in my 20's that I would remember that when I hit my 60's, so as not to blame it all on my age. Through the years, I recognized that I was better with some types of memory than others. For example, I'm a visual, kinesthetic learner, so my memory is enhanced by visual input and a physical connection with the task or information. I've never been very good at what I thought of as mental networking, which is more auditory. I could run into someone who I'd wanted to talk to about something, but my intended topic never came to mind...until later. "Darn! I should have said..." and I end up calling or emailing to follow up. It felt as if these nuggets of information were sitting in separate compartments, refusing to connect through a hallway with closed doors. You may experience this when you don't recognize people out of the context where you met them.

Scientists have discovered that different types of memory reside in different parts of the brain, and it takes multiple segments of the brain working

#### See MEMORY....pg. 5

#### Vote "NO" on Greenwood Option B

This fall, with feigned discussion and reasoning, the Greenwood Board unanimously decided to place a ballot question on the March 10 ballot. The question asks if the clerk's and treasurer's positions should become appointed positions of the board and end the process of electing clerks and treasurers as has been the case for more than forty years. Appointed clerks and treasurers are a rare find as few townships in our state have one. Statewide less than 10 percent have any combination of appointed clerk and/or treasurer. It should be informative to us that our friends in Breitung Township looked at a combined clerk/treasurer but decided against it.

The small town tradition of having an elected town clerk is one that we want to retain. Besides maintaining the small town heritage, the elected clerk has some pragmatic advantages over an appointed clerk.

Electing a town clerk avoids cronyism, or "politics", of having an appointment made by supervisors. Furthermore, clerks have a sensitive role in the administration of elections and town meetings that would be ill served by being beholden to those who are seeking re-election.

An elected clerk (being a township resident) is directly

accountable to the people of the township and serves at the will of the people, not the supervisors. This is especially important during town elections, when the independence of the clerk's office is vital. An appointed clerk (could be a non-resident) comes with an inherent conflict

of interest in this area. All local township supervisors have for many years TRUSTED the electorate to make the selection of clerk and treasurer. This ballot question, forwarded by the town board, indicates THEY DON'TTRUST YOU, the electorate, to take the responsibility to make this decision any longer.

There is no valid reason to take this responsibility and right away from the people. The people's power (right to vote) should NEVER EVER be taken out of the hands of "the many" and placed in the hands of "a few."

> VOTE NO OPTION B. John and JoAnn Bassing **Greenwood Twp**

#### Ambulance funds need to be restored

I am assuming that when the city of Tower paid the contractor and the city engineer for the Harbor Project work even though the grant was being held up due to unapproved changes to the project, the money somehow came out of the Tower Area Ambulance fund. That Ambulance Fund is the only place in the city where \$324,236 was lying around, apparently unprotected. The city Council has stated that it doesn't see a need to track the missing Ambulance Fund money. I guess I'm kind of tracking it for them. It's great that the city got the grant approved with the changes to the project. Now it would be nice if the city would show a little good faith to the TAAS member townships and restore a few hundred thousand dollars in missing money to the Ambulance Fund. Will this be done? It needs to be, and the city needs to begin living with what it chooses to afford.

Letters from Readers

Lee Peterson Greenwood Twp

#### They won't even give me the weather

Not even the weather.

That was what the Greenwood Supervisors decided in a 5-0 vote when they passed a motion to not allow any information, not even the weather, to be given to one singular person. Information that any other person would have statutory unrestricted access to thanks to the Open Meeting Law. Supervisor Mike Ralston raised the issue as part of the supervisor comments section of the meeting. In Supervisor Ralston's motion at the Sept. 10, 2019, board meeting he states, "We are not bound by the public information accessibility act so we don't have to provide him

with any written information".

Ralston states, "we have been told a number of times from Couri and Molly (attorneys representing Greenwood Township) that he is to get nothing without approval from Molly Ryan's office. I don't care if he is asking for the weather report, Molly says don't give it to him. I think a blanket answer can be no!, and let him carry it through." I believed this to be an Open Meeting Law issue so I sought an opinion from the Department of Administration, which offers advisory opinions on the Open Meeting Law. After receiving my request for an opinion, the Department of Administration requested a response from the Greenwood supervisors.

The township hired Mike Couri to respond to the request. Couri wrote a four-page response to the Administration Commissioner, attempting to not only defend the board but assign the blame to the clerk for following the instructions of the boards' vote. In Couris' letter to the Commissioner, he would have us believe that when the Ralston says "I don't care if he is asking for the weather report" and "I think a blanket answer can be no!" that his motion was not clear. I believe Couri knows which elected officials can vote and that their actions are binding.

In her opinion, the Commissioner states, "The board has an obligation to maintain a journal of votes and to provide access to the journal of votes, during all normal business hours where the journal is kept. The result of the board's action is to restrict access to the journal of votes to meeting times for Mr. Maus, specifically. This is contrary to the plain language of section 13D.01."

"Thus, the board should provide a way for all members of the public to access the journal of votes during regular business hours where the records are kept, as required by section 13D.01, subd. 5. The board cannot restrict, via motion, something that is guaranteed in statute."

"The Greenwood Township Board of Supervisors did not provide appropriate access to the votes of members, in response to an Oct. 1, 2019, request."

This is not the first time the Greenwood board has been found in violation of the Open Meeting Law by the Commissioner. In a written response to the opinion, Couri advised the board to make a motion to correct their violation. The board chose not to act on this agenda item at the Jan. 13, 2020, board meeting. The motion of Sept. 10, 2019, still stands.

Jeff Maus **Greenwood Twp** 

#### **MEMORY**...Continued from page 4 -

together to be able to receive information and then encode, sort, store, and retrieve it. In a complex system of chemicals and electricity interacting, the nerve cells-or neurons-receive information and connect with other cells at a gap known as a synapse. The information is exchanged through messengers called neurotransmitters, which are triggered by electrical pulses.

When we recall a memory, the same neurons from the original experience are reactivated and duplicate the moment. Repeated connections strengthen the synapses, and repetitions and new experiences constantly rewire the brain in a process called neuroplasticity. At any given time, 100 billion neurons are passing signals to one another through more than 100 trillion synapses. Some areas of the brain can grow with repeated use as evidenced in a study with London cabbies whose hippocampi, significant in spatial memory, grew larger the longer they drove their routes. I have jokingly explained memory lapses as an overload of information that causes extraneous information to spill out of our heads and splat on the ground. In reality, something like that happens. The stimuli our senses pick up gets stored in the hippocampus and analyzed to determine what is worth retaining in long-term memory. The neurons associated with the "winning" memories are sent to the neocortex, the neural tissue that forms the outside surface of the brain. The amygdala, located in the temporal lobe, also gets in the act, working with the hippocampus to infuse recollections with emotions, such as fear, grief, joy, sadness, love, or shame. Those memories charged with strong emotion are often the ones we remember more vividly, but the intensity can do the opposite, altering or clouding memories.

For example, consider when you walk into a house you're considering buying, your senses will take in lots of impressions: the

or a back porch. That's described as buying a kitchen and getting the rest of the house along with it.

The prefrontal cortex in the front lobe takes responsibility for working memory, letting you reason and do things such as paying your bills or baking a cake. It also connects with the amygdala to help moderate emotional responses. If this connection is damaged, it's harder to overcome fear or resolve disturbing memories, as is often seen with people who have post-traumatic stress disorder.

I am particularly intrigued with the workings of memory in the emotional climate we're experiencing in our country during this election cycle. I have always failed to understand why average people would be gung-no, cheering at the prospect of engaging militarily, endangering the lives of young men and women. I participated in a recent protest at an Ely intersection opposing the threatened war with Iran. Amidst an overwhelming positive response from passers-by, a handful of people yelled, "Trump 2020!" or "Get a life!" (a not-very-clever comment that has never made sense to me.) The school-age girls with

Development Authority

President Heidi Omerza

added, "This continues to

be a living (priority) list,

so if things come to the

forefront we can always

add them to the list because

the hot-topic item will be.

These are all solid items and we have been working

on them for a long time.'

us carried signs that said, "Kids are kids everywhere." and "My future friends live in Iran." And I wished I'd made a sign that said, "Remember."

Because I do remember Vietnam, seeing dear, gentle friends drafted into a war they didn't believe in, while the women of my generation lost brothers, friends, and potential mates to death and crippling physical and mental disabilities. I remember Operation Desert Storm in 1991, which destroyed vital infrastructure, causing crippling, long-lasting devastation to the civilian population. I remember the invasion of Iraq in 2003, beginning another protracted, un-winnable war; and then Afghanistan with the ongoing loss of soldiers and civilians. A 2018 Brown University report on the U.S. wars and military actions in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and Pakistan found that over 750,000 soldiers and civilians died (and possibly many more went uncounted) with another 10 million people displaced due to violence. I remember the wasted money; these wars and actions have cost American taxpayers \$5.9 trillion since 2001, almost \$2 trillion more than all federal

government spending during the 2017-18 fiscal year.

So, why do people say, "Go, Trump!," when he so clearly behaves in an uncaring, amoral, narcissistic, egotistical manner, often spouting incomprehensible nonsense, contradicting himself? I think political strategists fully understand the dynamics of fear in our psyches and memories and have cynically fine-tuned the use of it to manipulate and sway voters. To take one example, they have harped on the fear of "others" taking what is "rightfully ours" to promote racist and xenophobic emotional responses, a strategy often used in the interest of tyranny. Their negative messages are repeated through ads, biased talk shows, pseudo news broadcasts, and even from official White House spokespeople. The bonds of those neural pathways are strengthened. Reason does not prevail. We need to keep our memories alive while pursuing our values.

feeling of the house, the colors, spatial dimensions, smells and sounds. The realtor put some vanilla in a warm oven so the house smells yummy. You'll notice the kitchen canisters are the same ones your mom had, the appliances are perfect, and the cabinets remind you of the house you loved and had to leave in fourth grade. You fall in love with the house, but later can't remember if it had a dining room

Information for this article came from The Science of Memory, a collection of articles published by Meredith Corporation.

#### **DEVELOPMENT**...Continued from page 3

authority will have little ability to go to the city council to ask for additional funds," Novak said. "Unless we find outside sources, for some add-ons to the priorities that are on the list now, there is not much more we can do. Our list is pretty active.'

Novak said the downtown Broadband/Fiber Loop project continues to advance "with just a few stumbling blocks." Securing financing assistance for that project, signing management agreements and developing a construction schedule are all on the to-do list for this year and beyond.

Novak said cost estimates for completing the first phase of the west end project have increased because of the presence of ledge rock that will have to be removed.

"We are also looking

for additional (state) revenue jobs here, and I'll be pushing for that in St. Paul," he said.

Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski provided an update on the Ely Airport development. "On this year's Capital Improvement Project (CIP), we do have snow-removal equipment, a connector taxiway and some additional runway lighting," he said. "Those projects are all set and in motion."

He also noted that airport construction in 2020 will be lighter than in previous years and more projects will be bid for next year.

"I agree that our economic development list is pretty inclusive," Langowski said. The third item on the priority list, "continue to support local business creation and

expansion," is an ongoing task for the authority, he said. "Our new EEDA website will continue to stress and highlight our projects."

Other projects that will continue to receive priority this year include development of a joint tourism marketing initiative across the Iron Range, a plan to clean up the old landfill site, and to increase downtown parking initiatives.

Ely Economic





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

**BREITUNG TOWNSHIP** 

## **Breitung celebrates town hall renovation project**

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

SOUDAN- There was quite a lot to celebrate last week as Breitung Township held an open house and dedication for their new town hall and community building.

The \$1.45 million project was made possible with a \$220,000 grant from the IRRR and a \$75,000 grant from the St. Louis County CDBG program. The township was able to fund the rest of the project.

Township supervisors Tim Tomsich, Greg "Dusty" Dostert, and Chuck Tekautz had help from State Rep. Rob Ecklund and IRRR Commissioner Mark Phillips cutting the ribbon to signify the building's official opening. Tomisch thanked all those who had made the project possible. The project couldn't have been completed without the support of township residents, who agreed to levy increases.

"They believed in this investment," Tomsich said. In addition, the township maintenance staff and fire department members had been instrumental in facilitating the move. And the clerk and treasurer had kept township business running smoothly as they were moved into a temporary office during construction, and then back into their new quarters late last fall.

Ecklund said such projects are something he likes to see on the IRRR agenda.

"It's an investment in the heart of a community," he said. Phillips said under his leadership he was working on funding projects that were "above ground," and not just below ground (infrastructure).

"We are helping make this a desirable place to live," he said.

Phillips also talked about the importance of the local investment in making the project possible.

Representatives from Sen. Tina Smith's office, Pete Makowski, and Rep. Pete Stauber's office, John Eloranta, were also at the open house.

Over 150 attended the af-

Public gets a look at new fire hall, clerk's office, and community room



From left: Chairman Tim Tomsich, Rep. Rob Ecklund, Supervisor Chuck Tekautz, Supervisor Greg Dostert, and IRRR Commissioner Mark Phillips officially declare the new building open for business. photos by J. Summit

ternoon event on Jan. 23.

"We only had four pieces of cake left," said Tomsich, noting they had enough cake to serve at least 150. Fire Chief Steve Burgess had fired up the department's popcorn machine, and the spread also included sub sandwiches, chips, and drinks.

The project included a head-to-toe renovation of the aging town hall structure; new office space for the clerk and treasurer; renovation of the old maintenance garage into the fire hall complete with office space, laundry facilities, and a shower for firefighters; and the creation of a new community room and kitchen in the space previously used as the fire hall. The township's maintenance department and police department have both moved into the former MINOS building, adjacent to the town hall. The project also included improvement and accessibility updates to the Soudan Post Office, and resurfacing of the parking lot serving the post office, town hall, and police/maintenance building.



The new community room has seating available for up to 80. Below: A framed faceplate from the township's old post office was on display in the clerk's office.

The township has installed a public computer and printer in the community room, thanks to a grant from the Blandin Broadband Committee, that is available for use during regular office hours, Tuesday through Thursday,  $12 \operatorname{noon} - 4 \operatorname{p.m.}$ 

The township purchased the faceplates from the old post office boxes and has been selling them as a fundraiser to help furnish the new community

room. A generous donation by Amy Berglund in memory of her husband, Roger Berglund, who died last fall, paid for the ten new tables and 80 folding chairs. Money raised by the sale of the faceplates is helping to purchase an overhead television projector, curtains for the front windows, kitchen supplies, and a rolling chair rack for the folding chairs.



#### COMMUNITY NEWS

Friends of VCS

field trips to the North attendance, and behavior 2019 TSAA annual and helped pay some of Vermilion Lake each quarter.

#### annual meeting

TOWER-Friends of Vermilion Country School held their annual meeting on Jan. 23 at the Vermilion Country School. The group reviewed fundraising and spending over the year. Fundraisers include monthly Senior Bingo and the Fourth of July 5k/10k race.

Friends paid for

Cook VFW Open Daily at Noon **CLOSED on TUESDAYS** 

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

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

Pull-Tabs Sold Daily Lic. 00390

Sunday FREE Pool

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

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

Take-Out 666-0500

American Bear Center, International Wolf Center, Bois Forte Heritage Center, Minnesota Discovery Center, and the Northern Tier Adventure Base in Ely. All three of these trips reinforced the school's environmental education theme for the shelter. vear, which was North

American wildlife. Friends also paid for

trips to Pier 77, the trampoline park in Duluth, and a paintball outing. These trips were rewards for students who had met their goals for academics,

> **TOWER BINGO** Monday, Feb. 3

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

#### Upcoming dates for 2020:

Monday, March 2, 2020 Monday, April 6, 2020 Monday, May 4, 2020 Monday, June 2, 2020

#### meeting

Fall Auction. This year's

auction will be on Thurs-

day, Nov. 12 at the Wil-

es funds for Vermilion

Country School, Tow-

er-Soudan Elementary,

and Tower-Soudan area

purchased prizes for the

elementary school track

and field day, paid the

entry fees for elementary

students who participat-

ed in the Ely Marathon,

and donated about \$950

towards youth baseball

letics and arts opportuni-

ties for VCS students, in-

cluding costs for the choir

to participate in the Min-

nesota State High School

League Choir Contest

and Boundary Waters

Music Festival, paid fees

for online music lessons

through the MacPhail

Center in Minneapolis,

paid for a Giants Ridge

ski trip, winter camping

trip, purchased school

t-shirts and sweatshirts,

TSAA paid for ath-

uniforms.

In 2019, the group

summer youth baseball.

The group rais-

derness at Fortune Bay.

The group also fund-TOWER- The Towed some student couner-Soudan Athletic Ascil activities, purchased sociation held its annual equipment for the school meeting on Jan. 23 at including a new sound the Vermilion Country system with wireless School. The group donatmicrophones, and pured approximately \$4,000 chased a portable outdoor for area youth in 2019. TSAA holds one fund-The Vermilion Run raiser a year, its annual

attracted 83 runners in the 10K and 114 runners and walkers in the 5K.

Officers for 2020 are Dick Larmouth, president, and Jodi Summit, treasurer.

the costs for the August community open house. Officers for 2020 are

Marshall Helmberger, president, Joan Dostert, vice-president, and Jodi Summit, treasurer.

#### Chimpy's Skating Parties Feb. 1. 2. 3

SOUDAN-Chimpy's Skating Parties are now underway. Stop by the Soudan Skating Rink on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 1 and 2 from 12 noon - 2 p.m. and on Monday, Feb. 3 from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

This week's parties are sponsored by Frank and Linda Brula, and Dan and Debbie Wiirre.

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.

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.

#### Township board of audit

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Vermilion Lake Town Board will hold their annual audit of the books of the treasurer and clerk during their regular monthly meeting on Monday, Feb. 3 at 6 p.m. at the Vermilion Lake Town Hall.

#### **Booyah fundraiser** 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- and 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.

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

LOCAL HISTORY

## **Tower-Soudan Historical Society** seeking new members; join today

TOWER-SOUDAN- The vision of Tower-Soudan Historical Society (TSHS) is "to bring alive the rich history of the Tower-Soudan area through people, artifacts, and stories." Membership in the society is a way to support this vision. Annual dues are only \$10 individual or \$20 family.

TSHS is looking for new members. The group applies for several grants through the year, and many of these grants are based on membership numbers. Please help increase the membership by joining.

Some of our current projects are

► Restoration of the Tower Historic Firehall to house new displays and events.

► Maintaining our depot-museum and train, which is a popular tourist attraction at the west end of Tower.



The restored train car is rented out for community events and parties. file photo

► Interviewing people in the area who were a part of Tower-Soudan history.

► Updating Cemetery Online project. ► Gathering information for

the Soudan Mine Memorial.

Please send dues to: Tower-Soudan Historical Society, Box 465, Tower, MN 55790. Be sure to include your name, address, email, and phone. Thank you for your support.

#### **BREITUNG POLICE DEPARTMENT**

#### **Calls:** 133 **Citations/formal** charges/arrests: 0

Monthly mileage: 2,104 (Tahoe: 1,082, Explorer: 1,022)

Squads: Current end of the month mileage for the Gold 2012 Chevy Tahoe is 91,842, current end of the month mileage for the 2017 Ford Explorer is 25,987.

Additional shifts: During the month of



December the Breitung Police worked five extra TZD shifts.

Training: None in December.

Community: Chief Nylund took two families

#### **Police Report Breitung Police Chief** Dan Nylund

to participate in the Shop with a Cop event.

Miscellaneous: Our first responders protect motorists on the road. Too often, however, it is our first responders who

need protecting, as we are injured or killed while on a busy road or highway. Together with our law enforcement partners and State Highway Safety Offices. NHTSA is working to increase awareness of life-saving laws, such as "Move Over" in order to better protect our first responders who place themselves at risk to save lives on the road.

#### THE NEWS OF THE WEEK FROM MS. VERA MILION



#### Dear Hearts,

So happy that it was early in the morning when Hilda had her little contretemps' in the Zup's parking lot. Frigid temperatures do not bring out the best of us. So when the man asked her, as we were about to enter, "Hey Toots, is it cold enough for you?", her natural instincts cut in and she chased him around the parking lot with an abandoned grocery cart. Hilda's auto assault 'dead' when stopped someone opened their car door in her path. The car door was ripped off, the shopping cart crushed like an accordion, and Hilda was confronted by the driver who was not intimidated by Hilda's bellicosity, and an envoy from the grocery store. (A major New Year's resolution for Moi was to work on my vocabulary- I could have said the driver

was a plump grump who considered the bump and here the big book of synonyms failed me.)

If you are not a careful driver, or trying to get to the Fig Newtons which are at the bottom of the bag on the passenger's side, you can get quite a dent. Watch out for oncoming grocery carts.

Just a bit of insurance info here. Your homeowner's insurance DOES NOT COVER this kind of accident regardless how hard you beg and plead with your agent...

and anything else we can get into it' closet, I was inspired to start the New Year with a diet inspiration. In this case a little 'inspiration' was the sudden split of every seam in the pants I possess. I subscribe to EVERY diet magazine in the world. One magazine in Swahili! The pictures looked tantalizing but who in T-S can read Swahili? If you do, please drop your name and phone number at the TJ office. Someone did give me a copy of the 'Ornis Diet." But it's not

hefty, substantial, oh well, elephantine? Want to go on this diet with me which emphasizes exercise, stress management and relationships? If you ever want to see your feet again honey, I'd start NOW."

Don't know about your friends, but if I suggested to any of mine that they were fat, fat, fat, on the verge a nervous breakdown or a possible divorce, wouldn't there be one less guest at their birthday party? And here ladies and gentlemen are their SUGGESTIONS

for breakfast: six ounc-

es Greek yogurt topped

with 1/2 cup strawber-

ries and 1 teaspoon hon-

ey. You can also have

one slice whole-grain

toast smeared with half

a mashed avocado. I

checked out the produce

and vegetable section at

Zup's and they had good

fruit and vegetable choic-

es: orange slices, lemon

drops, bing cherry bars,

candy corn AND Boston

baked beans. Can't wait

**Ms. Vera Milion** 

Ta ta for now,

for lunch.

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

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

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

Meals are served from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. on days when the charter school is open. Call the school at 218-300-1447 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.

#### Week of Feb. 3

Monday- Chicken Sandwich, Šoup Tuesday-Taco

Salad, Corn Bread Wednesday- Rotini

w/Meat Sauce Thursday-Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Dinner Roll, Green Beans Friday- Chicken Chow Mein, Brown Rice, Bread Stick

#### Week of Feb. 3

#### 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 Feb. 18.

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.



Thank you for your thoughtful kindness at a time when it was greatly appreciated.

The Family of Alice Taylor



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and there were witnesses. So we start the New

Year with a BIG DENT and a BIGGER insurance premium- if we had just been able to get to the carry-out person BEFORE the agent interviewed the witnesses... and WE know who you are people. Your New Year's Resolution should be always to bring the carts BACK INTO THE STORE after you have unloaded your groceries into your car.

We have undecorated the house, packed things away carefully, and labeled every bag, box, and carton. We just hope that this year the labels will STAY ON!

However, while I was hauling the boxes to the 'Christmas decorations



a diet, the article said, (don't they all say that?).

> "The Ornis diet emphasizes exercise, stress management and relationships, spending time with those you love and respect, and leaning on them for support, which can powerfully affect your health in good ways." But don't they all use that little catch phrase? Do you have a friend with whom you can spend time, each day, those you love and respect? Aren't you really saying, "Heather, you know that I love and respect you, but you have become a little heavy,

#### Transfer station

#### Soudan Canister

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

#### Hwy. 77 Canister Winter hours now in effect

Thursday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

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

#### Bookmobile Schedule

#### Wednesday, Feb. 5 and 26; March 18

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

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

For further information, call the Arrowhead Library System at 218-741-3840 or www.arrowhead.lib.mn.us Publisher Marshall Helmberger General Manager Jodi Summit Staff Writers Melissa Roach Stephanie Ukkola E. M. Schultz Ely Editor Keith Vandervort Office Manager M. M. White Graphics/Ad Sales Scarlet Lynn Stone Ad Sales/Sports Jay Greeney Bill Stone Ad Sales

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

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

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#### 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

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

#### Support aroups

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** schedule

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

Feb. 4 - Jennifer and Blake Frekking -Sled Dog Racing

#### **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.

#### 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



ravens and squirrels fun backyard entertainment



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#### OUR COMMUNITY

## **New postmaster named for Ely**

#### by KEITH VANDERVOR Ely Editor

ELY – Mike Lund is the new postmaster for the Ely Post Office. He was named to the position earlier this month, replacing Susan Maki. Lund has been the officer in charge at the Ely facility since March 2, 2019.

Lund, who grew up in Lake City, Minn., is a graduate of Vermilion Community College where he received a diploma in watershed science. He previously worked for the United States Geological Service.

He started with the U.S. Postal Service in 2014 as a clerk in Babbitt. Since then he has served in various postal positions on the Iron Range, including Cotton, Gilbert, Chisholm, Virginia, Forbes, Iron Junction, Buhl and Mt. Iron.

Lund moved to Ely in 2015 with his wife, Brooke. They have two children, Henrick, 5, and

Gustav, 2. "I am honored and excited to be Ely's postmaster," Lund said. "The

**UNITED STATES** 

POSTAL SERVICE.

employees here help make me a good leader. We work together as a team. They get all the credit." Lund

Mike Lund is the new postmaster in Ely. photo by K. Vandervort

oversees five city carriers, four postal clerks, and four highway contract routes.

## Ely awarded grant for Pioneer Mine Legacy amendment supports history organizations

by KEITH VANDERVORT

ELY - The Minnesota Historical Society announced last week that the city of Ely is a recipient of a Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Small Grant (\$10,000 and less).

As many as 51 such grants, totaling \$456,026. were awarded in 28 counties.

Small grants are awarded quarterly to help nonprofits, educational organizations, government units and tribal organizations preserve and share Minnesota history. This cycle of awards was approved by the MNHS Executive Council late last year.

The city of Ely will receive \$10,000 in funding to hire a consultant to develop architectural drawings for the retaining wall at the Ely Pioneer Mine site, which operated from 1889-1967 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grantsaremadepossibleby the Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on Nov. 4, 2008. The Legacy Amendment supports efforts to preserve Minnesota land, water and legacy, including Minnesota history and cultural heritage.



The Ely Pioneer Mine site is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. photo by K. Vandervort

#### Help preserve Ely's heritage

ELY - Applications are now being accepted for a position on the City of Ely's Heritage Preservation Commission.

for FY2021.

Grants are available for history and historic preservation projects in two funding tiers. Small grants of \$10,000 or less are awarded quarterly. The next small grant application deadlines are April 10 and July 10, 2020. Large grants of more than \$10,000 are offered once a year. All grants are administered through a competitive process using professional standards and criteria. For more information on the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants program, including application deadlines, visit www.mnhs.org/preservation/legacy-grants. Applications are accepted only through the MNHS grants portal.

## Ely Editor

survival antics

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

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The goal of the commission is to safeguard the heritage of Ely by preserving sites and structures that reflect elements of the city's cultural, social, economic, political, visual or architectural history.

The HPC has been active in several projects over the last six years including the listing of the Ely Community Center on the National Register, the Re-Use study of the Community Center, the Downtown Survey and most recently the Condition Assessment of the Pioneer Mine Site. The commission also developed and maintains the Historic Downtown Walking Tour.

Please send a letter of interest and qualifications to the Ely City Clerk's Office, 209 E. Chapman Street, Ely MN 55731 or email casey.velcheff@ ely.mn.us.

the 2020-2021 bienni- FY2020 and \$7,004,000

The Minnesota um for the Minnesota Historical Society received Historical and Cultural a legislative appropriation Heritage ("Legacy") of \$12.85 million for Grants: \$5,846,000 for

## Ely Foreign Policy group meets Feb. 13

ELY - The public is invited to participate in the continuing Great Decisions foreign policy discussion group. Sessions take place from 4 -5:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of the month in classroom 124 at Vermilion Community College.

A discussion guide on the topics being covered this year 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.

The programs are free and open to the public. Participants are not required to attend all sessions or to register in advance. The remaining sessions and dates include:

► 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.

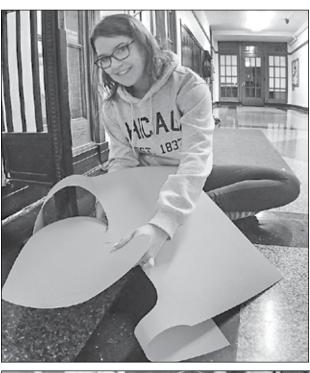
For more information, e-mail khv771@gmail.com.

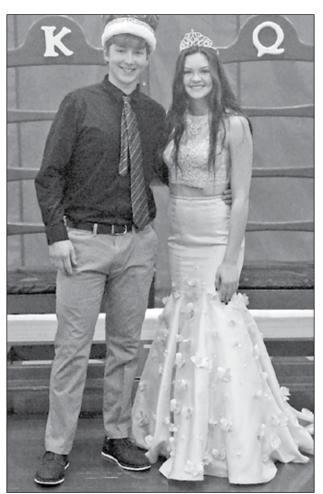
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#### **ELY LOCAL NEWS**

#### ISD 696

## Winter Frolic celebrated at Memorial High School





The 2020 Memorial High School Winter Frolic king and queen, above, are seniors Steve Kerntz and Brielle Kallberg. The were crowned during a pep rally on Tuesday. Sophomore Sidney Marshall, left, helped decorate the school hallways last Sunday. photos by K. Vandervort



ELY - Early voting is underway in the city of Ely for the March 3 Minnesota presidential primary.

Early voting at Ely City Hall will continue, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Early voting will also be available on Saturday, Feb. 29 from 10 a.m., to 3 p.m. and on Monday, March. 2 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Regular balloting will be held on Tuesday March. 3, at the Ely Senior Center, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Only city residents can participate in early voting at City Hall. Residents of the surrounding townships must contact the county auditor's office to obtain absentee ballots.

According to Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski, voters must first fill out an absentee ballot application. "Once we receive that, the ballot will be given to the voter," he said. For more information, call City Hall, 218-365-3224, or email deputyclerk@ely. mn.us.

Voters can also apply for a ballot or regis-

#### ter for the primary on the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state. mn.us.

Despite state legislation passed in 2016 that cleared the way for a presidential primary election in Minnesota, caucuses will still take place on Tuesday, Feb. 25, as the political parties select delegates to county unit conventions. Ely caucuses will be held at Vermilion Community College.

#### Townships

Morse and Fall Lake townships will hold elections and their respective annual meetings on Tuesday, March 10. Annual meetings are held for residents to decide on budget, property tax levy, and other issues.

In Morse Township, longtime supervisor Bob Berrini is running unopposed for another threeyear term.

In Fall Lake Township, incumbent Rod Gruba is not seeking re-election. Three candidates, Dean Barrett, Chad Davis, and Eric Hart are running for a three-year

# Sector of the Ely-Winton Historical Society

#### January 30, 1920

#### New rail line named Argo

Argo is the name which the Mesabi Iron Company has decided upon for its location on the Eastern Mesaba range. It will be near the present railroad of the Dunka River branch of the Duluth and Iron Range railroad, 15 miles east of Mesaba station on the main line.

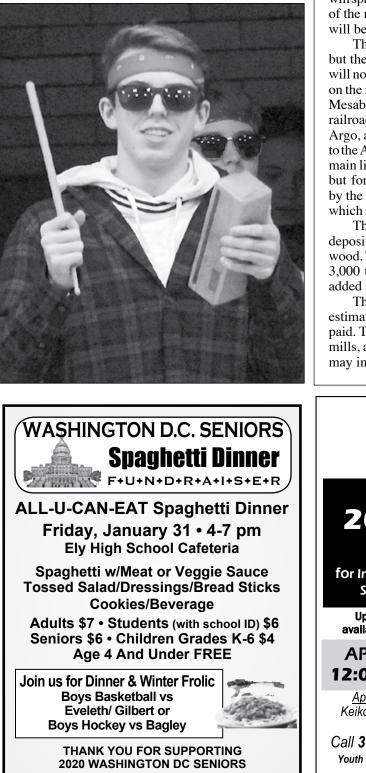
It is there that will be erected the first unit of the large enterprise for working the low-grade deposits of magnetite. It is there that a new town will spring up and grow in proportions to the growth of the new industry. It is quite possible that Argo will become the Hibbing of the East Mesaba.

The Mining Review is not officially informed, but there is excellent reason to believe that Argo will not for long be just a spur, but will be a station on the main line for ore shipping between Ely and Mesaba stations. There are advantages which the railroad can obtain by routing ore from Ely via Argo, and it is fully expected that the present spur to the Argo site will be extended to Ely. The present main line via Tower will of course be maintained, but for the movement of ore, the possible route by the new mining location will have advantages which include lessened mileage and better grades. The new plant for treating the low grade deposits will be constructed of concrete, steel and wood. The first unit will have capacity for treating 3,000 to 4,000 tons per day. Other units will be added as circumstances dictate. The original unit will entail an expenditure estimated at \$3 million and this money has been paid. The equipment will consist of crushers, ball mills, and magnetic separators, etc. The company may install a steam plant to generate power.





Games of skill during the pep rally, above, included the banana pass relay - feet only. Winter Sainio, left, waits for the brain freeze during the Slushie-eating contest. Luke Olson, below, is with the band.



#### 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.

#### **NOTICE** ELY FOOD SHELF CHANGES

#### FEBRUARY FOOD SHELF ADDITIONAL DAY AND DATE CHANGES

To help ease the burden of winter bills, the Ely Area Food Shelf has scheduled two shopping days during the month of February. This means shoppers may visit the Food Shelf twice in February to supplement extra food needs. Shopping days will be Wednesday, February 5 <u>AND</u> Wednesday, February 26 at the usual time from 11 AM to 6 PM each day.

In March, the shopping day will return to the usual monthly 3rd Wednesday of the month on March 18.

If there are any questions please call 218-235-8527

Gardner Humanities Trust

#### We are now accepting 2020 Arts Grant Applications

for Individual Artists, Project & Youth Grants, Scholarships & Operational Funding

Updated grant applications and guidelines are available online at www.gardnertrust.org

#### APPLICATION DEADLINE IS: 12:00 noon on Tues., March 17

<u>Applicants are strongly encouraged</u> to contact Keiko Williams, Executive Director, by early March for help and review of their applications.

#### Call 365-2639 or email info@gardnertrust.org

Youth Grant applicants must call Keiko by Friday, Feb. 21 to schedule a grant review meeting.

#### NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

## Several North Woods students top placers at archery meet

by Stephanie Ukkola Staff Writer

FIELD TWP- Several students at North Woods School were top placers during the North Woods Grand Prix Archery Meet, held on Saturday, Jan. 25 at the North Woods gym. The elementary team came in third overall. Merilee Scofield led the way, scoring 267 points

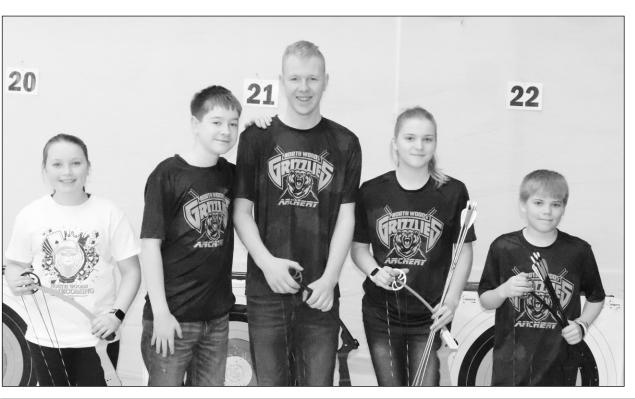
for first for fifth-grade females. Cedar Holman ranked second with 248 points for fourth-grade males.

In the middle school competition, Cadence Nelson tied for second in the female division with 273 points.

Jeremiah Voges placed second for high school males with 286 points, narrowly missing the

first spot by three points against a Mountain Iron-Buhl student.

The next meet is at Hill City School on Saturday, Feb. 8. There is also a 3-D archery meet at Nashwauk High School on Saturday, Feb. 1.





Top: Sixth-grader Sophie Arvila and junior lan Olson take their aim. Left: North Woods archers Sophie Arvila, Gunner Dantes, Ian Olson, Emily Grahn and Collin Grahn pose for a picture after their flight. photos by B. Smith



#### JOHN **VUKMANICH**

As adults, we are fairly well aware of how we learn. I am aware that in order to learn something new I like to read about it, then process it, then watch it being done if possible, and then do it. For some learners, it may only be necessary for one learning strategy, but science has proven that students learn best when they have multiple opportunities and methods to learn and also demonstrate mastery.

#### Improving teaching methods with observation form their craft? Have you ever watched so closely that you literally were able to dissect their technique and break it down into smaller parts? When higher-level athletes work to improve their game, they often watch video footage of another and analyze things such as the mechanics of throwing a ball, swinging a bat, or executing a block. Olympic swimmers frequently watch footage of themselves filmed in an "end-

less pool," a small swimming pool that actually has current in it so that the swimmer, who is actually stationary, has the same feeling as swimming in motion. The mechanics of the stroke and hydrodynamics are broken down and the swim-

also expected to be the best at what they do, rarely get the chance to observe another professional in a classroom environment. The main reason? They are teaching a class! Teachers do have opportunities for staff development. There is no question that there are wonderful professional development trainings and conferences that are meant to give teachers the tools they need to educate the diverse student bodies that we have.

However, it isn't the same as seeing other teachers teach. When we watch other teachers, real teachers in front of real kids, we become better. We've seen videos of master teachers at large schools in other states working with

cated teachers have had in challenging, poverty-ridden neighborhoods. It seems like a fantasy, though. Seeing a teacher working with students, real students from varied backgrounds, who all see school differently gives a different perspective. A couple weeks back,

we gave teachers at North Woods Elementary just that opportunity. Teachers Watching Teachers is what we called it. Teachers in K-6 were able to sign up for varying time slots to watch other teachers in the school "do their thing!" Some teachers stayed close to their grade level, others chose to observe farther away from their own world. A substitute covered our classes for the 30 to 60-minute slots. What did we learn? Teachers were asked by the boss to only make positive remarks.

I asked them to indicate one positive thing that they learned and one item that they plan on using in their class.

Just like our kids, our teachers bring different skills to the table. We have teachers who are fresh out of college, still crafting their trade. Others have been teaching for 30 years and have seen changes in students, families, initiatives, laws, presidents, and expectations. Some are super-techie, able to use technology to its fullest. Some are full of dynamic personality, others more deliberate. We all can take parts of what others do to strengthen how we relate to our students. Teachers commented on how they enjoyed seeing how other teachers handled certain things in different ways. Teachers learned some different methods to do formative assessments, which is checking for student understanding of a concept "in the moment." They learned about different strategies for reviewing material, and also ways to incorporate technology into lessons. All in all, I think it was a worthwhile activity that we can build upon in the future. It also helps to get us all on the same page.

Thanks to our teachers for being brave enough to let your colleagues come into your rooms and watch you work your magic. Staff are excited to do this again, and I look forward to seeing what everyone has to offer their colleagues. We learn by watching and doing.

Have you ever watched a professional athlete or musician permer learns how to go faster using less energy.

elite college-bound students. We've read stories Teachers, who are of successes that dedi-

## North Woods High School Honor Roll - Fall Semester

#### **A Honor Roll**

#### Seniors

Trevor Adelmann Katrina Chapman Bethany Cotten Kenzie Fox Clayton Janssen Trevor Morrison Olivia Niska Nicole Olson Karlyn Pierce Nicole Roy Kayla Towner Macy Viita

#### Juniors

**Emily Fosso** Brynn Simpson Zoe Trip Cassandra Villebrun

#### **Sophomores**

Morgan Burnett Ty Fabish Trey Gibson Alex Hartway Joseph Hoagland Taylor Jones Abby Koch Michaela Luecken Jacob Panichi Olivia Udovich Brandie Walker

#### Freshmen

Cooper Antikainen Kohen Briggs Grace Koch Kaden Ratai Karah Scofield Elias Smith Steven Sopoci Skyler Yernatich

#### **Eighth Grade**

Jonah Burnett Annabelle Calavera Addy Hartway Helen Koch McKenna McCormick Victoria Olson Madison Taylor Trinity Vidal Jacob Whiteman

#### Seventh Grade

Addison Burckhardt Alex Burckhardt John Carlson Aki Goodsky-Spears Aidan Hartway Sierra Schuster Amber Sopoci

#### **B Honor Roll**

Seniors Brielle Anderson Lauren Arvila Zander Carr Daniel Crockett Samantha Francke Luke Gabrielson Pierce Johnson Amia Kisch Wyatt Kneen Morgan Malecha David Moes Kylie Parson Neiva Smith Michaela Tschida Taylor Vagle Kennedy Wardas Brian Whiteman Courtney Woods

#### Juniors

Monique Benner Jocelynn Carver Zachary Cheney Jack Cook Megan Cote Samuel Frazee Olivia Fultz Shandra Hanninen Aubrey Koskovich Joey Lakoskey Andrew Peak Austin Sokoloski **Elijah Squires** Cole Thiel Elliana Thom

#### **Sophomores**

Shyla Adams-Lightfeather Haley Bogdan Ivy Chaulklin Tyler Chiabotti Joshua Copeland Christopher Fairbanks Kadence Holland Anneliese Isham Sierra Jensen Timothy Lilya Sean Morrison James Towner Kaya Tschida Jaden Whiteman

#### Freshmen

Thomas Debeltz Kia Deegan Brielle Hujanen Hannah Kinsey Benjamin Kruse Garrett Lappi Kiana LaRoque Angeline Lilya Dillon Musakka Anya Pearson Jacob Swanson Avery Thiel **Emily Trip** 

#### **Eighth Grade**

Preston Anderson Brandon Cook Madison Dantes Sean Drift Emily Grahn Rhonda Hoagland Alexandra Holm

Cynthia Kirkman Riley Las Zefrym Mankowski Cadense Nelson Jessy Palmer Ella Smith Autumn Swanson Caleb Thom **Destiny Weiss** Keenan Whitney Luke Will

#### **Seventh Grade**

Kalvyn Benner Jacob Benoit Olivia Boone Alauna Boshey Rory Bundy Ella Cornelius Nia Gaskell Nevada Gauthier Ryder Gibson Sonya Hannine Ira Isham Talen Jarshaw Mya Kinsey Jasmine Munson Louie Panichi Ethan Ploof Carson Refsdal Victoria Ryan Dakota Schwarzenberger Terrence Strong-Boshey **Richard Swinson** Lydia Trip

#### HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY

## Orr gains a new centenarian

Helen Lehman (seated) recently turned 100. Her children, their spouses, and Mayor of Orr Joel Astleford celebrated with her. Standing, left to right: Ron Osborne, Diane Osborne, Tom Appleby, Joel Astleford, Kathy Lehman, Kenneth Lehman, and Pat Appleby.

Happy Birthday Helen! submitted photo



#### COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### Local students named to Dean's List at St. Cloud

ST. CLOUD- Gena Flank of Cook and Makenzie Sokoloski of Orr have been named to the fall semester Dean's List at St. Cloud University. Both students are pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education.

To be eligible for the honor, students must have a grade point average of 3.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

St. Cloud State University is Minnesota's second-largest university, with more than 13,000 students from 90 different nations. Students choose from more than 60 graduate study programs and more than 200 majors, minors and pre-professional programs that hold nearly every available national accreditation. The 100-acre campus is located about an hour northwest of Minneapolis along the banks of the Mississippi River.

grade meet in the Commons (after school breakfast is cleared).

Books and Bagels is an enjoyable time to sit and read with a child at school. Caregivers can see classroom libraries and observe what books are read.

"Reading with a caring adult builds the foundation that our kids need for future success," emphasized Beth Wilenius, North Woods Kindergarten teacher. "It is so important to make reading a special time every day."

North Woods celebrates I Love to Read Month with special story times, mystery readers, and an elementary-wide reading day. Students can trade books every Wednesday with the Book Swap Cart. When the cart arrives at their classroom, students can swap a book from home with a book on the cart. North Woods Grizzlies are great readers!

#### Sarah Maki's "Surface Work"

#### Father-Daughter evening held at North Woods, Feb. 7

FIELD TWP- All North Woods girls, Kindergarten though sixth grade, are invited to enjoy an evening with their father, father figure, or a special adult in their lives on Friday, Feb. 7 from 6-8 p.m. Dress your best and get ready for dancing, ice cream sundaes, snacks, prizes, and photos. RSVP as soon as possible to the school. Tickets should be purchased on or before Wednesday, Jan. 29. Cost is \$10 for couples and \$5 for each additional girl. Tickets at the door are \$15 for couples and \$5 for each additional girl. For questions, email aprilsalmi@hotmail.com. This event is organized by the North Woods PTO.

#### NWFA Board of Directors to meet, Feb. 18

COOK- The NWFA Board of Directors. The board will meet at 11 a.m. ing costumes, drumming up 10th-century recipes, and pounding out a new stage set, toe-biting cold or cap-stealing winds become mere petty nuisances. It is a huge blessing for the team to once again be able to present a drama event to the community.

There will be three performances of the original drama, "Piercing the Snow," which is a tale of two brothers. The first will be a dinner theatre at the Cook Community Center beginning at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22. The second will also be at the Cook Community Center, but it will be just the drama performance with a snack intermission on Sunday, Feb. 23 at 3 p.m. The snack performance will again be performed at the Gilbert Community Center on Saturday, Feb. 29 at 4 p.m.

This year, the play is a historical biography from 10th-century Bohemia. You will be the King's guests at the Prague Castle. We invite guests to attend in period

#### NWFA art groups

COOK- The NWFA Gallery is open Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and is located at 210 S River St. in Cook. Stop in to view the gallery or attend one of our regular art groups listed below. For more information, visit the website at nwfamn.

org. Open Studio Art takes place every Saturday at the NWFA gallery from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. All artists and wouldbe artists are welcome to share the time and space. All are welcome with no registration or membership required.

The Woodcarving Group meets on Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. All skill levels are welcome to attend and participate. No registration required. Some tools are available to practice with. Call Howard at 218-741-7941 to verify.

The NWFA Winter Writers Group will meet on Saturday, Feb. 8 from 1 to 3 p.m. The group meets on the second Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the NWFA Gallery with volunteer educator Dr. Ellie Larmouth. All interested persons may attend. Just drop in.

Cook Optical Walthy Ese Care for Less Stop in & Compare HOURS: 9-4:30 Mon.-Fri. Jerel D. Johnson, ABOC Certified 23 E. Vermilion Dr., Cook EYE EXAMS • 218-666-2879 Call for Appointment Dr. Jensen, Optometrist Dr. Bechthold, Optometrist

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#### North Woods families invited to Books and Bagels, Feb. 3

FIELD TWP- North Woods School invites elementary families to Books and Bagels on Monday, Feb. 3 from 8:30 to 9 a.m. This annual event kicks off I Love to Read Month. Families with a student in preschool to second grade meet in their student's classroom. Families with a student in third to sixth

#### opening reception, Feb. 7

COOK- Sarah Maki, February's exhibiting artist, will open her showcase "Surface Work" with a public reception on Friday, Feb. 7 from 5 to 7 p.m. Maki, who grew up in Cook, will have her art on display at NWFA from Thursday, Feb. 6 to Friday, Feb. 28. on Tuesday, Feb. 18 at the gallery.

#### Original drama, "Piercing the Snow," showing Feb. 22-23

COOK- First Baptist Church of Cook's "Bleak Mid-Winter Players" have discovered a cure for the long Cook winter - preparing a feast and drama for the community. In the pursuit of memorizing lines, sewattire, but costumes are not necessary to attend. Tickets for the din-

ner theatre are \$10 per person or \$30 per family. Tickets for the other two performances are \$3 per person. We recommend buying or reserving your tickets ahead of time as performances, especially the dinner theatre, could sell out. Please stop by or call the First Baptist Church office at 218-666-5979 for any further details and to reserve or buy your tickets. 2950] and Box 718, Ely, MN 55731

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## **Events at Cook Public Library**

#### Adults

Tuesday, Feb. 11: Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group, 12 p.m., presented by Scenic Rivers Clinic

Tuesday, Feb. 11: Friends of the Cook Public Library Meeting, 5 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 20: Movie: Death on the Nile, 6 p.m. Watch the 2004 movie of Agatha Christie's Death on the Nile, 98 minutes. Popcorn and water provided by Friends of the Cook Public Library.

Thursday, March 5: One Book, One Community: "Death on the Nile" by Agatha Christie. There is plenty of time to read the book and join us at the library for a book discussion at 5 p.m.

#### Teens (7-12 grades)

Friday, Feb. 21: Teen Escape Room, 6 p.m. All teens are welcome to "escape" from the library. Food provided by Friends of the Cook Public Library

#### Elementary

Thursday, Feb. 13: LEGO Challenge, 4 p.m. Elementary students are invited to design a creation from 35 LEGO pieces that will hold a marble and won't break when dropped from different height levels. LEGOS will be provided. A snack will be provided by Friends of the Cook Public Library.

#### Preschool

Story Time, Fridays at 10:30 a.m.

Feb. 7: Off We Go to Mexico Feb. 14: Planets & Stars Feb. 21: Little Monsters Feb. 28: Let's Do Magic Call 753-2950 to subscribe to the Timberjay!





\*Discounts provided every day; marked prices reflect general U.S. market value for similar products. No coupons or other discounts may be applied to "Your Price" items.

#### **LOGGING**...Continued from page 1

manager for St. Louis County. While loggers often have to plow snow off access roads to facilitate freezing, it typically takes weeks of subzero temperatures, preferably in the 20-30 below range, to firm up those areas enough to support heavy logging equipment. But at a time of year when the average low temperature in much of the area is anywhere from 5-10 degrees below zero, lows have, more recently, been running in the teens or even 20s above zero.

"We've had a number of loggers who have cleared their routes, but we just haven't had the cold weather to freeze things up," said Jason Meyer, deputy lands director for St. Louis County.

"We have loggers out there, but they've been having to go to high ground to access wood."

Timber that's accessible entirely from high ground, commonly known as "summer chance," is typically reserved by loggers for summer work, when most timber isn't available.

It's a quandary for loggers, notes Higgins. "If you can't get your winter wood, the temptation is to go cut summer wood. But then you don't have summer wood to cut later," he said.

Skurla said he knows many loggers are going to need contract extensions and said he expects St. Louis County land managers will do what they can to accommodate loggers. "They're our customers," he said.

While extensions will give loggers more time to harvest their sales, they won't replace the lost income and the higher expenses that loggers are experiencing this winter. Just moving snow is a substantial expense notes ACLT's Dane. "One major fuel vendor told me that fuel costs for most loggers have gone up 25 percent just because they have to operate in the deep snow. One logger told me spent an extra \$8,000 just keeping roads open to logging sites so far."

Dane, who has served as ACLT's executive director for 16 years, says these are the worst conditions he's seen yet in the woods.

"There are loggers that will not survive this winter," he said. "It's a

mess right now."

Adding to the misery is the fact that markets for wood remain relatively soft. While siding plants are still running at near-capacity, the paper market is soft, according to Higgins.

Meyer said he's seen the same thing in the buildup of timber under contract with St. Louis County. "The last few years we've had a slower harvest," he said. "It seems like our volume of timber under contract has been growing, and that's the impact of limited markets. We were even seeing summer aspen being stockpiled in some cases, because mills weren't taking wood." When the mills aren't buying, loggers slow their cutting volume and that inevitably leads to a buildup of uncut inventory.

That worries public land managers who are now facing new demands for contract extensions, adding to the backlog. "We already have a surplus of wood," said Meyer, who said the next few weeks will determine whether the winter is a bust or can still be salvaged for most loggers. "We're hoping for a colder February," he said.

#### TOWER....Continued from page 1

membership and has been inactive for years.

Ranua noted that she can find no founding documents for the city's charter commission and said she is unclear on the proper terms of office for members of the commission other than guidance from state law. Councilor Sheldon Majerle suggested that the terms might be continuous, although he was uncertain. State law sets the terms of office on a city charter commission at four years. The city currently has three vacancies on the commission.

The city also has vacanciesontheGundersen Trust board as well as the planning/zoning commission, with no volunteers having stepped forward despite advertisements for the openings. Mayor Orlyn Kringstad urged councilors to "beat the bushes" for a recruit for the Gunderson Trust. The council did approve a motion to ask TEDA to recommend one of its members to serve on planning/zoning given that most of the matters that come before the commission are development related. Any TEDA member appointed to the commission would have to be a city resident or a business owner to comply with the membership requirements of the commission.

The council also approved the appointment of Miranda Kishel to TEDA to fill the vacancy left by Marshall Helmberger, who has assumed the position of TEDA executive director. The council also agreed to amend its Ordinance 86 to reduce the number of airport commission members from the current eight to a minimum of four, with continuing terms. Ranua said she would research the amendment process and said she considered it a test run for a number of other ordinance updates that will need to be done in the next year. The council also motioned to have Ranua research the process to repeal an ordinance establishing representation on the long-defunct Vermilion Landfill Authority.

In other reorganization business, the council voted to issue a request for proposals for a new bond counsel, but voted down a suggestion by Kringstad that the city seek proposals for a new city engineer. Ranua said establishing a working relationship with a new engineer would be time consuming and that she preferred to stay with a known entity.

The council later tabled action on the official newspaper to give them more time to review sealed bids that the council opened at their Monday meeting. The bid from the Tower News appeared to be lower in cost, although Ranua had asked for circulation data as well. Publisher's statements submitted by the two papers showed that the Timberjay's Tower edition has more than twice the number of paid in-county mail subscriptions as the Tower News. The council is expected to take the issue up again at their Feb. 10 meeting. The council also took up the issue of pay for city positions, which prompted a discussion about whether the city should move away from offering set salaries for many city positions in favor of hourly wages that would require employees to actually document took particular issue with the emergency management director position, for which the city pays former Breitung police chief Jesse Anderson \$200 a month. Ranua said she has never had any contact with Anderson, has seen no job description, employment file, or work product since beginning her job in October and she has recently discontinued paying for the position.

"If you went to a wage amount, then you are getting a timecard from that individual," noted Ranua. "When you're setting that salary, you don't have that interaction."

While Ranua said she wasn't necessarily recommending a change, she did note that the city of Tower is paying the highest per capita costs for police and ambulance service of any city under 2,500 in the state. That's based on 2017 data maintained by the state auditor, and it doesn't include the sharp increase in costs for the Tower ambulance service since 2017.

"I'm wondering if we shouldn't look at some other cities and try to find out why we are where we are in terms of per capita expense," said Kringstad. "Why are we number one?"

After more discussion, the council approved tee, including Kringstad, council member Rachel Beldo, and Ranua to look into the issue

#### **Other business**

In other action, the council: > Unanimously approved the hiring of John Harju to fill the full-time maintenance

assistant position being vacated by the promotion of Ben Velcheff to maintenance director. The hiring committee had recommended Harju after interviews with various applicants.

➤ Appointed the following individuals to serve as election judges for the upcoming presidential nomination primary: Morgan Carlon, Terri Joki-Martin, Julie Johnson, Marjorie Johnson, Sheldon Majerle, and Mandy Northrup. The election is set for March 3.

➤ Adopted a new city council meeting schedule that calls for one regular meeting per month, a reduction from the previous two meeting per month schedule. The council still retains the right to call a special meeting for city business at any time.

➤ Approved a resolution to continue to be a sponsor for the state's cross-country ski trail grant-in-aid program for the ski trails maintained the remaining 25 percent match.

Ranua, in a memo addressing the issue, noted that the only council actions associated with the project specified that the landowners were to be billed for their share of the project, and that there is no indication that the council ever authorized a loan to cover the bill. "There are very limited instances where a city can issue a loan, but in all cases it must be authorized," noted Ranua.

Complicating the issue is the fact that the initial demolition did not include the basement, which cost an additional amount to remove. Kotzian had indicated he was willing to pay half of the local match for the basement removal but asked the city to cover the other half or put the full amount onto his no-interest loan. Ranua said the city had not budgeted for the expense and that, based on previous motions, it appeared to have no obligation to pay half the bill since the original project did not include the basement.

➤ Approved a motion giving council members until Feb. 6 to provide a list of their priorities for 2020 to the clerk-treasurer.

► Heard from John Bassing under public input that the local Blandin broadband group has issued an RFP to engineering firms to conduct a feasibility study needed to submit a request for Border-to-Border broadband funding from the state. He said it would take 2-4 months to complete the study once an engineer is selected and that letters of support and interest in broadband service from the Tower area would help strengthen a funding application.

itive quote for repairs to the emergency brakes on the ambulance scheduled for retirement in May. Altenburg had estimated the cost of the brake repairs at approximately \$2,500, but argued that the revenue generated by the runs between now and its retirement would be about \$15,000. Council member Mary Shedd noted that the runs would be occur in any case, using a different ambulance, so it was the only justification for the repair would be to reduce wear and tear on the other rigs over the next few months.

Council member Majerle said he'd be more comfortable with a second and more defined quote before authorizing the repair.

➤ Handed off a request for a DNR trail easement to TEDA.

> Authorized the temporary transfer of general funds to TEDA to make payment on invoices from ongoing finishing work at the Lamppa Manufacturing building. Ranua noted that the city has paid these bills all along, but that TEDA now has its own account and that the transfer of funds, which will be reimbursed by the outstanding IRRR loan, will be quickly recouped. According to Ranua, the transfer and associated resolution areintended to create the kind of "paper trail" that was often lacking in city fund transfers. > Heard from the Minnesota Department of Health that the latest water test showed the city's water to be back within safe parameters for haloacetic acids and trihalomethane. ► Heard more complaints from former clerk-treasurer Linda Keith's father, Bob Pratt, about advertising for the Tower Harbor Shores town homes.

a motion by council member Mary Shedd to table action on salaries for several city positions until an comparison of costs with other cities could be completed. Ranua noted that the League of Minnesota Cities has wage comparison information that the city could access. The council then established a commitby the newly-created Wagoner Trails Club.

► Refused a request from Tim Kotzian to add \$450 in costs associated with the demolition of a basement at 711 Main Street to a \$1,315 interest-free loan issued to Kotzian by former clerk-treasurer Linda Keith and former Mayor Josh Carlson from city funds. The removal of the house was completed last year as part of an IRRR-funded residential demolition project, but both the city and the landowner had agreed to split

Jermilion Pen

Snowmobile (lub

➤ Instructed Ambulance Director Steve Altenburg to obtain a second and more defin-

THANK

YOU

#### In Brief

#### Snowmobiles collide on Voyageur Trail

CRANE LAKE-Wayne Stremick of Annandale suffered nonlife threatening injuries on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 25, after colliding with their activities. Ranua another snowmobile on the Voyageur Snowmobile Trail, approximately 13 miles north of Crane Lake. Stremick, age 58, was driving his snowmobile on a curve when he collided head-on with another snowmobiler, Thomas Gleason, age 57,

on of Hanover. Stremick was bile transported to the Cook Hospital, while Gleason ne walked away, uninjured. 58, The St. Louis County W- Sheriff's Office responded and was assisted by Crane ith Lake First Responders, Orr er, Fire and Ambulance, and 57, the U.S. Forest Service.

#### NSLSWCD Tree and Plant Sale now underway

REGIONAL- North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District announces its annual tree and native plant sale. New for 2020, the district is offering native plant kits, which include 36 readyto-plant perennials. Each of the three kits includes a mix of six native plant varieties: pollinator habitat, shoreland or raingarden habitat, and woodland shade area habitat. Kits are \$65 each. Plant order deadline is Wednesday, April 22.

The tree sale includes over 20 varieties of shrubs, deciduous trees, and conifers in bundles of 25 small seedlings or transplants. Each variety is reasonably priced between \$30 and \$50 per bundle. New trees this year include flame willow, tamarack, and yellow birch. Tree order deadline is Friday, May 1 or when sold out.



The Vermilion Penguin Snowmobile Club would like to thank the area businesses for sponsoring and donating prizes for the 20th FUN RUN that was held January 25, 2020. Special thanks to Good Ol' Days for hosting the check point in Tower, and all the volunteers in the Tower, Babbitt and Ely area and participants who support this event.

#### **ISD 696**

## Is Ely school board ready to act on renovation project?

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

Study session focuses on timeline, action required to move ahead

ELY - Members of the ISD 696 school board continued their study of the facilities renovation project Monday night and appear to be moving closer to establishing a timeline for funding and construction for the long-discussed project.

The district's architect, Scott Sosalla, of Architectural Resources Inc., presented a refined plan and cost projection for the building renovation, estimated at about \$20 million. The district's lobbyists, Gary Cerkvenik and Jeff Anderson from the Costin Group, walked board members through a funding scenario. District administration officials revealed results of schoolwide surveys that highlighted ideas for equipping the school community for 21st century learning.

Board members came away from the meeting with a desire to draft, consider and likely act on a resolution next month to formally move ahead with campus-wide renovations and a bond referendum.

Sosalla detailed his firm's recent update to the plans for the renovation project. A full-size gymnasium, complete with bleacher seating for as many as 150 people, is now part of the new addition that will be constructed between the Memorial and Washington buildings.

The addition, estimated to cost just over \$9 million, also includes industrial and technology classrooms, a community maker space, kitchen, commons area, secure entry for the campus, administrative offices, elementary Phys. Ed. Teaching station and a K-12 media center.

The campus heating system will remain in its present location on the south side of the existing Industrial Arts building, according to Sosalla, "We would demo the top floor off the industrial building,

STONE SCO STATUS BOOK I AND D.F LEGAL Ratio anal HIGH ACHOOL WEST P EXISTING ELEMENTARY PLAYOROUND

A revised site plan for the Ely school campus shows the full-size gymnasium in the addition between the Washington and Memorial buildings, and the expanded parking lots and student drop-off areas. submitted by Architectural Resources, Inc.

parking. He assured board members that total access around the building "will make the fire department happier than before."

Renovations to the Memorial and Washington buildings, including re-roofing, continued window replacement, complete classroom renovations, pool and locker room re-utilization, bathroom renovations, and relocation of the Music and Early Childhood and Family Education departments account for almost \$5.9 million of the renovation plan.

Additional infrastructure work accounting for as much as \$4.8 million, will include new site utilities, campus-wide water pipe upgrades due to the recent discovery of lead in the water, a basic HVAC upgrade, various demolitions and vehicle access and parking renovations, Sosalla said. A new school bus garage would cost about \$100,000. "We don't anticipate needing additional electrical upgrades because we will be removing much of the load from the existing industrial arts building,' he said. While school board members were receptive to the addition of the second

competition gymnasium on campus, adding a running track around the football field was only briefly discussed. "I'm really concerned because our track team is running on the streets, and that's a safety issue," said board member Tony Colarich.

If the campus space existed for a competition running track with eight lanes, that addition would cost as much as \$500,000, Sosalla said. A preliminary campus plan for future growth called for removing the city road (Stuckel Way) between the school and the baseball fields. That option is not part of the current plan.

Sosalla presented various photographs of ARI renovation projects, particularly in Warroad and Moose Lake, to give board members a visual sense of what current school renovations look like and how new techsidering a referendum authorizing \$8 million, or maybe as much as \$10 million, in borrowing for a renovation project. That question could be presented to voters later this year.

In addition, a \$500,000 school safety grant from the state of Minnesota, and a commitment from the school board last month to kick in as much \$500,000 from the district's unassigned general fund, would be added to the total. As much as \$1.6 million (about 60 percent) in funding from the district's Long Term Facility Maintenance fund could also be utilized.

Cerkvenik said school board members are looking at as much as a \$7.3 million gap in funding for the project estimated to cost about \$20 million. "Our charge is to figure out how to cover that gap," he said.

In recent discussions with staff at the

we hope to get funding," he said. "That wouldn't go over very well with the citizens."

He said the IRRR generally meets at the end of the 2020 state legislative session to vote on funding projects. Legislators will reconvene on Feb. 11, and end no later than May 18, as required by state law. "The (IRRR) commissioner may consider having a vote on this earlier than the middle of May because of the importance," Cerkvenik said.

"I think we have had pretty good support for some of the basic infrastructure. Our job is to identify other potential areas (IRRR) would be interested in funding that are infrastructure related."

A second piece of the IRRR funding puzzle involves the potential for educational and learning collaboration and cooperation between Ely and other

dozen years ago because of financial concerns, to mirror the learning time of nearby schools to help with collaboration efforts.

"Our teachers are required to teach five classes a day, considered a full load, and we would need to implement overload pay if we add a sixth class to some schedules,' Erie said. "We need to consider the costs to the benefits of such a move."

Cerkvenik presented a draft resolution authorizing the superintendent to present a renovation plan and funding mechanisms to the school board to vote on, including proceeding with a bonding referendum.

Board chair Ray Marsnik was generally agreeable to developing a resolution for the board to consider and possibly approve at their next meeting on Monday, Feb. 10.

the (existing) media center overhang goes away, and the former boiler plant and all the tunnels go away," he said.

Improved traffic flow around the campus, including school bus and student drop-off traffic flow would be implemented on the campus, along with improved visitor nology is being utilized in today's learning spaces.

#### How to pay for it

Cerkvenik talked to the board about a funding timeline for the school board to consider. A community survey last year indicated that ISD 696 property taxpayers were generally in favor of conDepartment of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation and state legislators, Cerkvenik painted a generally positive sense of approval for Elv's renovation project. "You haven't voted on anything yet, but we need to have a discussion to bring something to you in order for you to vote by May to put something on a ballot by August," he said.

Prior to a referendum question being posed to Elv voters. Cerkvenik said he wants approval by the IRRR board to commit to funding help for the district. "We don't want to go to the voters saying

school districts.

Superintendent Erik Erie and administrative staff have been surveying students and teaching staff in considering course availability and additional learning opportunities with other schools, particularly the Northeast Range and Tower schools. These could bring in additional funding from the IRRR's School Collaboration Fund.

To that end, school administration is considering the benefits and challenges of returning to a seven-period day from the current six-period day, implemented a

Jeff Anderson, an Ely alumnus and Costin Group member urged school board members to "continue to tell the story" to the community, legislators and other stakeholders. "Ely has some special circumstances being at the end of the road," he said. "Share the collaboration that has already happened and other plans of future collaboration. We exist here where ceilings fall down and there's lead in the pipes. There's flooding. There's a need for some investment. It seems that the time is right. There seems to be a great deal of support for this."

#### **FRONTIER**...Continued from page 1

viously reported, signs of a looming Frontier bankruptcy have been apparent for months as the company assumed a \$17.5 billion debt burden while customers fled as a result of poor service quality and predatory billing practices.

According to Bloomberg, a Frontier bankruptcy would rank as one of the biggest telecom reorganizations since Worldcom's bankruptcy in 2002.

It's unclear how a Frontier bankruptcy might impact its Minnesota customers.

Officials with the Minnesota Department of

Commerce have been in contact with Frontier about the situation, according to department spokesperson Emmalyn Bauer. "At this point, there has been nothing shared with Commerce to suggest that Frontier will be unable to serve its customers," said Bauer. "If Frontier were to go into bankruptcy, Commerce would assist the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in an effort to ensure consumers' service is uninterrupted. In such a scenario, decisions on service would ultimately belong to the PUC."

News of the anticipated bankruptcy has further

hammered Frontier stock, which was selling this week at just 57 cents per share. The company's common stock had traded at \$125 per share as recently as 2015.

Frontier Communications of Minnesota, Inc., and its affiliate, Citizens Telecommunications of Minnesota, LLC, provide telephone service to approximately 90,000 Minnesota households and businesses, as well as internet service to many more households, in many parts of rural Minnesota and the Twin Cities metro area.



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

cold because their sculptures last longer and look better. The ice fishing, snowshoeing, moonlight cross-country skiing, broomball, ice skating, dog sledding, hockey and Kubb tournament all go more smoothly, too. Our winter camping people always feel cheated if the temps are too warm, by which they mean above zero."

For those who might feel too cold, the 2020 Ely Winter Festival will feature a new warming tent. "We bought our own big tent this year and we will have a wood stove, hot beverages and benches inside for festival-goers to take a break," Evenson said.

While events get underway Thursday, festival organizers will hold the grand opening event in Whiteside Park, starting at 6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 7 in the park. Look for the torch bearers and Nordic skiers led by Miss Ely and Little Miss Ely.

Outdoor enthusiasts will have the opportunity to participate in a Fat Tire/Skinny Ski event at the nearby Hidden Valley Recreational Area. "Kick sled demos, hosted by the new Ely Bike and Kick Sled shop, are also part of the 2020 lineup," said Evenson.

A winter camping demonstration will be conducted this year by the Northern Tier Boy Scout base, complete with authentic snow shelter construction.

## Snow carving and art walkers

The Snow Sculpting Symposium, the signature event of every Ely Winter Festival, will be underway beginning Thursday, Feb. 6.

"We are all amazed at what these artists can carve from a block of snow," Evenson said. "Carvers come from all over the upper Midwest and Canada, with the occasional team from Mexico. Whiteside Park is full of people strolling around, talking with the carvers, drinking hot chocolate, examining the latest professional winter art and checking out the dozens of amateur snow sculptures carved from smaller blocks of snow."

The Symposium is not a competition, so no prizes are given. "This encourages the artists to be open with their work and fosters camaraderie between teams," Evenson said. "The symposium is an art exhibition of snow sculptures primarily within the confines of Whiteside Park in Ely. (Look for a few sculptures in other locations around town.) The symposium is intended to be an interactive event so viewers can walk through the park and observe artists creating the sculptures."

A new event this year to promote more snow carving involvement is a student mentorship. "Some of our local snow carving professionals will be guiding high school and college students in the art of carving snow," said Winter Festival Director Shauna Vega. "We want to help get the next generation of snow carvers off on the right foot."

The Ely ArtWalk, which coincides with the Winter Festival, allows Ely merchants to turn their storefronts over to more than 100 mostly-local artists who display hundreds of pieces of their work. "The town becomes a giant outdoor art gallery and market, giving new meaning to the term 'window-shopping.' Paintings, photographs, fabric art, metalwork, pottery, sculpture; you name it, you'll find it here. And unlike the snow sculptures, you can buy most of these and take them home," Evenson said.

#### **Beardfest returns**

After a one-year break, the Great Nordic Beardfest will return to the Boathouse Brewpub and Restaurant during the Ely Winter Festival.

The facial hair spectacle is slated to take place on Friday, Feb. 7. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. and competition gets underway at 7 p.m., according to organizer Shawn Chosa.

Live music, featuring Black River Revue and Charlie Parr, begins at 8:30 p.m.

Competition categories this year include first, second and third places in Full Beard Natural 6-minus, Full Beard Natural six-plus, Freestyle, Mustache, and BeardedLadies. Individual awards will be presented in several categories, including Best Beard in Town and Best Mustache in Town (locals only); Best in Show; Greybeard; Farthest Traveler; Ladies Choice; Best Costume; and Judges Choice.

Admission to the event is \$10, or \$5 for those with an Ely Winter Festival 2020 pin. Register at The Boathouse or online at greatnordicbeardfest. com.

#### How it all began

In 1984, the Ely Ski Club (now known as the Ely Nordic Ski Club) started a cross-country ski racerunning from Tower to Ely called the Wilderness Trek. Local businesses and craftspeople set up booths at the finish line. Food and live music added to the festivities.

Starting in 1988, Bill and Gloria Miller volunteered to create and direct more activities at the finish line of the Wilderness Trek. Their focus was on expanding to a threeday weekend promoting outdoor activities and education about the history of the Ely area.

In 1995, the Millers and their army of volunteers called on Bob Maidl to organize a Snow Sculpting Symposium in concert with an expanded 10-day festival surrounding the Wilderness Trek and featuring the Voyageurhistorical aspect

of the area. Steger Mukluks hosted the first Mukluk Ball. The first commemorative pin was designed especially for the festival.

Then, in 1998, as part of the Voyageur Winter Festival, the Ely ArtWalk was created to promote local artists and their work by providing exhibition space in the windows of Ely's downtown merchants. That year, 16 artists participated, displaying 30 pieces of art in a handful of stores. In 2004, the Ely ArtWalk became its own entity and by 2006 included over 170 artists, 600 pieces of art and 55 stores participating in the event.

Over the years, activities such as a crafts fair, musical concerts, sled dog rides, and several food events have become part of the festivities.

In 2007, the name of the festival changed from Voyageur Winter Festival to Ely Winter Festival. The historical aspect is still represented during the two surrounding weekends of the festival and there are always a lot of additional events for the artistically inclined, the musically inclined, those who love the outdoors and those who love to eat!

#### Fun for everyone

The Ely Winter Festival is reason enough to visit Ely during the winter. "Add to that the opportunity to snowshoe to Sigurd Olson's cabin at Listening Point, snowshoe to the Hegman Lake pictographs in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, ski by candlelight at the Hidden Valley trails, watch wolves get their weekly feeding at the International Wolf Center, visit the Dorothy Molter Museum, and participate in creative classes at the Ely Folk School," Evenson said.

"As to accommodations, last year, the whole town was full for both weekends," she said, "so book rooms now. Our restaurants are all geared up to take good care of you. We even have a couple that weren't around for last year's festival. They're getting rave reviews from the hardest clientele of all: the locals."

The Ely Winter Festival and Ely ArtWalk are funded in part by grants from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council (thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund), the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust, the Ely Chamber of Commerce, local merchants, organizations and individuals.

The Ely Winter Festival and Ely ArtWalk are nonprofit, volunteer-driven events that celebrate life and culture in the north.

Organizers started planning the 2020 Winter Festival last April. Keep an eye on their Facebook page, or website, www. elywinterfestival.com, for all the latest updates.



#### Be sure to stop by Northern Grounds, Official EWF Headquarters, for Ely Winter Festival Gear!

#### Thurs, Feb (

Snow Carvers' Jam 7pm - 11pm, Ely Steak House

#### Fri, Feb 7

Spaghetti Feed 4pm - 7pm, St. Anthony's Catholic Church

Fifth Annual Winter Festival Kickoff 6pm, Whiteside Park

The Great Nordic Beardfest 6pm - 9pm, BoatHouse Brewpub

#### Sat, Feb 8

Howler Jamboree Hockey 8:30am - 6pm, Ely Ice Arena

Kubb Tournament 9am - 4pm, ely-kubb.com Vermilion Community College Open House

10am - 1pm, vcc.edu Fat Bike Ride 10am, Whiteside Park

NLAA Downtown Arts Market 10am, Amicis Ceremony Hall

Winter Camping Demos 10am - 4 pm, Whiteside Park

Snowshoe to Listening Point 10am - 12pm, 1pm - 3pm 218-365-8889

Kicksledding Demos 11am, Whiteside Park

VCC Ice Fishing Contest 11am, Sandy Point, Shagawa

Fish Fry 12pm - 4pm, Veterans On the Lake Resort

Secret Lives of Wolves 7pm, International Wolf Center

#### Ely Folk School Info & Registration 218-235-0138 www.elyfolkschool.org

Create an Aqua Jasper Necklace Learn to Weave a Scarf Herringbone Macrame Basket Pine Needle Basketry Wirework Gemstone Ring Elderberry Natural Remedies How We Got Here Hand Stitching Leather Swedish Folk Painting Sewing Beaver Hides Druzy Agate Necklace



Create a Coat Tree of Life Necklace Voyageur Sash Weaving Wirework Necklace Voyageur Singing Ojibwa or Bear Paw Shoes Make Pasties Luffarsjold Saami Friendship Bracelet Wet Felting Wool Slippers Intro to Adobe Lightroom Classic

#### Sun, Feb 9

Howler Jamboree Hockey 8:30am - 4:15pm, Ely Ice Arena

ArtWalk Meet and Greet 3pm - 4pm, The Front Porch

The Raven Loonatics in Concert 6pm - 8pm, VCC Fine Arts Theater

#### Tues, Feb 11

Hockey on the Rink 5:15pm and 6:15pm, Whiteside Park

#### Wed, Feb 12

Writers Night Out 5:30pm - 9:30pm, 218-365-3375

The Wine Society 6pm - 8pm, Society Hall, Northern Grounds

#### Fri, Feb 14

Snowshoe to Listening Point 1pm - 3pm, 218-365-8889

Candlelight Ski 5pm - 9pm, Hidden Valley

Valentine's Day Concert 7pm - 9pm, Society Hall, Northern Grounds

#### Sat, Feb 15

Snowshoe to Listening Point 10am - 12pm, 1pm - 3pm, 218-365-8889

Halfway Ranger Station Open House 11am - 3pm, elywinterfestival.com

Snowshoe to Hegman Pictographs 1pm - 3pm, Hegman entry point, vobs.org

Lumberjack and Lumberjill Party 3pm - 6pm, Piragis Northwoods Company

Ely Skinny Fat Ski/Bike Event 2:30pm, Hidden Valley, info@elynordic.org



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board, and the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. This activity is made possible in part by the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust and the Ely Chamber of Commerce.



Festival Hotline 218•365•SNOW(7669) elywinterfestival.com

## Read the news online at www.timberjay.com





#### NORDIC SKIING

## Ely skiers deliver another 1-2 punch

by KEITH VANDERVORT Elv Editor

DULUTH - Ely's Nordic skiers brought home another one-two finish last weekend, continuing to show their strength ahead of next Thursday's sectional competition.

The boys team, as they have done much of the season, took the top spot while the girls team finished in second at the Duluth East Invite this past Saturday.

The boys team, paced by Jasper Johnston with a firstplace overall win in the combined 5K freestyle and classic pursuit races, scored 379 points, just ahead of Cloquet-Esko-Carlton with 373 points and Duluth East with 353.

The girls team, paced by Zoe Devine who finished third overall, placed second with 357 points. Duluth East won the girls division with 385 points. Mesabi East, with 354 points, finished third.

Johnston posted an overall time of 26:37.0 in the freestyle and classic race legs. Ely's

Right: Ely boys work their way up a hill during competition at the Duluth Invite this past Saturday. Pictured are (I-r) Raif **Olson, Gabriel Pointer,** Jon Hakala, and Ethan Bremner.

photo by L. Anderson

top boys racers included Nate Nettifee in seventh with a time of 29:02.8, followed closely by Gabriel Pointer in eighth with a

See SKIING...pg. 2B



#### BOYS BASKETBALL **Grizzlies bury Floodwood** by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

FIELD TWP- It was all over from the start, as the Grizzlies routed Floodwood here on Tuesday, 112-29, to improve to 13-3 on the season. Freshman guard Jared Chiabotti had one of his biggest nights of his young career, pouring in 31 points to lead scoring for the Grizzlies.

It was just another sign that things are coming together at the right time for the North Woods squad. "Overall, I'm pleased with the team's energy," said North Woods Head Coach Will Kleppe. "We are looking to see improvement each game as we approach the final month before section tournaments."

Adding to the scoring blitz for North Woods on Tuesday was senior Trevor Morrison, who put up 21 points in addition to seven assists, while sophomore TJ Chiabotti added 19 points. Sophomore guard Alex Hartway added 14 points, and freshman Brenden Chiabotti added 11 points. Senior Brian Whiteman added six points.

Playing at Eveleth last Friday,

#### Team improves to 13-3 after back-to-back wins



GIRLS BBALL Two straight W's for the **T**-Wolves

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

ELY-Senior Erika Mattson had a big night here as she scored 29 points to help lead the Timberwolves to a 67-35 win before an enthusiastic home crowd. Mattson had plenty of help from fellow senior Brielle Kallberg who added 21 points and 11 rebounds for a double-double. Mattson added nine boards just missing her own double-double.

Eighth-grader Grace LaTourell chipped in with

See ELY...pg. 2B



the Grizzlies set the pace as they brought home a 94-60 win over the Golden Bears. Four Grizzlies reached double digits, led by senior Trevor Morrison, with 25 points. Junior Darius Goggleye added 20 points, while sophomore TJ Chiabotti tallied 19 points and

See GRIZZLIES....pg. 2B

#### North Woods sophomore Alex Hartway and senior Brian Whiteman Jr. box in Floodwood's Aiden Williams. photo by C. Stone

## LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON Will Kleppe honored as All-Star Coach

#### by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

**REGIONAL**— Longtime Cook area high school basketball coach Will Kleppe has been honored by the Minnesota BasketballCoachesAssociation. Kleppe, last week, was among four Minnesota coaches added to the organization's All-Star Series Coaches list, which honors some of the most influential and successful basketball coaches.

Kleppe, who notched his 300th career win in December, has been an effective mentor for hundreds of students during his years as a coach, starting at the Cook High School and now at the combined North Woods

School. This year's Grizzlies boys basketball team is currently ranked among the top 15 Class A teams in the state.

**Right: Will Kleppe (r)** celebrated his 300th win in December on the same night as one of his players, Trevor Morrison, reached his 1,000th point.



## Chase Kleppe honored for Saints football



by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL- Former Cook-area athletic standout Chase Kleppe continues to make an impression at his

#### Left: Chase Kleppe accepts congratulations from St. Scholastica Coach Mike Heffernan.

new home at St. Scholastica in Duluth. Kleppe, this past week, was one of the two recipients of the Saints Award for his success in the 2019 football season. As a freshman, Kleppe recorded 89 tackles, including four and a half sacks, and a touchdown off a blocked punt. In addition, he ranked third in Division Three in fumbles recovered, with five.

"It was kind of a surprise," said Kleppe of the award. "It felt really good to be recognized."

Kleppe, the son of longtime Cook area coach Will Kleppe, was a starting outside linebacker for the Saints, who went 7-3 this year.

While Kleppe was perhaps best known for his

See KLEPPE....pg. 2B

Friday, Jan. 31 North Woods at Greenway, 7:15 p.m. Ely vs. Eveleth-Gilbert, 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 4 North Woods at Wrenshall, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 6 North Woods hosts Moose Lake/Willow River, 7:15 p.m.

#### **GIRLS B-BALL**

Monday, Feb. 3 North Woods hosts Carlton, 7:15 p.m. Ely at Mountain-Iron Buhl, 7:15 p.m. Northeast Range at Silver Bay, 6:15 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 6 North Woods at Eveleth-Gilbert, 7:15 p.m. Ely hosts Mesabi East, 7:15 p.m. Northeast Range at Bigfork, 7:15 p.m.

#### HOCKEY

Friday, Jan. 31 Ely hosts Bagley, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 1 Ely hosts Bagley, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 4 Ely hosts North Shore, 5 p.m.

#### NORDIC SKIING

Thursday, Feb. 6 Ely Section 7 Meet at Giants Ridge, 11 a.m.

#### HOCKEY

## Wolves notch 4-3 win over Bagley-Fosston

by Keith Vandervort Ely Editor

BAGLEY-The Elyhockey team went on the road last weekend and came home with their second win of the season. The young Timberwolves team improved to 2-10 on the season with a 4-3 win over Bagley-Fosston last Friday night.

The Flyers scored first at 7:48 in the first period, but Ely tied the game at 13:15 with an even-strength goal by Kole Macho and assists by Luke Olson and Dalton Schreffler.

Ely kept the scoring going in the second period. At 2:41, Schreffler hit the back of the net with an assist by Olson to increase their lead to 2-1. Olson added a quick score at 3:22 to give the Timberwolves a 3-1 lead. The Flyers answered at 15:07 in the period to cut the lead to 3-2. Ely's Jimmy Zupancich, with an assist by Olson, scored

at 16:55 to give Ely a 4-2 lead. Ely almost blanked the Flyers in the third period except for a last-second goal as time expired.

The Timberwolves took 38 shots to the net and the Flyers had 36 shots on goal. Ely had just one penalty for the night, a five-minute major assessed to Logan Loe.

On Saturday, Ely traveled over the border to North Dakota where they lost 5-1 to MayPort. The Timberwolves managed

BOYS BASKETBALL

just 19 shots on goal, while MayPort peppered Ely goalie Ben Cavalier with 49 scoring chances. After a scoreless first period, Ely's Luke Olson put Ely on the board first with an unassisted goal one minute into the period. Mayport answered with four goals, and added their fifth score of the night late in the third period.

Jason Skube was tagged for two penalties in the second period, while Kole Macho received a major misconduct penalty in the third period for checking from behind.

Ely, now 2-11, hosts three games in quick fashion as their season winds down. The Timberwolves will look to improve their season record against Bagley-Fosston this weekend with games on Friday at 6 p.m. and Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Ely Ice Arena. The Timberwolves will also host North Shore on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

## Ely edges Carlton, routs Littlefork-Big Falls

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

CARLTON-It didn't come easy but the ball bounced Ely's way in the end in a hard-fought contest here on Tuesday. "It was a struggle for us as we didn't shoot well and turned the ball over too many times but we played well enough to get the win 60-54," said Timberwolves Head Coach Tom McDonald.

Three Ely players made it to double digits in the game dominated by defense. Junior Emmett Faltesek led with 14 points while senior Eric Omerza added 13 and senior Dylan Fenske added an even dozen along with eight rebounds. "We made some free throws down the stretch to get the win," said McDonald.

Playing at home last Friday, the Wolves cruised to a 101-51 rout of Littlefork-Big Falls as five Ely players reached double digits. A huge first half, during which the Wolves scored 63 points, set the pace. "We played well on both ends of the floor and I think our full-court pressure really got to them in the first half," said McDonald. Fenske had a big night, leading all scorers with 26 points and seven rebounds while freshman Joey Bianco added 17 points. Omerza contributed with 16 points and nine assists, while junior Will Davies added 15 points and senior Bryce Longwell tallied 11.

Ely, now 13-4 on the season, will take on Eveleth-Gilbert on Friday.

#### **Right: Ely junior Emmett** Faltesek eyes the bucket above the outstretched hand of a Vikings defender.

photo by J. Greeney



#### **SKIING...**Continued from page 1B

time of 29:08.8, Ethan Bremner, 9th, at 29:12.8, and Raif Olson, 10th, at 29:51.1.

Other Timberwolves boys finishers included Micah Larson, 15th, at 30:02.1, Jon Hakala,

16th, at 30:04.3, and Adam Williamson, 81st, at 42:02.9

In the girls competition, Devine finished with a combined time of 32:22.0. Other Ely girls racers, with place and overall

time, included Phoebe Helms, 10th, at 33:24.4, Brooke Pasmick, 11th, at 33:43.1, Cedar Ohlhauser, 24th, at 35:34.2, Ana Bercher, 28th, at 35:34.2, Sydney Durkin, 30th, at 35:49.3, Kalyssa Eilrich, 33rd, at 36:11.4, Cora Olson, 36th, at 36:31.1, Julia Schwinghamer, 40th, at 36:50.0, Gracie Pointer, 48th, at 38:05.0, Abigail Thompson, 56th, at 39:54.5, Juliet Stouffer, 62nd, at 40:59.8, Annikka Mattson, 66th, at 41:35.0, Sarah Isbell, 68th, at 42:02.8, Courtney Eilrich, 74th, at 43:02.8, Morgan McClelland, 75th, at 43:38.2, and Amelia Pluth, 81st, at 44:55.8.

The Timberwolves

even more at the college

level. "We had a very

solid team this year," he said. "We had a lot of

good leaders and a great

will host the Ely Pursuits on Saturday, Feb. 1 at Hidden Valley. Racing starts at 11 a.m. The Section 7 meet is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 6 at Giants Ridge.

#### **KLEPPE**...Continued from page 1B

high school basketball career, he said playing college football has long been a goal for him. The move from high school to college-level play made an impression, said Kleppe. "It was a whole different game. It definitely took time to get used to the

it was a lot of fun."

speed and everything, but therapy intent, said he received a solid ground-Kleppe, who is cur-

rently studying exercise physiology with a physical

ing in team sports during his time playing at North Woods, and he's learning

"In this stretch, our close to playoff time,"

coaching staff."

and looked to find quality shots on offense. The Wolves were set to take on Mt. Iron-Buhl on Monday.

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

seven points while fresh- off the Hunters, winning even dozen boards for a

man Taylor Gibney added four.

In a defensive contest with Duluth Denfeld last Friday, the Wolves held

52-36. It was the Erika and Brielle show once again as Mattson scored 19 points and Kallberg added 12 while posting an

**Back By** 

Popular

**Demand!** 

double-double. LaTourell had another strong night, adding eight points for Ely, while freshman Madeline Perry added eight.

most difficult part of our schedule, these two wins were important for us to help maintain our current spot in the section getting

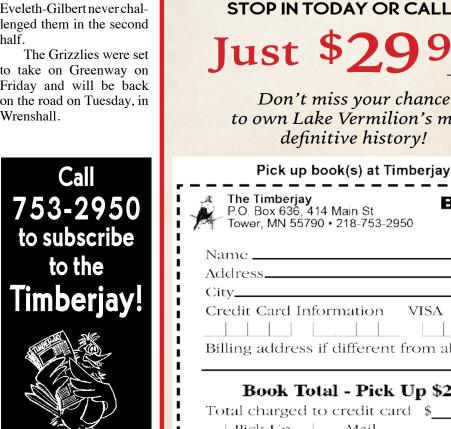
said Ely Head Coach Darren Visser. "In both games this week I felt our team played really good defense, rebounded well,

**GRIZZLIES...** 

Continued from page 1B

freshman Jared Chiabotti added 17.

For the Golden Bears, turnovers proved costly. The Grizzlies pressed at times and tallied 19 steals, most of which they converted to points. The Grizzlies led 48-26 at the break and

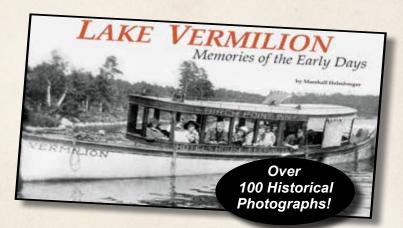


#### Memories of the Early Days A fascinating look back at the early history

of the Lake Vermilion area Written by Marshall Helmberger • Published by the Timberjay

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#### January 31, 2020 **3B**

## Your Boat Club expands to Farm Lake in Ely

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

ELY- Boat rental options for visitors to the White Iron Chain of Lakes are getting a major upgrade with the expansion of Your Boat Club to Timber Trail Lodge on Farm Lake. The location will be offering rentals of new pontoon boats, fishing boats and runabouts to the general public, guests at Timber Trail Lodge, as well as members of Your Boat Club.

Your Boat Club (YBC) is a privately-owned boat club now offering 20 locations in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois. Members have the option of free rentals of pontoons, ski boats, or fishing boats from any of the locations. Their location in Tower, which offers access to Lake Vermilion, offers boat rentals along with marina and repair services. The Tower location will also serve as the service and storage facility for the new Ely rental location.

The YBC location on Lake Vermilion has been a major plus for the business, he said. YBC purchased the old Tower Marina and has been renovating the property. "We knew it would be a fiveyear project to totally renovate it," YBC owner Luke Kujawa, said. Plans for the Tower YBC include a new storage building, and more repairs done to the seawalls on the river and the old marina infrastructure.

"Our members really love the lake," he said. "We are getting really positive feedback from our members who hadn't been on the lake before."

The positive reaction

of their members to Lake Vermilion had them looking to expand to other lakes in the area. "Ely is another major vacation destination," Kujawa said. "The partnership with the owners at Timber Trail Lodge was a great fit."

"Our members cater their vacations around where they can rent boats from us," said YBC owner Luke Kujawa, so expanding rental options in northeastern Minnesota was a priority.

YBC currently has about 1,000 members, and each membership can include up to four people. The business also added new facilities in Mankato and St. Cloud this year.

"Sometimes owning a boat is such a hassle that by the time you get on the water, you're too tired and cranky to enjoy the day," said Kujawa. "More people want to enjoy experiences instead of owning stuff. That's why we created YBC. It allows families and friends to enjoy all the fun of boating without being tied to the hassles of boat ownership."

Boat clubs such as YBC also help combat the spread of invasive species, since fewer boats are being trailered from lake to lake.

Kujawa said they are starting a new program this year which will help people sell the boat that is sitting in their garage.

"People don't want to rent a boat if they have one," he said, "but often that boat sitting in the garage isn't usable."

"The boat they own is keeping them from going boating," he said. "This will help people get back out on the water."

#### Speakers on Recovery from Mental Illness will present Feb. 11 at Mesabi Range College

VIRGINIA- In Our Own Voice (IOOV), a free public education program featuring two speakers sharing their personal stories of living with a mental illness and achieving recovery, will be offered on Tuesday, Feb. 11 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Mesabi Range College, 1001 W Chestnut St. in Virginia. The program includes a short video and a question and answer period. NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) offers IOOV presentations around the state to improve public awareness of mental illnesses. For more information, contact Patrick at publicawareness@namimn.org or 651-645-2948 ext. 128.

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



Alice L. Taylor Alice Lorraine Taylor, 85, of Tower, died on Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020, in Essentia Health Virginia Care Center. A memorial service was held on Tuesday, Jan. 28 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower with Pastor Liz Cheney officiating. Spring inurnment will take place in the Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. Family services provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

She was born on Jan. 31, 1934, in Van Etten, New York, the daughter of Henry and Karin (Roikka) Tuomi. The family moved to rural Tower when Alice was a child. She was a graduate of Tower-

Soudan High School and Gustavus Adolphus College with a degree in education. Alice taught in Albert Lea and in Bryn Mawr, Penn., and taught U.S. military children on bases in Germany and England prior to returning to Minnesota. She married Robert Taylor on July 1, 1966, and in 2004 they made their retirement home in Tower. Alice was an active member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower, their Bible studies, and served on the Church Council. She cherished time spent at the cabin on Lake Vermilion, enjoyed gardening and her flower beds. She was a good listener, and possessed an extreme amount of sisu.

Alice is survived by her sisters, Arliss Olson of Britt, Karin Von Sien of Duluth and Kay (Richard) Hanson of Tower; numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Robert; brothers-in-law, Harold Olson and Robert Von Sien; and niece, Lisa Von Sien.



Rev. Sylvia A. Jerdee

The Reverend Sylvia Ann Jerdee, 78, of Red Wing, died peacefully on Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020, at her home at Deer Crest. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Red Wing, with visitation one hour prior to the service. Burial will be at 2 p.m. at Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery in Minneapolis. Memorials are suggested to Lutheran World Relief, Heartland Hospice in Rochester, or Bread for the World. Arrangements are with Mahn Family Funeral Home of Red Wing.

Sylvia was born on April 18, 1941, in Alpine, Texas. She graduated from Lake City High School in Lake City, Minn., in 1959, Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, in 1963, and later earned a Masters of Education from Boston University in 1978. Sylvia married Joseph Jerdee in Red Wing (United Lutheran Church) on June 15, 1963. She taught German at Washington High School in Sioux Falls, S.D., in 1963-64. She taught GED classes at U.S. Army education centers in Germany from 1974 to 1978. She taught German, social studies skills, and psychology at Frankfurt American High School in Frankfurt, Germany, from 1978 to 1985 and then served as a guidance counselor there until 1991. The family lived together in Germany and traveled throughout Europe for nearly 20 years. Sylvia and Joe returned to Minnesota in 1991 and she soon embarked on a second career as a minister in the Lutheran Church (ELCA). She graduated with a Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary in St. Paul and was ordained in 1995. Sylvia led congregations in Orr and Fertile. Since her retirement in 2005, she had lived in Lake City and Red Wing

many cousins and friends, and enjoyed her lake home near Brainerd. Sylvia was a loving, dedicated, strong, caring and considerate wife, mother, teacher and minister. She was a lover of learning, language, reading and conversation, and a passionate supporter of the church and many progressive social causes.

Sylvia will be dearly missed by her sons, Jonathan of Falls Church, Va., Peter (Niena) of Ridgewood, N.J., and Theodore (Valerie) Jerdee of Benicia, Calif.; sister, Mary (Dick) Ulland; grandchildren, Max, Olivia, Alexandra, Jacob, Sophia and Vivienne; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and other family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Rolf Kaasa and Marjorie Kaasa (née Smith); and her husband of 52 years, Joseph C. Jerdee.

#### Donna V. Rautiola

Donna Veann Huseby Rautiola, 85, of Virginia, formerly of Cook, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020, at Waterview Pines in Virginia. A celebration of life will be held at the family cabin on Lake Vermilion in the spring. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her son, Kelvin Rautiola; daughter, Ann (Nathan) Plunkett; grandson, Ethan (Sandra) Plunkett; granddaughter, Kimberlyn (Mike Thell) Plunkett; great-grandchildren, Morgan and Norman Plunkett; brother, Michael (Gloria) Huseby; sister, Kirsten Huseby; and numerous nieces and nephews.

#### **Adeline Dean**

Adeline Dean died on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020, at The Estates at St. Louis Park in St. Louis, Minn. No funeral services will be held.

She is survived by her two daughters, Julie (Wayne) Simoes of Yonkers, N.Y., and Vicky (Todd) Merten of Mt. Iron; brother, Donald (Wanda) Pratt and sister, Jane (Wayne) Lindseth, both of Tower; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and her companion of many years, Roger Hujanen of St. Louis Park.

near her sister Mary and



#### Northwoods Medallion Hunt Will you join the hunt? Two fun ways to participate February 7-16, 2020

Option 1: Outdoor enthusiasts join in the search to find this year's medallion. Ten days of clues and the winner receives \$500.00 in Chamber Bucks. Listen to the WELY morning show, visit www.ely.org/ medallionhunt, or follow us on Facebook @ElyChamberOfCommerce. Daily clue available at all 3 locations. Participating businesses will also post clues.

Option 2: Collect wooden nickels from participating businesses and turn them into the Chamber office for a chance to win additional Chamber Buck prizes. Redeem ten nickels for each entry card.

#### Visit www.ely.org/medallionhunt for details.

Event Sponsored by Ely Chamber of Commerce Events & Promotions Committee 1600 E. Sheridan Street Ely Winter Festive Ely, Minnesota Monday - Friday 1 218-365-6123 Saturday & Sunda

Ely Winter Festival Office Hours Monday - Friday 9 am - 5 pm Saturday & Sunday 10 am - 4 pm Thank You!

The Friends of Gail and "The Quiltmaker's Gift" extend a special thank you to all who gave energy, imagination, enthusiasm and love to this production:



Ely's Historic State Theater Board and Tanner Ott, City of Ely, Ely Folk School, Ely ISD 696 and the Memorial High School Art Department, Ely Public Library, Ely Community Resource, Heart of The Woods Quilters, all the Friends of Gail, all the volunteers, the outstanding Cast and Crew, the Pit Orchestra musicians and the Mesabi Symphony Orchestra. The support of the citizens of Ely and our local newspapers, The Ely Echo and The Ely Timberjay were pivotal.

We are particularly grateful to the organizations who believed in our dream and granted us funding to pursue this unique project: Ely Rotary, Ely Kiwanis, Gardner Humanities Trust, Lake Country Power, Ely Chamber of Commerce, Arrowhead Regional Arts Council and the Legacy Fund. And of course, to Gail deMarcken for her artistic vision and inspiration. You were all difference makers and are so appreciated.





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# Are warmer winters a boon or bane for deer?

More snow in the region could offset the benefits of warmer temperatures

For years, wildlife managers have assumed that warmer winters brought on by climate change would be beneficial for whitetail deer here in northern Minnesota. Long and tough winters have traditionally impacted the survival of deer in the region, so the possibility that winters might be shorter and warmer seemed naturally to benefit a species that has long been on the margins of its range in the region.

But, while the climate is

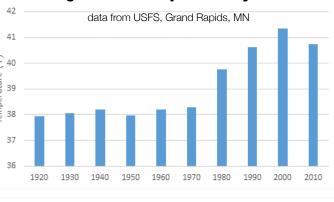
clearly changing, not all of those changes are necessarily Above: Mild temperatures and hoar frost in January are indicative of the trend toward warmer winters in the region. But recent winters have also been snowier, which is making deer recovery problematic.

#### photo by M. Helmberger

For years, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has used the winter severity index to gauge whitetail survival. The index is calculated

on two factors— the daily low temperature and the daily snow depth. Wildlife man-

#### Average Annual Temperature by Decade



#### Total Snowfall by Decade

data from USFS, Grand Rapids, MN

#### RECREATION

#### DNR offers trails grants for local governments

REGIONAL—Now is the chance for local governments and tribes to request funding for natural resource improvements.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Trails is accepting applications to improve outdoor recreation facilities, natural and scenic areas, regional trails, local trail connections, and motorized, nonmotorized, and multi-use recreational trails.

Every year, the DNR distributes millions of dollars of federal and state assistance grants to help local governments throughout Minnesota improve local outdoor recreation. The agency solicits applications in anticipation of federal and state appropriations for the programs.

The application due dates are Friday, Feb. 28, for the Federal Recreational Trail Grant Program, and Friday, March 30 for the other programs. Although funding has not yet been appropriated, the DNR anticipates that both federal and state funding will be available during 2020 for these programs. The DNR will announce preliminary awards in the summer of 2020, with final awards made upon receipt of federal and state appropriations.

For information about eligible projects and how to apply for a grant, visit the Recreation Grants page of the DNR website.

#### Outdoors briefly

VCC gets grant to finance kicksled, fat bike purchases

helpful to whitetails. Arecent analysis

of climate trends by a U.S. Forest Service researcher confirms that winters have warmed significantly in recent decades, which is helpful to whitetail deer. Yet, snowfall has been on the rise as well,

at least in the past decade, as milder air is able to hold more water vapor and helps lead to deeper snowfalls than was the norm in the recent past. While the data in the Forest Service analysis is for the Grand Rapids area, similar trends have been playing out across the region, and this winter has proven to be yet another example. All of which may be one reason that the whitetail deer herd has struggled to recover from losses suffered in some recent winters, despite warming temperatures.



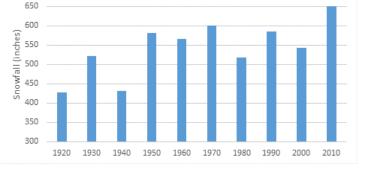
#### MARSHALL Helmberger

agers add a point to the index for each day with a sub-zero overnight low and a point for each day with 15 inches of snow, or more, on the ground.

While both temperature and snow depth are factors in deer survival, not all factors are created

equal. "Snow is definitely the biggest factor for deer," said Tower DNR Area Wildlife Manager Tom Rusch. "Not just depth but duration of deep snow is the biggest factor. And that's especially toughest on fawns."

While the average winter in the region is now about three degrees warmer than it was through most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, precipitation also appears to be on the rise, which is consistent with long-term forecasts on the likely effects of climate

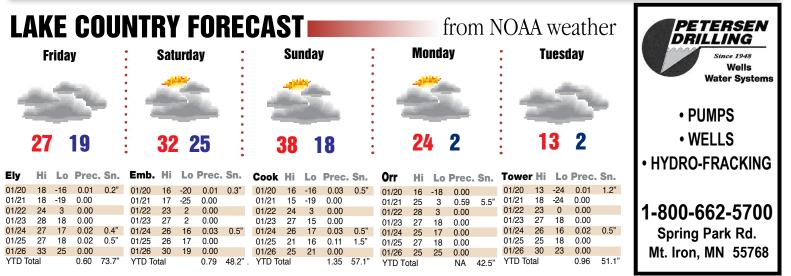


change in northern Minnesota. While the decade of the 2000s was modestly wetter than the long-term average, the 2010s ended as both the wettest and the snowiest decade in the past century, at least according to the Grand Rapids data.

"The years 2013, 2016, 2018, and 2019 all fall within the top 15 years for total annual snowfall," according to Daniel Roman, with the Forest Service, who helped compile the long-term Grand Rapids weather data. "The record for total annual snowfall is 2013, with 109.5 inches." Despite the warming temperatures, northern Minnesota remains sufficiently cold to maintain, rather than melt, snow for several months at a time. As more snow falls, the duration of deep snow has been increasing and that appears to be limiting deer survival in the winter.

Rusch said a growing scarcity of winter cover also appears to be playing a role.

See DEER...pg. 6B

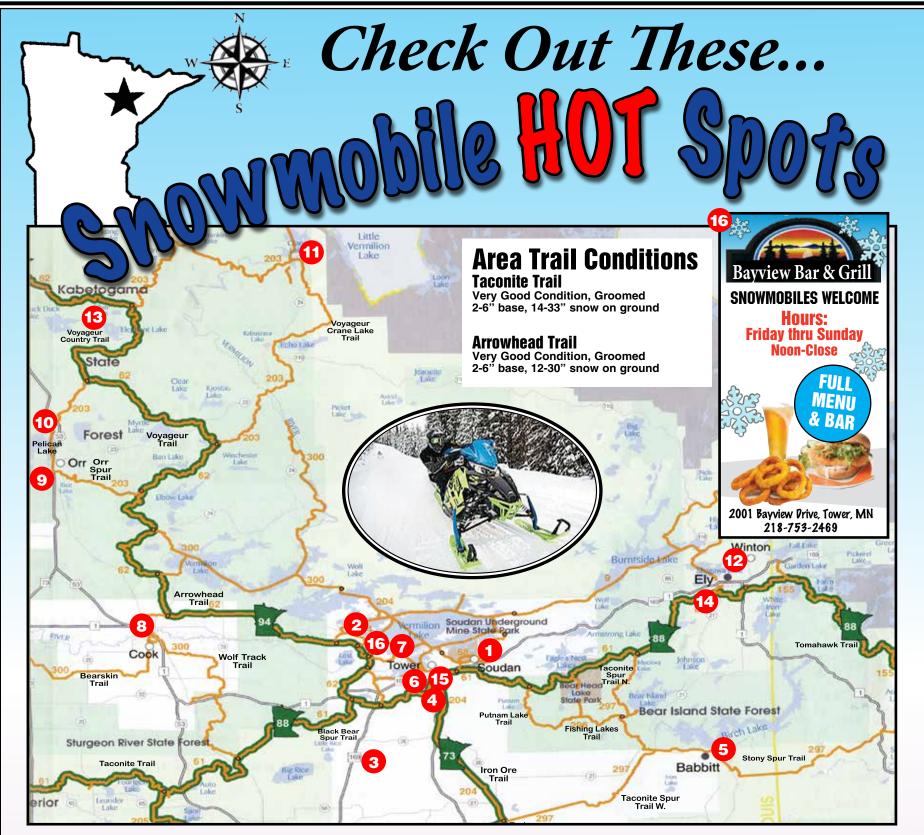


ELY- Vermilion Community College has received a grant from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community to purchase a kicksled and fat bike for a transportation lending program, an initiative to address student food insecurity. This project allows members of the college community to check out and use the kicksled or bike to ride to local stores and the area food shelf to pick up needed items. Additionally, as a way to teach "ethical citizenship", these personal forms of transportation encourage conscientious thinking, remind students that individual choices matter, are an efficient way for students to travel to and from stores, and are a healthy, fun option for exercise. At noon on Thursday, Feb. 13, Ely Bike and Kicksled shop will provide demonstrations on the Vermilion campus during the Ely Winter Festival. The public is invited to attend.

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#### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

#### STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT **PROBATE DIVISION** Court File No. 69VI-PR-19-146

Estate of William George Welsh (also known as William G. . Welsh) Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER HEARING FOR ON PETITION FOR FORMAL A D J U D I C A T I O N OF INTESTACY-DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP AND APPOINTMENT

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PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on February 26, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., a hear-ing will be held in this Court at 300 Fifth Avenue South, Virginia, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Linda Claire Welsh, of 8163 E. Stone Lake Road, Zim, Minnesota 55738. as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an unsupervised administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and if no objections are filed or raised,

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Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred Dated: January 22, 2020

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Michelle Anderson, Judge of District Court Amv Turnquist, Court Administrator Chelsea Opdahl, Deputy Attorney for Petitioner Angela Sipila Sipila Law Office, LLC 412 S 1st St., Virginia, MN 55792 Attorney License No: 024501X Telephone & Fax: 218-741-5000

BY THE COURT

Email: ange@sipilaw.com Published in the Timberjay,

Jan. 31 & Feb. 7, 2020

THE TOWER-SOUDAN TIMBERJAY

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 31, 2020

#### FIELD TOWNSHIP

The February Regular Board Meeting and Board of Audit for Field Township will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at the Clerk's residence, 9998 East Lind Road, Angora.

Pat Chapman/Clerk

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#### **DEER**...from page 4B

Winter cover can be especially critical in heavy snow years, since snow depth is frequently much less under a dense canopy of conifers, making it easier for deer to move around. Wildlife managers have been warning for several years that changes in timber management policy in Minnesota, which were designed to shorten rotation ages, will further reduce the available winter cover and put more stress on the whitetail deer population. If the trend toward more snowfall continues, wildlife managers say maintaining adequate winter cover on the landscape becomes all the more critical.

And the debate isn't simply theoretical. Long-term weather records demonstrate a close correlation with the annual deer harvest. During the warmer and only slightly wetter conditions in the late 1990s and most of the 2000s, northern Minnesota's deer population soared and the annual harvest peaked in 2003 at 289,421 registrations. By 2014, after a series of snowy winters, the deer harvest had fallen by more than half, to 139,442. While harvest numbers recovered somewhat, hunters have not reached the DNR's annual harvest goal of 200,000 deer since 2010.

Preliminary figures from the 2019 hunt indicate that hunters harvested 181,549 deer this past season. That's the ninth straight year of harvests below 200,000. By contrast, from 2000-2008, hunters topped 200,000 deer registrations every year and averaged 245,000 over the nine-year period.

Since then, increasing amounts of snow have clearly made a difference. Rusch said the combination of large snow events and frequent long durations of deep snow in recent years have provided some of the toughest conditions for deer since the 1960s and 70s, when deer numbers and harvest levels fell sharply.

Back then, an overabundance of old forest, and limited browse. played a contributing role in the decline of the deer herd. The 1980s boom in Minnesota's wood products industry changed that trend to the point that wildlife managers say the situation is now reversed. "We've tipped the balance," said Rusch. "Now, we have plenty of browse, but not enough winter cover."

And that's coming at a time when the region is experiencing longer periods of deep snow than in the past. Without a change, Rusch predicts any recovery in the whitetail deer population could be painfully slow.

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