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the TIMBERJAY

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TOWER AREA AMBULANCE SERVICE

Analysis: Township’s concern over transfers justified

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

Data show transfers may lose money for TAAS

TOWER — The three ambulances maintained by the Tower Area Ambulance Service spend much more time on the road than they used to, and that’s raised questions with area townships who help pay for replacing those ambulances.

The switch by the Tower Area Ambulance Service from

its paid-per-call staffing model to a 24-hour paid on-call service has nearly tripled the TAAS payroll since 2017 and the service has turned to non-emergency inter-hospital transfers as a means of generating additional revenue to help pay for it.

While those transfers generate substantially more revenue

than standard emergency calls, they also come with substantial additional costs, for which TAAS Director Steve Altenburg has not always clearly accounted.

That’s been a sticking point with township officials in the TAAS service territory, who have been arguing for more than a year that they need a better

accounting of how the increase in the number of non-emergency transfers is affecting the longevity of the service’s ambulances and TAAS’s profitability.

And they have been unwilling to agree to the city of Tower’s request, as recommended by Altenburg, to increase their contributions to the ambulance

replacement fund until they have a better sense of the financial costs, and potential financial benefits, of the increase in transfers.

Based on the city’s records, TAAS ambulances drove 34,740 miles on non-emergency transfers in 2019, or an average of 11,580 miles per ambulance. That accounted for nearly two-

See...TOWER pg. 9

2020 WOLFTRACK CLASSIC



Michael Bestgen, above, was the winner in the 50-mile eight-dog WolfTrack Classic sled dog race last Sunday with a time of 4:36:26, one of the fastest times in many years. A couple of sled dogs, right, displayed their impatience in waiting around for their turn to race.

photos by K. Vandervort



Warmth doesn't slow mushers

One of the fastest WolfTrack Classic races in years

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY — Despite predictions that the weekend’s warm temperatures could cause a slow track this year, the 12th annual WolfTrack Classic sled dog race, held here last Sunday, was one of the fastest in recent years.

Race Director Ellen Cashman said the first racers in this year were some 45 minutes faster than in many recent years. Temperatures burst past the freezing mark early in the day, and as sun from a cloudless sky bathed the starting line, mushers traded heavy parkas for lighter wear as they made their way down the Taconite Trail. Race conditions were quite the opposite of the 2019 race when teams endured sub-zero temperatures and strong winds.

Close to 40 teams were expected to race, but a last-minute bout of canine flu kept many teams in their kennels. Just eight

See...RACE pg. 12

ELECTION 2020

State voters head to polls on Tuesday

First presidential primary in decades

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Minnesotans will have their say on the U.S. presidential nominating contests in both the Democratic and Republican parties on Tuesday, when Minnesota holds its first presidential primary in nearly thirty years.

Anyone registered to vote in Minnesota will be able to take part in the primary at their usual polling location between the hours of 7 a.m.- 8 p.m., although a few smaller polling locations may not open until 10 a.m. If you’re 18 years of age or older, and are not registered to vote, you can register at your polling location with sufficient proof of residency, or another voter can vouch for your residency.

Voters, unlike in past years, will need to select either the DFL or the Republican ballot, a declaration that has raised concerns with some Minnesotans, where voters have not traditionally been required to declare for one party or another. A voter’s choice of party ballot will be recorded and a list of who voted in the presidential primary and their party selection will be made available to the chairs of each major political party. How a voter actually voted on their ballot will remain a secret.

Those unhappy with the voting process can weigh in on the issue with complaint forms that should be available at polling locations.

See...VOTE pg. 9

SULFIDE MINING

Poll: Fewer than one in four Minnesotans support mining near BWCAW

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — A wide-ranging Star Tribune/ Minnesota Public Radio political survey has found that fewer than one-in-four Minnesotans

supports new mining near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

By contrast, six-in-ten Minnesotans told pollsters that they opposed proposed mines near the state’s premier canoe country and two-thirds said that

when it comes to mining they believe protecting the environment should be a higher priority than creating jobs. Only 19 percent of those polled thought that creating jobs should be the higher priority.

Opposition to mining near

the BWCAW was consistent across the state and across most demographic groups. The survey found that, by a 57-26 margin, even residents of northern Minnesota opposed the prospect of mining near the wilderness.

Only self-identified

Republicans expressed support for mining near the wilderness, albeit by a narrow 39-37 percent margin. DFLers opposed mining near the BWCAW by an 80-11 percent margin, while indepen-

See...POLL pg. 9



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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Correction

In a recent story about Quinn Nystrom, DFL candidate for the 8th Congressional District, her age was reported as 28. Quinn is in fact 34. The *Timberjay* regrets the error.

What does it matter what we believe?

VIRGINIA- On Sunday, March 1 at 10:30 a.m. at Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church, the topic will be "What Does It Matter What We Believe?" The Rev. Eric Northard said, "During these contentious times, it is important to reflect on our principles and beliefs to try to make sense of our mission and calling to the world around us. Unitarian Universalists have long been people of conscience, and we need to continue to call upon this to help us navigate tumultuous times. What is our mission as a community and what is the mission of each of us as an individual to help make a better world and build a better tomorrow?"

The church is located at 230 7th St. S in Virginia and the building is handicap accessible. All are welcome to attend the service.

Learn about the Winter War between Finland and Russia, March 3

HIBBING- The David-Goliath struggle of Finland and Russia in the 1939-1940 Winter War will be the topic of Dr. Richard Ojakangas' talk at the Finnish American and Friends meeting on Tuesday, March 3 at 2 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 4010 9th Ave. W in Hibbing.

Dr. Ojakangas is the author of many books, presents lectures on many topics, and has received many awards and acknowledgments for his accomplishments, but says his main job continues to be as tester of recipes for his wife Beatrice, who has authored 31 cookbooks! A coffee an' social time follows the presentation. Everyone is invited.

Behind the Mask Welding Competition, March 4 in Eveleth

EVELETH- The Behind the Mask Welding Competition will take place on Wednesday, March 4 at 3 p.m. at Mesabi Range College, Eveleth Campus Commons. There are student and professional categories with entry fees at \$10 per competition and \$35 for all competitions and dinner. Cash prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place. A spaghetti dinner follows at \$10 per person. Please RSVP to ucanweld@mail.com or 218-744-7532.

Range Fiberart Guild to meet March 5

VIRGINIA- The Range Fiberart Guild will meet on Thursday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 901 4th St. S in Virginia. The program will be "All you ever wanted to know about fleece and fiber." Wool producer Joan Weyandt of Strawberry Ridge Farm and wool spinner Jenny Hamilton will discuss fleece/fiber quality and selection. The presentation will be followed by open discussion.

All about area recycling, March 4 at the Crescent

REGIONAL- Representatives of St. Louis and Itasca County Environmental Services will talk about recycling at the next meeting of Northern Progressives on Wednesday, March 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the Crescent Bar and Grill, 9257 Olson Road near Cook.

With China and other countries increasingly refusing to accept U.S. waste for recycling, many people want to know how we can prevent the dumping of recyclables into local landfills, how we can avoid contaminating the recycling stream with unacceptable materials, and how to prevent the massive dumping of container loads of plastics and other wastes into the ocean. Speakers will talk about who are the current buyers of plastics, paper, metals, and other recyclables and exactly what items area waste management programs are accepting. For more information, contact Leah Rogne at 218-787-2212 or leah.rogne@gmail.com.

HISTORY

"This Town" will premiere March 2

New PBS documentary tells the stories of our communities



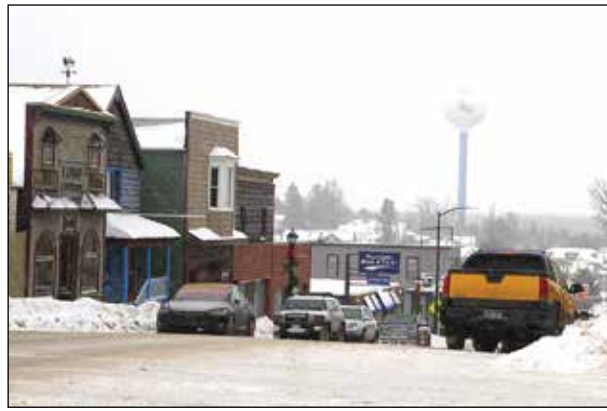
Soudan and Ely will be featured in the upcoming documentary on PBS North. submitted photo

DULUTH- "This Town", the newest documentary from WDSE•WRPT, features the seldom-told stories of small towns and the people who live in them across Northern Minnesota. The documentary focuses on Grand Portage, Sandstone, Ball Club and Kettle River, with short interludes about the origins of Cloquet, Soudan and Ely. The documentary premieres on Monday, March 2 at 7 p.m. on PBS North.

Narrated by storyteller Kevin Kling, with music by Grammy-award-winner Jon Vezner, "This Town" looks at what it means to live in a small town and, through the lens of the communities that it features, highlights how small towns will continue to thrive into the future. The new documentary

showcases diverse stories from across Northern Minnesota, from historical reenactors at the Grand Portage Rendezvous Days and Celebration Pow Wow, to the shift in Sandstone's business focus from mining to outdoor climbing, to the youth in Ball Club who are taking the future of a park into their own hands, to the strong co-op history in Kettle River and how that community spirit continues to bring people together through to today.

"Once I started digging into the history of these places, I had to learn more about their present and their future," said Mike Scholtz, "This Town" producer. "While I love learning about history, I love learning about people even more. Ultimately, this isn't a documentary about a bunch



of small towns; it's about community. It's about our responsibility to each other and where we're all going, together."

"This Town is a moving and modern look at what it means to live in a small town – any small town – in Northern Minnesota," said Dawn Mikkelsen, Broadcast Content Manager at WDSE•WRPT. "Every town is so packed with

stories of the past and dreams for the future. We're pleased to have been able to catch just some of these in such a meaningful film."

Members of WDSE•WRPT will also be able to watch the documentary starting the night of the premiere on the PBS Video App.

Stay Active and Independent for Life leader training

Upcoming workshop planned in Ely for Wednesday, April 29

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with the sponsoring organization Juniper™ and present the workshop according to the program fidelity guidelines.

Stay Active and Independent for Life is a strength, balance and fitness program for adults. This class is designed to reduce the risk of falling by teaching participants how to perform exercises that improve strength, balance and fitness. It combines aerobic conditioning, progressive strength training, and balance exercises.

The workshop will be on Wednesday, April 29 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, 328 W Conan St. To

register or learn more, go online at arrowheadaging.org/registration or contact Georgia Lane at 218-529-7525 or glane@yourjuniper.org.

Workshops are offered through the statewide Juniper™ network, a centralized hub of community providers delivering evidence-based programs to help people manage chronic health conditions, improve balance and prevent falls, and foster well-being. Find a workshop near you by visiting www.yourjuniper.org.

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We would like to say THANK YOU to the Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club for organizing the snowmobile ride on Saturday in memory of Sheldon, to all the riders who participated and to Steve, Carla and the staff at Melgeorges Elephant Lake Lodge for the extra help they did to make the ride a success. It was a beautiful day to ride in memory of a great person. A great time was had by all.

Thanks Again,
Sheldon Sandberg Family

ELY SCHOOL BOARD

School officials are doing their homework

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Board prepares to face IRRR, legislators on facilities project

ELY – School Board members here received an update Monday night on the progress being made by district administrators on a plan for securing funding for the school building renovation plan, now dubbed the 21st Century Learning Facility Improvement Project.

Earlier this month the board adopted a resolution authorizing ISD 696 Superintendent Erik Erie and his support team to pursue a plan of about \$20 million for the initiative.

While half of the funds would need to be approved by voters this summer, more than \$7 million is being requested from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation’s School Collaboration Bricks and Mortar program.

Erie and district principals Anne Oelke and Megan Anderson are, in essence, cramming for exams as they are days and weeks away from major presentations to the IRRR board and state legislators in an effort to convince them that the school at the end of the road is in need of financial help.

In trying to access funds from the IRRR grant program, specific criteria must be followed, Erie said. “We are looking at a collaboration of two or more school districts and new collaborative activities and improved curriculum opportunities,”

he said.

With many meetings involving IRRR staff and ISD 696’s lobbyist already held, the grant application process continues. In fact a pre-application conference was held last week, according to Erie, and the formal grant application and narrative was due at the end of this week.

“Eligible projects meet the needs of collaborative activities and curriculum opportunities for students by building new facilities, renovating existing facilities, bonding, demolition and infrastructure,” Erie said.

“In other criteria, they are looking at job creation,” he added. “This (project) would certainly create a lot of construction jobs and has the potential of creating other jobs because we hope this district will grow and enhance our community. This project would certainly benefit an underserved community. Being at the end of the road, we know that sometimes we get underserved.”

The obvious choice for collaborative efforts, because they are the only nearby district, is St. Louis County ISD 2142. Ongoing collaboration is in place with Northeast Range School in Babbitt. Other ISD 696 collaboration efforts, according to Erie, involve Vermilion Community College, the Northeast Higher Education District,

the Applied Learning Institute, Education Innovative Partners, Ely Community Resources, and local businesses and organizations.

The school calendars of each district should be common enough to allow for continuing and new collaboration. Both school districts have recently adopted their 2020-2021 school calendars. “Ours match well enough where we can do collaboration, so that is not an issue,” Erie said. “We do not have the same calendar, but (IRRR) is looking for evidence that they are common enough to allow for collaboration.”

At the pre-application conference last week, IRRR officials pressed Ely school administrators to strengthen their case for collaboration efforts. “We are revising that this week and it will be included in the formal application,” Erie said. “We still have a lot of work to do on that.”

In a surprise development, Erie said that he learned late Sunday night that an IRRR staffer had scheduled a meeting with a state legislator who is on the IRRR board for Thursday afternoon. Erie said he is sending both Anderson and Oelke to meet with the delegation at the IRRR office on Eveleth. “This is a great opportunity to get in front of them before we make our full presentation,” he said.

Anderson explained

her work on options to revise the school daily schedule to allow for more learning options for students. She highlighted how a change to the Wednesday schedule could offer additional time blocks for students to take a variety of elective classes throughout the school year. She noted that any schedule change is still in the developmental stage and could be similar to what is happening in ISD 2142. “I would love to move forward with something like this regardless of the (current) situation,” she said. “This is exciting and a direction we need to explore.”

In terms of the facilities project budget, Erie said, an updated cost projection from the district’s architect is not changed much, but it is restructured. “I can tell you that it is somewhat lower, so we already have a cost reduction based on where we think the IRRR will be,” he said.

Erie and the school board briefly discussed the scheduled March 18 meeting in St. Paul with legislators and IRRR board members. The meeting will likely begin at 8:30 a.m., he said, so the Ely delegation, consisting of school administrators, board members, teachers, parents and maybe some students, will plan to stay overnight near the capital on March 17.

Erie suggested that local stakeholders and

community members who could attend the St. Paul meeting, such as Ely City Council members, would be helpful.

Mayor Chuck Novak was mentioned because of his connections with many state legislators, but school board chair Ray Marsnik cautioned that the mayor “is under fire” for recent comments he made about boycotting businesses that

oppose proposed sulfide mining projects in northern Minnesota.

“Give him a chance to shine,” said board member Heidi Mann.

“(Novak) is well known with the Range delegation,” Erie added.

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OPINION

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Editorial

Elites under siege

The surging campaign of Sanders has the establishment unnerved

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders’ enormous victory in Nevada this past Saturday was a true shot across the bow to the American establishment— one that clearly has them rattled.

Liberal MSNBC commentator Chris Matthews compared Sanders’ Nevada victory, and the growing likelihood that Sanders and his army of grassroots supporters will win the Democratic presidential nomination, to the overrunning of the French defenses by the Nazi blitzkrieg.

While Matthews was justifiably panned for his comments, they were emblematic of a Democratic and media establishment that increasingly feels under siege by American political forces they simply don’t understand.

As much as they detest Trump’s venality, corruption, and ignorance, they know that Trump never intended to “drain the swamp” or in any way threaten the power of the establishment. He simply wanted a piece of the action for himself.

The only challenge Trump has posed to the establishment is deciding where they should spend the windfall they’ve received from the Trump tax cuts, which went almost exclusively to big corporations and the wealthiest Americans, while the working classes got stifled.

While Trump plays a populist for the cameras, most Americans are well aware it’s all an act.

Sanders, on the other hand, has been preaching the same gospel of economic, social, and environmental justice for the past half century. Sanders is a true believer and is the most authentic populist to make such a serious run at the presidency in America in generations. The establishment, particularly within the Democratic Party, is right to be nervous. Sanders has waited a long time to reach this point, but the army of young people who are fueling his movement have lost patience with party big shots they see as far too beholden to powerful, monied interests to enact the kind of fundamental change that many Americans are hungry for. Young people in particular recognize what the late Dr. Martin Luther King described as “the fierce urgency of now.” They recognize that they will be the generation that has to deal with the most severe effects of climate change. They recognize the impact that college debt and unresolved

issues surrounding immigration, income inequality, and healthcare access is having on their lives. They remain eager for change and are increasingly tired of an establishment that is focused primarily on maintaining their own power. It seems many within the top media and Democratic ranks would prefer four more years of fundraising off the bogeyman represented by President Trump, than facing the risk a Sanders’ victory could pose to their increasingly wobbly appellate.

Can Sanders build the kind of diverse coalition it will take to knock President Trump out of the White House? Nevada helped answer that question. Sanders has always said that he could bring large numbers of new, young voters to the polls. He did exactly that in Nevada and it’s why he nearly won a majority of the vote in an eight-candidate race, far exceeding his stated support in the polls leading up to last week’s caucuses. The “Sanders Revolution” was on full display in Nevada, and with polls showing him leading handily in California and Texas, which will be among the 14 states to vote next Tuesday, he’s the only Democratic candidate, at this point, with a clear path to the nomination.

Those who complain that Sanders won’t match up well against Trump might want to doublecheck their sources. While that may be the storyline on the editorial page of *The New York Times* or *The Washington Post*, or the view most often expressed on MSNBC, someone should start telling that to the voters because they clearly haven’t gotten the message. In recent days, the polls are consistently showing Sanders with the largest lead of any Democrat over Trump in key states like Michigan and Wisconsin. What’s more, the last two polls out of Texas show Sanders down against Trump by just two or three points. If Sanders can mobilize young Latinos in Texas the way he did in Nevada, it could turn that state blue this fall. Sanders, unlike any of the other Democrats in the race, has the potential to rearrange the political map, just like Trump did in 2016. Keep in mind, the people who today are saying Sanders can’t win are very same people who said exactly that about Trump four years ago. They live in their rarified bubbles and think they have their fingers on the pulse of the average American?

Please!



Letters from Readers

Great leaders bring us together

Dear Ely City Council: This is a love letter to Ely. It’s a town, a region and state of mind next to wild lands and wilderness waters. We, the people, were born in Ely and born in just about every other state of the Union and we choose to live here. We love the lakes and clean air and the deep cold and warm summers and the northern lights. We love this little city where we shop and dine and drink and socialize. Without Sheridan and Chapman streets we wouldn’t love living here so much. The coffee shops and bars and diners and shops are as much a part of Ely as the woods. Life prospers because of our diversity of origin and belief and whatever the future brings, that won’t change.

You, the Mayor and the City Council of Ely, will lead us into this next decade and we have to say thanks with a reminder. You represent all of us. You have your deep opinions and you have your doubts but keep in mind you don’t just represent yourself. You speak for all of us. When you speak in public people hear Ely, not just you. To ask for a boycott of an institution like Fortune Bay Casino because of the tribal stand on sulfide ore mining, as Mayor Novak has done, opens up the door to legitimizing boycotts as a weapon against any business. Instead of suggesting revenge against an Indian casino and golf course how about using the opportunity to take the high road and talk about how all peoples have the right to express their opinions. Take the opportunity to say our region can handle big questions on big issues like sulfide ore mining and remain a friendly and welcoming place where people can relax and enjoy life. Maybe we’d all benefit from that kind of mayoral outlook. Kill ‘em with kindness, Mr. Mayor, and highlight the positive and downplay the negative. That’s what great leaders do.

Here, at the “End of the Road”, we all speak the same language. We all salute the same flag and we all love this little settlement of pioneers. We support each other and we should not speak a word of denigration against our neighbors. Councilors, the Mayor

and others who speak for us: if we don’t rally around the people and businesses of our region, then who will? Yes, we prosper together despite our warts and bruises from our disagreements. But, in the end, we stand together and defend our rights to speak our conscience. Our mutual benefit will result. Build bridges and please don’t build walls

Steve Piragis
Ely

Greenwood levy should be raised

Please come to the annual meeting on Tuesday, March 10 at 8:15 p.m. The levy is decided at the meeting – last time there was a difference of five votes, so your vote really does matter. The levy we will be voting on is for 2021 taxes.

At the end of 2014 our fund balances totaled \$1.356 million. At the end of 2019, there were unrestricted funds of approximately \$600,000. The drop is due to low levies. Our projected fund balance at the end of 2020 is approximately \$450,000.

The state recommends a multiple of between one and one-and-one-half times the budgeted expenditures, which puts us at approximately \$450,000. The board is recommending a levy of \$250,000 which will keep us in the recommended range. If the levy continues at \$150,000, I believe that the township will have cash flow issues in two years.

The Greenwood levy is the lowest in the area; the current charge per \$100,000 of taxable market value is \$30.33. If the levy is raised to \$250,000, the amount will be \$50.55 (based on total taxable market value in 2018).

What do you get by being a township resident? You get one of the best fire departments in the area; because of that you are getting a 25 to 40-percent discount on your homeowner’s insurance premiums (which is more than the levy). You are getting a building and pavilion you can use for events, reunions, etc. You are getting a nice playground, bocce courts, tennis and pickle ball. There is high speed internet available in the town hall and parking lot. There is a computer available for public

use. The clerk is a notary and available for your questions. Do we want to risk having to cut costs to maintain a positive cash flow? Do we want to be in the position that Tower is in? Please come to the annual meeting and support the board. Thank you,

Pam Rodgers
Treasurer
Greenwood Twp.

Who should benefit from ambulance transfers?

The ambulance transfer business, like the one that the city of Tower recently created, is a business that profits by transferring patients from one hospital to another throughout the state. Obviously, the primary concern should be what’s best for the patient. That’s one big reason why I believe that these transfer businesses should be based out of cities that are home to a hospital. Example: What patient in their right mind would want to wait at the Hibbing Hospital for an ambulance to come from Tower to bring her/him to a Duluth hospital?

Be assured, the area cities like Virginia and Hibbing actually do the vast majority of transfers out of their own hospitals. Most go to Duluth and are highly profitable runs for their ambulance services. What’s left for a remote ambulance transfer business like the city of Tower’s? All too often it’s the low profit, high mileage runs from Kukamonga to Timbuktu, the dregs that the larger ambulance services occasionally turn down. For the Tower Area Ambulance Service, one result is that about two-thirds of the mileage on our ambulances comes from the new transfer business running all over the state. If this city-blessed transfer business is required to pay its actual share for the additional wear and tear on ambulances, I predict that Tower’s transfer business will be a financial flop. The TAAS, Bois Forte, and township residents should not be expected to subsidize a flop. I believe it’s the second good reason that the Tower Area Ambulance Service shouldn’t be in the transfer business.

Lee Peterson
Greenwood Twp.

Red flags were waving all over at Tower City Hall

Of all the questions that I’ve fielded over the past two years about the situation in the city of Tower, the most common has been this: Is there evidence that anyone benefitted personally from the draining of city assets?

For most of



MARSHALL
HELMBERGER

this period, I could only repeat the response given by city officials— i.e., there’s no evidence of it at this point.

That answer may have to be recrafted because there now is evidence, which has been forwarded to law enforcement and the state auditor, that unauthorized payments may have been

made to the former clerk-treasurer.

For more on that, keep reading. But before I get to those details, it has to be noted that the handling of city finances over the two years leading up to the dismissal of the former clerk-treasurer included so many red flags that it is amazing the city’s auditors didn’t raise even more questions than they did.

One thing to remember, however, is that auditors are not tasked with looking for fraud,

embezzlement, or unauthorized payments. They’re tasked with assessing only the accuracy of the financial documents that the city is preparing. To do so, they’re simply taking a sampling of invoices, receipts, contracts and other records, selected more or less randomly. Cases of fraud and embezzlement are commonplace throughout America, including in the public sector, and standard audits rarely uncover such activity. That requires the hiring of a forensic

auditor, something the city has not yet done.

Yet it wouldn’t take a forensic auditor to recognize all the red flags that have been waving in Tower for some time. Such warning signs include the decline in the city’s available cash. This was masked for about two years by the systematic draining of city reserves, mostly without the knowledge of the former city council. As we

See CITY..pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Legislation gives a guarantee

Congresswoman Betty McCollum’s proposed legislation is designed to avoid potential environmental destruction by sulfide copper mining near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. In Ely’s water-rich climate, wastewater in the mines cannot be entirely contained or controlled. The water seeps underground in unfettered directions and distances regardless of the watershed’s aboveground surface contours and can ultimately drain into rivers and lakes. When sulfide copper ore mixes with water, it creates toxic sulfuric acid and will kill aquatic organisms including fish. (At times the old Ely Pioneer iron ore mine discharged one million gallons of wastewater a day. The underground miners often wore raincoats.)

The mine owners say there will be no environmental pollution. If they really believe that, then they should not be afraid of being held liable for any harmful destructive pollution. The foreign owners, however, have chosen to establish legal barriers to shield them paying any court judgment by using shell companies as legal barricades to their corporate assets. The shell corporations have minimal assets and no doubt their mining equipment will be leased, and consequently will have little or no ownership of the assets in the mining operations.

An acceptable alternative might be to have environmental liability insurance from a large, reputable insurance company. The fact that they cannot get it, raises the probability that an objective, independent third party views the potential for damage due to weather conditions, poor design and maintenance or human error as too high to insure.

The voting constituency that favors sulfide copper mining anticipates 600 local jobs and salaries of \$80,000. These numbers are already out of date and will be even more so by the time the mine would open. Recent technology has changed the dynamics of mining. Modern day mining has become automated. Robots are able to replicate human movements and functions automatically. Machinery and drone-operated trucks and rail are guided by computers, operating from distant locations that have a large market of hi-tech specialists.

The mining advocates for jobs should perform their own research on the changing technology in the mining industry and not rely on old data or rely

solely on the corporation’s representations.

The price of a pound of copper is determined by world market exchanges. For a mine to be profitable, total operating costs must be below the world prices. There is no brand differentiation to merit a higher sale price.

Betty McCollum’s bill provides the necessary protection to our wilderness area that the mining companies will not and cannot guarantee.

**Gerry Snyder
Ely**

Greenwood naysayers tout misinformation

I typically don’t respond to letters to the editor, however, I am quite dismayed by the recent ads and information circulating in the paper and on social media that paint such a negative picture of Greenwood Township and the board of supervisors.

The misinformation recently posted regarding the levy, security cameras and other board decisions has been created by a small group that continues to promote a negative opinion about all that Greenwood Township has to offer. I would encourage all residents of Greenwood Township to try and attend board meetings and gather firsthand facts. If that is not possible, feel free to contact me or any other supervisor regarding any issues brought before the board.

Greenwood Township is a wonderful community to live in. We have a beautiful town hall, a great and dedicated fire department, and many volunteers who provide wonderful support for many activities available in the township. There are exercise groups, organized rummage sales, quilters, and many family gatherings that utilize the town hall and pavilion to name a few.

I have had the opportunity to support the volunteers of the Recreation Board, which keep the grounds, the pavilion, and playground in great shape. The Penguin Snowmobile Club works diligently to improve snowmobile recreation throughout our area and do a great job keeping up trails. I supported the club in their efforts to obtain property for their new maintenance building.

If all your information comes only from the negative group that continues to vilify all that happens in Greenwood Township, you would never realize what a wonderful place Greenwood Township is to reside.

With the upcoming election,

I encourage you to become informed before casting your ballot.

Please vote and keep Greenwood Township a wonderful place to live. Thank you.

**Mike Ralston
Supervisor
Greenwood Twp.**

What is going on with the board?

We find it very interesting that our current supervisors voted to spend over \$5,000 on security for a door and a camera in the Greenwood Town Hall. At a meeting this past year, they asked our treasurer and our clerk if they felt afraid, in danger or threatened in any way and they both replied “no”! They stated the people and the citizens of our township are friendly, nice, and polite when they come into the office. So why now do we need a camera and locked areas in our township office? The only person we know who broke the lock on the office door was our present-day chair Carmen DeLuca, when he took office and could not get his key. Right away he called the locksmith. Why couldn’t this matter wait until our annual meeting to have the citizens of Greenwood decide on this issue by discussing and voting on it? Why are supervisors spending money that is unnecessary?

Now the supervisors want to decide who will be our clerk and who will be our treasurer!! We strongly feel we have one of the best clerks and treasurers in this area. Both are very knowledgeable, kind, and answer the citizens’ questions in a warm and friendly manner. If you have a question or concern, they will research the question thoroughly. They stepped up for these positions and were voted into the positions by the voters and citizens of Greenwood Township. We have never had a difficult time finding very qualified citizens to fill any position in this township. We also feel some of the present-day supervisors are very rude and disrespectful to our clerk.

Another concern and problem we have is that many of our current supervisors think that our summer neighbors, citizens and owners, should not be able to use our township’s second computer in the outside area of our office. These people own property and pay taxes to Greenwood Township and if their computer is not working, for any reason, they should be allowed to use the township’s community computer. We have always been known as good neighbors. We need to vote kind

and knowledgeable people into the supervisor positions who will be good listeners.

**Pam Lundstrom
Kathy Vogh
Greenwood Twp.**

A clerk shouldn’t be beholden to board

For decades, the vast majority of townships in Minnesota have chosen to elect, rather than ‘appoint’ their clerks and treasurers. Greenwood has always had an elected clerk and treasurer, for good reason. The election ensures (in a perfect world) that the elected clerks and treasurers are working for the citizens. An appointed official would most likely answer to and be beholden to the board rather than the electorate. Mike Ralston made the motion to put that question on the ballot for the election on Tuesday, March 10. He told the citizens at a recent board meeting that they could have more ‘control’ if the board were able to appoint the clerk and treasurer. Please vote ‘no’ on changing the tradition so that ‘We the People’ are able to continue to choose, through an election, who represents us.

The board has recently spent \$4,800 of our tax dollars to:

► Install a ‘Dutch’ door to block access to the clerk and treasurer’s office. They are worried about the ‘public’ viewing confidential information, such as HIPPA and payroll information. That information is currently not available to the public, it is secured in locked cabinets. Residents and visitors have conducted business across the counter in the clerk’s office for decades without incident.

► They have installed three security cameras. One is wisely located outside. One is in the clerk and treasurer’s office, and one is in the room where the public computer is located. The current board is worried about folks viewing pornography or ‘sabotaging’ the computer. I spoke at length to Mike Ralston about more logical and less expensive solutions. I suggested filters that have been used to block porn for decades and are inexpensive to install. A sign-up log for users with their name, phone number, date, and time on and off the computer would be virtually free. This invasion of privacy was not a wise or responsible use of our tax dollars. Mr. Ralston said he agreed with much that I said. The day after I spoke to him, the board voted 5-0 to spy on citizens and elected officials. I feel this is unacceptable and intrusive.

Please attend the annual meeting on Tuesday, March 10

to let your opinions be heard. The voters have only one chance to speak up and decide how much money the township can spend. An increase from \$150,000 to \$250,000 with over \$600,000 in the bank is excessive.

**Barb Lofquist
Greenwood Twp.**

The flip side of Novak’s boycotts

I read in the *Timberjay* about Ely Mayor Chuck Novak’s opinion that we should all boycott casinos and ANY businesses that don’t support copper nickel mining in the BWCA headwaters.

Oh, Chuck. That’s just genius.

But hey, why not take it one logical step further? You should also demand that local merchants, service professionals and tradesman refuse to sell to any who oppose these mining plans! Now THAT’S a boycott! And from your cerebral point of view it must make sense. I mean, if you want to hurt businesses with your boycott, wouldn’t you also want to hurt consumers who feel the same way?

I’m going to check this out for myself next week.

I’ve had the great pleasure of purchasing our last five company and personal vehicles here locally from Mike Motors of Ely. Their logo is proudly displayed on each of our company tailgates. They’ve been great; it makes me happy that we (and our viewpoints) are helping our community. The subject of mining has never come up at the dealership. But next week, I’ll drop in there again. I’ll ask Joe and Al if they’re going to take the mayor’s advice and “boycott” my company and our business because of our anti-mining stance. If their answer is “Um, yes... the mayor says we can’t sell to the likes of YOU anymore” ... heh, well, I’ll be sad for 30 seconds. Then, I’ll take my business to Duluth or Virginia... just like many of our “pro-mining” residents do already. And I’ll advise all of our friends to ask the same type of question wherever they shop in Ely. Let’s see how it all falls out.

Oh, and Chuck? Keep it up. Your current actions are looking VERY presidential. Let’s get together soon over a couple of burgers. We’ll figure out how to give your hair that orange tint you’ve always longed for. Well DONE, sir!

**Duane Behrens
Ely**

CITY...Continued from page 4

have reported at various points, almost every city account was affected. While the draining of the ambulance reserves has received the most attention, since it involved several hundred thousand dollars, it appears the former clerk-treasurer drained more than \$100,000 from the city’s storefront account, nearly \$25,000 from the city’s police car replacement fund, nearly \$25,000 from the city’s streets account, and nearly \$30,000 from the city’s fire department fund. And it appears another \$17,000 was drained from the city’s sick leave account. All in all, the former clerk-treasurer made many dozens of fund transfers, constantly shifting money back and forth. Most, if not all, of these cases were without the required council authorization. While some transfers restored money to accounts, the net result was a city piggy bank that was essentially run dry. It’s not clear when or if any of these funds will be restored to their proper accounts.

I’m not suggesting that these funds were drained to go into someone’s personal bank account. City audits from 2017 and 2018 suggested that a lot

this money was being used to cover sizable deficits in many city projects. Which isn’t to say things are fine. Showing deficits in public projects has actually been one way that public sector embezzlers have moved money to themselves. We have no evidence that this happened here, perhaps because no one has examined the outflow of funds from these public projects (it would be a big job). So, again, the lack of evidence certainly isn’t definitive. The fact that projects so consistently ended up with sizable deficits over the past several years is troubling, however, for a number of reasons, among them that it suggests chronic project mismanagement.

Another warning sign is when the person actually in charge of the financial reporting is reluctant to provide regular financial reports or spread the financial duties around to ensure more checks and balances—which was a chronic problem under the former clerk-treasurer. The former council rarely saw any financial information from the city and the former clerk-treasurer repeatedly fought requests for more financial trans-

parency from the new council. That’s changed remarkably since the hiring of the new clerk, Victoria Ranua.

The city’s lack of what’s known as “segregation of duties” has been another continuing issue cited by the city’s auditors. Former city officials largely ignored the auditors’ concerns, suggesting that they could never achieve the proper level of segregation given their small staff. Yet other very small organizations, such as the Vermilion Country School, have adopted practices that address this concern. It’s one the city of Tower could eliminate from its auditor’s management letter, as well, if city officials take it as a priority.

The lack of segregation may have made it possible for the former clerk-treasurer to benefit from payments to which she wasn’t entitled. Based on payroll records we’ve received through a public records request it appears that the former clerk-treasurer systematically added a \$45 per month bonus to her paycheck dating back nearly to the time she assumed the position. The extra payment was variously described as “Fire Department Head” or “Wastewater Meeting

Pay,” but in our review of city minutes from the years around when these payments began, we could find no council authorization for this extra pay, nor does the relevant union contract call for such payments.

What’s more, through much of her tenure, the former clerk-treasurer was paid hourly, so she would have presumably been paid her usual wages for any extra hours she worked on the wastewater board’s behalf. Perhaps most troubling is that the former-clerk-treasurer continued to collect the pay bonuses even when other members of the office, such as the deputy clerk, were assigned to the wastewater meetings. The deputy clerk, by the way, was not paid extra for covering those meetings.

The truth is, we may never get to the bottom of this mess because so much money was moved around so many different ways that it’s like trying to follow the pea in a shell game. What’s more, the vast majority of receipts that came into the city were entered in the city’s software program as cash sales, without so much as a note or any other information indicating who the money was from

or why the city was receiving it. Such lazy bookkeeping has, understandably, given the new clerk-treasurer fits.

We realize there are some in the community who still labor under the impression that the city’s financial situation was better under the former council and city clerk. Those are people, without exception, who are misinformed. What existed before in Tower City Hall was a chaotic system run out of the clerk’s office with virtually no oversight from a council that had been browbeaten into submission. The city’s financial disaster was already apparent to its auditors by early 2018 and they did what they could to alert the council to the problem, as we reported at the time. Unfortunately, their warnings fell on deaf ears.

So, did anyone end up with extra money in their pockets that they weren’t entitled to? There is certainly some evidence for that now, although we’ll wait to see how prosecutors decide to proceed before making a more definitive suggestion. But one thing we can say for sure is that the city of Tower was headed for a train wreck. At least now, there’s hope for a turnaround.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Brownout, power outage in Tower-Soudan on Saturday

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER-SOUDAN- A midday power outage in Tower and Soudan on Saturday had several Main Street businesses closed or operating under reduced power until power was fully restored after 7 p.m.

A broken insulator on a structure that feeds into the transformer that supplies power to the entire town affected over 500 customers, according to Amy Rutledge, spokesperson for Minnesota Power. Late in the afternoon, power was shut off while repairs were made. “Our crews had to de-energize a section of the main line in order to do their work safely,” Rutledge said. The power was off for about 72 minutes while repairs were made.

“Everyone was back to full power at 7:16 p.m.,” said Rut-

ledge.

“We appreciated everyone’s patience as our crews worked safely and as quickly as possible to solve the issue,” she said. “The cause of the broken insulator has not been determined.”

During the afternoon, the area was suffering from a “brownout,” which occurs when the voltage supplied to customers is reduced. The reduced voltage affects certain types of lighting, such as fluorescent bulbs, electrical equipment like computers and modems, and also can harm large appliances and furnaces.

“Fluctuating power levels can cause issues for sensitive electronics,” Rutledge said. “Our main recommendation for residential customers during partial power situations would be to trip their main breaker until power is restored,” Rutledge

said.

Both gas stations in Tower were closed, due to the inability to pump gas. Good Ol’ Days, which was full of snowmobilers, had to close its kitchen but the bar remained open. The Tower Café also had to close. Zup’s Grocery remained open but had only one cash register that was able to function with the reduced power. The aisles were dark, but staff helped customers find what they needed. The large glass windows in the front of Ubetcha Antiques let in enough light to allow shopping to continue. And luckily, the unseasonably mild weather meant that buildings didn’t get



Shoppers checked out in a darkened grocery store in Tower on Saturday afternoon. photo by J. Summit

too cold while the power was off. The electronic ignition systems that spark many modern furnaces could not fire up until

Dianna Sundahl now sole candidate for Breitung clerk

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

SOUDAN- When Breitung residents go to vote for township offices on Tuesday, March 10 between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. they will see three names on the ballot. Dianna Sundahl and Robin Bjorgo are listed for the seat soon to be vacated by long-time clerk Polly McDonald. Incumbent Supervisor Greg Dostert is also running unopposed for re-election.

Robin Bjorgo, since filing, has accepted a new position a CWT Sato Travel in Ely where she worked previously and is no longer seeking the position of Breitung Township Clerk. Though she no longer desires the clerk position, her name will still appear on the ballot.

Dianna Sundahl is now the only person formally running for the clerk position. “I wanted to be more active in my community,” she said. She also said she hopes to make a seamless transition into the new role and is looking forward to learning the ropes and getting to know the people of the town better. Sundahl is eager to learn and has already been reading up on literature from the Minnesota Association of Townships.

Sundahl brings a long history of relevant work experience. Her last job was as the senior manager at a large utility company where she did data analysis, record keeping, and compliance. She was the secretary for AFSCME Local 1426 in Virginia, and was the secretary for the Tower Fire Relief Association.

Sundahl now stays busy as the secretary for the Giants Ridge Homeowners Association and as the alternate treasurer for the Tower Soudan Civic Club, where she has been a member for about a year-and-a-half. Sundahl is also a public notary and is a U.S. Army Veteran.

Sundahl loves Breitung Township because there is so much to do there, and she enjoys having close access to the lake. She likes living in such a tight-knit community where everyone knows everyone.

Don’t forget, the Breitung Annual Meeting will be held after the ballots are counted, at approximately 8:30 p.m.

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

TOWER BINGO Monday, March 2

TOWER- Senior Bingo will be held in Tower on Monday, March 2 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, April 6, 2020
Monday, May 4, 2020
Monday, June 1, 2020
Monday, July 13 (second Monday)

TOWNSHIP ELECTIONS

Two running for Greenwood clerk in upcoming township election

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

Incumbent Greenwood Township Clerk Sue Drobac is being challenged by Deb Spicer in the upcoming township election on Tuesday, March 10.

Deb Spicer

“Since I closed the Wayside,” said Deb Spicer, “I miss working with people.”

Spicer, who owned and operated the popular breakfast and lunch spot, the Wayside Café, on Old Highway 77 from 2004 - 2015, is now running for the Greenwood Town Clerk position.

“I thought this would be a good opportunity,” she said.

Spicer said she is not ready to retire, but also is not ready to be working 24/7, which was often the case when she ran the Wayside. Work hours often were very long, she said, because they had a tough time finding employees. “We did have some very good cooks

though,” she said.

Spicer’s background also includes property management, including oversight of a large management company’s maintenance department, as well as working at US Bank as an architectural analyst.

Currently Spicer is filling in on a contract rural mail route, but that job will end in March.

“We enjoyed that job,” she said. “But there was no contact with people.”

“I would look forward to serving the township,” she said. “People know me. If they want me in there, I will get their votes, otherwise I won’t.”

Sue Drobac

Just finishing up her second two-year term as clerk, Sue Drobac would like to keep going at least another two years.

“I really enjoy the work,” she said. Drobac talked about all the clerk trainings and classes she has

attended and noted she has made changes in the ways the township office operates.

“I enjoy learning more about the job,” she said. “We’ve made changes to how we do payroll, are following the new election rules, and other things.”

One of the best parts of her job, she said, is getting to know more Greenwood residents. A longtime seasonal resident who has lived full-time in Greenwood the last 10 years, Drobac says the job has introduced her to many more of her neighbors. She also enjoys working so close to home.

Drobac said she has been saddened by the rocky relationship that has sometimes flared up between the clerk and the town board. “I am hoping for better days in the future,” she said.

See interviews with the four candidates for the two supervisor seats on page 8 this week’s paper.

Breitung, Greenwood, and Vermilion Lake holding township elections on Tuesday, March 10

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

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

In Breitung Township, incumbent su-

pervisor Greg Dostert filed. Newcomer Dianna Sundahl has filed for the open clerk seat. Incumbent clerk Polly McDonald is retiring. Robin Bjorgo had filed for the seat but has withdrawn her application.

In Greenwood Township, incumbent Paul Skubic is being challenged by former township chairman John Bassing for the Supervisor 1 seat. Incumbent Mike Ralston is being challenged by Barb Lofquist

for the Supervisor 2 seat. Incumbent clerk Sue Drobac is being challenged by Deb Spicer for the two-year clerk seat.

Township elections are held on Tuesday, March 10.



Pastor Doug Workman presents Chimpy Tuominen with a check equal to half the proceeds from this past week's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Meal fundraiser. The funds will be used to support the weekly skating parties. The other half of the proceeds will help fund Vacation Bible School. photo by J. Summit

Chimpy’s Skating Parties on Saturday and Sunday

SOUDAN- Chimpy’s Skating Parties are now underway. Stop by the Soudan Skating Rink on Saturday, Feb. 29 from 12 noon - 2 p.m. and Sunday, March 1 from 12 noon - 2 p.m.

This week’s parties are sponsored by Steven and Sheryl Redmond and St. James Presbyterian Church.

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 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. to closing. The rink will be closed due to inclement weather, and will be posted in such instances.

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY



Tower-Soudan Kindergarten celebrated Valentine’s Day along with the 100th day of school on Feb. 14. Pictured (clockwise from top left) Lorenzo Stella checks out his Valentine’s Day loot. Students sporting their new 100th day t-shirts. Draya Feather is all smiles.. Brendin Villebrun inspects his treat bag. Kia Gagnon enjoys a lollipop. photos by J. Summit



COLLEGE NEWS

Mesabi Range College
Fall Semester Dean’s List

High Honors 4.0 – 3.75 GPA
Avery Frazee, Tower
Dillon Gorsma, Soudan
Maude Lenz, Embarrass
Megan Ruzic, Tower
Meiko Udovich, Tower

Honors 3.74 – 3.5 GPA
Elizabeth Deegan, Tower
Mariah Morse, Embarrass
Brett Porisch, Embarrass
Arija Thompson, Embarrass

Mikayla Mellesmoen
named to Minnesota
State Mankato Dean’s
List

MANKATO- Mikayla Mellesmoen, of Embarrass, has been named to the Academic High Honor Dean’s List for the past fall semester at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Among 3,445 students, a total of 915 students qualified for the High Honor List by achieving a 4.0 straight “A” average, while 2,530 students earned a 3.5 to 3.99 average to qualify for the Honor List.

Molly Vagle named to
University of Minnesota
Twin Cities Dean’s List

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL- Molly J. Vagle, of Tower, has been named to the 2019 fall semester Dean’s List at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. Vagle is a sophomore in the College of Liberal Arts. To qualify for the Dean’s List, a student must complete 12 or more letter-graded credits while attaining a 3.66 grade point average.

CHURCH NEWS

St. James Movie Night on
Sunday, March 15

TOWER- St. James Presbyteri-an Church in Tower will host a free movie night on Sunday, March 15 at 6 p.m. The movie is “6 Below.” An adrenaline seeking snowboard-er gets lost in a massive winter storm in the back country of the High Sierras where he is pushed to the limits of human endurance and forced to battle his own personal demons as he fights for survival. The film is rated PG-13.

St. James 2020 Lenten
Worship Theme

TOWER- The theme for Lent-en worship at St. James Presbyteri-an this year is “The Upside Down Teachings Of Jesus.”

Sunday, March 1 – “Feeling the Weight of the Cross”, Luke 9:18-27. Why would Jesus use an instrument of death to represent His kingdom and His power? And how do I “carry” my cross daily?

Sunday, March 8 – “Moving to the Head of the Line”, Matthew 23:1-23. Jesus hated pride and used the Pharisees to highlight the evils of that sin. But why would God hate pride, and how would I know if I suffer from it?

Sunday, March 15 – “Slave or Free”, Romans 6:1-23. The world believes that if they can be free of God, they’ll be free to do as they wish? The Bible teaches us that ev-

eryone is a slave to something, but does that really make sense?

Sunday, March 22 – “Strength Training”, 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. How could my weakness be a good thing? Why would this truth be necessary for me to understand God’s will for my life?

Sunday, March 29 – “Life From Death”, Matthew 22:23-33. Modern day Sadducees still teach that a bodily resurrection is unbelievable. For what three reasons do they reject a teaching that is so obviously Biblical?

St. James Presybyterian
Holy Week and Easter
schedule

Palm Sunday – “From Tri-umph To Tragedy”, Matthew 21:1-11, Jesus went from triumph to tragedy in a week.

Maundy Thursday – The Lord’s Supper and Potluck 6 p.m. “The Fifth Cup: Our Way Of Hope” from our series “The Path To The Cross.”

Good Friday – Ecumenical Service at Immanuel Lutheran Church at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday– “A Living Hope For The Hopeless”, Luke 24:10-35. When Jesus rose from the dead, Thomas got a five-min-ute show and tell. By contrast, the two men on the road to Emmaus received a three-hour dissertation. Why the difference? Perhaps Jesus

spent more time with these hope- less men, to show us how to have a living Hope in a hopeless world. The service will be followed by a potluck Easter Brunch

Ecumenical Community
Good Friday Service

TOWER- This year’s Ecumen- ical Community Good Friday Ser- vice will be held on Friday, April 9 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower at 7 p.m.

Community Easter Egg
Hunt Saturday, April 11
at 11 a.m. Sharp!

TOWER- The annual Com- munity Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 11 at 11 a.m. sharp. The event is for all chil- dren through sixth-grade and their families. Join us at the Tower Civic Center. The egg hunt begins at 11 a.m. sharp, so please arrive early. The egg hunt itself only takes a few minutes as the children race to col- lect the thousands of eggs scattered on the civic center grounds.

If you can help with prepar- ing the eggs and prizes prior to the event, or can volunteer on the day of the event, please contact Pastor Doug Workman at St. James Pres- byterian at 218-753-6005.

AEOA Senior
Dining Menu

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

Reservations are ap- preciated the day before, or morning of, but walk- ins are always welcome. Take-outs are available. Seniors age 60 and old- er who have registered for the program and their partners qualify for spe- cial 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 char- ter 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 Nutri- tion at 218-735-6899.

Week of March 2	
Monday-	Chicken Sandwich, Soup
Tuesday-	Gyros, Tater Tots
Wednesday-	Spa- ghetti w/Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread Stick
Thursday-	Breaded Pork Patty, Biscuit and Gravy, Fruit
Friday-	Chicken ala King in a Bread Bowl

Week of March 2

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 March 17.

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.

Call to Subscribe

(218) 753-2950

www.timberjay.com



the

TIMBERJAY

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

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General Manager	Jodi Summit
Cook-Orr Editor	David Colburn
Ely Editor	Keith Vandervort
Staff Writer	Stephanie Ukkola
Office Manager	M. M. White
Graphics/Ad Sales	Scarlet Lynn Stone
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Read the entire paper on-line every week. On- line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details at [www. timberjay.com](http://www.timberjay.com).

Moving? Questions about your subscription?

Call the Tower office at (218) 753-2950.

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Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, March 18; April 8, 29

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

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

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

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

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

Support groups

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

Tuesday Group

ELY - The upcoming Tuesday Group schedule is listed below. All talks are at 12 noon on Tuesday at the Grand Ely Lodge.
March 3 - Kris Hallberg-The Economic Impact of Twin Metals: The Harvard Study

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



snow melts, clearing roads
first taste of approaching warmth
perhaps early spring



the **TIMBERJAY**

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ELECTION 2020

Dedicated DFLers attend Ely caucus



Resolve to ban sulfide mining in Rainy River headwaters

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – A small turnout Tuesday night for the Minnesota Democrat Farmer Labor Party caucus in Ely didn't keep the group of dedicated politicos from conducting local precinct business.
Almost 30 people attended the Ely DFL precinct gathering at the Vermilion Community College Fine Arts Theater. Nearby townships and the Republican Party also meet at various locations in VCC. All caucuses started at 7 p.m.
Ely resident Carol Orban nominated herself to the position of precinct chair for the next two years. She won by unanimous vote.
As many as 22 delegates from the Ely precinct were requested to attend a series of district and county conventions scheduled for April and May. Just 13 caucus participants showed an interest in being involved in party-level politics this year.
Caucus participants presented and considered several resolutions.
Ely resident Mary Louise Icenhour was the first participant to offer a resolution. "Be it resolved that in order to protect the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Voyageurs National Park, two of America's great national treasures, from being permanently contaminated by proposed sulfide ore copper mining in the Superior National Forest, we support a ban of sulfide ore copper mining in all federal and state lands in the Rainy River headwaters." The resolution was adopted on a 28-0 vote.
Other resolutions, involving gun control and red flag laws, ranked choice voting preferences, reducing non-biodegradable cigarette butts, and others were considered and adopted.
More caucus information can be accessed at the Minnesota Secretary of State website, www.caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us.
Early voting for the March 3 presidential primary continues at Ely City Hall 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. For more information, call City Hall, 218-365-3224, or email deputyclerk@ely.mn.us.
Residents of the surrounding townships must contact the county auditor's office to obtain absentee ballots. Voters can also apply for a ballot or register for the primary on the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.mn.us.
Morse and Fall Lake townships will hold local 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.

Ely resident Mary Louise Icenhour, above, introduced a draft resolution Tuesday night in favor of banning sulfide mining. All participants in the Ely precinct DFL caucus at Vermilion Community College, top, unanimously approved the measure. photos by K. Vandervort

Ely Public Library Events

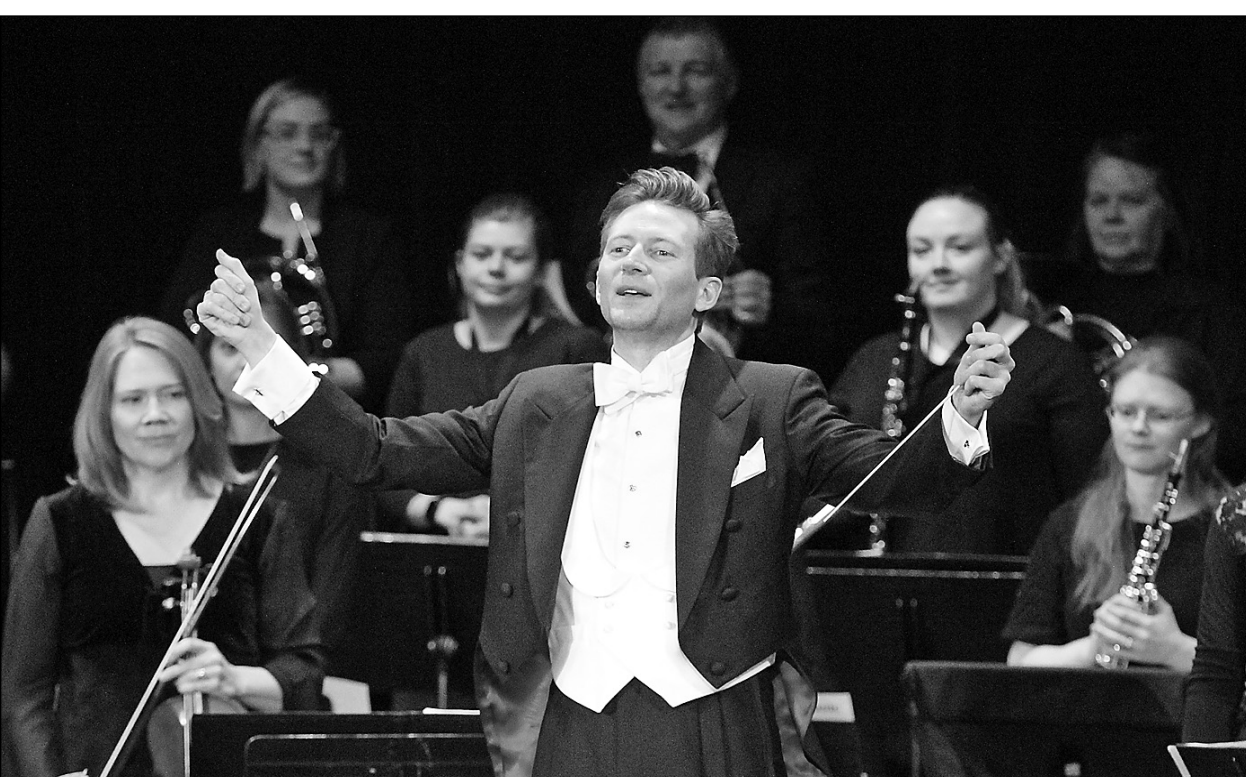
►Friday, Feb. 28 at 3:30 p.m. - NASA@My Library Rover Races for grades 2-4 - Find out how NASA scientists program robots to explore the surface of a new world. We'll talk about basic concepts and then divide into teams for participants to try "exploring" a surface in a couple of different ways. Must pre-register for this program. This program is part of our NASA@My Library partnership. The NASA@My Library project is led by the National Center for Interactive Learning at the Space Science Institute. Partners include the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office, Pacific Science Center, Cornerstones of Science, and Education Development Center. NASA@My Library is made possible through the support of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Science Mission Directorate as part of its STEM Activation program.
►Tuesday, March 3, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. - Book Tasting - What's your favorite flavor of literature? Stop in during the library's open hours and try a sample of one or more literary flavors/genres. You might discover that you have a taste for new types of reading! This is a Read Across America event!
►Thursday, March 5 at 1 p.m. - Film Fiesta for teens and adults - Watch one of the library's films projected onto a larger screen. We'll have popcorn ready for you, and you are welcome to bring your own non-alcoholic beverage to enjoy. (And, if the movie doesn't hold your interest, we won't tell if you take a little siesta in the middle.) Our title for this month is "Back to the Future." This program is sponsored by Friends of the Library.
►Friday, March 6 at 11 a.m. - Preschool Storytime - Our regular preschool storytime featuring stories, early literacy activities, and lots of fun! We end with an optional craft that ties into the week's theme. This week will be Hats and Mittens.
►Monday, March 9 at 3 p.m. - Friends of the Library Bookclub - for teens and adults. This month's book will be Where'd You Go, Bernadette by Marie Sample.
►Wednesday, March 11 at 1 p.m. - Becky Schlegel Duo - for all ages. Take a musical journey with the Becky Schlegel Duo! Becky's music is original, drawing on the influence of classic country, bluegrass, folk, and her own thoughtful spirit. Her voice floats, whispers, then soars above music of the highest quality. This program is sponsored by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.
►Friday, March 13 at 11 a.m. - Preschool Storytime - Our regular preschool storytime featuring stories, early literacy activities, and lots of fun! We end with an optional craft that ties into the week's theme. This week will be St. Patrick's Day.
►Friday, March 13 at 3:30 p.m. - Pinterest Projects - This is part of a series of programs based on a crafting theme. This month, the theme is Tin Creations. This is the perfect craft session for you if you find yourself pinning lots of ideas on Pinterest that you never go back and use. Please pre-register for this program, so we can have enough supplies on hand. The library will supply materials. This program is sponsored by Friends of the Library.
►Thursday, March 19 and Friday, March 20 - Model Rocketry Seminar, for grades 7 - 12 - Learn the basics of how rockets work, then build and launch a model rocket. Pre-registration required... must be able to attend both sessions. More details of times, etc. to come soon.
►Friday, March 20 at 11 a.m. - Preschool Storytime - Our regular preschool storytime featuring stories, early literacy activities, and lots of fun! We end with an optional craft that ties into the week's theme. This week will be Llamas.
►Friday, March 27 at 11 a.m. - Preschool Storytime - Our regular preschool storytime featuring stories, early literacy activities, and lots of fun! We end with an optional craft that ties into the week's theme.

SUPPORTING THE ARTS

Brilliance & Inspiration



The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra presented "Brilliance & Inspiration", conducted by Benjamin Nilles, last Saturday at the Vermillion Community College Fine Arts Theater. The concert was part of the MSO's A Season of Masterworks series. photos by K. Vandervort



News in Brief

Learn to drive defensively

ELY – Ely State Farm Insurance agent Lindsey Keen is hosting a defensive driving class on Saturday, Feb. 29, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Grand Ely Lodge.

Cost for the class is \$10, and completion of the course saves participants 10-percent on auto insurance for three years at a time.

You do not need to be a State Farm Customer to partake or to receive the discount. Tell a friend. Free coffee and doughnuts will be available.

Call 218-365-5104 to register, and pay at the door.

Have coffee with a cop

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

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

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

Higher Education

Students honored at Mesabi Range

ELY – The following area students were named to the Fall Semester 2019, Dean's List at Mesabi Range College.

High Honors (4.0 – 3.75 GPA), Jonah Cersine, Carolyn Desilets, Kaylee Donner, and Kristina Johnson, all of Babbitt, Steven Fenske, of Winton, and Jean Serson, of Ely.

Honors (3.74 – 3.5 GPA), Trista Miller, of Babbitt

Olson honored at Minnesota State

MANKATO - The Academic High Honor and Honor Lists (Dean's Lists) for the past fall semester at Minnesota State University Mankato have been announced.

Elijah Olson, of Ely, was named to the Honors List.

Among 3,445 students, a total of 915 students qualified for the High Honor List by achieving a 4.0 straight "A" average, while 2,530 students earned a 3.5 to 3.99 average to qualify for the Honor List.

To qualify for academic honors, undergraduate students must be enrolled for at least 12 credit hours for the semester.

Richter makes Dean's List

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL – Ely student August Richter, a senior in the College of Liberal Arts been named to the 2019 fall semester Dean's List at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must complete 12 or more letter-graded credits while attaining a 3.66 grade point average.

Yesterday's news, this week

from the archives of

THE ELY MINER

Courtesy of the Ely-Winton Historical Society

February 27, 1920

Men wanted to learn a trade

An army recruiting office has been opened in the lobby of the post office and will accept men for any branch of the service that the man wishes to enlist for. All men that enter service must take up one of the trades that the army is offering.

Here is your chance to take up a vocational training course free and receive \$30 per month besides board and clothing, medical attention and an education at Uncle Sam's expense.

The recruiting office will be open in Ely from Feb. 26-29, and you can get all the information about the army that you wish, so go and talk it over with the sergeant in charge. Enlistments are open for one or three years and all men, no matter if they have been in the service or not. All one-year enlistments are for field artillery and engineers.

Those in charge of enlistments are Sergeants Frank O'Hara of the general service, Samuel Gholson of the 56th infantry, and Clifton Lockman of the 51st infantry.

Ten-percent advance

The announcement of a ten-percent advance of wages in the mining industry of Lake Superior has not caused much stir but it means a whole lot. It means some millions of dollars distributed in wages and salaries in addition to what was distributed for the same service in 1919.

Furthermore, there will be doubtless be more men employed this year. The ten-percent advance affects all incomes under \$3,600 per year. Adjustments of salaries above that sum will be made by the companies direct.

The advance is effective as of Feb. 1. The mining company whose payroll has been \$1 million per year, and there are many who have a payroll as large or larger than that, is now on a basis of \$100,000 more.

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

Basketball is quite elementary



Second and third-graders took to the court to show off their skills at halftime of a recent Grizzlies game.

Above: Everyone rushes to grab a loose ball.

Upper right: Hunter Lange advances the ball.

Lower right: Clark Danielson bolts down the court.

Left: Luke Cheney leaps for the ball while Daniel Zupancich and third-grader Mason LeForte look on.

photos by C. Stone



Gleeful gliding at the rink

Inclement weather caused their original field trip to be postponed, but Friday was a beautiful day for North Woods first and second-graders to take a trip to the skating rink at Cook Community Center.

Top left: Clad in hockey gear, Jordan Herdman, seated, is whirled around by Brayden Amundson as Reece Whitney approaches from behind.

Top right: Piper Bundy steadies herself with the help of Stella Pliml.

Middle right: Bridget David gets a lift off of the ice rink wall courtesy of aide Jessica Johnson.

Left: Jacksen Udovich uses a chair for support as he slowly but surely works his way down the ice.

photos by D. Colburn



SENIOR RECOGNITION



A Feb. 20 game against Floodwood, the last Grizzlies home game of the season, was time to bid an emotional and enthusiastic farewell to the North Woods seniors.

Above: Young fans Brynn Chosa, Isabelle Koch and Megan Taylor hold a sign in support of the seniors.

Right: Coley Olson, Sasha Strong and Kennedy Wardas thank their parents, fans and coaches.

photos by C. Stone



Sunlight and Shadow exhibit coming March 5

COOK- “Sunlight and Shadow” by Laura Pajari and Kris Musto is the newest exhibit at Northwoods Friends of the Arts. The show opens Thursday, March 5 and continues to Saturday, March 28. The exhibit consists of three-dimensional art using mixed media. The public is invited to meet Kris and Laura at a reception to be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, March 20.

Both of these artists are long-time members and volunteers at NWFA. Pulling from both extraordinary and mundane

experiences, Laura and Kris explore the duality and metaphor of the moments of sunlight and shadow we all encounter moving through life. By creating in three dimensions with jewelry, beads, found objects, stitches, quilts, dyes and fabric, they are also creating tangible connections with the viewer through objects infused with magic that can be taken home.

Laura Pajari grew up in Cook on a farm acquired 120 years ago by her maternal great-grandparents and has lived in Cook all her life.

“My art is an important tool. I use (creating



Kris Musto

art) to battle my demons of depression and PTSD.

From sun catchers to silverware art, bird feeders to blogging, candle

making to canning and tarot to talismans, I’m al-



Laura Pajari

ways searching for new tools to balance the darkness and the light. I strive to create sacred spaces in which to meditate and

create. I’m inspired by the great north woods, the moon, Halloween and sunshine. I hope you find hope, humor, and honesty in my work,” says Pajari.

Kris Musto makes art about what she is thinking and feeling. “It’s a tricky thing to translate into visual images,” she says.

Musto has extensive experience working with paint, drawing, sculpture, installation, photography, collage, fiber, fabric, printmaking, text and anything else within reach. She holds a BFA from the Minneapolis

College of Art and Design. As a volunteer for NWFA she has contributed over the years by teaching classes in collage, acrylic painting and handmade books. She also co-created the exhibits “Aprons In April” with Lyn Reed and “The Adventures of Jeanne and Kris” with Jeanne O’Melia.

NWFA Gallery is located at 210 S River St. and is open in winter from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Bingo fundraiser for North Woods Band is March 1

FIELD TWP- The North Woods Band will hold its first annual bingo fundraiser on Sunday, March 1 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the North Woods School Commons. Cost is 20 games for \$20. There will be lunch, raffle baskets, and a 50/50 drawing. Raffle tickets cost \$1 each. The grand prize is a Clam Ice House donated by Melgeorge’s. Second prize is a one-day pontoon rental from Timbaktu Marina, and third prize is four ski lift and tubing passes for Giants Ridge.

Women’s Day of Recollection is March 7

COOK- St. Mary’s Council of Catholic Women from St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Cook will be hosting a Day of Recollection during Lent on Saturday, March 7 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Guest speaker will be Mary Wanhala, Director of Outreach Ministry at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Hibbing. Wanhala will speak on “Spiritual Motherhood: Uplifting Our Priests.”

The program schedule will include registration with coffee and goodies, two presentations (one in the morning and one in the afternoon), Mass with Father Nick Nelson, a free luncheon, and closing comments and prayer.

This Day of Recollection is open to all women. There is no cost to attend.

For more information or to register, please contact St. Mary’s Catholic Church at 218-666-5334

or Tammy Palmer at 218-780-8445. Registration deadline is Wednesday, March 5.

Readers and Rappers to meet March 10

COOK- The Readers and Rappers book club will have their next meeting on Tuesday, March 10 at 1 p.m. in the Community Room at the Homestead Apartments in Cook. Sue Gustafson will be the moderator for “The Woman in the Window” by A.J. Finn. The hostess will be Marilyn Berlin. The following month of April will be Poetry Month. New members are always welcome.

Mesabi Range College Dean’s List

Fall Semester 2019 High Honors 4.0 – 3.75 GPA Joseph Forsline, Cook Chloe Salinas, Orr Mariah Sokoloski, Cook Sasha Strong, Orr Honors 3.74 – 3.5 GPA Jillaina Koskela, Angora

Michael Bodri on Dean’s List at Mankato State

COOK- Michael Bodri, of Cook, attained deans list honors at Mankato State University for fall semester 2019. Among 3,445 students, a total of 915 students qualified for the High Honor List by achieving a 4.0 straight “A” average, while 2,530 students earned a 3.5 to 3.99 average to qualify for the Honor List. To qualify for

academic honors, undergraduate students must be enrolled for at least 12 credit hours for the semester.

Events at Cook Library

►Friday, Feb. 28: Preschool story time at 10:30 a.m. This week’s selection is Let’s Do Magic.

►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.

Events at Northwoods Friends of the Arts

►Take Your Best Shot photo contest is in progress and accepting photo entries until Saturday, April 25. Adults pay \$10 for each 5x7 or 8x10 photo entry and students may submit three photos without charge. Registration forms are available at the NWFA Gallery or online at nwfamn.org.

►Every Saturday is Open Studio Art from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Artists meet to enjoy working. All artists and would-be-artists are welcome

to share the time and space. All are welcome with no registration or membership required.

►Woodcarving Group meets every Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. Call Howard at 218-741-7941 for more information. Beginners are welcome and encouraged to come.

►“Sunlight and Shadow,” a new monthly exhibit, begins on Thursday, March 5 and continues to March 28. The new exhibit features the three-dimensional art of Kris Musto and Laura Pajari.

►The Winter Writers Group meets the second Saturday of each month from 1 to 3 p.m. at NWFA Gallery. The next meeting is March 14. Anyone interested in writing is welcome.

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North Woods Band Presents

1st Annual

Bingo!

Raffle Baskets

Sunday, March 1

11 AM-2 PM

North Woods School Commons

MUSIC

20 Games/\$20

Raffle Tickets \$1

50/50 Drawing

LUNCH

PRIZES: 1st: Clam Ice House (Melgeorges')
2nd: Day Pontoon Rental (Timbaktu Marine)
3rd: 4 Ski Lift & Tubing Passes (Giants Ridge)

Bookmobile Schedule

March 5, 26; April 16

Nett Lake Community Center	9:30 - 1-:15
Crane Lake Ranger Station	11:15 - 12:00
Orr Lake Country ReMax Bldg	1:45 - 2:30
Kabetogama Town Hall	3:15 - 3:45

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

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USDA funding available to help with essential home repairs

REGIONAL- Keeping up with home repairs can be challenging and costly, especially for low income people. USDA provides loans directly to homeowners in eligible rural areas with very low incomes to help with essential repairs, improvements or modernizations to their homes. The maximum loan amount is \$20,000, and it can be repaid over 20 years with a one-percent interest rate. Income limits vary by county. For example, income limits that qualify as “very low” for St. Louis County are 1-4 person household, \$36,200 and 5-8 person household, \$47,800.

USDA also provides grants directly to elderly homeowners 62 years or older with very low incomes to help remove health and safety hazards or make improvements for disabilities. The maximum grant amount is \$7,500 and requires no repayment. Adjusted income limits that qualify as “very low” for St. Louis County are: 1-person household, \$15,200, 2-person household, \$17,400, 3-person household, \$19,550, 4-8 person household ranges from \$21,700 to \$28,700.

Rural Development has three staffed offices within the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation service area. The Virginia office serves St. Louis, Lake and Cook counties. Contact them at 218-741-3929 ext. 4 to learn more about eligibility and how to apply.

Vermilion Dream Quilters to meet March 5

TOWER- Vermilion Dream Quilters will meet Thursday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Martin’s Church social hall in Tower. The program for the evening will be on antique quilts. Please bring an antique quilt to share. Presenters will be Maggie Manion and Marcia Bergquist. Please bring your Show and Tell. Hostesses for the night will be Corrine Hill, Deb Filander and Kathy Lovgren.

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.

Pancake breakfast and horse tack swap meet, March 7

EMBARRASS- Have a great breakfast while helping the fair. A horse tack and horse stuff swap meet will be held at the Embarrass Timber Hall on Saturday, March 7 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. This event will be held concurrently with the Embarrass Fair Pancake Breakfast.

Table set-up begins at 7 a.m.; clean up is at 11 a.m. and needs to be completed by noon. Vendors are responsible for their own set up, take down, and clean up. Cost to rent an 8-foot table is \$15. Proceeds from table rentals go to the Team Penning event at the Embarrass Fair, Aug. 28 and 29, and the horse show on Aug. 30. To reserve a table, call or text Pam Myre at 218-780-8882.

Sons of Norways to meet March 5

VIRGINIA- Sons of Norway, Haarfager Lodge 40, will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 5 in the Virginia City Hall Club Room. Our guest speaker will be Tucker Nelson. Serving Committee is Bob and Kris Simensen, Audrey Kohlase and Shirley Kokal. Anyone interested in Norwegian culture and heritage is invited to attend.

GREENWOOD TWP

Four vying for two seats on board

John Bassing challenging Paul Skubic

John Bassing

GREENWOOD TWP- In the upcoming township election, John Bassing is challenging incumbent Paul Skubic, but Bassing is far from a newcomer to township politics. He served a three-year term on the board starting in 2015 and spent 20 months of that time as town board chair. But since then, Bassing lost a close race to Larry Tahija in 2018, losing by five votes, and another close race to Carmen DeLuca in 2019, losing by 35 votes.

It was the decision of the current town board, to put “Option B” on the ballot, that made Bassing want to test the waters once again.

“That really set me off,” he said. “We should not have put that on the ballot.”

Option B is a question asking township voters if they want to change from an elected clerk and treasurer, to a clerk and treasurer that would be hired by the town board.

Bassing feels that township residents should have the say over who is elected clerk and treasurer, and make sure these positions are held by township residents.

“Your clerk works for you, not for the board,” he said.

The board’s treatment of the clerk has also raised concerns for Bassing, who is currently the township’s deputy clerk, a position appointed by the current clerk Sue Drobac.

The current board has been attempting to micromanage and

surveil the clerk’s office, he said. The board’s decision to remove the door to the clerk’s office, which was fire-rated, and replace it with a split door, that was not fire-rated, at a cost of \$2,500, was an unnecessary expense, he said.

The clerk’s office door had always been open, and the public could enter and stand behind the counter while doing business with the clerk. Bassing noted there were no issues with the public having access to private data or information.

And just this last month the board had a surveillance camera system installed in the clerk’s office. The clerk had not asked for the system to be installed, and the township has no policy set on who or when the videos can be reviewed. “It is not proper to be surveilling the clerk,” Bassing said. “That is out of bounds.”

Bassing is also a proponent of reining in township spending and reducing the township’s reserve fund to a more appropriate level.

“We don’t provide services like road maintenance, cemetery maintenance, or an airport,” he said. “We should keep our portion of the property tax as low as possible.”

Bassing said he would spend township tax dollars wisely. “It bothers me more to waste taxpayer money than to waste my own,” he said.

Bassing has also been a driving force behind the local effort to secure broadband access for area residents.

He faulted the current board for not accepting \$5,000 in Blandin grant dollars to purchase a public use computer but was glad to see the current board is finally supportive of the broadband effort. “They’ve been dragged in kicking and screaming,” he said.

Paul Skubic

Paul Skubic said he feels the current town board is working well together, and that township business is going smoothly.

“Everyone gets along with each other,” he said.

“Issues that come up are getting resolved,” he added. “The current board doesn’t always agree on everything, but we work together.”

Skubic said that township residents “seem happy with how things are going.”

The biggest issue he hears about from residents is the issue of getting broadband internet service. “It will take a while,” he said. “It won’t happen overnight.”

Skubic said the installation of security cameras in the township office is a safety issue.

“Most businesses do have cameras now,” he said. Skubic added that the town board does need to address how the surveillance videos will be used.

Skubic works full-time for the city of Biwabik as an equipment operator. He was first elected to the board three years ago.

Barb Lofquist challenging Mike Ralston

Barb Lofquist

“I was not contemplating running for the board until after I retired,” said Barb Lofquist, “as the job requires more time than I currently have working 12-hour split shifts in the mine.”

But Lofquist, who is eligible to retire in May, has found out that she would be allowed to take time off as needed if elected.

“Everybody should have a challenger,” she said, of her decision to file for the seat currently held by Mike Ralston.

Lofquist said her main impetus for entering the race was the board’s treatment of Clerk Sue Drobac, blocking the public from entering her office with the split door and installing the security camera in her office, neither done at the request of the clerk.

“I am sick and tired of the mean-spirited attitudes and behavior of the board against Sue,” she said. “They treat her like a step-child, but she is an equal. She is working in a hostile work environment.”

“The board has irresponsibly spent over \$4,800 solely to intimidate and harass the clerk,” she said. “She was duly elected and has done a great job. She has done nothing to deserve this treatment.”

Lofquist defended Drobac, noting she “does not have a political bone in her body.” She speculated that the current board members are trying to upset Drobac enough to force her to leave her position.

Lofquist is also concerned that the board is both limiting and ignoring public comments. “We need more public involvement,” she said. “And I want the board to adhere to the open meeting law.”

Lofquist noted that the board no longer reads out loud written correspondence from area residents during regular board meetings, as was past practice. She also disagrees with moving public

input to the end of the meeting. “If there are complaints, you would think they would want to hear about it and fix things,” she said.

Lofquist currently is a rotary drill operator at United Taconite, a job she has been at for almost 15 years. Before that, she was a real estate broker and a property manager for Section Eight inner city housing in the Twin Cities.

“I moved up here to take care of my mother after my father died,” she said. “My family has had a cabin on Birch Point since 1971. I got married and have stayed here ever since.”

Mike Ralston

Mike Ralston has spent the last three years on the board, and one of those years as chair. “I was approached by a number of people to run one more time,” he said, noting there are still some issues, specifically broadband, that he would like to be involved in. “I want to keep plugging away,” he said.

Ralston said the township has much to be proud of in the last three years. He cited the growing membership in the volunteer fire department under the leadership for recently-retired fire chief Dave Fazio, and the active group of volunteers on the Greenwood Recreation Board, who have helped to create more opportunities for township residents on the town hall property.

Ralston said he was also glad to be able to help the Vermilion Penguins acquire the land on Hwy. 77 for their new maintenance garage.

“I like working with all the good volunteers that help out in the town,” he said.

Ralston declined to give his opinion on the “Option B” vote, saying the township attorney had told board members not to discuss their personal views on the matter of whether or not to hire, versus elect, the town clerk and treasurer.

“There are plusses and minuses to either,” he said. “I can see both sides of the coin.”

Ralston is optimistic the township will find a carrier interested in expanding broadband service into Greenwood.

“The survey is now underway,” he said. “There are two carriers that seem quite interested.”

Ralston said the issue of cameras in the clerk’s office is being portrayed in the wrong light.

“These are security cameras,” he said. “The clerk is there many hours alone during the day.”

Ralston remembered the death of a single woman working alone in a building in Eveleth several years ago. “That girl was a student of my wife,” he said. “I remember it vividly. There is an awful lot of evil in the world.”

Ralston said the camera system is not set up so someone can tune in and watch in real time. He noted that security camera systems are now in place at Virginia City Hall, and in the newly-renovated town hall in Soudan.

“Seeing this as a spy cam is the wrong way to view this,” he said. “I believe they have taken that stand to be anti-board because there aren’t any other issues.”

Ralston said he is proud to be a resident of Greenwood.

“The town is a good place to live,” he said. “The negativity that seems to prevail in the forefront of a few minority members of the community isn’t the view of most people.”

Ralston is the owner/president of Lenci Enterprises, a general contractor, where he works full-time, though hopes to start thinking about retirement at some point.

“It’s a hard thing to walk away from,” he said, of a job he enjoys. Ralston served on the Virginia City Council for two terms, before he moved full-time to Lake Vermilion.

Interviews conducted by J. Summit

Cottage Food Producer Food Safety Training held March 5

MT IRON- Do you make the best homemade bread, home canned pickles or cookies? Consider selling your product as a Minnesota Cottage Food producer. Join University of Minnesota Extension Food Safety Educator Suzanne Driessen at a Keep it Legal! Keep it Safe! Cottage Food Producer class on Thursday, March 5 from 1 - 5 p.m. at the Mt. Iron Community Center, 8586 Enterprise Dr. South. The class meets the Minnesota Department of Agriculture food safety train-

ing requirements to register as a Minnesota Cottage Food Producer to sell homemade baked goods, candy, home-canned peaches, pickles, salsa, jams, jellies and more.

The course focuses on food safety practices for all processes covered under the Cottage Food Law including drying, baking, confections, jams and jellies, acid and acidified fruit and vegetables, and fermentation. Participants learn how to produce, package, label, store, and transport a safe

food product. Wonder if your product is an allowable non-potentially hazardous food? Bring it along to the class and have it tested to see if it meets exemption requirements under the Cottage Food Law.

Registration and \$50 per person class fee are required. To register, go to <https://extension.umn.edu/courses-and-events/cottage-food-producer-food-safety-training>. For more information, contact Suzanne at 320-203-6057 or driessen@umn.edu.



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TOWER...Continued from page 1

thirds of the miles driven by TAAS ambulances last year, and that’s fueled the argument by area townships that the transfers are hastening the need for ambulance replacement. To account for that, township officials have argued that the TAAS should be transferring a portion of the proceeds from their transfers to the ambulance replacement fund. At this point, the townships and the city have yet to agree on how much money that might entail, although an earlier contract proposal by the TAAS, which was rejected by the townships, would have transferred \$18.75 per transfer into the ambulance replacement account. That proposal would have added \$2,475 to the replacement account in 2019.

Calculating the actual cost per mile

So how much do all those miles on the ambulances actually cost? That’s the question the *Timberjay* sought to answer through a review of city ambulance expenditures and other data. While there are multiple ways to assess the cost of operations of an ambulance, the method we selected looked at TAAS expenses related to ambulance operations and divided those costs by the number of miles driven to determine a cost per mile.

When it comes to ambulance operations, the largest single expense, which has never been properly accounted-for by TAAS, is depreciation. For those not familiar with accounting, depreciation is the calculated cost, typically done annually, of the declining value of a major asset. Depreciation can be easy to overlook, because it doesn’t necessarily affect an operation’s cash flow from year-to-year, except when you need to replace the asset.

In the case of ambulances, which are now costing TAAS about \$220,000 per unit, calculating straight depreciation is relatively straightforward. Assume you start with an ambulance worth \$220,000. Eight years later, after driving it an average of just over 18,000 miles per year, what remains is an eight-year-old ambulance, with approximately 145,000 miles on it. At best, that asset is worth \$10,000, leaving the total depreciation at \$210,000. Divide that into the number of miles driven by the rig, and it comes to a depreciation cost of \$1.46 per mile.

This depreciation estimate is actually substantially lower than other area ambulance officials have determined. An analysis by Jim Gray, who oversees the financial accounting for the Orr Area Ambulance Service, set the cost of depreciation for Orr’s ambulance much higher, at \$2.86 per mile. Gray reached that estimate by assuming full depreciation at seven years and 70,000 miles.

While depreciation is one of the largest single costs of operating an ambulance, fuel, repairs and maintenance, and insurance also add to the total cost per mile. The *Timberjay*’s analysis took

Ambulance financials

Ambulance costs/mile

Depreciation	\$1.46*
Fuel	\$0.26
Maint/Repairs	\$0.30
Insurance	\$0.06
Total cost/mile	\$2.08

Ambulance staff costs/mile

EMTs and EMRs	\$2.87
FICA expense	\$0.22
Unemployment	\$0.07
Meals	\$0.11
Total staff cost/mile	\$3.27

Total cost/mile \$5.35
including EMT staff and ambulance operations

911 calls vs. transfers

911 Calls (2018 data)

Avg. miles per run:	65
Cost of operation:	\$348 (miles x cost/mile)
Medical supplies	\$86
Avg. collected	\$609
Avg. net revenue:	\$175

Transfers (2018 data)

Avg. miles per run:	313
Cost of operation:	\$1,674 (miles x cost/mile)
Medical supplies	\$0
Avg. collected	\$1,468
Avg. net revenue:	(-\$206)

* Based on straight depreciation of an ambulance costing \$220,000. Depreciation calculation assumes 18,000 miles per year for eight years, totaling 144,000 miles and a final asset value equal to \$10,000. This provides a total asset depreciation of \$210,000 divided by 144,000 miles equaling a straight depreciation cost of \$1.46 per mile.

the cost of each type of expense, based on 2019 actual TAAS expenditures, and divided the cost by the number of total miles to determine the cost per mile. Based on that analysis (see chart), the basic cost to operate a TAAS ambulance is \$2.08 per mile, not including staffing.

A typical emergency call might average 65 miles, or cost the TAAS \$135 to operate its ambulance, based on the estimated cost per mile of \$2.08. But the typical transfer averages about 315 miles, costing the TAAS more than \$650 just for ambulance operation.

Staffing costs have jumped sharply

Determining staffing costs for each mile of operation can be done in several ways, but the most straightforward is dividing the total cost of ambulance staff by the number of miles. For the TAAS, the shift to a paid on-call staffing model has nearly tripled the ambulance staff costs for the service, from \$54,100 in 2017, to nearly \$158,000 in 2019. While those staff members are driving more miles and generating more revenue than at any time in the past, it’s also clear that those additional revenues have failed to keep pace with TAAS’s rising costs.

On a per-mile basis, the basic cost of TAAS ambulance staffing (this does not include administrative staff) comes to \$2.87 per mile. Social Security and Medicare taxes add 22 cents per mile, while unemployment costs add another 18 cents, for a total of \$3.27 per mile.

Combine that with the \$2.08 cost of basic ambulance operation and it equals a cost per mile of \$5.35.

tion that transfers would allow the TAAS to cover the cost of its shift to paid on-call, were overly optimistic.

Using the per-mile basis for assessing costs, the average transfer would cost the TAAS \$1,674 (313 miles x \$5.35/mile) to accept, while generating an average payment of \$1,468, according to city records. That suggests the TAAS is losing money, perhaps significant amounts, on some of its transfers.

It could be argued that TAAS’s staffing costs would exist whether or not it accepts a transfer, but that’s only true with paid on-call staffing. Prior to the shift to paid on-call, TAAS operated on a modified volunteer model, where staff were paid only when they responded to emergency calls — or accepted transfers, which are optional for ambulance services in Minnesota. That was a far more efficient staffing model, at least financially, and it helped keep TAAS operations in the black. Prior to the shift to paid on-call, TAAS regularly generated annual surpluses of \$100,000-\$115,000. That’s if annual ambulance replacement contributions from the townships (which are not operational revenues) are added to the revenue total. Since then, TAAS surpluses have all but disappeared.

An analysis produced by Breitung Supervisor Chuck Tekautz helps to clarify why transfers have failed to fill that financial gap. Tekautz, using 2018 data, compared the revenue generated per mile from non-emergency calls versus transfers. The 315 emergency runs that TAAS made in 2018 put 20,475 miles on TAAS ambulances and generated \$191,883, according to Tekautz. That equals revenue of \$9.37 per mile driven by a TAAS ambulance.

By contrast, while the average transfer generated a payment of \$1,468, they required putting far more miles (313 miles on average versus 65 miles) on TAAS ambulances than emergency calls. Transfers generated \$170,266 in revenue for the TAAS, which comes to just \$4.69 per mile driven.

That’s actually below the estimated cost of \$5.35 per mile to operate a TAAS ambulance, suggesting that, on average, transfers are not consistently generating profits for TAAS as director Altenburg has repeatedly claimed.

While Tekautz examined the issue from the perspective of revenue per mile, a similar conclusion is achieved when considering the costs of emergency runs versus transfers. If the average TAAS emergency run totaled 65 miles in 2018, it cost the service \$347.75 (65 x \$5.35 per mile). If the average emergency run generated \$609 in revenue, it left a “profit” margin of \$261.25 per call. By contrast, when assessed on a cost-per-mile basis, the \$1,674 cost of the average transfer would appear to exceed the revenue generated from it by just over \$200 per run.

To be fair, emergency responses do use the lion’s share of the TAAS medical supplies budget, and those costs do need to be added to the final tab. Based on 2019 city expenditure data, the TAAS spent approximately \$27,300 on medical supplies and oxygen for its ambulances. Assuming that 100 percent of those supplies were utilized on 911 calls, it would add an average cost of \$86 to an emergency run, which would lower the profitability of emergency calls from the

earlier estimate of \$261.25 per call to \$174.25.

“He [Altenburg] says the money is in the transfers, but the numbers say otherwise,” said Tekautz. “You’re losing money in my opinion.”

Tekautz also shares the concern expressed by many other township officials that the shift to additional transfers is putting too many unnecessary miles on TAAS ambulances, hastening the need for replacement. “The basic bottom line is, if you just did emergency calls, you’d only be putting about 20,000 miles per year on your ambulances,” said Tekautz. “Now, with the transfers, we’re putting almost 60,000 miles a year on [the ambulance fleet]. That means rather than a six-year replacement turnaround on ambulances, you’re down to just two years.”

And at more than \$200,000 to replace an ambulance, that’s an expense that the TAAS is currently struggling to meet.

VOTE...Continued from page 1

Minnesota’s March 3 primary is part of what’s known as Super Tuesday, a day when a total of 14 states, including California and Texas, are scheduled to vote in the presidential nominating process. To find your polling place, go to <https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us>.

POLL...Continued from page 1

dents opposed it 59-19 percent.

The latest survey results were similar to polling done in 2016 by the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, which has spearheaded opposition to the proposed Twin Metals copper-nickel mine near Ely. That poll had queried residents on their support or opposition to sulfide-based mining near the BWCAW and found similar levels of opposition to the idea at that time.

The latest poll asked Minnesotans about a wide range of other issues. Based on the results, Minnesotans:

➤ Support Gov. Tim Walz’s job performance by a 56-25 percent margin.

➤ Support the legalization of marijuana by a

51-37 percent margin.

➤ Give President Trump relatively low marks, with 44 percent approving of his job performance versus 52 percent who say they disapprove.

➤ Give Sen. Amy Klobuchar a slight edge over front-running Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders in the state’s presidential primary, set for Tuesday, March 3. The poll found that Klobuchar, now in her third term as Minnesota’s U.S. Senator, had the backing of 29 percent of those surveyed compared to 23 percent for Sanders. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren had the backing of 11 percent while former Vice President Joe Biden had support from eight percent

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Frigid filming

Polar expedition re-enactment documented in Ely area

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Big piles of snow removed from the streets of Ely and the open spaces of a nearby frozen lake provided the backdrop for a re-enactment of Robert Peary’s dogsled expedition to the North Pole, which was successfully filmed here last week.

Actors, including guides from Wintergreen Dogsled Lodge on White Iron Lake, were dressed in period costumes, complete with fur parkas, as scenes were filmed by Voyage Digital Media.

“Dogsledding is such a unique element of Ely’s identity, it was great that this piece of our tradition, Ely’s connection with polar dogsled expeditions, was tapped for a historic film the very week we celebrated Ely’s 50th year of dogsled racing,” said Wintergreen Lodge owner Paul Schurke.

Wintergreen’s Canadian Inuit sled dogs, the same breed used on Peary’s 1909 expedition, were used to pull an exact replica of his 12-foot komatik dogsled laden with furs and supplies.

“Our dogs have always been harnessed two-by-two in a tandem hitch for threading through the boreal forest,” Schurke said. “Initially, we worried how they’d do in the traditional Arctic fan hitch where they are splayed out in front of the sled each with its own long tether. With fingers crossed and hoping for minimal chaos, we configured them into a fan hitch and off they went without a glitch. We were blown away to see that ancient instinct click into gear.”

Schurke said the site of the snow pile, created by the city of Ely Public Works Department this winter as the season’s snow was removed from city streets, worked as a suitable environment. “It looked just like the sea ice present near the North Pole,” he said.

Schurke added, “The 1986 dogsled and ski expedition that Will Steger and I led to the North Pole replicated elements of Peary’s expedition but we didn’t do it with period costume sand sleds, and we weren’t wearing caribou parkas.”

Film producer/director Richardo Lopes, with Voyage Digital Media and the National Maritime Historical Society, has produced numerous television commercials, documentary films, off-Broadway plays and the foreign policy series “Great Decisions” for PBS.

“Thank you very much for your hospitality, support and tremendous talents,” Lopes said in an email. “Wintergreen, your handlers and dogs, KidZibits, the re-enactors, all brought your professionalism and passion, and I hope we have captured that visually. We’re going through our footage, which is terrific due to you, your dogs, and colleagues’ efforts. I’ll speak for myself, I’m still exhausted from trekking in the snow and cold temps, so caps off to your amazing stamina.”

Schurke said he was told that the documentary footage filmed in Ely is destined for a six-part series that may air on PBS and/or the History Channel. “It may then be distilled to a feature-length film for theater showing,

HISTORICAL BACKDROP



This aerial view shows the sled crew navigating over a large pile of snow and ice near Ely that was suitable to depict sea pressure ice conditions near the North Pole.



Photos above and below taken on White Iron Lake on Feb. 18, during a documentary re-enactment filming by Voyage Digital Media of explorer Robert Peary’s 1909 North Pole expedition. Captain Robert Bartlett (actor Erik Simula) left, and Explorer Matthew Henson (actor Marcus Landrum), take a break with Inuit sled dogs from Wintergreen Lodge and a replica komatik sledge. photos courtesy of Hailey Lundborg

and a possible screening at Ely’s newly refurbished Historic State Theater,” he said.

Schurke added that the film’s replica Peary sled, the only one known to exist, could find a home at Ely’s proposed Minnesota Canoe Museum. Erik Simula, who’s heading that initiative and was a re-enactor in this film, has proposed expanding the MCM concept to include Ely’s dog sledding legacy as well.



BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Supervisor critical of request to double per-capita subsidy for ambulance replacement

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

BREITUNG TWP- Supervisor Chuck Tekautz is looking for answers from the Tower Area Ambulance Service. Last year, Tower Ambulance Director Steve Altenburg asked the board to double their per-capita subsidy from \$15 to \$30 for the ambulance replacement fund. At the Breitung Town Board meeting Tuesday, Tekautz was critical of the increase in transfer services, arguing that the transfers are wearing the vehicles faster and possibly are a net loss for the service as well. “For what my figures are,” he said, “they are losing their butts on transfers.”

Tekautz’s data on ambulance costs closely mirrors the analysis done by the Timberjay (see story on page 1).

He also noted that only 55percent of their billing had been collected at all. “I hesitate to get involved in costs,” he said, “because I don’t know about staffing but I think at least what we

deserve is an answer from the ambulance commission or the city of Tower.”

Tekautz said anyone who wants to be part of the conversation should attend the next Tower Area Ambulance Service meeting on Monday, March 2 at 7 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center.

Water line freeze-up issues

Denise Osterholm, a resident on Superior Street, said that her water lines froze while she was running the water and doing dishes. She said that ever since the street was redone in 2012 or 2013, there have been problems. She said that the water is freezing under the street and voiced her concerns that she is responsible to hire someone to thaw the pipes when the frozen spot isn’t on her property. Fire Chief Steve Burgess, who lives across the street from Osterholm, said the street had been a problem for the forty years he has lived there. Osterholm asked the board to consider tearing

up the street to better insulate the pipes.

Other business

In other business, the board:

► Heard that McKinley Park manager Susie Chiabotti will seek quotes to repair the fish-cleaning house.

► Heard an update from Greg Dostert on the skating rink. Dostert said the hockey season was just about over and that Hockey Day was a success. He thanked the ice rink attendants, Tom Poderzay, and the fire department volunteers for flooding the rink, and Chimpy and his team for putting on the skating parties. He said Chimpy is planning movie nights at the Breitung Community Room.

► Was told that Matt Tichel will get prices on shades for the community room.

► Was reminded the township’s annual meeting will be held after counting the votes on Tuesday, March 10, around 8:30 p.m.

► Raised the fire department’s annual retire-

ment contribution to \$2,000 per year, up from \$1,500, to begin in January 2021.

► Heard that the department’s oxygen tanks will expire this year and need to be replaced. The board agreed to purchase low-pressure bottles for \$16,000 and continue to use present masks and equipment, making repairs as necessary. Burgess will look into grants to cover some of the cost.

► Heard from Maintenance Supervisor Dale Swanson said that he and his team will be working on scraping the ice off the roads and that Tom Gorsma, who will be replacing Swanson in September, will begin Monday, March 2.

► Will not make any changes to the levy for the proposed 2021 budget.

► Will borrow \$253,000 for preliminary design for the updated water filtration project of the joint waste water board.

► The next regular township meeting will be Tuesday, March 24 at noon.

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COUNTY SCHOOLS

School board questions social worker proposal

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook/Orr Editor

VIRGINIA - District 2142 board members had plenty to say about a proposal to allow the district to advertise for three new social worker positions that was debated at Tuesday's regular meeting.

General support was expressed for the positions, which would serve the district's three largest schools, North Woods, South Ridge, and Cherry.

"This is something I think we really need," board member Lynette Zupetz said.

However, the board was less enthusiastic about the social workers' proposed classification.

"Are they at-will?" board member Chris Koivisto asked.

Superintendent Reggie Engebritson responded that they would be on teaching contracts.

Members questioned why teaching contracts would be appropriate for social workers.

"Why put them on the teacher contract?" Chet Larson said.

"I don't understand why we'd prefer that," Christina Taylor added. "There's so much extraneous stuff in the contract. My preference would be they not be on a teacher contract."

Engebritson responded that a teaching contract, with the assurance of continuing status after a three-year probationary period, would provide social workers, who like teachers are licensed, with additional employment security. At-will employees can be terminated at any time.

Koivisto suggested at-will employment provided needed flexibility relative to funding. Money to pay the estimated \$240,000 expense will come from multiple sources, including cost savings by cutting Range Mental Health Center services by 50 percent at the targeted schools.

"I don't know how long we're going to need them or where the money will come from in the future," Koivisto said. "It's a lot of money to put down and gamble it will fix the

problem."

Taylor reinforced the flexibility advantage of at-will employment.

"What these couple last years have taught me is that it's supposed to be much easier to change their job description if they're at-will. At-will provides flexibility outside of the contract."

Zupetz voiced concern about a possible unintended consequence of making the social workers at-will employees.

"If they're at-will, will they show up every day at work if we need them?" she said.

Larsen proposed an alternative of using contracts similar to district nurses. He suggested the board would benefit from further discussion at an upcoming study session before moving ahead. Koivisto agreed, moving to table the matter.

Subsequent to its annual review of Indian education services, the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee provided written notification to the board of district shortcomings.

"We attest that the school board and/or district are not compliant with Minnesota Statutes and that the school board and/or district are not meeting the needs of American Indian students," said the notice, signed by AIPAC chairperson Hannah Lehti.

A one-page handwritten note accompanying the formal notice identified three recommendations for improvement. One dealt with implementing Indian culture classes twice a week for Kindergarten through sixth grade, a second proposed language classes for grades nine through 12 that would count toward college language requirements, and a third requested American Indian Curriculum Standards be distributed to all teachers at the beginning of every school year.

"Is this the whole gist of their complaint?" Larson said.

"What guidance do they have?" Koivisto interjected. "What are the standards?"

Indian Education Director Anne Christensen responded.

"Unfortunately, I don't have an answer for you," she said. "I'm going to be honest and blunt with you. I'm kind of flying blind at the moment."

AIPAC certified the district as compliant last year, Christensen said. She reported she had contacted the state office of Indian education and was informed that a letter would be coming with additional information. The board will have 60 days to report back to AIPAC, she said.

"Last week after this happened, I did put in the 2142 newsletter a link to find the standards online," Christensen said. "They want a copy of those standards sent to the teachers at the beginning of every school year. That's easily fixed."

A mechanism already exists that could address the language class concern, Christensen said. Money has been set aside in the Indian Education approved plan to pay for students to take online classes for Ojibwe, but it hasn't been publicized well. A line could be

added to student registration forms stating that the classes are available.

"I just kind of worry that this could be opening a real can of worms," Zupetz said. "We're doing Ojibwe, what about Spanish? What about Italian? Especially this part where K through six has to have its Ojibwe class twice a week."

In other business, the board:

► Hired Elijah Lopac and Jon Evridge as full-time paraprofessionals and Julie Smith as part-time library assistant and part-time ECFE teacher aide at Northeast Range.

► Re-hired returning spring sports coaches at North Woods and Northeast Range.

► Accepted the resignations of Northeast Range paraprofessionals Willem Cohen and Micca Leider.

► Rescinded a previous extension of probationary period for Tower-Soudan custodian Beth Anderson.

SUPPORTING THE ARTS

Cook River Street project seeks artist participants for workshop

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook/Orr Editor

COOK - Artists and creatives of all types and abilities are encouraged to attend a workshop on Saturday, April 4 in Cook to provide input and learn about funding opportunities for the "It stARTS on River Street" revitalization project.

The "Creative Placemaking" workshop

will provide opportunities for musicians, writers, painters, creators, and innovators to offer ideas about River Street, on how to increase visibility and signage, foster connection and cohesiveness, and fill up spaces with innovative design. Participants also will receive training on creative placemaking.

Those living within 30 miles of Cook who attend the workshop will

be eligible to apply for up to \$1,000 to support their creative projects.

The workshop will be from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Cook Public Library, 103 S River St. Attendees are asked to register by calling the library at 218-666-2210, by sending an email to crystal.phillips@alslib.info or nwfamn.org@gmail.com, or by visiting the library or Northwoods

Friends of the Arts, at 210 S River St.

This activity is part of Artists on Main Street, an initiative promoting rural community development

at the intersection of arts and culture, downtown revitalization and historic preservation, in partnership between the City of Cook, Preservation

Alliance of Minnesota, and Springboard for the Arts, with support from the Bush Foundation.

TOWERGATE

Motion schedule set in Keith case

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER

Managing Editor

VIRGINIA— As of March 27, Judge Michelle Anderson will consider competing motions on probable cause from attorneys on both sides of the case against former Tower Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith. The judge approved that schedule in a brief omnibus hearing in Courtroom One of the St. Louis County Courthouse here on Monday.

Keith, who appeared in the courtroom in a wheelchair, entered no plea on either of the pending cases against her. She is currently facing a gross misdemeanor charge for falsifying official city records and a felony charge for the destruction of a city laptop computer. A third

potential infraction is currently under investigation by law enforcement, the *Timberjay* has learned, but has not been charged to date.

Keith's defense attorney, Andrew Poole, of Duluth, will have until March 13 to submit written briefs on Keith's probable cause motion. Lawyers

for St. Louis County will have until March 27 to respond. At that point, Judge Anderson will take the motion under advisement for an eventual ruling.

Once the judge rules on the motion, the parties will need to set a date for their next court hearing on the matter.

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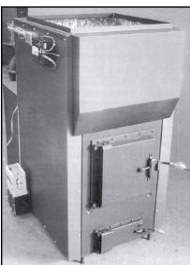
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Gary Norgren

Gary Norgren was recently named general manager, mining, ArcelorMittal USA. In his new role, Gary will have overall responsibility of the mining operations at ArcelorMittal Minorca, ArcelorMittal Princeton, and Hibbing Taconite Company, a joint venture between ArcelorMittal, Cliffs, and U.S. Steel. Gary began his career at the legacy company, Inland Steel Company, as an associate electrical engineer in 1986 and held positions of increasing responsibility within engineering. Gary then joined Acme Steel Company in 1994 and held positions of process coordinator, hot mill manager, ArcelorMittal Riverdale in 2006. Gary was named division manager, USA raw materials, in 2012. Gary has a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical and computer engineering from Clarkson University and an MBA in finance and operations management from the University of Chicago.

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RACE...Continued from page 1

teams competed in the 50-mile eight-dog race and 23 teams finished the 30-mile race with six dogs. Eight teams were last-minute scratches from competition.

Michael Bestgen led the eight-dog racers with a first-place finish of 4:36:26. "I'm glad I had a new knee put in last spring. I haven't been back to Ely for a couple of years. It was great to be here again," he said. "This is really a beautiful race and I hope to be back again next year."

Dusty Klaven came in just four seconds behind Bestgen with a time of 4:40:34. "Well, that was hot and fun," she said as she picked up her prize purse at the awards ceremony at the Grand Ely Lodge.

Veteran Ely racer Frank Moe was third with a time of 4:52:56. He thanked the community and volunteers for their efforts in organizing the event. "We come up here almost every year, and I really appreciate you bringing the history back the way you did this year. Maybe in a few years Mike and I will be part of that history here in Ely."

Don Beland, a legendary Ely sled dog racer who competed in the first "All American Race" here 50 years ago, summed it up when he and his wife, Val, were honored at the Saturday night mushers dinner. "It takes a community of support and people working together to keep a sled dog race going. It is our hope that Ely can work together and keep these races going into the future, and working together we can keep this sport healthy."

The rest of the eight-dog field included Rhonda Heerschap, 4th, 4:55:41, Ero Wallin, 5th, 4:58:23, Ashley Thaemert, 6th, 5:10:19, Jody Reineccius, 7th, 5:16:48, and Robin Fisher, 8th, 5:53:55.

The top 10 teams in the 30-mile, six-dog race, with times, included Jim Ward, 2:26:32, Nick Turman, 2:26:48, Susan Sarafini, 2:30:48, Clayton Schneider, 2:34:05, Andra Duval, 2:35:51, Taylor DeBoer, 2:41:35, Ryan Miller, 2:47:48, Billie Thompson, 2:50:09, Jen Freking, 2:52:06, and Mary

Sigurd Kubes, above, kept an eye on the teams of sled dogs and racers at the starting line. Dozens of volunteers, above right, helped with the WolfTrack Classic sled dog race last weekend, including these road crossing monitors at Highway 1 outside of Ely.

Manning, 2:52:06.

Ely racer Scott Edgett, who finished the six-dog race in just under three hours said the course was "very fast" going out and somewhat slower coming back. "My dogs ran good and we had a great day," he said. "The volunteers at the road crossings were excellent. They did amazing work to keep the crossings in such good shape for us."

Volunteer Tim Riley, who worked at the eight-dog course turn-around point, went out of his way to comment on the respectful behavior of the snowmobilers who were on the trail during the race. "They were so considerate. They pulled way over and stopped to cheer on the sled dog teams," he said.

Trail boss Sue Ellen "Sully" Sack also praised the 125 volunteers who helped run the race and snowmobiling fans out on the course. "I even got a caramel roll from one of the fans. What a great day."

The Ely Chamber of Commerce marked its first year of organizing the event. Chamber executive director Eva Sebesta thanked the race teams for returning to Ely. "You bring your passion for mushing for everybody to see," she said. "The professionalism that we saw today was incredible. Years ago when the first sled dog race was started, there were a lot of folks who had a vision. They loved mushing and they wanted to do something that put it in the spotlight here in Ely. Fifty years later, we are here and celebrating because that tradition and ethic that exists in the mushing community has been passed on."

More information and official results are available at www.wolftrackclassic.com.



Ely veterinarian Dr. Chip Hanson, above, helped with dog checks Saturday afternoon at the Chamber of Commerce office. Arlene Duff, right, brings one of her dogs to her racing sled in the staging area of the WolfTrack Classic sled dog race Sunday morning. She finished the 30-mile, six-dog race in 3:30:15.
photos by K. Vandervort



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ECONOMICS OF SPORTS

Coach pay at issue in 2142

North Woods coach cites lower pay for baseball mentors

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

VIRGINIA—Why does a high school baseball coach make \$1,000 less than a high school football coach who has a shorter season and half the number of games?

North Woods baseball coach Jeff Smerud posed that question Tuesday to the ISD 2142 School Board during open comments at the board's regular meeting.

Armed with detailed examples compiled from the coaching pay scale in negotiated teachers agreement and seasonal sports calendars, Smerud asked the board to consider clear discrepancies between pay for fall and winter sports coaches and spring coaches. "I guess this comes down to a pay dispute," Smerud said.

Smerud chose football and volleyball to compare against baseball and softball. According

to the negotiated agreement, head coaches for football and volleyball are paid \$5,338, while their baseball and softball counterparts are paid \$4,283, a difference of \$1,055. Fall assistant coaches are paid \$4,033, while spring assistants are paid \$3,206, an \$827 difference.

Zeroing in on football, Smerud noted that baseball and softball teams schedule up to twice as many

See **COACHES...**pg. 2B



The spring baseball season will soon be here. But questions are being raised about why baseball coaches are being paid less than other coaches in ISD 2142. file photo



GIRLS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies contained

North Woods slips to Polar Bears in regular season finale; playoffs were set to start Thursday

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP – The North Woods girls basketball team closed out the regular season Thursday with a home-court loss to Floodwood, 58-42.

The Grizzlies took an early 4-0 lead before the Polar Bears got rolling, and once they did they put together a game-changing run. Confronted by a stingy defense and a barrage of threes, North Woods soon was staring at a 26-8 deficit. The Grizzlies righted the ship and matched the Polar Bears the rest of the way, but couldn't counter with a run of their own to make headway against Floodwood's lead.

The Grizzlies had a promising 4-2 start to the season and were

8-8 in section play, but struggled down the stretch to finish 8-18 on the season.

Slotted as the 12th seed for the Section 7A tournament, the Grizzlies were scheduled to play at 7 p.m. Thursday at fifth-seeded Chisholm. In their second game of the season, North Woods pushed Chisholm to the wire before suffering its first loss, 75-68.

Above: North Woods junior Brynn Simpson looks to work around a Floodwood defender as they closed out their regular season last Thursday.

Right: North Woods senior Kennedy Wardas tries to out-hustle a Floodwood player for a loose ball.

photos by C. Stone



Ely ends season on a high note

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

SOUTH RIDGE— The fourth-seeded Timberwolves ended their regular season on a high note here last Friday with a hard-fought 53-50 win over the Panthers. "We had to fight the whole game to be able to get a lead," said Ely Head Coach Darren Visser. "This was also the first game in almost a month that we were full strength and

had everyone healthy, allowing some of our players to get game experience again before heading into the playoffs."

The 17-7 Wolves earned a bye in the opening round of the Section 7A playoffs and were set to host 13th-seeded Bigfork on Thursday night, beginning at 7 p.m. The winner will advance to a quarter-final match-up set for Saturday, Feb. 29, at UMD's Romano Gym. Tip-off is set for 12:30 p.m.

In their regular season wrap-up, senior Erika Mattson led the way offensively, as she has much of the season, with 18 points, including two three-pointers. Eighth-grader Grace LaTourell was hot from the outside, connecting on three treys on her way to 15 points, while senior Brielle Kallberg tallied 11 points and ten rebounds for a double-double. Senior Winter Sainio added six points for the Wolves.

Last Friday's win came on

the heels of an easier contest last Thursday as the Wolves dominated Northeast Range 50-20. "We were able to play a lot of different players and continue to develop our bench depth," said Visser.

Mattson was again the go-to offensively, as she put up 19 points to lead all scorers. LaTourell added nine points while ninth-grader Madeline Perry tallied eight. Sophomore Ande Visser added four points and ten rebounds.

BOYS BBALL

Wolves rebound against Silver Bay

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

SILVER BAY—Ely senior Dylan Fenske poured in 32 points here on Tuesday to help lead Ely to an 84-62 win over the Mariners. It was a nice recovery after the Wolves fell hard to South Ridge last Friday. The Wolves, now 20-5, will finish up their regular season at home against Wrenshall this Friday before hosting the first round of the Section 7A playoffs on Wednesday.

In action on Tuesday, Ely junior Will Davies was red-hot from the outside, connecting on seven three-pointers to contribute 23 points to Ely's effort. Senior Eric Omerza added 15 points and 12 assists for a double-double and junior Emmett Faltesek added ten assists.

"We had a nice run to end the first half to take a 43-24 lead and then played

See **ELY...**pg. 2B

Grizzlies cruise to two more victories

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP – One could make the case the North Woods boys basketball team was a bit off its game Monday at home against Carlton. Defeating their opponents by an average of more than 40 points in their previous 12 wins, the Grizzlies settled for a 23-point victory, 80-57.

After TJ Chiabotti scored the game's first basket the Grizzlies never trailed, but the Bulldogs proved hard to shake. Bolstered by center Ben Soderstrom's 14 first-half points, Carlton trailed by just two at the half, 37-35.

See **BOYS...**pg. 2B

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Zamboni question to go to annual meeting

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Timberjay staff writer

BREITUNG- Supervisor Greg Dostert brought a few community members to the town meeting this past Tuesday to once again make his case for approving the donation of a Zamboni to the township's skating rink.

Chairman Tim Tomsich and Supervisor Chuck Tekautz held their ground, however, saying that the free Zamboni would be too expensive after factoring in costs for its storage, insurance, and maintenance.

Nate Dostert, who is in favor of the township accepting the Zamboni, took the day off work to attend the noon-time meeting. "I've talked to people who have run them. It sounds like they're pretty simple to work on. The only real maintenance is the sharpening of the blades. The engine is just like a truck engine, except it is powered by propane," Dostert said.

Shawn Villebrun, a rink attendant, agreed that a Zamboni would make a difference in safety for the kids and rink quality. "As soon as you skate on it, the ice chips. I was shoveling it

the other day, the ice was peeling right up, a whole layer would just come up. Those holes are pretty substantial, I've been out there with buckets pouring water in them holes. It seems to help a little bit but as soon as anyone is skating on it, it just comes back immediately."

Dan Wiire was also in support of the township accepting the Zamboni but was a strong advocate for having a storage building at the rink to keep the machine. "I think it's imperative that the board looks at housing the unit on-site. When you're driving down the road, whether it's a block, two blocks, there's salt, sand and everything else. They are studded tires, it doesn't take much to clean them if you have water at the site, but you're looking at doing that every time. I'm totally in support of having a Zamboni, but getting a Zamboni first and using it on a public road, I think, is going backward. If we have to drive the unit from an existing place, we would have to have a site where it's prepped and cleaned before it goes on the ice, but a better scenario would be a building."

"But you'd have to heat it

too, so it'd have to be insulated," said Tekautz. Some mentioned possibly using a shipping container to store the ice-resurfacing machine.

Dave Rose, who is trying to develop an RV park near Tower, said that he has been through a similar situation with the Blue Line Club in Willmar. "First of all," he said, "they are very simple. Anyone who has worked on anything could work on it. You only run them at 1500 rpm so they last 400 years," he said. "I recommend you go ahead with the Zamboni, but the perfect situation is to have your own [storage] building. It's a good income producer for advertising on the side," said Rose.

Tomsich still wasn't convinced. "At the last meeting, I said I don't think there is enough use and that led to, what it's going to cost to maintain, the logistics of moving it from the surface building to the rink and back. It'll end up in the scrap heap in two years. I'm hearing we'll get a building, we'll get this container, you can see the expenses. Saturday night, if you get an operator, it has to be a township employee. It's just

going to be costly. Even though everything is free, self-financed, it's going to cost a lot of money," he said.

Greg Doster interjected, questioning other costs associated with flooding the rink. "What do we spend with Tom [Poderzay]? How many hours does Tom spend on that? I probably shouldn't say that because then you'll want to cut out the program."

Maintenance Director Dale Swanson replied, "Tom doesn't spend as much time as you think, I think the last time he flooded, it took an hour and a half. We've been bringing fire trucks up there quite a bit, and that takes less than an hour."

To complicate matters further, Fire Chief Steve Burgess pointed out that the ground and the rink boards are not currently in good condition and the board might consider correcting that before getting a Zamboni. Dostert agreed the boards and ground aren't good and said that the rink was built over the old Soudan School basement.

Swanson said they put 55,000 gallons of water on the rink yearly and that it's due to

how the rink is graded now, "some spots have a foot of water while another has two inches," he said.

"See? We got that site for free too," said Tomsich giving way to laughter in the room.

Rose weighed in again in support of safety. "The ice, when it's not maintained properly, it's dangerous. I don't know how many are using it but if the ice is nice, it's like build a baseball field and they'll come, you'll get adults and families coming." He then said that his Blue Line Club maintained ownership of their Zamboni and leased it to the city for \$1. "That took care of the maintenance cost. It took care of everything for the city. When we started selling advertising, we actually ended up with a profit," said Rose.

Greg Dostert said he would come up with a game plan in time for the annual meeting and Tomsich said he was open to the idea of an outside group owning it and allowing them to surface the ice as needed. The annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10 after the township election votes are counted, typically around 8:30 p.m.

COACHES...Continued from page 1B

games and therefore are on the road twice as much or more in seasons of similar length.

"Those games are scheduled Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday," he said. "Then we have football, they play Friday nights."

More post-game work for home contests is also standard for baseball and softball, he said.

"Field maintenance for spring coaches, we do our own fields," Smerud said. "We drag after every practice; we rake the mound. Football, when the

game's over, you walk up and put away some cones and you don't have any maintenance to do."

Other coaches are also concerned about the pay discrepancy, Smerud said. "When you're looking at a difference of \$1,055 per sports season when

we're doing the same amount of work as a football or volleyball coach it doesn't seem to add up in my eyes and a bunch of other coaches I've talked to in the district," he said. "A lot of these other coaches probably teach in the district and they don't want to bring this up."

While no action is taken on items presented during open session, board member Christina Taylor was responsive to taking up the issue in the future.

"It should be fair and it does seem odd," Taylor said. "I'm definitely interested in exploring what the reasoning is and trying to

get it changed."

Board member Chet Larson said that changes would have to be taken up with the teachers union.

"You have to remember it's under the contract," he said. "It comes out of their pay."

ELY...Continued from page 1B

well on both ends of the floor to get the win," said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald.

In action last Friday, the Wolves struggled to find traction against a big and physical team from

South Ridge. "We could never get anything going," said McDonald. "We were down by ten at the half and

continued to fall further behind the rest of the way. We couldn't handle their size and just didn't shoot

well."

Fenske scored 13 points to lead all Ely scorers. He had help from

Faltesek, with 11 points, and Omerza, with ten.

BOYS...Continued from page 1B

"There aren't many nuggets of wisdom at halftime at this time of year other than do the things you're capable of doing better," head coach Will Kleppe said.

With just over 12 minutes to play and the Bulldogs within striking distance at 49-43, a jumper from the free-throw line by Trevor Morrison put the Grizzlies on course for a

devastating finish.

Intense defensive pressure, often pushing out to midcourt, stymied Carlton shooters and forced turnovers that led to North Woods points.

Over the next nine minutes Brenden Chiabotti, TJ Chiabotti, and Morrison were the primary scorers in a 24-5 smackdown that had the bewildered Bulldogs on their heels 73-48.

Dominant in the first half, Soderstrom disappeared in the second, scoring just two points.

"We did a better job of not letting him cut to the open spot without

the ball," Kleppe said. "Everybody knew where he was, and we doubled down on him effectively."


All but one of the Grizzlies' field goals came from 15 feet and in, while the team fired blanks in 13 tries outside the three-point line.

"There are going to be games like that," Kleppe said. "When we've got our inside guys doing a good job, we can get away with that. The boys did a nice job of getting the ball inside."

Five Grizzlies scored in double figures, led by TJ Chiabotti with 21. Brenden Chiabotti scored 16, Morrison hit for 13, and Darius Goggleye and Jared Chiabotti each scored 12.

Morrison and Goggleye led the way Friday as the Grizzlies doubled up Chisholm on the road, 91-45. Utilizing the familiar formula of pressure defense and working the ball down low, Goggleye dropped 14 first-half points, a total matched by TJ Chiabotti. It was Morrison's turn in the second half to score 14, ending with a team-high 27 points. Goggleye was close behind with 20, followed by TJ Chiabotti with 16 and Jared Chiabotti with 15.

North Woods will close out the regular season at home on Friday against Deer River. The Grizzlies haven't lost at home this season, and their 20-5 record includes 13 wins and no losses against sectional opponents.



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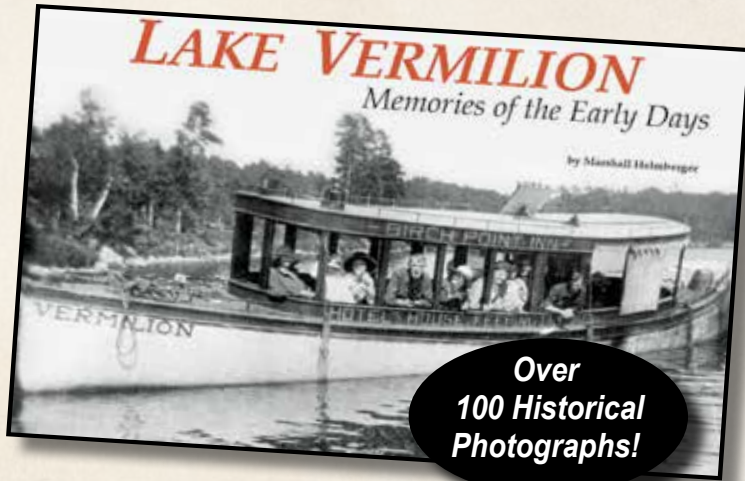
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Obituaries and Death Notices

Edith S. Hujanen

Edith Sophia Hujanen, 91, of Virginia, passed away on Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020, at Waterview Woods Nursing Home in Eveleth. Respecting her wishes, a celebration of life gathering of family and friends will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 29 at Vermilion Lake Township Hall. Memorials are preferred to the Alzheimer’s Foundation, 7900 W 78th St. Ste 100, Minneapolis, MN 55439, or to the charity of your choice. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Edith was born on June 6, 1928, to Leonard and Edith (Karhu) Kivela in Kotka, Finland. She grew up and attended school in Finland, and immigrated to America in 1951. She acquired her U.S. citizenship on Feb. 17, 1955. She married Gilbert Hujanen in Tower on Feb. 6, 1954. They lived in Tower until moving to Virginia in 1995.

Edith was very gifted in her sewing ability. She made wedding dresses, worked at the Virginia Shirt Factory, and did clothing alterations for many years. She loved to knit, sew, garden and travel.

Survivors include her daughter, Betty (Stan) Hunecke; son, Leonard (Vicki) Hujanen; four grandchildren, Kyle Hunecke, Ryan (Ashley) Hunecke, Lisa Hunecke and Erin (Derek) Stratton; and two great-grandchildren, Chloe and Caden.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Gilbert; parents; and a brother.

Jean A. Holappa

Jean Adair Bystrom Holappa, 100, formerly of Tower, passed away on Monday, Jan. 13, 2020,

at Good Samaritan Society Nursing Home in Blackduck. Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 29 at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church. Spring burial will be in Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home of Virginia.

Grant A. Olsen

Grant A. Olsen, 83, of Babbitt, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020, at his residence. A Funeral Mass will be held at noon on Saturday, Feb. 29 at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Babbitt with visitation for one hour prior at the church. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

Andre L. Widmer

Andre Louis Widmer, 84, originally of Switzerland, passed away peacefully at Carefree Living in Ely on Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020. Funeral services were held on Thursday, Feb. 27 at Grace Lutheran Church in Ely. Family arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely. Memorial donations are appreciated to Northwoods Partners, 328 W Conan St., Ely MN 55731.

Andre is survived by his daughter, Jacqueline; son-in-law, Christoph; grandchildren, Alexandra and Natalie; brother, Hans and sister-in-law, Doris and their families in Switzerland and Canada; brother, Oswald and sister-in-law, Ursula; nephews, Jean-Pierre and Andre; as well as many longtime friends throughout the world.

GREENWOOD

Greenwood to vote on hired, versus elected, clerk and treasurer

“Option B” on the March 10 township election ballot

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP—Should Greenwood residents elect their clerk and treasurer or should town supervisors be allowed to make those hiring decisions themselves?

That’s the question that Greenwood residents will be asked to decide at their annual township election on March 10.

The question: Shall Option B, providing for the Township Clerk and Township Treasurer position to be appointed by the Town Board, be adopted by the Town Board? Vote yes or no.

The Greenwood Town Board discussed the idea of having the clerk and treasurer as employees, rather than elected officials, back in August, after disagreements arose between the current clerk and the town board.

After some discussion, it appeared that town board members thought the current system was working, but the board still decided to let the

voters decide the question for themselves. They voted last October to put the matter on the town board ballot ahead of the March annual meeting.

Clerks and treasurers both have duties that are prescribed by state law. As elected officials, they both have the ability to set their own working hours. They are not considered employees and are not under the direct authority of the supervisors. If the clerk and treasurer are both hired, the town board would have the authority to set hours and otherwise oversee them as employees.

Townships do have the option of hiring a combined clerk-treasurer. But in that case, the law requires the township to conduct an outside audit every year. Breitung Township explored this option about a year ago and decided the cost of the audit was too high. In addition, the need to provide benefits for an employee further added to the cost. The elected clerk and treasurer positions don’t typically come with benefits.

Hired officials do not need to be township residents.

Finding township residents interested in running for clerk and treasurer in Greenwood has not been a problem. Indeed, contested elections have become the norm in Greenwood in recent years. This year, incumbent clerk Sue Drobac is being challenged by Deb Spicer. And in last year’s election, the current treasurer Pam Rodgers also had a challenger on the ballot.

Also on the ballot in the upcoming March 10 election, incumbent Paul Skubic is being challenged by former township chairman John Bassing for the Supervisor 1 seat, and incumbent Mike Ralston is being challenged by Barb Lofquist for the Supervisor 2 seat. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and absentee ballot voting is now underway. Absentee ballot applications are available at the clerk’s office.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP

The Public Accuracy Testing of the Auto Mark voting machine for Eagles Nest Township will take place Monday, March 2, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. at the Eagles Nest Town Hall.

Deb Siverhus, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 28, 2020

KUGLER TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Kugler Town Board will hold the Opening of their Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at 6 p.m. The regular monthly town board meeting will follow. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

Julie Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 28, 2020

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF ELECTION

MN 205.16, subd 4

THE GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP ANNUAL ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020.

POLLS WILL BE OPEN 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. AT THE GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP HALL

OFFICES TO BE ELECTED: This March election will be for the election of:
Supervisor Position 1---3-year term
Supervisor Position 2---3-year term
Clerk Position-----2-year term

Question #1 -----whether to adopt Option B – providing for the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer positions to be appointed by the Town Board, pursuant to the authority of Minn. Stat. 367.31, Subd.1
Yes _____ No _____

The election will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 with polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Greenwood Town Hall, 3000 County Road 77, Tower MN. In case of inclement weather, the election will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, with the same place and times. MS365.51 subd1

ANNUAL MEETING

The Greenwood Township Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at the Greenwood Town Hall at 8:15 p.m.

The Greenwood Town Board will meet immediately following adjournment of the Annual Meeting to pay bills and canvass election results.

Sue Drobac, Greenwood Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay,
Feb. 21, 28 & March 6, 2020

LEIDING TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Leiding Township, County of St. Louis and State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at the Leiding Town Hall.

In case of inclement weather, the election and meeting will be postponed until Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

The election poll hours will be open from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at which time the voters will elect by ballot:

One Supervisor for a term of 3 years
One Clerk for a term of 2 years

The Board of Canvass will follow the election.

The Annual Meeting will commence following the Board of Canvass to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

The regular town board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

Marie Milan, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 28 & March 6, 2020

VERMILION LAKE TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Vermilion Lake Township, County of St. Louis and State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020

In case of inclement weather, the election and meeting will be postponed until Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

The election poll hours will be open from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at which time the voters will elect by ballot:

One Supervisor for a term of 3 years
One Clerk for a term of 2 years

The Annual Meeting will commence at 8:15 p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

The Annual Election and Meeting will be held at the following location:

VERMILION LAKE TOWN HALL
6703 WAHLSTEN ROAD

NOTE: Board of Canvass will meet following the Annual Meeting.

Crystal Alaspa, Vermilion Lake Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 21 & 28, 2020

EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Eagles Nest Township, County of St. Louis and State of Minnesota, that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at the Eagles Nest Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be postponed until Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

Deb Siverhus, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 28, 2020

EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP – NOTICE TO VOTERS
Presidential Nomination Primary on Tuesday, March 3, 2020,
at Eagles Nest Town Hall. Polls are open 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

As you may or may not be aware, the process for voting in Minnesota for which candidate you want to be your party’s nominee for president has changed this year. On March 3, you will have the opportunity to vote in the first Presidential Nomination Primary held in Minnesota since 1992.

Since 1992, the vote was taken as part of party caucus events. In 2016, legislation was passed establishing a Presidential Nomination Primary (PNP). This primary is an additional statewide election that will be held in years in which a president and vice president are to be nominated and elected (every four years). The Presidential Nomination Primary has requirements and procedures that differ from state primary elections. Here’s what you should know:

Only presidential candidates from a major party will appear on the Presidential Primary ballot; all other offices with a primary will be on the Primary ballot in August. Both the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party and the Republican Party will be participating in this primary.

Instead of one ballot that contains all of the offices and candidates, each party participating in the Presidential Nominating Primary will have a ballot specific to their party. Because of this, voters must declare their party preference prior to receiving a ballot. A voter’s choice of party ballot will be recorded and is private data. However, be aware that a list of who voted in a presidential nomination primary and the political party each voter selected will be provided to the chair of each major political party by the Minnesota Secretary of State, as required by Minnesota Statute 201.091, Subdivision 4a. How a voter voted on their ballot will be secret. If a voter refuses to select a party, they will not be able to vote in the Presidential Nomination Primary.

Registered voters will be able to vote at their polling place on presidential primary day or by absentee ballot starting on January 17, 2020. If you are an unregistered voter, you can preregister to vote in the election prior to February 11, 2020 or you can register at your polling place on election day.

The Democratic Farmer Labor Party will have an “uncommitted” option on their ballot. If you select this option, you are telling the party that you wish for the delegates to be sent to their national nominating convention without being “bound” to cast their vote(s) for any one of their party’s candidates. If you would like further information about your party’s choosing of delegates and/or their national nominating convention, please speak with your party’s representatives.

The Minnesota Secretary of State’s Office estimates that it will cost approximately \$11.9 million to administer the Presidential Nomination Primary statewide. Costs associated with the election are reimbursed to counties and municipalities. Current election law specific to the Presidential Nominating Primary can be found in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 207A and Minnesota Rules Chapter 8215.

One final and important note – while the Presidential Nomination Primary replaces preferential polls that previously were conducted at precinct caucus meetings, precinct caucus meetings will still be held on February 25, 2020.

Deb Siverhus, Eagles Nest Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 14 & 28, 2020



Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

Outdoors in brief

DNR moose presentation set for March 11

REGIONAL — The public is invited to attend a presentation on the latest results from the Department of Natural Resources’ aerial moose survey on Wednesday, March 11, at the Mt. Iron Community Center. The presentation by Tower Area DNR Wildlife Manager Tom Rusch will run from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Rusch, as usual, participated in the aerial survey and he will share his observations and the results of the survey, which are expected to be released this coming week. Rusch will provide a PowerPoint presentation on the latest population estimate and on the various factors affecting the region’s moose population. His presentation will be followed by questions and answers.

The event is sponsored by the Sturgeon River Chapter of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association.

DNR 2020 deer season open house March 18

REGIONAL — Anyone with an interest in white-tail deer management in northern St. Louis and Lake counties will want to attend an open house at the Tower Area DNR Office on Wednesday, March 18.

DNR wildlife manager Tom Rusch will give a short update on the 2019 deer harvest, winter severity and the prospects for the 2020 season. The open house is set to run from 6-8 p.m.

The annual meeting is designed to give hunters, landowners and other interested folks a chance to provide input on the local deer population.

Public input will follow Rusch’s presentation, until 8 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Time to renew your hunting or angling license

REGIONAL — It’s the time of year when hunters and anglers need to buy new fishing and hunting licenses. Minnesota fishing, hunting and trapping licenses for 2019 expire Saturday, Feb. 29.

Licenses for 2020 are now available wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold, online at mndnr.gov/buyalicense and by telephone at 888-665-4236. All 2020 fishing licenses become effective Sunday, March 1. New licenses are required for 2020 hunting and fishing seasons that continue past Feb. 29. Ice shelter licenses, though, are valid through Thursday, April 30.



REMEMBERING A FRIEND

Friends gather to remember Sandberg with a memorial ride

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK – The parking lot of the Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club was jammed Saturday morning with about 60 snowmobiles whose drivers and riders turned out for the Sheldon Sandberg Memorial ride, honoring the 50-year-old local businessman and community member who died tragically in a tractor accident last July.

As Sandberg’s wife Taryn and son Jaret surveyed the crowd, they exchanged knowing smiles as they speculated what he would think of the gathering.

“I’m guessing that he’s thinking that it’s too many people,” Jaret laughed.

“He was fine with 20 and under,” Taryn said.

“Any time he knew there was a ride like this going around town he was going the opposite way to steer clear,” Jaret said. “I’m guessing he’d be amazed at the turnout.”

Nonetheless, Taryn thought the event was a fitting tribute.

“He lived everything to the fullest, having fun doing everything he did,” she said. “He wanted to make sure everybody was having fun, not just him. Anything he did, anything he planned, he made sure everybody was taken care of.”

Others joined along the way as the riders made the trek from Cook to Melgeorge’s Elephant

Lake Lodge and Resort, bringing the estimated total of participants to about 80, said club president Ryan Nordstrand.

“He was a great guy, all of the immediate family are snowmobile club members and avid riders,” Nordstrand said. “He was also a well-respected,

“He was like a second uncle to me. He was one of the nicest people I ever met.

Ryan Manick

hardworking local business owner whose family deserves some support.”

Terry Swanson knew Sandberg for much of his life and worked as a subcontractor for Sandberg’s construction company. He said he wasn’t surprised at the turnout, given Sandberg’s dedication to helping others.

“He was there to help everybody, anybody who needed help he would step up and give them a hand, whatever he could do,” Swanson said. “Four or five years ago my garage burned down and he came over, him and his brother, and he laid out the plan for a new garage and was

there right from the raising of it, just because he wanted to.”

Ryan Manick also hasd-worked for the Sandbergs and said he and Jaret are close friends. He also had a close relationship with Sheldon.

“He was like a second uncle to me,” Manick said. “The Manicks and Sandbergs have known each other for a long time. He’s one of the nicest people I’ve ever met.”

It’s been difficult getting used to not having Sheldon around, Manick said, but working with Jaret has helped.

“With Jaret, I see Sheldon in him every day, whatever we’re doing at work,” he said. “I’m always there to help him, and he’s always there to help me.”

Along the route to Elephant Lake, riders stopped at a new observation tower overlooking the Pelican River that was built last September in honor of Sandberg with funds donated to the Voyageur Country ATV Club by the family.

“Sheldon’s wife came to me and said they wanted to give the club some money,” club co-founder Steve Koch said. “They wanted to put a table there with Sheldon’s name. I said if you’ll pay for the materials, we’ll build a big thing and put his name on the whole thing. We built that whole thing in one weekend with family and friends.”

The Sandbergs have a cabin

Above: Riders begin to gather at the Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club on Saturday for a memorial ride honoring Sheldon Sandberg. About 80 snowmobiles participated in the round-trip ride to Elephant Lake.

photo by D. Colburn

on Black Duck Lake, and with a common love of the outdoors, Sandberg and Koch spent a lot of time together.

“He was hard-headed and stubborn just like me, so we got along good,” Koch chuckled. “We had all this stuff planned. He was going to get the cabin done, and we had all these trips we were going to do and then he disappeared on us too quick.”

Koch acknowledged the support from the community in the months following Sandberg’s death, but also expressed admiration for how the family has responded.

“Taryn is strong as can be, she’s positive as heck, and they keep rolling,” he said. “They were reaching out even with that disaster, wanting to give back. They’re awesome.”


For his part, Jaret couldn’t say enough about the ongoing support the family has received.

“Everybody that he worked with or worked around always is stepping up and helping with what we’re doing, I couldn’t have imagined it going as well as it has. It’s amazing the people that have reached out.”

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
20 2					32 15					37 21					33 15					36 21				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
02/17	14	-15	0.01	0.2"	02/17	14	-20	0.00		02/17	9	-15	0.02	0.2"	02/17	21	1	0.00		02/17	12	-21	0.26	
02/18	25	9	0.13	3.1"	02/18	25	11	0.21	3.0"	02/18	24	9	0.11	2.0"	02/18	16	-8	0.04	0.5"	02/18	24	9	0.00	3.0"
02/19	14	-21	0.00		02/19	25	-25	0.00		02/19	13	-16	0.04	0.5"	02/19	7	-20	0.00		02/19	12	-23	0.00	
02/20	8	-29	0.00		02/20	6	-35	0.00		02/20	9	-26	0.00		02/20	21	-20	0.00		02/20	19	-34	0.00	
02/21	21	-28	0.00		02/21	19	-35	0.00		02/21	22	-27	0.00		02/21	41	10	0.00		02/21	37	7	0.00	
02/22	40	9	0.00		02/22	38	3	0.00		02/22	39	10	0.00		02/22	50	14	0.00		02/22	43	9	0.00	
02/23	49	11	0.00		02/23	48	3	0.00		02/23	48	18	0.00		02/23	39	21	0.00		02/23	48	2	0.00	
Total			0.89	81.9"	YTD Total			1.13	54.1"						YTD Total			NA	45.4"	YTD Total			1.34	57.0"



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- Free Training Opportunities


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The Good Samaritan Society is a drug free workplace.
Equal Opportunity Employer. 3/6

The Timberjay classified ads reach readers of all three editions every week.



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Applications at or resumes to:
Edwards Oil and Propane, 820 Hoover Rd., Virginia, MN 55792
www.edwardsoilandpropane.com 4/10

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Frandsen Bank & Trust is owned by Frandsen Financial Corporation ("FFC"), an inter-state bank holding company with \$1.7 billion in assets and over 30 offices. To learn more about our company please visit www.frandsenfinancial.com. 2/28



HELP WANTED

We are looking to fill the following positions. Age and experience levels can vary. Full-time and part-time available.

❖ Parts & Service Manager

❖ Rigger

❖ Service Tech

❖ Gas/Dock/Yard Person

Aronson Boat Works, Pike Bay Dr., Tower
Call, Text, or Stop In For Information
218-753-4190 ttn

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HELP WANTED

Motivated employees for established local business. Must be reliable and a team player. Must enjoy working outdoors and be able to lift 50 pounds for a majority of the day. Duties could be delivery and assembly of boat lifts and docks or welding, painting, and decking. Call in person to schedule an interview – 218-365-6210. This is an opportunity for a fun and enjoyable season at Docks on Wheels. Compensation based on qualifications. 4/10



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Environmental Services
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(Wage starting at \$12.80/hr.)

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Casual Secretary/Receptionist

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humanresources@cookhospital.org



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Eveleth, MN

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Learn more and apply online at mn.gov/careers
Job ID number is 38691

Contact Barbara Sanders with questions at barbara.sanders@state.mn.us or 218-735-3027

Application deadline: 03/06/2020
Equal Opportunity Employer 3/6

HELP WANTED

Full time office assistant/bookkeeper. Must be well organized, efficient and upbeat. Knowledge of Quickbooks, Word and Excel a plus. Customer service experienced preferred. Call Docks on Wheels to schedule an interview- 218-365-6210. 4/10

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elyoutfittingcompany.com/jobs 2/28

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Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 2/28



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www.stlouiscountymn.gov
or call 218-726-2422

Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 2/28

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate

♦♦ Challenging

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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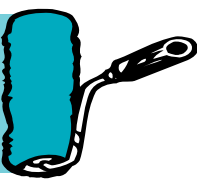
Super Crossword

Answers

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



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