



the TIMBERJAY



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TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Teaching the true spirit of giving

School and community come together for new holiday tradition

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- While most children get excited with the prospect of getting presents, at Tower-Soudan Elementary children get excited for the chance to give gifts to almost everyone of their list.

This is the goal of “Santa’s Workshop,” a now annual event organized by Tower-Soudan Elementary school staff, and spearheaded by school secretary Iiona Svedberg. The elementary

school, one of the smallest in the area, only has about 75 students, which helps makes this type of effort more manageable.

“It’s 100-percent donations,” said Svedberg, who apparently has an army of elves who do a lot of after-Christmas sale shopping to stock up for the following year.

An empty classroom is turned into a veritable Christmas shop, with tables full of gift items for all ages, some new, but many re-gifted or gently-used. Students come in class by class, and the

Cindy Myre, who helped start “Santa’s Workshop,” volunteers to help children wrap presents.
Timberjay file photo

tables are restocked between visits.

The donations mostly come from the community, Svedberg said, but she added that some people, including herself, keep an eye out for post-holiday sales when holiday items, especially wrapping paper and gift bags,

See...GIVING pg. 10



TELECOMMUNICATIONS

A litany of woes



“We’re paying four times as much for Internet. That’s just how desperate we were to be rid of Frontier. I’d rather be water-boarded than have to talk to them again.”



Steve Wilson, Tower

Frontier customers cite poor service, billing errors

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— If you mention Frontier Communications to Steve Wilson, of Tower, you’d better have a comfortable chair—you could be there a while.

Wilson, who retired from the Department of Natural

Resources five years ago, has waged an epic battle over the past nine months in an ultimately fruitless effort to obtain satisfaction from a company that he said consistently overcharged him for services he never received, denied him access to an email account and address he’d used for decades, and failed to provide even

basic Internet service on a regular basis.

Wilson, who can be, well...persistent, figures he’s spent dozens of hours on the phone with the company, trying to correct his bills, without success.

When he finally refused to pay a four-dollar fee that he insists he doesn’t owe, the

company attached a statement to the bottom of all his outgoing emails stating that he had an overdue account, something that the company isn’t allowed to do according to Anne Thom, supervisor in the Consumer Affairs Office for the Minnesota Public

See... WOES pg. 8

TUESDAY GROUP

Does water really boil at 212 ° F?

Author discusses the increasing war on science

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – What is your opinion on the boiling point of water? Science students learn that water boils at 212 degrees. More and more, some seem to think that science is just an opinion.

Minnesota author and playwright Shawn Otto discussed his latest book, “The War on Science,” at a recent Tuesday Group

gathering and gave his perspective of what happened in the world over the last several decades that has allowed science to be based on opinions and emotion rather than facts.



Shawn Otto

A decade ago, Otto said he and friend, also a screenwriter and science writer, who happens to be the great-great grandson of Charles Darwin, noticed that big science and engineering issues were not being discussed by the presidential candidates.

“We thought it was peculiar that something had transformed in our public dialogue whereby candidates didn’t even want to debate science,” Otto said. “They instead were eager to talk about faith and values.”

Science has driven as much as 60-percent of America’s economic development since World War II, and it is a “massive wealth creator,”

See...SCIENCE pg. 9



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LEGAL FIGHT

Supreme Court dismisses legislator lawsuit

High court rejects arguments that Gov. Dayton violated state's constitution

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

SAINT PAUL — The state's Supreme Court has dismissed a lawsuit by the Legislature that argued that Gov. Mark Dayton violated the state's constitution when he line item vetoed appropriations for the state House and Senate.

The court's 5-1 decision, issued Nov. 16, found that the state's constitution has placed few limits on the governor's line item veto authority, and determined that the Legislature had access to adequate reserves to maintain its operations through the next legislative session, thus undermining the Legislature's claim that Dayton had effectively abolished a co-equal branch of government. The high court also found that the dispute between the governor

and legislators was political in nature, rather than constitutional, and was therefore ill-suited to judicial intervention.

The ruling ends a constitutional dispute that originated back in May at the end of the special session of the Legislature. In an effort to force the governor to sign a tax bill he strongly disliked, the Legislature had included a provision that would have stripped the Dept. of Revenue of operating funds in the event the governor vetoed the measure.



Mark Dayton

While the governor opted to sign the tax bill, he line-item vetoed appropriations for the Legislature in an effort to force legislative leaders to take out provisions in the tax bill that the governor opposed. Rather than negotiate, GOP lawmakers filed suit alleging that the governor's actions violated the constitution by over-

stepping the governor's authority and undermining a co-equal branch of government.

But justices disagreed, noting that the constitution placed few limits on the governor's veto authority. "The plain language of Article IV places only one substantive limit on the line item veto power, specifically, the requirement that the veto be made as to an "item" of "appropriation," wrote Chief Justice Lorie Skjerven Gildea. "Where the language used is clear, explicit, and unambiguous, and free from obscurity, the courts must give it the ordinary meaning of the words used."

The high court also determined that the Legislature had access to sufficient reserves — approximately \$26 million — that it could utilize to maintain its operations through the next legislative session, which gets underway in February. The court cited holdover appropriations for both the House and Senate as

well as the current appropriation for the Legislative Coordinating Commission, which oversees and funds a number of legislative functions.

"The factual question this case presents is whether the Legislature has the funding needed to exercise its constitutional duties on behalf of Minnesota's citizens while it is in an interim adjournment and until it reconvenes," wrote Gildea. "We conclude that it does."

Finally, the court found that the principles of judicial restraint prevented them from weighing in on what was, in effect, a political dispute. "But our constitution does not require that the Judicial Branch referee political disputes between our co-equal branches of government over appropriations and statewide policy decisions when those branches have both an obligation and an opportunity to resolve those disputes between themselves."

Gov. Dayton lauded the deci-

sion. "I am very pleased that the Supreme Court has upheld my line-item veto authority, which is established in the Minnesota Constitution. The Court has also found that the Legislature has access to at least \$26 million to continue its full operations until it re-convenes in February. Therefore, there was no need for them to have initiated this lawsuit and imposed its costs on our state," he said.

The Legislature offered no official statement on the ruling, but Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka, R-Nisswa, told the *Star Tribune* that he was "shocked" by the ruling. "It puts us in a very difficult spot. It feels like they didn't really listen to the things that are going on," he told the Minneapolis paper.

Justice Barry Anderson dissented from the court's decision, while Justice David Stras did not take part in the deliberations.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Groping claims put Franken in the crosshairs

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Minnesota's junior U.S. senator is facing a Senate Ethics Committee investigation after a radio personality accused Al Franken of groping and forcibly kissing her during a USO tour in 2006. Franken joined several other senators in calling for the investigation and said he intends to fully cooperate with any inquiry into the claims

by Leean Tweeden, who works as a radio news anchor at KABC in Los Angeles. Franken also issued a clear apology, although he said he did not recall the incident in the same way that Tweeden described it this past week in a KABC blog post.

"The first thing I want to do is apologize, to Leeann, to every-



Al Franken

one else who was part of that tour, to everyone who has worked for me, to everyone I represent, and to everyone who counts on me to be an ally and supporter and champion of women," stated Franken in a statement. "I respect women. I don't respect men who don't. And the fact that my own actions have given people a good reason

to doubt that makes me feel ashamed."

Tweeden said she had largely kept her experiences with Franken a secret, although she said she had described his actions at the time to a few other members of the USO tour and to her husband. But she said the recent spate of women who have come forward in recent weeks about their own experiences of sexual harassment by powerful men had encouraged her to reveal her

own story. Meanwhile, a second woman, Lindsay Menz, of Frisco, Texas, contacted CNN in the aftermath of Tweeden's allegations, stating that Franken touched her "bottom" while the two of them were posing for a photo at the Minnesota State Fair in 2010. Menz and her husband Jeremy were living in Minnesota at the time.

See FRANKEN...pg. 5

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CITY OF COOK

Council okays lower preliminary levy hike

by MELISSA ROACH
Staff Writer

COOK — At a special meeting last Thursday, the Cook City Council approved a reduction in their preliminary levy increase for next year to three percent. They also okayed a preliminary 2018 budget of \$542,861, which includes the higher levy.

The council had approved a preliminary levy increase of eight percent back in September. After meeting with department heads, the November calculations show that a three-percent increase should be sufficient to meet the city's needs. This will also cover

a general fund deficit of \$8,303 and an airport deficit of \$2,865 for 2017. The 2018 airport budget is looking at \$107,700 in revenue and \$110,565 for expenses.

Capital projects planned in 2018 include IRRRB Residential and Commercial Redevelopment Program, maintenance garage replacement, Vermilion Drive lighting and North River St. replacement. Airport capital projects include reconstruction of the vehicle parking area and entrance road, and a snow removal equipment building. The council will approve the city's final 2018 levy following a Truth in Taxation hearing, set for 6 pm on Dec. 28.

Later that evening at the regular November council meeting, the council approved an application to the IRRRB Downtown Business Corridor program. Councilor Liz Storm met with Friends of the Parks and a representative from the IRRRB in an effort to obtain funding for a "River Street Way-Path and Patio Project." Storm explained that the park beautification concept plan includes using the area around the library and downtown city park to develop a low-maintenance outdoor gathering area, with art and landscaping, while keeping an open space. The council discussed the importance of downtown revitalization projects that

attract people to the community. Mayor Harold Johnston expressed concern over the closing of the Montana Café and wondered if the city had any options to help sell the business. The council took the opportunity to thank the businesses that are in Cook. Storm said, "Thank you for being here." Councilor Jody Bixby also reminded people to challenge themselves this holiday to shop the small businesses, and shop locally."

Councilor Liz Storm updated the council on the Lake Vermilion Trail. The steering committee is looking to assemble the Joint Powers Board. A representative of each government entity listed on the Joint Powers Agreement

should have a representative on the board.

In other business the council:
► Heard the North River Street Bridge project will go before the St. Louis County Board for awarding the bid of the county project to Redstone Construction, LLC out of Mora.

► Approved an invoice submitted by John Jannick, of JPI Engineering for project infrastructure improvements totaling \$6,969.

► Heard that the recreation committee is disbanding, and that Allen Hoover had been hired to maintain the ice rink.

► Heard that the city bow hunt has registered seven does.

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Cook couple and their dog grapple with shooting



Catalina, a Cook area dog, remains under care at the Ely Veterinary Clinic, recovering from a Nov. 12 gunshot wound to the leg. Catalina's owners don't know who shot their dog.

by MELISSA ROACH
Staff Writer

COOK—A leisurely Sunday afternoon turned upside down for Owens Township residents Tavis Riederer and Sarah Shapiro. Riederer went outside to the garage to work on his truck, bringing the couple's four dogs out with him. Moments later he heard a loud gunshot and a dog crying. He saw three of his dogs and started calling for the fourth. Within minutes, their dog Catalina came limping back to the house on three legs. "I knew right away that she was injured," he said. "We looked her over and found that she was shot. Her leg was like jello," recalled Shapiro. "We took her to the vet and they cleaned her up, then ran x-rays to see if they were going to have to amputate or not." The x-rays were sent to an orthopedic surgeon in

Duluth. The results showed the gunshot had completely shattered the bones in her front leg, also leaving the nerves shredded. However, since her leg was still warm with blood flow, they made the decision to proceed with surgery to repair, instead of amputating. Ely Veterinary Clinic performed the surgery, placing four rods in the dog's leg. "She is on pain medication and will stay there at the vet for a while. We still don't know if they will have to amputate, it depends on if the nerves heal," Shapiro said.

The couple contacted St. Louis County Sheriff's Department about the incident. "There isn't much they can do. It is unfortunate that she wandered and this happened off our land," Riederer said. Even though they followed Catalina's blood trail and they have an idea of the area the shot came from, they don't have evi-

dence of who shot their dog. They also do not think anyone was deer hunting in the area where she was shot. Shapiro said, "We just wanted to get the word out for people to watch their dogs closely. We feel bad that she ran off. This all happened within ten minutes. We wished that if there was a problem, that person would have come and told us instead of shooting our dog." Riederer added, "People need to solve problems and vent without boiling over in rage."

Riederer said he and Sarah really appreciate the how the community has shown support and concern for Catalina. The couple has set up a gofundme page www.gofundme.com/catalina-surgery-fund for donations to help defray the veterinary costs. As of Monday, donations had topped \$1,200.

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OPINION

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Editorial

Frontier's service

State needs to take steps to address the company's failures

For many, our story this week about the long list of customer concerns surrounding Frontier Communications, won't really come as news. Poor service, questionable billing practices, and lack of investment in infrastructure affect thousands in our region, from residential customers to small businesses.

At least now, Frontier customers know they aren't suffering alone, and that gives us the opportunity to do something about it. As the designated primary service provider from Crane Lake to Tower, to the tip of the Arrowhead, Frontier has made certain legal commitments to the state's Public Utilities Commission, including a commitment to maintain a specified level of quality. Those standards are complex and technical, but we are confident that the company has failed to live up to the terms. And PUC officials are interested in what Frontier customers in our region have to say — so much so, they called us to say they'd like to see the dozen of stories we've received since first asking readers to tell us their Frontier experiences. They also encouraged residents of our region to submit complaint forms, and you'll find out how to do that on page 8 of this week's paper.

We might add that the same complaint form works for CenturyLink and CenturyTel customers, and we know folks in those portions of our coverage area have stories of their own. It's time we stop suffering in silence and start letting state officials know what's happening in our region in telecommunications.

Let's be perfectly clear. This isn't just a matter of convenience for residents of our region. When phones go out, we lose our connection to emergency services. When the Internet goes out, as happens routinely in our region, local businesses from gas stations to coffee shops to grocery stores, are all but shut down. Most retail business transactions take place today with the swipe of a piece of plastic, and when the Internet isn't working, commerce comes to a screeching halt. It's difficult enough for small businesses in our region without having to suffer lost business due to unreliable Internet service.

The current state of our telecommunications is a major impediment to economic development for a long list of reasons. Businesses that might

otherwise consider locating in our region are discouraged from doing so, since many now rely heavily on the Internet. Potential new residents, many of them professionals who could work from home, can't remain in our communities year-round without adequate telecommunications service. That affects the ability of our communities to grow.

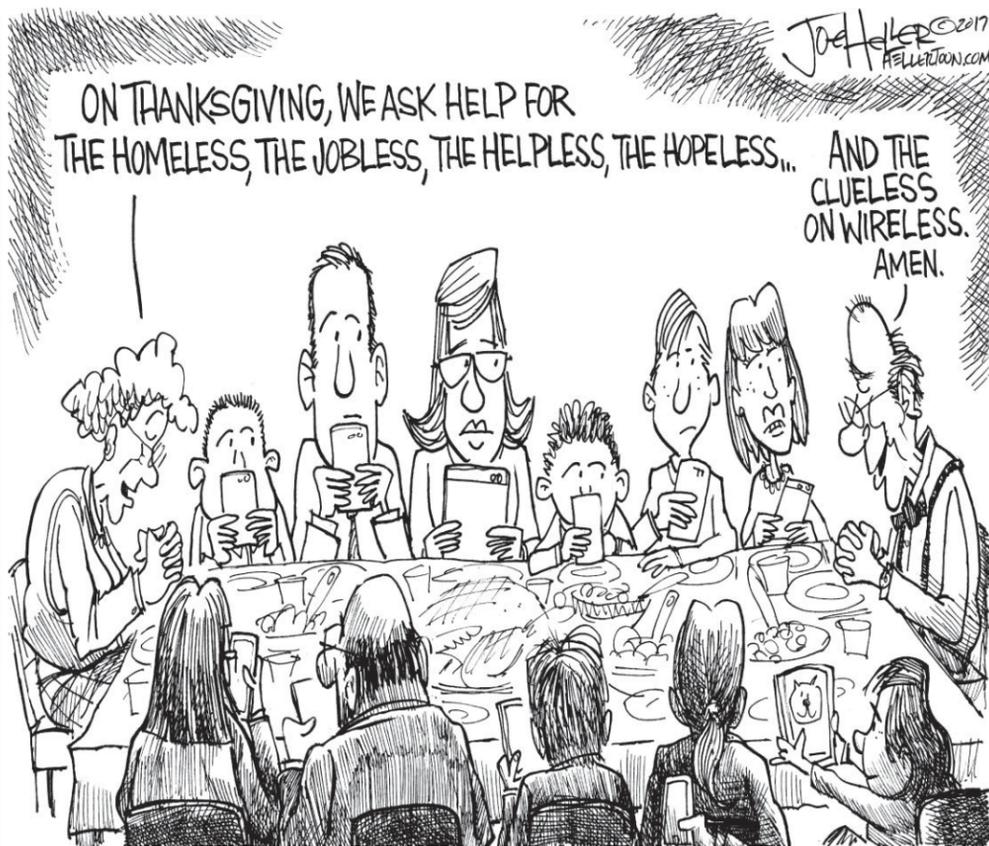
Finally, when residents and business owners are routinely overcharged for services, or are forced to waste hours on hold with Frontier customer service representatives to get billing errors corrected, it's a further economic drain on our region.

And as this week's report makes clear, Frontier won't clean up its act on its own. The company is deeply in debt after the questionable acquisition of landline infrastructure once owned by Verizon in California, Texas, and Florida. It's losing customers by the tens of thousands per month, is hemorrhaging cash, and is posting huge financial losses each quarter. Its stock price has plummeted and many analysts are speculating that the company could be forced into bankruptcy as early as 2020. Frontier is in survival mode and it isn't about to make the kind of investments needed to bring our region's telecommunications into the 21st century.

That's unacceptable, which is why we need to start speaking up, and not only to the PUC.

Frontier may be on the fast track to oblivion, but northeastern Minnesota doesn't need to be along for the ride. We need to open the discussion with the PUC and our region's elected officials about ways to encourage alternatives to Frontier. We also need to tell the company that it can't use extortionate tactics, like threatening customers with huge fees when they seek to disconnect due to the company's overcharges and poor service. People don't disconnect from Frontier because it's cheaper and more convenient to use alternatives. They do so because the company routinely fails to provide the services they've promised, and drives customers to distraction with billing practices that are downright predatory.

Frontier operates in our region with the blessing of the state. It's time for state officials to reconsider their stamp of approval.



Letters from Readers

Hospital district has some trust-building to do

Last week's article, "Healthcare district dropping effort to annex townships" is certainly good news for the five townships, including Vermilion Lake and Greenwood. The Cook-Orr Healthcare District Board, along with the Kabetogama Town Board, were working with Sen. Bakk and Reps. Ecklund and Metsa, while suspiciously not notifying the targeted townships, to get legislation passed that would have forced us into the tax district. That's a trust builder, isn't it?

The article gave me a bit of a chuckle when the paper contacted Healthcare District Board Chair Don Potter for the story and he said he thought the decision not to pursue the annexation was already final and was "surprised that the issue is still coming up." Again, think trust and integrity: Just the counterfeit district map that purported to show the five targeted townships as having historically been in the tax district is enough to question the hospital board.

Fortunately we dodged a deceitfully-crafted scheme.

As a footnote, I compared the websites of the Cook-Orr Hospital with that of the Bigfork Valley Hospital. The websites show a world of difference. Bigfork's website gives the board meeting schedule, notices and the archived board minutes from 2013 until present. Cook-Orr's website has a total of only two month's board minutes, both from 2016, and no meeting schedule. Someone might be flying under the radar. Trust?

Lee Peterson
Greenwood Township

Transparency should be key in local government

The Greenwood Town Board, after a relatively short period of time, has returned to its old ways. Instead of volunteering for the sake of volunteering, we heard Supervisor Deluca say, "If I don't get a thousand dollars/month spending authority, then I won't volunteer anymore." Greenwood Township has never had any supervisor with spending authority as most townships do not with the occasional exception for a road supervisor to handle emergency road washouts. The childish idea of I will take my ball home if you won't play exactly as I say, has no place in township politics. When one supervisor has spending authority without the board authorizing the expenditures, mistakes happen, since the input of five board members is better than one. This was the case with the faucet folly. Deluca, independently, contracted and supervised the installation of an inexpensive faucet that Walmart warned, "DO NOT USE THIS FAUCET TO CONVEY OR DISPENSE WATER FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION," due to the fact that it does not have NSF approval and the casting contains lead. This faucet then had to be changed to an NSF approved faucet, which Supervisor Deluca should have done from the start.

Next, counter to the strong advice of counsel to address an employment issue which causes the township to have increased liability issues, the board chose to ignore the situation. In his memo, the township counsel appreciated the complexity of this issue and the fact that it

would be difficult to address. However, he strongly encouraged the board to address this situation and not to put the decision off to some unknown date in the future. This is precisely what the board did. We already have to purchase our errors and omissions insurance from a private carrier since the Minnesota Association of Townships refuses to insure us due to having too many judgments (Planning and Zoning issues, employment issues, and data practice issues) against us in the past. Does the current board want to lose our private carrier for errors and omissions, too?

"Back to the Future" with secrecy and Open Meeting Law violations is not the way the Greenwood Town Board should be going. Transparency, openness, and honesty are the keys to decreased lawsuits and liability along with being the moral choice.

JoAnn Bassing
Greenwood Township

We want your letters!

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

Letters are subject to editing, primarily for length and clarity.

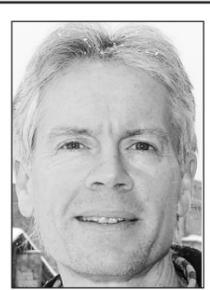
Letters are a great way to offer your input to the *Timberjay's* editorial page. We want to know what you think!

For legislative staffers, sex abuse tales ring close to home

The rush of stories in the news in recent weeks about sexual harassment in high places has reminded me of the regular phone calls I used to receive from my mother.

For 12 years, she worked as a legislative aide at the State Capitol in St. Paul and she experienced firsthand the lonely feeling of a woman subjected to abuse and harassment by a powerful man.

Usually, she would call me in tears, angry at times, but mostly just frustrated by the powerless nature of her position. While most state



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

employees have the protection of employee unions, that's not the case for most legislative staff in St. Paul, who work at the pleasure, or more likely the whim, of the lawmakers they serve. In my mother's experience most legislators treated their aides respectfully, but some found the imbalance of power a license to harass or intimidate — and that became a regular part of her work experience at the Legislature.

She would call after a particularly rough day, of propositions or of being

grabbed or groped in the lawmaker's office. Once, she called after the lawmaker had ripped her blouse open, right in front of another staffer and several of the legislator's own constituents. My mother was mortified.

She was tempted to quit many times, but a divorced woman in her late 50s or early 60s had few, if any, better options than a job in state government. And besides, she found the work, in most cases, incredibly fulfilling. She had started out in political work as an aide to Bloomington Mayor Kurt Laughinghouse, a deeply honorable and decent man, and found she had a knack for constituent service. When Laughinghouse later lost

re-election, her work for the city came to an end.

But she quickly landed a new job at the Capitol, working with a DFL senator who had been a friend for years. She couldn't have been more excited. She remembers feeling so lucky to have the opportunity to work in the state's most beautiful building and to make a meaningful contribution.

For the first few years, all was well, until she transferred into the office of a different DFL senator. That's when the harassment and abuse began.

See **SEX ABUSE...**pg. 5

COMMENTARY

In current tax debate, keep a close eye on the debt

As Republicans in Congress move forward on their tax plan, it's worth remembering one thing: whatever the legislative particulars, keep your eye on the plan's impact on the federal debt. Our debt load is already worrisome. It's almost certainly going to get worse.

There are a lot of different ways to characterize our fiscal situation at the federal level. We spend too much. We borrow too much. We spend more than we take in. We don't tax enough to cover our expenses. However you describe it, the plain truth is that Americans want more from their government than they're willing to pay for.

This is not new, but at some point it will become unsustainable — we just don't know exactly when. One common measure of the debt problem is to compare the total federal debt to our gross

domestic product, or GDP. This basically measures whether a country's economy is healthy enough to carry its debt burden. When Presidents Carter and Reagan were speaking out against the dangers of our large national debt, it stood at around 30 percent of GDP. Today it stands at 103 percent.

For years, people who worry about the debt have warned that this trend could not continue; it's turned out that the economy is far more resilient than many of us thought. And so the fear of debt has faded. This is too bad.

Before we go on, remember that there's a difference between deficits and debt. The deficit is the difference between what the government takes in and what it spends. That's measured annually. The debt is the accumulation of our deficits. And experts agree that growing debt at some point

really will become unsustainable. As it grows larger, it weighs more heavily on economic growth, crowds out private investment, creates economic uncertainty, dumps a burden on our children, and limits our ability as a nation to deal with unforeseen events. How we handle it will have a profound impact on our future and our role in the world.

The problem is that regardless of what our political leaders say about deficits and debt, their actions tend to belie their words: they continue expensive federal programs and lavish tax breaks on favored constituencies without regard to the long-term fiscal impact. I've come to believe that deficits will likely continue — with increasing debt — until some financial crisis focuses our attention on the serious imbalance between our taxes and spending. There is little real seriousness about trying to solve our fiscal issues, or real appetite to get our spending under control and use taxes to get a handle on our finances.

Which brings us to the

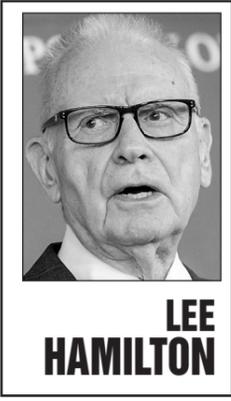
current move for tax "reform." Tax reform can have several meritorious goals, including establishing a more equitable tax system, encouraging economic growth, and imposing fiscal restraint. What I don't see in the current debate is much more than lip service to any of these goals. To achieve even a measure of fiscal restraint you can reform entitlements, which are the chief drivers of increased spending; you can moderate or cut defense spending; and you can increase taxes. Some politicians like to add a fourth — becoming more efficient — but while helpful, that won't have the necessary impact.

You've heard a lot already about how we need tax cuts to unleash economic growth. But the history of tax cuts makes clear there's only a tenuous connection between the two. Many factors affect the growth of the American economy; taxes are only one of them. And certainly, tax cuts that explode the deficit and send the national debt skyrocketing are not going to get the

job done. What always worries me about tax debate on Capitol Hill is that it begins with a lot of talk about reform, and usually ends with a lot of talk about tax cuts. This isn't surprising. Tax cuts are popular. Tax reform, which helps some people and hurts others, is politically treacherous.

So as you watch the debate on Capitol Hill, use your discrimination and judgment. Tax cuts can often help the economy, but not if they balloon deficits and the debt. If that happens, they'll eventually end up lowering growth and slowing the economy.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government and a Professor of Practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.



LEE HAMILTON

SEX ABUSE...Continued from page 4

Why didn't she speak up at the time?

That's the question that seems to arise whenever a woman tells of her experiences with sexual harassment or assault. Why would a woman wait, often for years, before telling her story?

The reasons are complex and multi-faceted, but hardly difficult to understand. For my mother, the penalty for speaking out would have been high, and she knew it.

She had seen another Senate staffer speak out about ethical violations by a former Senate leader and saw how the female staffer was quickly shipped from an influential position in the leader's office to the Capitol basement where she spent her days clipping stories from newspapers around the state. She was shunned by virtually everyone, (my mother was one of the few who would still talk to her) as if she was the one who had committed the impropriety. Rumors soon circulated about the staffer's

mental health, most likely intended to undermine her credibility and further isolate her from other members of the Senate staff. My mother envisioned such a future for herself, and just couldn't face it.

She talked one day to a member of the Legislature's human resources staff, but was told she had few, if any, protections, and almost certainly wouldn't have the backing of any other legislative staff, even those who were witness to the harassment and abuse. Everyone involved understood what was on the line. She was told that the elected members were the only ones who mattered. She was expendable and if she couldn't take it, the alternative was finding another job.

There were other factors as well. The lawmaker who abused my mother was a married man. My mother had met his wife a number of times and liked her very much. The prospect of causing her the pain of a public

accusation over her husband's improprieties was just one more reason my mother vowed to stay silent. And it's one more reason that I'm not naming the former lawmaker, since he and his wife are still living today. I'd be happy to name him. More than once over the years, I was tempted to drive down to the Capitol with a baseball bat and beat him bloody. My mother talked me out of it and she wouldn't let me mention his name, even though it's been nearly 20 years since she was forced to "retire."

The end was near when one day another female staffer came into the senator's office to find my mother crying. When she asked what was wrong, my mother told her of her predicament. The next day, the same staffer approached my mother and told her she had talked with her husband, who encouraged her to get a lawyer. That was the last my mother ever saw of that staffer, who apparently lost her job as well for suggesting my

mother take legal steps to defend herself. Shortly after that staffer was let go, my mother's senator came into the office and told my mother she was fired. He gave her two more months to wrap up her work, and turn 65, and then she was out the door. Anyone familiar with my mother, who at age 82 still has the tireless energy of a 30 year-old, knows that leaving the Capitol wasn't her choice. She lost her dream job because her abuser feared she might talk after all.

Sadly, my mother's experience would probably best described as unexceptional. While I would like to think that such abuse is less routine today than it was 20 years ago, it still affects far too many women who lack the ability to fight back against abusers with the ability to overturn their lives on a whim. Staffers at the Legislature still have no protections, despite state rules that supposedly prohibit such activity.

For many, including my

mother, such abuses leave them feeling a sense of guilt or shame, that somehow they were encouraging such behavior. It's that classic conundrum for professional women, who are expected to look nice and be friendly in the workplace while, at the same time, not provoking the men to act out. It's an interpersonal balancing act, and double standard, that puts women at a distinct disadvantage.

Despite the passage of nearly 20 years, it's still difficult for my mother to talk about her time at the Legislature. It should have been a wonderful and fulfilling experience, one that she could have easily enjoyed and benefited financially from for at least another five years. It should have been a job she could look back on today with enormous pride and satisfaction. Instead, it just makes her skin crawl.

FRANKEN...Continued from page 2

Menz told CNN she was visiting the fair with her husband and father, who was sponsoring a local radio station's booth. She said she posed for photos with various elected officials and political candidates as they visited at the booth. Franken's office said the senator didn't recall the photo, noting that he has thousands of photos taken with constituents every year. Franken said he was sorry if Menz felt disrespected.

In the earlier incident, Tweeden said Franken, under the guise of rehearsing a kiss he had worked into a script, had forcibly kissed her and stuck his tongue in her mouth. She said she tried to avoid him after that for the rest of the tour, but on the flight home she had fallen asleep and later found that Franken had arranged a photo of himself on her own phone, in which he appeared to be groping her while she was asleep. Tweeden was still wearing a helmet and a Kevlar vest over a jacket,

and the photo is unclear on whether Franken actually made physical contact. But Tweeden said the photo had a devastating effect. "I felt violated all over again," she said. "Embarrassed. Belittled. Humiliated."

Franken said he doesn't disagree. "I don't know what was in my head when I took that picture, and it doesn't matter. There's no excuse. I look at it now and I feel disgusted with myself. It isn't funny. It's completely inappropriate. It's obvious how Leeann would feel violated by that picture. And, what's more, I can see how millions of other women would feel violated by it — women who have had similar experiences in their own lives, women who fear having those experiences, women who look up to me, women who have counted on me."

The allegations against Franken come at a time when sexual harassment and abuse by wealthy and powerful men has become an increasingly salient political and cultural issue,

one that has ended or tarnished the careers of Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein, actor Kevin Spacey, comedian Louis C.K., and others. Just this past week, a committee hearing in the U.S. House provided stunning testimony of sexual misconduct in Congress, much of it directed at staffers.

Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore faces allegations from at least six different women who claim that conservative fundamentalist, as an adult, tried to start sexual relationships with them when they were in their teens, in one case as young as fourteen. Moore, unlike the others accused, has appeared to deny the allegations, although not without some equivocation.

The disclosure over Franken's behavior comes just over a year after the Access Hollywood tape, in which then-candidate Donald Trump appeared to acknowledge repeated acts of sexual assault

against women, including kissing and grabbing genitals. More than a dozen women have since come forward accusing Trump of various sexual improprieties. Like Moore, Trump has denied all the allegations.

The political fallout for Franken is uncertain. The photographic evidence of his alleged groping is troubling, although it appears that Franken is merely pretending to grope Tweeden, and is not actually touching her. Tweeden was wearing a kevlar vest over a heavy jacket at the time of the photograph.

The incident has prompted some calls for Franken to step down, but it seems unlikely that will happen, at least before the conclusion of an ethics investigation. For the Senate to advocate Franken's removal would be difficult politically, given the similar allegations swirling around President Trump, some of which are now in active litigation.

Franken was easily re-elected in 2014, and so won't be on the ballot again until 2020 should he choose to seek re-election to a third term.

For now, Franken was finding little support from members of his own party. Sen. Amy Klobuchar joined the calls for an ethics investigation. "This should not have happened to Leeann Tweeden. I strongly condemn this behavior and

the Senate Ethics Committee must open an investigation. This is another example of why we need to change work environments and reporting practices across the nation including in Congress."

Gov. Dayton also criticized Franken's actions and DFL gubernatorial candidate Rebecca Otto called on Franken to resign.

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 307 1st St. N., Virginia
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 FRI: 1pm-8pm 11am-1pm | SAT: 10am-7pm 8am-10am | SUN: 9am-4pm

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Week of Nov. 27

Gifts needed for Operation Santa

TOWER- Operation Santa is a local fundraiser which purchases Christmas gifts (toys, gift cards, and warm winter items) for children whose families use the Tower Food Shelf. Last year we served over 150 area children.

Take advantage of the great deals offered over the upcoming holiday to bring some joy into a child's life.

We have started to receive some donations, but much more is needed to make sure every child in our community receives gifts and warm clothing this Christmas season.

The effort is organized by The Timberjay and the Tower Soudan Civic Club, with help from many area groups, churches, organizations, and individuals. If your group or church is planning to donate this year, please contact Jodi at 218-753-2950. (This helps with planning!)

Lake Country Power's Operation RoundUp® program has once again made a very generous donation to the Tower Soudan Civic Club (formerly the Tower Women's Club), to help cover the cost of purchasing warm items for the children.

We are looking at donations of toys, games, art supplies, and sporting equipment for children, and gift cards to either Target or Walmart for our teenagers (\$10 or \$15).

If you purchase a toy that uses batteries, please also send a spare set!

We also accept gently-used holiday decorations and gifts for the adults who use the food shelf.

Donations can be dropped off at the Timberjay in Tower, and will be distributed at the food shelf on Dec. 19.

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 Dec. 19.

Greenwood Fire Dept.- Meetings on the first (drill) and third (business meeting) Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Breitung Town Board- 1 p.m. on Nov. 28.

Wednesday
St. Paul's Bible study-meets from 2-3 p.m. at the Soudan Apartment activity room.

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

Thursday
Vermilion Country School Board- Fourth Thursday (except Nov/Dec on the third Thursday). Meetings posted online at vermilioncountry.org.

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

Get Informed! Get the Timberjay!



the TIMBERJAY

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LIGHTS OF LOVE



From left: Marit Kringstad, Linda Haugen, Penny Jackson, Brenda Winkelaar, and Elaine McGillivray helped decorate the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center.

Christmas Tree Lighting Party for area families on Sunday, Dec. 3

TOWER- Please join us in celebrating the holiday season with a Christmas tree lighting ceremony on Sunday, Dec. 3 at 4 p.m. in front of the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center.

After the ceremony we will proceed to the Tower Civic Center where members of the Tower-Soudan Area Singers, directed by Rolf Anderson, will lead us in Christmas carols. A new addition to the holiday celebration will be a Bell Choir, "The Joy Ringers," under the direction of Jane Johns. Refreshments and Christmas cookies will be served along with a special stocking on the tree for each child.

The Christmas tree lighting is an event held for the Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, Inc. "Lights of Love" in Cook. This non-profit organization offers support for families and patients in need of hospice care. It will be an evening of Christmas cheer for the entire community.

Gary Haugen, along with Rolf and Laurie Anderson helps cut the boughs for the wreath and garland decorations at the LVCC. submitted photos



Red Hat Belles to meet Friday, Dec. 8 at the Vermilion Club

TOWER- The Northern Red Hat Belles will meet on Friday, Dec. 8 at 12:30 p.m. at the Vermilion Club. A limited menu will be available.

Please RSVP to Pam at 753-3006 or Kathy at 753-2530 by Dec. 4. Bring unwrapped gifts for Toys for Tots, and also non-perishable items for the

Tower Area Food Shelf. Any recycled items you may have will be used for gifts. New members and guests are always welcome.

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

Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, Nov. 29, Dec. 20

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 daily at the Greenwood Town Hall. For info: 1-800-450-9278

AEOA Senior Dining Menu

TOWER- Vermilion Country School and AEOA sponsor a senior dining site at the charter school in Tower. All meals include salad bar, fruit, choice of beverage and dessert. Call the school at 218-753-1246 ext. 1003 for reservations.

Week of Nov. 27
Monday- Meat Calzone, Marinara Sauce
Tuesday- Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Tomato Soup
Wednesday- Chunky Pork Gravy over Mashed Potatoes, Dinner Roll, Vegetables
Thursday- Lasagna, Dinner Roll
Friday- Chicken Noodle Soup, Cheesy Breadsticks.

Subscribe Today • Call (218) 753-2950

Libraries

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

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

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
AA - 7 p.m. Mondays, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St.
WOMEN'S AA - Noon
Mondays, Ledgerock Community Church, Ely - use 15th Street entrance
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 AREA FOOD SHELF - third Wednesday each month. 15 W. Conan St.
ADULT BASIC EDUCATION
GED Study materials and pre-test available. Ely Community Center Thursday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tower by appointment. Call 365-3359, 827-3232, or 1-800-662-5711.
CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS: Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living
Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital Conference Room B

OUR COMMUNITY



Women who care aids ECR

ELY - The 100+ Ely Women Who Care group recently presented a check in the amount of \$7,522 to Ely Community Resource (ECR). At their recent nomination event, the members of 100+ Ely Women Who Care selected the Ely Community Resource as the recipient of their

combined donations. The purpose of 100+ Ely Women Who Care is to foster philanthropy and community by donating as a group to a local charity. By contributing a significant amount at one time, charities are able to provide programs and services that otherwise might

not be possible. "Over 130 Ely women contributed to the donations and we are all honored to support such a fine organization as ECR that offers so many wonderful programs for children in Ely," said organizer Chris Chandler. This was the second 100+ Ely

Women Who Care event. The first one, in April 2017, raised \$7,000 for the Northern Lakes Arts Association. "We intend to hold two events each year, and welcome participation even if you cannot attend," Chandler said. For more information, go to the website, 100ElyWomenWhoCare.org.

Tuesday Group
ELY - All talks are at 12 noon on Tuesday at Grand Ely Lodge, unless noted.
Nov. 28 - Peg Jesme - Northern Lights Clubhouse

Breathing Out
by Cecilia Rolando © 2017

searching for fresh fish
the net suspended in wait
reaping lake bounty

VFW ESSAY WINNERS



Ely VFW Post 2717 recently honored local winners in the Patriots Pen essay contest. The first place winner, Ely student, Margaret Dammann, is pictured above with Michael Pope, VFW post 2717 Commander, and Matt Litherland, post Junior Vice Commander. Margaret received \$25 from the post. Second place winner, Taylor Gibney, pictured below with Pope and Litherland, received \$20. Both essays were forwarded to the VFW 8th district for further contest consideration. submitted photos



Ely Free Clinic open Mondays
ELY - The Ely Community Health Center is Ely's Free Clinic. They are open

every Monday evening from 5:30-7 p.m. in the lower level of the Frandsen Bank building on 1st Ave. in downtown Ely.

They are available to see anyone who does not have health insurance. They are also available for anyone who has health insurance but has unaffordable co-pays or deductibles (underinsured). For more information, call 218-365-5678, or visit their website, www.ely-communityhealth.org, or Facebook page.

Ely VA Clinic expands hours
ELY - Effective Nov. 20, the Veterans Administration Community Clinic in Ely expanded from two to three days a week. The new hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The clinic is located at 720 Miners Drive East. The clinic is operated by Sterling Medical under a contract with the Minneapolis VA Health Care System.

Our Town

Martial arts school competes at charity tourney

ELY - The students of IRKB, (Iron Range Kickboxing Academy) along with approximately twenty other schools from Minnesota and Wisconsin had the opportunity to demonstrate their skills at an open martial arts tournament in Duluth this past weekend. The tournament was held at the Clyde Iron Works on the west end of Duluth with a portion of the proceeds going to the Northern Harvest Food Bank. Tournament organizer, Stefan Stein, of Stone House Martial Arts, promotes several tournaments throughout the year with proceeds going to different charities with each event. IRKB had a total of eight martial artists representing at the event, competing in a total of three separate events. Starting with Starla and Toivo Forsman, a brother and sister team from Ely, the duo competed in team forms earning a third-place finish. They continued in individual competition with Starla earning a third-place finish in individual forms and a fourth in sparring. Toivo, also competing in forms and sparring, earned a second-place trophy in forms. Lydia Wright took home a third place in sparring, as did Rena Johnston. Kaiden Gornick walked away with two second place finishes in both sparring and forms. Coach and Instructor, Betty Runquist also finished second in sparring. IRKB's top finishers this weekend were Brian Cook with a second place in sparring and first place in forms, and Lydia White with a dominating performance in sparring, finishing in first place.

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Co-dependents meet on Fridays
ELY - The Ely co-dependents support group meets Fridays at noon at St. Anthony's Church in Classroom 3. Use west side entrance. For more information, go to www.coda.org.

the TIMBERJAY

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Show Your School Spirit & Support

The Conaway Family

Taco Dinner Fundraiser

Raffles
Silent Auction

Saturday, November 25th
3pm-7pm
Adults \$8 Students \$5
Memorial School Cafeteria

On October 24th The Conaway family lost their home to a fire. Ely School Students have banded together to help their classmates during this difficult time. If you are unable to attend, but would like to make a donation please contact Kristi (218-235-8940) or Jacki (218-365-6443)

Thanksgiving Celebration at Bear River Church on Nov. 26

BEAR RIVER- A special time of worship is coming up at Bear River Lutheran Church, and you are invited. The Thanksgiving season is a time to thank God for our blessings and to share our blessings with others. That is what will be happening at the Bear River Church on Sunday, Nov. 26 at 10 a.m.

Christ the King Sunday is always an interesting and wonderful worship service and we'll be combining that with a post-Thanksgiving celebration. We will be celebrating by bringing an offering of non-perishable food items or cash donations to give to the Cook Food Shelf. Following worship, coffee and an offering will be offered downstairs.

Bear River Lutheran Church is located at 11141 Hwy. 22 in Bear River, three miles west of Hwy. 5, or four miles east of Hwy. 65.

If you have any questions, please contact Gloria at 218-376-4673.

Cook Community Thanksgiving Dinner

COOK- The public is invited to the Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, Nov. 23 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church social hall. The Cook Lions Club will be delivering meals to homebound residents; please call Noreen at 218-666-2869 to arrange delivery. Everyone is welcome to attend this meal.

8th Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner set for Orr Legion

ORR- The 8th annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be served in Orr on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 23, from 1-3 p.m. at the Orr American Legion Hall. It is a wonderful local gathering for families and friends. Meals will also be delivered to the homebound, starting at 12:30 p.m. This meal is free and open to all. By community request, donations for the Loaves and Fishes Food Shelf will be accepted but are not required. Any questions can be directed to Joel or Lori Astleford at 218-757-0052 or Rick and Wendy Deatherage at 909-900-6626.

First Baptist Church hosts Annual Ladies Christmas Tea on Dec. 4

COOK- All the ladies of the community are invited to attend the annual Christmas Tea at the First Baptist Church of Cook on Monday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. The theme is "Simply Christmas." Join the ladies of First Baptist Church to contemplate the profound, yet simple message of the Christmas season. The ladies look forward to sharing this delightful evening of reflection, rest and refreshment with you. Christmas music, readings, caroling and refreshments will add touches of festivity to the evening. The ladies of First Baptist Church look forward to welcoming you and trust that this delightful evening will help usher the Christmas season into your heart and all of your Christmas plans.

Get ready for the Orr Snow City celebration on Saturday, Dec. 2

ORR - Get ready to jumpstart the holiday season as Orr hosts its annual Snow City celebration on Saturday, Dec. 2. This popular holiday tradition, sponsored by the Orr Chamber of Commerce, includes a day full of holiday activities. The festival begins with an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast at the Orr American Legion from 7-10 a.m. followed by a craft show from 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and will feature soup, hot dogs, hot chocolate, coffee and water.

The popular Snow City Parade begins at 1 p.m. To register your float for the parade, please call Shannon at 218-757-3200 or you may also come to line up that day. There will be cash prizes for the top three floats. Parade line-up is at Wally's Auto. After the parade, stop by the American Legion for a chance to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. The fes-



activities conclude with the Virgie Hegg Lights of Love ceremony at 5:30 p.m., which will be held this year at the Orr Center in Orr, the old Orr School. Refreshments will be served after the tree lighting.

Tables are still available for the craft show. To reserve your spot,

please call Veronica at 218-757-0070. Medallion Hunt daily clues will be posted starting on Monday, Nov. 27 at the Orr Post Office and on the Orr Area Chamber Facebook page by 10 a.m. daily. Claim your prize at Re/Max Lake Country in Orr.

Donations needed for this year's Lights of Love

REGIONAL- The 27th annual VHHP Lights of Love campaign, our largest fundraiser of the year, begins in November to commemorate National Hospice Month and National Family Caregivers Month. Last year's Lights of Love raised over \$6,300.

Donations (tax-deductible) may be given

in honor or memory of a loved one. Ice candles are available for purchase to be displayed as part of the tree lighting ceremonies.

Please mark your calendars and join us for the Lights of Love tree lighting and caroling which will take place at the Cook Community Center on Friday, Dec. 1 at 5 p.m., Orr's Community Center

on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 5:30 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 3 at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center at 4 p.m. You are also invited to join us following the ceremonies for coffee, cider and treats.

For more information about Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, visit our website at www.vhhp.org or contact Liz Cheney (Program

Director) at 780-8907 or Shawna Kishel (Chairperson) at 666-5096. To make a donation, you can find a form on our website. Please make checks payable to VHHP Lights of Love and mail to PO Box 244, Cook, MN 55723. PayPal is also available via our website.

North Woods High School honor roll

The following students have been named to the first quarter honor roll at North Woods High School.

A Honor Roll

Seniors

Kayla Bodri
Karina Bristol
Austin Chaulklin
Ethan Cote
Grace Johnson
Daniel Koch
Tanner Lokken
Tate Olson
Stacy Palmer
Timothy Pierce
Isaiah Squires
Lillian Wheeler

Juniors

Madison Antikainen
Claire Beaudry
Emily Benoit
Bria Chiabotti
Kristen Cook
Samantha Fultz
Jakob Hyppa
Parker Jones
Regan Ratai
Ian Sherman
Anna Trip
Rebecca Triska

Sophomores

Lauren Arvila
Zander Carr
Katrina Chapman
Bethany Cotten
Kenzie Fox
Hailey Hakkila
CeCilia Martinez
Trevor Morrison
Olivia Niska
Nicole Olson
Karlyn Pierce

Nicole Roy
Neiva Smith
Sasha Strong
Nadine Todtenhausen
Kayla Towner
Macy Viita

Freshmen

Jocelynn Carver
Samuel Frazee
Olivia Fultz
Brynn Simpson
Elijah Squires
Cole Thiel
Zoe Trip

Eighth Grade

Haley Bogdan
Morgan Burnett
Ethan Byram
Trey Gibson
Michelle Hagen
Alex Hartway
Elsie Hyppa
Taylor Jones
Abby Koch
Owen Land
Michaela Luecken
Shea Oveson
Jacob Panichi
Cole Snidarich
Olivia Udovich
Brandie Walker
Jaden Whiteman

Seventh Grade

Cooper Antikainen
Kohen Briggs
Mason Clines
Kaden Ratai
Karah Scofield
Elias Smith
Steven Sopoci
Avery Thiel
Emily Trip
Skyler Yernatic

B Honor Roll

Seniors

Garrett Abramson
Korynn Fisher
Sabrina Francke
Grace Kisch
Kaya-Victoria Membreno
Brendan Parson
Madison Rautiola
Xari Siman

Juniors

Alexander Byram
Brody Driscoll
Ellie Frazee
Katlyn Hartwig
Haley Hongo
Stefen Johansen
Tyler Kiehman
Chase Kleppe
Kylee Lange
Katie Lundemo
Jennifer Morrison
Alanna Rutchasky
Darrick Sandberg
Kiana Sargent
Blake Scofield
Drayke Snidarich
Anthony Vito
Ryan Vlavisavljevich

Sophomores

Trevor Adelman
Brielle Anderson
Daniel Crockett
LaVonne Drift
Luke Gabrielson
Clayton Janssen
Pierce Johnson
Tyler Kehoe
Wyatt Kneen
Morgan Malecha
Kylie Parson
Meadow Prescott
Sara Szveduik
Michaela Tschida
Taylor Vagle
Kennedy Wardas

Freshmen

Rayanne Adams
Nikole Boshey
Christopher Chaulklin
Zachary Cheney

Megan Cote
Kara Drift
Emily Fosso
Aubrey Koskovich
Joey Lakoskey
Rey Marroquin
Logan Nurmi
Ian Olson
Austin Sokoloski
Jeremiah Voges
Andrew Zika

Eighth Grade

Ivy Chaulklin
Tyler Chiabotti
Bryce Chosa
Joshua Copeland
Aayanna Goodsky-Spears
Erik Hagen
Joseph Hoagland
Kadence Holland
Reuben Isham
Katrina Jackson
Timothy Lilya
Leona Lindgren
Francis Littlewolf
Sean Morrison
Abigail Shuster
Kaya Tschida
Lillian Voges

Seventh Grade

Brenden Chiabotti
Thomas Debeltz
Brielle Hujanen
Trevor Kehoe
Braden King
Hannah Kinsey
Lane Kneen
Grace Koch
Benjamin Kruse
Garrett Lappi
Kiana LaRoque
Dillon Musakka
Olin Nelson
Any Pearson
Nickolas Pierce
Madison Spears
Jacob Swanson
Logan Vlavisavljevich
Alexandria Whiteman

the TIMBERJAY

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Please specify Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr or Ely edition.

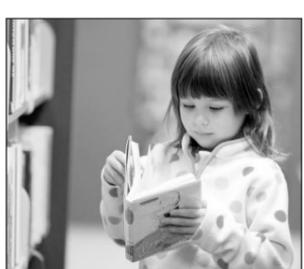
NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First Class Subscription: \$100 year or \$10 per month.

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

Bookmobile schedule

Visit your library on wheels, the Arrowhead Library System Bookmobile. Local stops and times include:

Thursday, Dec. 7, 28
Nett Lake - Community Center 9:30-10:15
Orr - City Hall/Tourism Center 11:00-11:45
Buyck - Vermilion River Tavern 1:15-1:45
Crane Lake - Ranger Station 2:00-2:30
Kabetogama - "Town" Hall 3:45-4:15



For further information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, write or call the Arrowhead Library System, 5528 Emerald Ave., Mt. Iron, MN 55768 218-741-3840, or check our website at www.alslib.info.

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Fall/Winter Hours
Sun: 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Mon-Sat: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Effective October 1

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

TOWER-SOUDAN ATHLETIC ASSN.

Fundraiser supports Tower-Soudan youth

The Tower-Soudan Athletic Association's Fall Auction once again met its goal of fundraising to support youth athletics and activities. There were games, auctions, great food, and karaoke. Funds raised support Vermilion Country School, TS Elementary, and summer youth sports. photos by J. Summit



UNITED WAY

Donation is an investment in the future of the United Way of NE Minn.

REGIONAL- The United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN) is excited to announce a \$12,500 private donation to the UWNEMN Building Renovation Campaign from Al and Erika Hodnik.

"Erika and I are proud annual contributors to UWNEMN. We were both born and raised as Iron Rangers. Erika is from Gilbert and I am from Aurora. We love this area and are investing in the future of the region with our additional gift to support UWNEMN's Building Renovation Campaign," said Hodnik. "We believe that our gift, combined with those from other contributors, will ensure long-term stability and improve the overall effectiveness and impact of UWNEMN and its programs. Our communities will tremendously benefit from UWNEMN's new space and renovation, which will help enhance the programs provided to people in need. We hope that others will join us and invest in our region's future by supporting UWNEMN's Building Renovation Campaign."

In February, UWNEMN announced the purchase of the Minnesota Power Service Center in the Chisholm Industrial Park, which was made possible by a generous price reduction from Minnesota Power, an ALLETE company. Thanks to an individual donation from Richard (Dick) Enrico, native of Chisholm and former owner of 2nd Wind Exercise Equipment, the building was paid for in full.

Over the past 10 years, UWNEMN has evolved, now providing direct-service programming to meet critical community needs. In doing so, the organization quickly



Erin Shay, Shelley Valentini and Elizabeth Kelly of UWNEMN's staff are pictured with Erika and Al Hodnik during a Buddy Backpack volunteer packing session. Submitted photo

outgrew office and program space, forcing off-site operation of programs like Buddy Backpacks and Good360. The purchase of the new building will allow the entire organization's operations to be housed under one roof which includes offices, Buddy Backpack and Good360 program space. This move will improve the organization's effectiveness and will poise the organization for future long-term sustainability and potential for expansion.

UWNEMN plans to move into their new office and program space by late spring/early summer of 2018. However, before the move is possible, major renovations are necessary for UWNEMN's offices and programs to be effectively and efficiently carried out. Modifications need to be made to the facility's interior structure because the building was originally designed for electric utility services. Needs include the creation of individual office spaces, a new pallet racking system for the Buddy Backpack program, an electric forklift to move food and products, heating updates for the Good360 program space, plumbing, mechanical, and electrical updates, office

furniture and more.

To raise the funds needed for the renovations, UWNEMN is holding the organization's first capital campaign. A total of \$750,000 is needed in financial support, as well as in-kind donations. To date, \$348,000 has been secured.

"We are so grateful for all of the support we have received thus far with our new building, and Al and Erika's generous donation is just what we needed to help us jump start to the next level of renovation funding," said Shelley Valentini, UWNEMN Executive Director. To date, additional support has been secured from the IRRRB, Otto Bremer Trust, Owens Family Charitable Trust, Northland Foundation, and Blandin Foundation as well as from individual contributors and an anonymous donor.

UWNEMN is asking the community to come together and support their Building Renovation Campaign. Donations made at the \$1,000 level or above will be recognized on a permanent display within the building and

larger contributions can be distributed over several years.

"United we all win," Valentini said. "Coming together as a community and supporting UWNEMN now will impact this region far into the future. I have worked for UWNEMN for 27 years and as we've made positive, impactful changes to our organization, particularly in the past 10 years, it has become increasingly difficult to manage our programs as well as the daily operations of our organization. Our new home will have a tremendous impact on how we are able to do our work and we are so excited!"

For more information call UWNEMN at 218-254-3329. To make a contribution to the UWNEMN Building Renovation Campaign, mail or drop off donations to the UWNEMN office at 229 West Lake Street, Chisholm, MN 55719, or donate online at www.unit-edwaynemn.org.

The Future of Food, Health and the Economy program on Friday, Dec. 1

MT IRON- Please join us for a presentation, "The Future of Food, Health and the Economy: What can we bring to the table?" Northeast Minnesota's Food Charter in Action event on Friday, Dec. 1 from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Messiah Church in Mt. Iron. Everyone who is interested in the future of food in our local economy is invited to attend and contribute to the discussion and action planning. This is a free event with a bonus - a locally-sourced lunch.

Finnish-American Christmas Party on Saturday, Dec. 2

HIBBING- Finnish Americans and Friends will host a Christmas party on Saturday, Dec. 2 at the Crown Ballroom on the corner of Howard St. and Third Ave. in downtown Hibbing.

The party will begin with a social gathering at 12:30 p.m. and will be followed by a Finnish-themed buffet dinner at 1 p.m. A commemoration of this year, and of one hundred years of Finnish independence, will include a stirring rendition of "Finlandia" by soloist Sharon Panula, accompanied by Fran Lahti. Music in Finnish and English will be performed by well-known June (Levaniemi) Randall, accompanied by Debbie Slygh. A sing-a-long will conclude the program.

Everyone is invited to share in this celebration. The cost is \$25, which will include Finnish Americans and Friends membership dues for 2018. Contact Mary Ann by phone at 219-262-1206 or by email at mgomsi@hotmail.com for additional information and to make reservations. Reservations should be made as soon as possible.

Ruby's Pantry on Nov. 25 in Babbitt

BABBITT- Ruby's Pantry food distribution at the Babbitt Municipal Center (71 South Drive) will be on Saturday, Nov. 25 (fourth Saturday of each month) from 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. \$20 cash donation buys an abundance of food. No income or residency guidelines. Bring two large boxes or baskets. Sponsored by St. Pius X Catholic Church. Volunteers are always welcome.

AEOA Pancake Fundraiser on Nov. 24

REGIONAL- Limited government funding has made it difficult to meet the area's homeless shelter needs. In the last year, AEOA Homeless Shelters had to turn away 1,203 individuals due to limited space and more than 70 percent of the people who did stay at the emergency shelter had physical and/or mental health conditions. Being homeless is not a choice, but giving is.

To help alleviate growing costs, AEOA Homeless Shelters will be having a Pancake Feed Fundraiser on Friday, Nov. 24 from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Mt. Iron Community Center. Money raised will be used to directly fund our area homeless shelters located in Virginia and Hibbing which serve all of Northern St. Louis County. Tickets are \$8 for adults and children 6 and under are free. Please contact Liz Young at 218-735-6873 with any questions or if your company would like to donate to or sponsor our event.

Vermilion Penguins to meet Wednesday, Dec. 6

TOWER- The Vermilion Penguins Snowmobile Club will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. at Fortune Bay. All members and interested community residents are encouraged to attend.

The club's Christmas Party will be held on Friday, Dec. 8 at the Vermilion Club with social hour at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Please RSVP to Autumn at the VC by Dec. 1, by calling 218-753-6277. If you so choose, bring an inexpensive gift for the holiday gift exchange.

TOWER BINGO Monday, Dec. 4

TOWER- Senior Bingo will be held in Tower on Monday, Dec. 4 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 or school cancellation, bingo may be cancelled. Questions, call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950.

Upcoming dates for 2017:

- Monday, December 4
- No bingo in January
- Monday, February 5
- Monday, March 5

Enjoy Food, Family, and Fun

North Star is Closed for Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 23rd & Friday, November 24th



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Cook, MN 55723
218-666-5940

www.NorthStarCreditUnion.org



BENEFIT Tina Brown

Our mother and friend Tina Brown (Hardy), from Soudan, was recently diagnosed in September with Adenocarcinoma of the left lower lobe, stage 4 brain cancer. Please come to enjoy some food and support Tina.

Saturday, December 9
11 AM - 3 PM
(Timber Hall, 4855 Hwy 21, Embarrass)

Silent Auction!

Join Us!

Raffles!

Chili & Soup!

Adults \$8 • Kids \$5

We will be celebrating Tina's 50th Birthday at D'Erick's on Main Street, Tower later that evening • 6 PM to ?
Stop in and say hello or stay and visit for the evening!

We look forward to seeing you!

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WOES...Continued from page 1

Utilities Commission.

For Wilson, that was the last straw. "I call them the Evil Empire now," said Wilson, who has since dropped his Frontier Internet service and is exploring alternatives for phone service as well. He's also filed a complaint with Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson. "We're paying four times as much for Internet now. That's just how desperate we were to be rid of Frontier. I'd rather be water-boarded than have to talk to them again."

While most Frontier customers can't recite the full litany of woe experienced by Wilson, for many residents of Frontier's service territory here in northeastern Minnesota it sounds all too familiar.

"This has been the worst service experience of my life," said Melissa Holmes, of Embarrass, who responded to a recent story in the *Timberjay* asking readers to send in their concerns about Frontier. That story prompted dozens of responses, all with similar stories of overcharges, long waits on hold for billing or technical assistance, and regular outages, some lasting for days.

Holmes said her phone service regularly goes out, particularly when conditions are wet. "My whole neighborhood here on Wahlsten Road in Embarrass has had service issues with Frontier for decades," she said. "Repeated calls to the company go nowhere."

Like Wilson, Holmes said her bill regularly goes up for no apparent reason. "Calling only frustrates me further because no one has a clue at Frontier as to what the problem is or why my bill went up five dollars. Last month they billed my checking account twice. I had to call and have them reverse the last charge, which then took days to be reimbursed."

Nita Utterback, who lives in Eagles Nest Township, is employed by

Minnesota State Rep. Rob Ecklund encourages residents to report landline Internet issues

REGIONAL — With so many people struggling to get reliable internet service, Rep. Rob Ecklund is encouraging residents to report problems to state officials. "It is no secret that we need better access to reliable high speed internet," said Ecklund. "While we are waiting on reliable internet service we are missing out on opportunities for our students to learn. Businesses, workers and students in our communities are at a disadvantage trying to compete in a 21st century economy with outdated technology. We don't deploy soldiers with muskets and we certainly shouldn't continue to let our communities sit idly by while a web page tries to load."

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is one of the state regulators with oversight over landline internet connections. However, the Public Utilities Commission does not have oversight over broadband internet. Reporting issues to state regulators will help hold internet providers accountable for their services they provide. Consumers can file a complaint form on the PUC webpage located here: <https://mn.gov/puc/consumers/help/complaint/>.

the Revenue Department in Ely, but tries to work from home whenever possible. Yet unreliable Internet service regularly prevents her from doing so. "When it goes out, I have to drive to the revenue office or take vacation time," she said. "I pay for high speed Internet, but I don't get it most of the time."

Utterback has had 12 work orders filed with the company since mid-May and figures she's filed at least 50 orders since she moved to her rural residence ten years ago. "All the technicians know me they've been here so many times."

Utterback fears that the situation with Frontier is having an economic impact on the region, both by discouraging people able to telecommute from moving to the area and hurting small businesses that are increasingly reliant on reliable Internet for day-to-day business transactions.

Brenda Winkelaar, who operates SuLu's Espresso Café in Tower with her sister Linda, can attest to that personally. She said the majority of their customers rely on credit or debit cards for the coffee and treats they buy. But completing those transactions is only possible when the Internet is working—and outages are all too frequent, said Winkelaar. "We lose significant business because of it," she said,

since more and more people don't carry cash. Rather than turn away customers, they routinely just give things away or ask regular customers to pay next time.

While that might not be a disaster if the Internet outage is a matter of minutes, operations at SuLu's were thrown into chaos in late September when their Internet disappeared for three full days.

To make matters worse, said Winkelaar, the company's billing is notoriously inaccurate and hard to understand. "We never get the right bill," she said.

For others, it's simply a struggle to get a phone working again. Snowbirds Marilyn Cummings and her husband spent more than a month trying to get Frontier to fix their phone line on Lake Vermilion when they showed up on June 15 and found the line wasn't working. After hours on the phone and chatting online with customer service, they finally got a tech person to visit, on July 17. The couple has also had repeated issues with billing errors, said Cummings, who noted that the company has terrible service ratings with Consumer Reports, which recently rated telecommunications providers. "In the internet category with 48 providers, Frontier was rated 27th for fiber, 37th for cable, and tied for 47th

in DSL," stated Cummings. "In the phone category with 39 providers, Frontier was rated 36th for voice over Internet and 39th for land line service. In the TV category with 32 providers, Frontier was rated 31st. In the bundled services category with 20 providers, Frontier was rated 20th. With such low ratings in every category, it's no wonder that consumers are dissatisfied."

State Rep. Rob Ecklund said he hears concerns about Frontier all the time. "Funny you should ask," said Ecklund when he was contacted by the *Timberjay* earlier this month. "I just checked my voicemails from yesterday afternoon, and two of them were about problems with Frontier," he said.

Ecklund contacted both state and company officials in the wake of the calls, and issued a press release (See sidebar) earlier this month informing residents of District 3A how to file a complaint with the Public Utilities Commission against the company.

Company fails to respond

The *Timberjay* posed several questions to Frontier for this story and provided the company the opportunity to respond.

The company, through a spokesperson, initially requested that publication of the story, originally set for Nov. 3, be postponed until the company could obtain more information about some of the specific complaints.

The *Timberjay* provided the company with more details on the nature of the complaints and held publication of the story for three weeks to ensure that Frontier had adequate time to fully respond.

As of presstime this week, however, Frontier has offered no response of any kind.

Company facing financial straits

Prospects for an improvement in Frontier's service quality appear unlikely given the increasingly tenuous financial condition of the company. Frontier went deeply in debt in early 2016, when it completed an \$11 billion purchase of landline infra-

structure formerly owned by Verizon in California, Texas, and Florida. The acquisition more than doubled the size of the company, but also prompted a major restructuring, which included significant layoffs.

Frontier officials had touted the acquisition at the time, arguing that the company knew how to make money from traditional landline infrastructure even as the industry is rapidly transitioning to wireless. But the company has yet to demonstrate it is up to the challenge and as complaints over poor service have mounted, the company has hemorrhaged customers, particularly in more populated regions, where customers often have viable alternatives.

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, Frontier lost 102,000 landline dependent customers in just the first quarter of 2017. The company lost \$373 million last year and a whopping \$737 million through the first half of 2017, much of it as the company writes off overdue bills from the customers it acquired in the Verizon acquisition. Earlier this year, the company announced that it was cutting its dividend by more than 60 percent and would engineer a 1-for-15 reverse stock split (exchanging one share for every 15 shares outstanding) in a move to boost its sagging stock price. It hasn't helped, as the company's share price has slid from a high of \$56 at the beginning of the year, to just over \$11 this week. The company's slide prompted the S&P 500 to recently drop the company from its index.

Frontier executives are in a desperate bid to right the ship ahead of 2020, when much of the company's current debt begins to come due. The company has more than \$7.5 billion in debt payments scheduled from 2020-2022, according to financial analysts. With the company's focus on cutting costs, it's difficult to envision additional investments in a relatively small, rural market like northeastern Minnesota.

It's hard to quit Frontier

While most companies probably couldn't get away with the questionable service that seems endemic to Frontier in northeastern Minnesota, for those who try to quit their service for an alternative, the costs can be high.

Shockingly high, in fact, as the folks at SuLu's discovered when they tried to cancel their Frontier service. "They told us we were under contract and that it would be like \$1,500 or \$1,800 to get out of it," said Brenda Winkelaar. "So we can't get away until some time in 2018."

And even for those

determined to end their Frontier service, the process for doing so can be challenging—requiring business owners to contact the company on the very day that their contract expires. "They said we have to call on the same day or it's automatically renewed for another two years," said Winkelaar. "You have to be so aware of the fine print, or you can't get away."

Orlyn Kringstad, a Tower-based business owner, said Frontier customer service told him he'd have to pay \$1,400 to get out of his contract with the company for his home as well as at his Main Street business, Nordic Home North and Tower Harbor Shores, which is developing the planned town home project at the Tower harbor. He said it was a constant \$66 monthly charge for things he never ordered, along with Internet service that routinely cut out, that prompted him to make the change to Midcontinent, the local cable provider in town. Kringstad said after three months of poor service from Frontier, he doesn't plan to pay their threatened fee. "And I'm not going to let them anywhere near the harbor project," he said.

For rural residents, alternatives like Midcontinent aren't available. While some have turned to satellite-based services, those can be significantly more costly and can have technical problems of their own.

Utterback, from Eagles Nest, said she's looked into alternatives, but notes that there aren't many good options. "They've got us by the neck and won't let go," she said.

"It's so frustrating that I can't tell them to turn it off, I'm done with you."

While her frustration with the company as a whole runs high, Utterback said she doesn't blame the local tech workers, who used to be overseen by local manager Terry Bosch. She believes they are sincerely trying to solve the problems being experienced by customers, but are working with a company that doesn't provide the backup they need. "I think that Terry did an excellent job to make do with what he had."

Many others share that view. "The local installer is a gem," said Kringstad, despite his frustration with other aspects of the company's service.

But for most, the local support simply can't make up for the long list of complaints. And while alternatives aren't always available, and can be significantly more expensive, for some, like Steve Wilson, it's worth it. "I just want to be rid of them completely," he said. "My dream is to never be on hold with Frontier again."

ANNUAL ORR SNOW CITY FESTIVAL

Saturday, Dec. 2

Pancake Breakfast
All-U-Can-Eat • Orr American Legion 7 AM-10 AM

Crafters Fair
Orr American Legion 11 AM-3:30 PM
Tables still available call Veronica 218-757-0070

LUNCH
Orr American Legion 11 AM-3:30 PM
soup, hot dogs, hot chocolate, coffee

PARADE at 1 PM
Downtown Orr (Line up at Wallys)
CASH PRIZES for top 3 floats!
To enter the "Float Contest" call Shannon at ReMax 218-757-3200

After the parade meet Santa & Mrs. Claus
Orr American Legion

Lights of Love & Refreshments at 5:30 PM
Orr Center (Old Orr School)

Medallion Hunt
Daily clues starting Monday, Nov. 27
Clues posted at the Orr Post Office and on the Orr Area Chamber Facebook page by 10 AM.
Claim your prize at ReMax Lake Country in Orr

Join Us For A Fun Day!
Sponsored by the Orr Chamber of Commerce

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BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Supervision required for Post Office construction work

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

SUDAN - Work is about to begin at the Sudan Post Office.

The board was informed that the construction crew must be supervised while renovating the post office due to post office security regulations. The post office said that some clerks have agreed to work more hours so that construction workers may work a full day, rather than be limited to the short hours the post office is normally open for. However, the post office has asked the township to

pay the cost of the extra staff hours. Town board members are in favor of this option, because it would be cheaper to pay for a post office staff to supervise construction than it would be to have construction workers work a four-hour day. Other potential options were mentioned, such as having a trailer outside or in the fire hall to house post office boxes temporarily or paying a police officer to supervise construction.

A grant application to CDBG was made for \$292,000 to fix the Fourth St. sewer, the Church St. alley, and exterior updates and landscaping for the

post office. The application will mention that the township is planning to raise water and sewer rates.

Lake Vermilion Sudan Mine State Park has asked the township if they would do a land exchange. LVSMSP owns two parcels of land near adjacent township property and the township owns two parcels of land adjacent to LVSMSP. Councilor Tekautz confirmed that the value of the land exchange would be roughly equal. The town board passed a motion to exchange the land. The land is located on CR 697 near the wastewater ponds.

Other business

In other business the town board:

- Will sign a lease agreement with North St. Louis SWCD for the storage of the cleaning units. The township has already received the payment.

- Fire Chief Steve Burgess has requested a new washer and dryer. The township will ask Burgess to present the board with a minimum of two quotes.

- Received a letter from St. Louis County offering the first opportunity to purchase four properties in the township that

are tax forfeited and will go up for auction. The township will take no action.

- Received an estimate from Custom Theaters Inc. of Ely for the installation of electronic entry keys and locks to the township and surface buildings for the amount of \$17,706.86. The township took no action.

- Received a road vacation petition from Puncher Point residents to vacate an unused road and boat landing. The said road will be split between neighbors. The purpose of removing the road is so that boaters will use the three

other regulated public access points; Hoodoo Point, McKinley Park, and Stuntz Bay, and increase the likelihood of boaters abiding by aquatic invasive species laws and requirements. Councilors approved the petition.

- The next township meeting will be Nov. 28 at 1 p.m. The township will have a closed contract negotiation meeting with Local 49 at 11:30 a.m. and a closed contract negotiation meeting with Local 346 at 12 noon.

SCIENCE...Continued from page 1

according to Otto.

His first book in exploring this phenomenon was called "Fool Me Twice: Fighting the War on Science." He considers his latest publication a follow-up to that volume documenting the public dialogue of science.

Otto paraphrased the importance of science in the founding of the United States. "Thomas Jefferson said if anyone can discover the truth of something using the tools of reason and science, then no king, no pope, no wealthy lord is more entitled to govern than we are ourselves," he said.

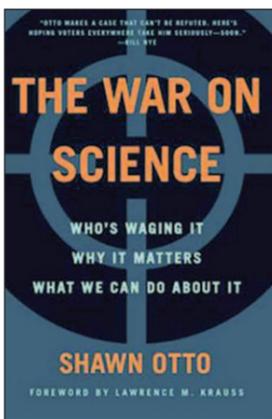
"Some 240 years later, science and technology have advanced to the point where a cell phone is essentially equivalent to Harry Potter's broom: both made by people wearing long robes and uttering strange incantations," Ott said.

Most people don't know how gadgets such as cell phones work. It appears to be magic. "That is a fundamental change from how we viewed science and technology when we were kids," he said. "Nowadays, science has become more a matter of belief and if you don't understand how it works, you can become vulnerable to disinformation campaigns."

Otto talked about this growing threat to democracy. "As science and technology become more and more advanced, how are we able to govern ourselves." He ventured a guess that within the next 20 to 30 years, as much knowledge will be produced as in all recorded human history.

Of the 535 members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, just 11 (two percent) have any sort of background in science. Some 40-percent of U.S. lawmakers are lawyers.

"Lawyers argue



toward a goal," Otto said. He went on to assert that lawyers in Congress tend to argue toward the death of science in arguing for their policy ideas. "This becomes increasingly problematic because we

are not basing policy necessarily on what the evidence suggests but on who has made the most convincing argument," he said, "or who is the most intimidated by big money being spent against them."

Jumping to the Executive Branch and the man who said he was going to "drain the swamp," Otto discussed Donald Trump's science deniers.

"Rex Tillerson, the former CEO of Exxon Mobil has denied climate change in the past and has deeply prioritized that in the U.S. State Department," he said. "Rick Perry is the guy that couldn't even remember

the Energy Department existed, and now he's in charge. Scott Pruitt is the man who sued the Environmental Protection Agency a dozen times and has been appointed to run it."

A consistent strategy in the Trump administration has been to take ideological opponents of various departments and put them in charge of them in an effort to "break government," he asserted. "In many ways, this represents the regulatory capture of the executive branch by big business," he said, as he offered evidence of various government websites scrubbed of scientific data,

some at the hour of the 45th president's inauguration.

There is this fight in the Republican Party over the role of industry versus the role of science and reason, according to Otto. He described ways to recognize industry propaganda campaigns: a high or emotionally hysterical tone; us-versus-them messaging; good-guy visibility; mocking opponents; front groups or third party technique; cherry-picking of data and science denial; and the stress of uncertainty of the existing science.

Otto has no faith in the reliability of the press in the war on science. "In the last two decades, journalism schools have taught that there is no such thing as objectivity," Otto said. "The more motivated

person with the most convincing argument steers our public dialogue in an irresponsible way toward authoritarian and big money influence."

Otto offered the following weapons in the fight on the war on science. "Demand better news and complain when you don't get it," he said. "Ask for better sermons. There is no reason why pastors and priests can't be members of the American Association of the Advancement of Science. Teachers should teach science civics. Demand corporate accountability. And make noise, organize, and vote as if our democracy depended on it."

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LITERARY TOUR

Minnesota author visits 24 libraries in 11 days

by MELISSA ROACH
Staff Writer

COOK-Minnesota author Lorna Landvik made a stop at the Cook Community Center as part of a whirl-wind tour of 24 libraries in 11 days across northeast Minnesota.

Landvik has 11 published novels, including the best-seller "Patty Jane's House of Curl." She humorously recalled her journey in becoming an author and the interesting jobs and experiences she had along the way.

After graduating high school, she wanted to travel, but needed to raise money to pay for the trip. She told the audience of her early stand-up comedy years, eventually wanting to have a career like Meryl Streep, "or more like having Meryl Streep's career."

She settled into various temp-type jobs that deployed her to places such as the Playboy Mansion, "I actually had to go into Hugh Hefner's bedroom."

Landvik also was a contestant on a game show with MacGyver's Richard Dean Anderson, and was quite smitten when the audience told her that Anderson has a cabin in the area. She gave the audience a little preview of her new book in the works, "Chronicles of a Radical Hag-with Recipes."



Minnesota author Lorna Landvik embarked on a whirl-wind tour of some two dozen northern libraries in just 11 days. She was at the Cook and Ely libraries last week. photos by K. Vandervort



GIVING...Continued from page 1

are marked down as low as 90% off. Gift bags, she said, come in handy because they are easier to "wrap" gifts in than regular paper.

The event was started with help from Cindy Myre, a frequent volunteer craft teacher at the school.

"When I was in elementary school, back in Wisconsin," she said. "we had a Santa's Workshop, where gifts cost a dime or a quarter. We really looked forward to it year after year. This makes me feel young again."

For Myre, seeing that this has become an annual tradition at Tower-Soudan has been wonderful. "I love to see how excited the kids get over something so simple," she said. "It brings me a lot of warmth to think these presents are being set out under the tree to be unwrapped on Christmas. Myre said watching the children shop is always a pleasure.

"It can be the cheesiest gift," she said, "and sometimes that means a rhinestone pin for a father!"

She said the kids gravitate to the little things, and that gifts that adults may see as "big ticket" items are not usually their first choice."

"I love to see the kids giving instead of wanting," she said, though she added that sometimes the kids do seem to pick gifts that they themselves want for a sibling.

Myre will be one of the volunteer gift wrappers again this year.

Children pay a nominal fee, and then get to pick out gifts for their immediate family members. If students are unable to pay, Svedberg said, they still participate along with their classmates. Each child gets to pick out at least four gifts, and those with larger families get to choose more. The money raised (mostly in quarters!), gets donated to the local food shelf.

Teachers, school staff, and community volunteers help the children pick out the gifts, which can be a time-consuming process, as students try to find the perfect gift for their family members. Volunteers then help the students make a gift card for each present, helping them spell out names and other words as needed.

The school has a large percentage of students who live in poverty, and for

many, this is a once-a-year opportunity to be able to spread the holiday spirit to their siblings, parents, and grandparents.

The gifts are then expertly wrapped or bagged by a team of adult volunteers. The gifts are

then packaged up in a bright red plastic bag, for each child to bring home on the bus.

The program would not be possible without the generous support of the community. Gifts are now needed for this year's work-

shop, set for the last week of school before the holiday break. Anyone wishing to drop off items can do so at the school office during regular school hours before Tuesday, Dec. 19.

Volunteers are also needed to help out at this

year's event. Anyone wanting more information can contact Ilona Svedberg at the school office, 218-753-4040.

Please consider setting aside any extra gifts at your house (gifts are needed for all ages of chil-

dren, and also for adults), or consider scouring the pre-Christmas sales for bargains. You are sure to bring a smile to a child's face this holiday season.

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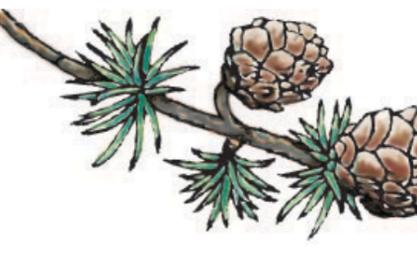
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PUBLIC SAFETY

Need for speed

House fires spread far more quickly than in the past. Will you be ready?

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — More than a dozen Northland residents have perished in fires in recent months, and it's a statistic that state fire officials say reflects an unfortunate reality in most homes today. "Fires are burning hotter and faster than they did in the past," said State Fire Marshal Bruce West.

And that poses a higher risk of death or injury to both residents of a burning home as well as the firefighters who come to extinguish the blaze. "Twenty or thirty years ago, a person may have had 15-20 minutes to get out of a home," said West. "Today, you probably have three minutes. That's why having a smoke alarm today is more imperative than ever."

While state and local agencies have done a lot over the years to improve fire safety in our communities, changes in home construction and the explosion of the use of synthetic materials in furnishings, electronics, and the greater use of plastics, have filled most homes with ready-made and particularly combustible fuel.

Laboratory testing has demonstrated just how quickly the materials in new homes can burn. A home with the modern materials common today can go from ignition to flashover in as little as three minutes. A flashover is defined as the nearly simultaneous ignition of most of the directly exposed combustible material in a room. Flashover is highly dangerous for firefighters and would be almost instantly fatal to an unprotected individual.

In addition to the flashover risk, the smoke produced by burning synthetic materials can be particularly dangerous to the health of anyone exposed to it. "In fires, most people die



Top: New, lighter building materials combined with the growing use of synthetic materials in home decor is allowing residential fires to spread much more quickly than in the past.

Left: Smoke alarms are your best defense in the event of fire.

from smoke inhalation," said West. "If someone takes a couple breaths of that putrid smoke, they're down to their knees and disoriented. At least with a smoke detector, they have some earlier warning."

At the same time, newer homes these days are built of lighter materials. Lightweight trusses and composite I-beams are engineered for strength under normal conditions. But such construction materials can quickly fail under the heat of a fire, often much sooner than traditional solid joists or hand-built ceiling trusses or other common roof supports, notes West. "It's so much different than it used to be," he said.

"The openness of that construction can accelerate the burn."

As a result, burning homes can become a collapse risk much sooner than in the past, posing hazards for firefighters, and even encroaching bystanders. It's one more reason to remember that time is of the essence with a burning building.

Key advice: install smoke alarms

Despite the elevated risks found in modern homes, West said proper smoke detection can help ensure that you and your family can escape in the event of fire. For new homes,

smoke detection is built right in, at least in places governed by the state building code. But for most existing residences, or homes built in places that have not adopted the state building code for residential construction, homeowners typically rely on battery operated smoke alarms. West recommends that homeowners maintain a minimum of one smoke alarm on every level, from the basement to the highest floor. Current state building code requires a smoke alarm in every bedroom in addition to other locations throughout the home.

While West says smoke detection is essential, it is even more important to have detectors that work. "Make sure your family regularly tests your smoke alarms," said West. "Change the battery a minimum of once a year, or better yet twice a year. We like to say 'change the clock, change the battery,'" he said.

With Christmas right around the corner, West said a smoke detector or two would make the perfect gift for someone who doesn't currently have such protection in their home. "It's a life saving gift," West said.

SNACKS



Elsa Ellerbroek, of Ely, is a winner in the Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee Super Snack Challenge.

photo by K. Vandervort

Ely youth a winner in Super Bowl snack challenge

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - Elsa Ellerbroek, a nine-year-old home-schooled student from Ely, was named one of 52 winners of the Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee Super Snack Challenge.

Elsa was chosen amongst hundreds of children ages 8-14 that entered the Super Snack Challenge, supported by Newman's Own Foundation, submitting a recipe for a healthy gameday snack.

Each winner is invited to attend the Kids Tailgate Party to take place during the 10-day Super Bowl festival in Minneapolis. Ten "All-Pro Chefs" will be honored at the Super Kids Tailgate Party and the winning healthy game day recipe will be chosen.

"Elsa was pretty excited when she found out she was a winner," said her mother Jill. "And she was very excited to find out that she won four tickets to the Science Museum of Minnesota."

The Super Snack Challenge MVP will receive \$25,000 to donate to the charity of his/her choice. The Super Snack Challenge is part of the MNSBHC Legacy Fund's efforts to leave a lasting legacy of improved health and wellness for Minnesota children.

"We were thrilled to see the excitement and enthusiasm from young people and families across the state to join the Super Snack Challenge," said Dana Nelson, VP of Legacy and Community Partnerships for the MNSBHC Legacy Fund. "It's our goal that not only will this help generate excitement for Super Bowl LII, but that more kids will develop health habits that will remain long after the final whistle of the big game."

"As for the recipe, we talked about snacks that are healthy," Jill said. "We had made peanut butter balls in the past and thought it would be fun to make them into football

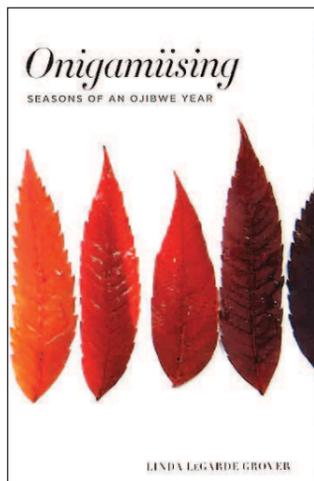
REGIONAL BOOKS

Reading for the season

Onigamiising: Seasons of an Ojibwe Year

by Linda LeGarde Grover

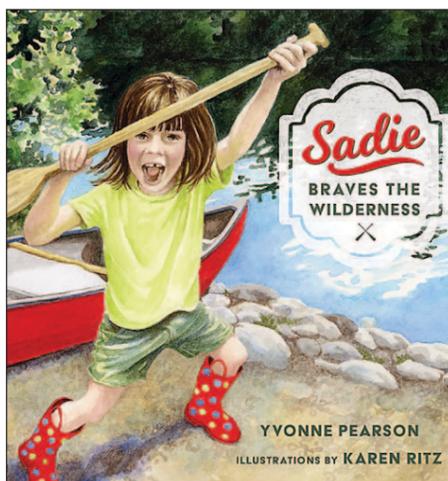
In fifty short essays author Linda LeGarde Grover evokes the four seasons of the year and the life of the Ojibwe in northeastern Minnesota. Long before it came to be known as Duluth, the land at the western tip of Lake Superior was known to the Ojibwe as Onigamiising or "the place of the small portage." Grover reflects on the spiritual beliefs and everyday practices that carry the Ojibwe through the year and connect them to this northern land of rugged splendor. Through the seasons, the author writes eloquently of the landscape, the weather, work and play, ceremony and tradition, and celebrations that make life's great events. Now a grandmother, a Nokomis, beginning the



fourth season of her life, Grover draws on a wealth of stories and knowledge accumulated over the years to evoke the Ojibwe experience of Onigamiising, past and present, for all time.

Sadie Braves the Wilderness

by Yvonne Pearson



Illustrated by Karen Ritz

Sadie has a lot to learn about camping, hiking, and canoeing, but a family adventure leads her to appreciate the wonders of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. As her family sets off on a wilderness adventure, Sadie is not quite sure she's ready to spend some quality time in the woods. Aren't

there bears? And alligators? What if it starts to rain? The north woods comes alive in her imagination as she battles "monster boulders," "growling waterfalls" and "flying dinosaurs" all while keeping an eye out for her little brother, Benjamin. Sadie's spunky approach turns away these fierce foes as she and her family

swim in quiet pools, hike twisting forest trails, and launch their canoe on a skinny lake. On the last day, a storm blows in and Sadie is brave for Benjamin as the wind whips branches and rain beats on the lake - and her own fear disappears. In the end, there are a hundred new little rivers to play in and Sadie may

See BOOKS...pg 2B

See SNACK...pg 2B

CONTESTS

Timberjay announces this year's turkey winners

The following individuals were winners in the Timberjay's annual turkey give-away, sponsored by the newspaper and sponsoring businesses.

Congratulations to all of this year's winners.

ORR
Orr Municipal Liquor Store - Mike Vidmar

Pelican Bay Foods - LuAnn Drift
Lumber Orr Hardware - Rocky Hoffman
American Bank - Roni Carr

COOK
Cook VFW - Mike Keister
American Bank - Marty Yourczak
Waschke Family Chevrolet - Kirby Stross
McDonald's - Leah Geray

Cook Building Center - Carole Wall
Zup's Grocery Cook - Steve Fogelberg
Subway of Cook - Bob Posch
North Star Credit Union - Carrolle Wood
1st National Bank - Ray Wolfe

TOWER/SOUDAN
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Soudan Store - M Trucano
Bob's Service & Towing - Judy Sundahl
Tower-Soudan Agency - Craig Henderson
Sulu's Espresso Café - Kathy Siskar
UBetcha Antiques & Uniques - Adeline Broten
Zup's Tower Grocery -

Eileen Kronmiller
Good Ol' Days - Jon Isaacson
Vermilion Fuel & Food - Trish Aldrich
D'Erick's - Harold Langowski
EVCU, Tower - Judith Syrjanen
Tower Auto Parts - Marcia Kauppi

ELY
Plum Bun Bakery - Tom Trembath
Winton Roadhouse - Kurt Anderson
Art & Soul Gallery - Geno Klun
Mary's Spinning Wheel - Debbie Erzar
Zup's in Ely - Kerri Jo Evans
Frandsen Bank, Ely - Sara Fitzgerald

Wintergreen Northern Wear - Ashley Thaemert
Piragis - Linda Lewis
Dee's Bar - Shannon Zupancich
Gator's Grilled Cheese Emporium - Tricia Schreffler
Sir G's - Deb Moravitz
Ely Auto Service - Todd Urman
Grand Ely Lodge - Jerri Walburn

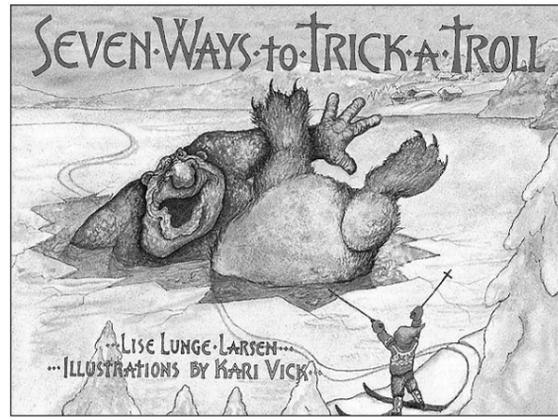
Lakeshore Liquor - Kate Davies
Steger Mukluks - Alex Branko
Ely Flower & Seed - Jim Wicklind
Ely Surplus - Jennifer Elmquist
Mealey's Gift & Sauna Shop - Bonnie Anderson
Front Porch Coffee & Tea -

Pat Rolando
Blomberg's in Ely - Jeremiah Heesaker
Ely Northland Market - Linda Williams
Ely Steakhouse - Cathy Furnstahl
Merhar's Ace Hardware - Scott Quick
Grand Ely Lodge - Jeri Walburn

BABBITT
Blomberg's in Babbitt - Robert Stangland
Zup's Grocery Babbitt - Mike Clemmer
Losing Building Center & Cat Shack - Jack Ingelin

EMBARRASS
EVCU, Embarrass - Charlie Fowler

BOOKS...Continued from page 1B



be a convert to the appeal of exploring the wilderness.

Seven Ways to Trick a Troll

by Lise Lunge-Larsen
Illustrated by Kari Vick

Trolls! They are huge and very, very dangerous. But luckily, their brains are no bigger than a walnut, so even small children can trick them. First, though, you need to know their weaknesses— and that's where these stories come in. It is helpful to know

what a little girl can do when she finds out that trolls hate loud noises. Or how two brothers might make an entire family of horrible trolls burst and turn to stone. Or what a clever little gnome boy does when he discovers that trolls are ever so easily distracted.

Patience, kindness, courage, and quick thinking - what works against trolls are the best things about being human. In seven whimsical, entertaining folktales, children discover trolls' weaknesses, as well as their own strengths.

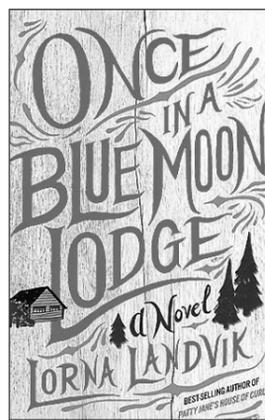


Taken from a wide range of historical and international sources, Seven Ways to Trick a Troll will delight and entertain imaginations of all ages.

Lake Fish: Modern Cooking with Freshwater Fish

by Keane Amdahl

Creative home cook Keane Amdahl of Minneapolis takes the mystery out of this versatile protein source and brings its preparation into the



twenty-first century with inspired ingredient combinations and ample advice on how to make the most of what's at hand. Amdahl casts a wide net to gather up tips for purchasing, substituting, and preparing Midwestern fish, from whitefish to perch, walleye to northern pike, in tasty and often surprising ways. Whether you have anglers among your family and friends or you've got a line on specialty markets that are expanding all the time, freshwater fish offer an excellent and varied way to savor "seafood" locally

and sustainably. Arranged by fish type, recipes include appetizers like Sunfish Pot Stickers and Harissa Grilled Smelt with Mint and Cilantro Yogurt; new interpretations of soup and salad standbys like Midwestern Fisherman's Stew and Smoked Trout Kale Niçoise; and flavorful mains like BBQ Northern with Cajun Fried Rice and Walleye with Morels and Brown Butter.

Once in a Blue Moon Lodge: A Novel

by Lorna Landvik

With her trademark wit and warmth, author Lorna Landvik returns to the story of Nora Rolvaag in a long-awaited sequel to the best-selling Patty Jane's House of Curl. Set adrift when her mother sells the salon that has been a neighborhood institution for decades, Nora Rolvaag takes a camping trip,

intending to do nothing more than roast marshmallows over an open fire and under a starry sky. Two chance encounters, however, will have enormous consequences, and her getaway turns out to be more of a retreat from her daily life than she ever imagined. Responding to a mysterious letter with a Norwegian postmark, Nora's grandmother Ione travels from Minnesota to her native land of Norway to tend to a dying cousin and her husband— two people who played a painful, pivotal role in her past. Nora accompanies her and is surprised by her grandmother's long-ago love story, but is even more surprised by the beginning of her own. A book about making new beginnings out of old endings, Once in a Blue Moon Lodge will have readers in for a rollicking good time with characters whose strengths, foibles, and choices will have you laughing and crying.

SNACK...Continued from page 1B

shapes for the Super Bowl theme."

Elsa's Recipe: Peanut Butter Footballs

- INGREDIENTS**
1 cup dry oatmeal
1/2 cup peanut butter
1/2 cup ground flax seeds
1/3 cup honey
1 tablespoon chia seeds
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 tablespoon slivered almonds
1/2 cup chocolate chips, optional

INSTRUCTIONS

- Mix together oats, peanut butter, flax seeds, honey, chia seeds and vanilla.
- Form into football shapes.
- Place slivered almonds on top to look like football laces.
- If using chocolate chips, press a few on the underside of the football.
- Freeze until set, about one hour.
- Eat right from the freezer at your Super Bowl party!

Ten "All-Pro Chefs" will be invited to make their recipe for a host of celebrity chef judges at an

event later this month including Andrew Zimmern, Gavin Kaysen and Lachelle Cunningham. Judges will select a Super Snack Challenge MVP, to be announced during the Kids Tailgate Party.

"The Super Snack Challenge offers a creative approach to engaging children and their families in healthier eating routines and we were pleased to see Minnesotans and their families respond," said Bob Forrester, President and CEO of Newman's Own Foundation. "This program is a great fit with our commitment to improve the well-being of children and

families, and we are proud to partner with the Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee Legacy Fund in this important initiative."

The Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee Legacy Fund is a 501(c)3, community advised fund of the Minnesota Community Foundation. The work of the Legacy Fund is made possible by Minnesota's philanthropic community, including foundations, corporations, and individual donors who share our passion for improving the health and wellness of kids from every corner of our state.

Its goal is to build awareness of, and invest in solutions for, a healthier generation of Minnesota kids across the state. Through its grant making and awareness initiatives, the Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee's Legacy Fund will leverage this single event into a lifetime of good health for the next generation of Minnesotans. For more information on the MNSBHC's Legacy Fund, including an introductory video, please visit www.mnsuperbowl.com/legacy.

Newman's Own Foundation was founded

by the late actor Paul Newman to continue his philanthropic legacy and help make the world a better place. Newman's Own Foundation turns all net profits and royalties from the sale of Newman's Own products into charitable donations. Since 1982, Paul Newman and Newman's Own Foundation have donated more than \$500 million to thousands of charities around the world. For more information, visit www.newmansownfoundation.org.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

HOLIDAY FUN IN ELY

Celebrate the holidays in Ely; special events begin on Thursday, Nov. 23

ELY - The magic of the holidays, Ely style, will begin next week with many special and memorable holiday traditions mixed with plenty of small town charm.

This annual Festival of the Trees fundraiser for Northwoods Partners features decorated trees and wreaths, donated by local businesses and community members, that are auctioned off from Nov. 23 through Dec. 3. There are also hand-made gifts available for purchase as part of the event. It all kicks off with a tree-lighting ceremony on Thanksgiving evening at 5 p.m., followed by refreshments and music until 6 p.m., at the Grand Ely Lodge.

Many communities have long-standing traditions that are part of small-town culture. Since the 1980s, Ely merchants have been opening their doors for Thanksgiving Night Shopping. This social occasion begins at 6 p.m. in which friends come out to see their neighbors and celebrate the holiday together. People bundle up and take a stroll downtown to socialize and to start their holiday shopping. A visitor described it as a Hallmark moment during a hectic shopping season. Ely merchants welcome people with goodies and holiday cheer and invite friends, neighbors and our out-of-town guests to share the holiday spirit with them.

The Ely Arts and Heritage Center presents the annual Holiday Fantasy, a two-day event that is a celebration of gifts, art and winter. The tradition begins on Friday, Nov. 24, from noon to 4 p.m., and continues on Saturday, Nov. 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Miners Dry Building at the Pioneer Mine will be turned into a Christmas Fantasy with carolers, kid's crafts, and sleigh rides. Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be there too. Many artists and craftsman showcase and sell their art, handcrafted jewelry, wood, pottery and much more.

There is something special about Christmas in a small town - walking down the street, darting in and out of beautifully decorated shops and talking with merchants who really want to help people find that perfect gift from a great selection of unique



Don't miss Ely's annual Christmas parade on Saturday, Nov. 25 at 5 p.m. file photo

items and quality gifts. On Saturday, Nov. 25, Ely merchants invite visitors and residents to experience the quaint, neighborly atmosphere of holiday shopping in a small town. The Ely Chamber of Commerce sponsors this event, which includes multiple chances to win Chamber Bucks - just sign up at each participating merchant. The more merchants visited the greater chance to win. No purchase necessary.

The Ely Chamber of Commerce and City of Ely join together to celebrate the holidays in true Northwoods style with the "Dancing Snowflakes" Christmas Parade on Saturday, Nov. 25, beginning at 5 p.m. Kids, holding empty bags in anticipation of getting some goodies, line the streets with their parents, neighbors, and visitors to see the beautifully decorated and sometimes quirky floats and other entries go past. The parade ends at Ely's beautiful

Whiteside Park where the festivities continue as Mayor Chuck Novak turns on the city's Christmas tree lights, carolers sing about the joys of the season and everyone enjoys complimentary hot refreshments and cookies.

The annual Mrs. Claus Party will be held on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 1-3 p.m. at Amici's Event Center. Mrs. Claus and Santa will be present to greet Ely area youngsters. Youth will receive a gift bag filled with a variety of goodies and participate in holiday activities including creating hand-made gifts and crafting their own holiday ornaments. Craft activity tables are sponsored by businesses, clubs or organizations.

For more information on Ely's holiday activities, visit the events calendar at www.ely.org.

COOK

Cook Hospital Bazaar set for Friday, Dec. 1

COOK - It is time for the Annual Hospital Bazaar which will be held on Friday, Dec. 1 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Cook Hospital. This joint effort of the Cook Auxiliary Thrift Shop, Cook Care Center and Adult Day Services supports activities for the Care Center and Adult Day Services.

The Cook Area Healthcare Auxiliary operates the Thrift Shop. Christmas decorations and special gift items are saved for this bazaar. Volunteers recreate centerpieces wreaths and decorate trees from Thrift Shop donations. You will find mittens made from felted wool

sweaters and decorated with buttons, gift items, jewelry, stuffed animals, dishes, holiday serving pieces, linens, ornaments and more. You can satisfy your sweet tooth at the cookie walk and bake sale, and test your luck with a chance on basket raffle items.

For \$5 you can renew your membership to the Auxiliary or become a new member. A lifetime member is \$50. Come early for the best selection of cookies in the cookie walk or to purchase bake sale items. The Care Center and Day Break, adult day service, are the recipients of all the Auxiliary proceeds that day for resident gifts and activities.

Day Break will sell many hand-crafted items made by its participants. Hotdogs, chips and a beverage will be available for lunch and popcorn is sold all day by the Care Center activities staff and volunteers. An additional bake sale is provided by hospital volunteers.

Enter the hospital through the business office entrance. All events are conducted in the conference rooms and hallways. The Thrift Shop will also be open on the day of the bazaar and every Thursday, Friday and Saturday through Dec. 16.

Cook Seniors Christmas Party on Wednesday, Dec. 6

COOK - The Cook Seniors will hold their annual Cook Senior Citizens Christmas Party at the Crescent Bar and Grill on Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 12 noon.

Call Lois at 218-666-5578 for reservations. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Embarrass Fair Association will not meet in December

EMBARRASS - There will not be a meeting for the Embarrass Region Fair Association in December. The next meeting of the ERFA will be on Thursday, Jan. 18 at 6:30 p.m. in Timber Hall. A slate of candidates for vacant leadership positions will be presented. Anyone interested in running for office should contact Audrey Kalinowski at prophet1073@gmail.com.

Embarrass Pancake Breakfast and Holiday Boutique, Saturday, Dec. 2

EMBARRASS - A Pancake Breakfast and Holiday Boutique will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 8 to 11 a.m. at Timber Hall. Come and enjoy all-you-can-eat pancakes, your choice of ham or sausage links, fruit, juice and a bottomless cup of coffee. The cost is \$5 for adults ages 11 and up, \$3 for children ages 6-10 years old, and children younger than five years may eat free. This event is sponsored by the Embarrass Region Fair Association.

Virginia Senior Center hosting craft and bake sale on Nov. 25

VIRGINIA - Lena's Craft and Bake Sale will be held at the Virginia Senior Center on Saturday, Nov. 25 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. There will be something for everyone. The center is located at 511 Chestnut St. (across from Goodwill), and additional parking is available at the rear of the building.

Tower Holiday Craft Show set for Saturday, Dec. 9

TOWER - The Tower Holiday Craft Show will be held on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center. Stop by to browse the wares from over 20 area crafters who will be offering gifts for all ages along with holiday baking.

A few tables are still available at \$20 each and must be reserved and paid for in advance. Checks can be made out to Friends of VCS and mailed to Vermilion Country School, PO Box 629, Tower, MN 55790 or can be dropped off at the charter school or at the Timberjay office in Tower. For more information, call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950.

A Beautiful Un-Christmas Concert set for Sunday, Dec. 3

VIRGINIA - Join the Mesabi Symphony Orchestra Sunday, Dec. 3 at 2:30 p.m. in Virginia's Goodman Auditorium. The program, "The Beauty of Music," will delight your ears and your soul with treats from the masters of melody, including Elgar, Strauss, Bizet, Vaughan Williams and more. For more information, visit www.mesabisymphony-orchestra.org.

NAMI support group for families

VIRGINIA - NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) sponsors free support groups for families and friends of individuals living with a mental illness. Led by trained facilitators who also have a family member with mental illness, the support groups help families develop better coping skills and find strength through sharing their experiences. A family support group meets in Virginia on the second Tuesday of each month from 6 - 7 p.m. at Essentia-Health Medical Arts Clinic, 901 9th St. N., in McMillan Room B. For information, call Dan at 218-290-5461.

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ERICKSON**



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spaghetti meal, raffles, silent auction
and bean bag tournament

CHRISTOPHER DAVID HANSON BAND
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Ken was recently diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's Disease/ALS. He is a long-time resident of the Embarrass-Tower area, married for 25 years, and the father of two boys.



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Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

NATURAL HISTORY

New book recounts canoe journeys from a century ago

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL—An unique collection of journal writings and photographs are giving readers a new look at the North Country of a century ago. The work, assembled in the new book, “Border Country, The Northwoods Canoe Journals of Howard Greene, 1906-1916,” describes a series of month-long

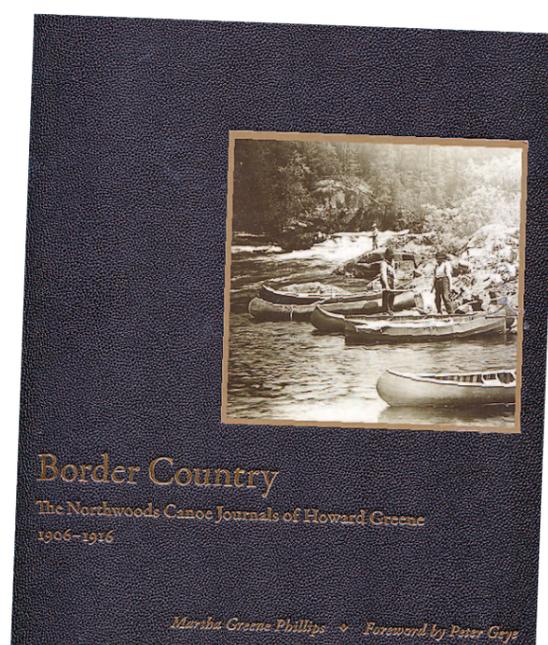
journeys by canoe into the heart of canoe country, as well as rivers in northern Wisconsin and Michigan. The University of Minnesota Press released the book earlier this fall.

The journal entries and photographs, written decades before Sigurd Olson or Calvin Rutstrum began documenting the region, portray a period of rapid change in the border country, offering snapshots of the industrial-scale logging then under-

way, along with glimpses of a traditional Native American culture that was rapidly vanishing.

Through it all runs the story of family and friendship forged over campfires on the trail, reported with dry wit, a keen eye for detail, and an abiding interest in the natural world. During its travels, the group documented birds and other wildlife,

See **BOOK...**pg. 5B



UNDERSTANDING NATURE

Where the birds breed

New online atlas provides details on where birds live in Minnesota

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL—Have you ever wondered what kind of birds nest in your area? You no longer have to wonder thanks to the culmination of a remarkable project to map the occurrence of breeding birds throughout the state of Minnesota.

The Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas is a free interactive website that allows users to quickly and easily find out what kinds of birds breed in Minnesota, and where. It includes everything from common birds, like robins or ruffed grouse, to far rarer species, like boreal owls or American three-toed woodpeckers.

Assembling the data that went into the creation of the atlas was a monumental task, involving eight organizations, 700 field volunteers, 43 photographers and a hefty technical review team that had to catalog and assess the huge collection of bird records gathered for the project. The total price tag was around \$1 million, according to UMD professor Jerry Neimi, who helped lead the project through the auspices of the Duluth-based Natural Resources Research Institute. Audubon-

Minnesota was also a key leader in the project.

“It was a massive amount of work,” Neimi added. Organizers and volunteers began work on the project in 2009, with major funding from the Legislative-Citizens Commission for Minnesota Resources. The volunteers gathered data for four years, and Neimi and others on the technical review team spent the next four years compiling and confirming the more than 380,000 individual bird breeding records tallied by volunteers on a total of 249 species.

“Mostly, we needed observations of birds and their breeding behavior,” explained Neimi. “A nest, a male singing or the best thing is a nest with eggs or young. Those are confirmed evidence of nesting by a species.”

Volunteers gathered all that data from every township in the state, including every township within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness as well as the vast and inaccessible Red Lake peatlands, where humans rarely venture.

The information is particularly valuable because Minnesota offers tremendous bird diversity, compared to most inland states. That’s because it sits at the center

Clockwise from top left: a male pileated woodpecker, male hooded merganser, male yellowthroat, a great-gray owl.

photos by M. HelMBERGER

of the Mississippi flyway and at the confluence of three major North American biomes—the prairie, the eastern deciduous forest, and the boreal forest—and each comes with its own assemblage of bird species.

So far, the reviews have been highly positive.

“It’s going to be an incredible source of information for people who want to know about Minnesota’s bird populations and habitats,” said Steve Lewis, a retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Nongame Specialist. “The website provides easy access to so much information.”

The focused effort on breeding birds helped to confirm a number of recent developments in bird populations in the state, including the effectiveness of conservation efforts in helping to recover

See **ATLAS...**pg. 5B

Outdoors briefly



Permits needed to harvest Christmas trees on SNF

REGIONAL—Cutting your own Christmas tree or balsam boughs on the Superior National Forest can make a great family outing during the holidays. Hiking through the woods with your family and friends to choose your own tree or boughs is a rich tradition that can greatly enrich the holiday season, but it does require a permit.

A permit to cut one Christmas tree on the forest costs five dollars and may be purchased at any Forest Service office, including those in Cook and Ely. Two Christmas tree permits are allowed per household per year.

A \$20 “personal use” permit for gathering balsam boughs on the forest allows you to gather enough boughs to make approximately five door-size wreaths.

Fourth grade students may obtain a free Christmas tree permit through the Every Kid In A Park Program. Fourth grade students can visit the program’s website, complete some online activities, and print a free permit for their family to harvest a Christmas tree on a national forest. See the website for details: www.everykidinapark.gov.

There are a few things to know before you go out to gather boughs or cut a Christmas tree. Be sure you know where Superior National Forest lands are. Parcels of state, county, tribal and private lands are intermixed with national forest lands within the forest boundary. Visitor maps of the forest, which show land ownership, are available for \$10 at all forest offices and also via the internet. Cutting of trees and boughs is not allowed inside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, plantations, recreation areas, or administrative sites.

Cross-country travel by ATVs and other off-highway vehicles is not allowed in the national forest. Cross-country travel by snowmobile is allowed only if the snow is over four inches deep.

However you travel, be sure to check the weather forecast and be ready for changing conditions. Carry tire chains, or shovel, flashlights, and blankets in your vehicle, plus rope to tie down your tree. Many national forest roads are not maintained or snowplowed during the winter, so be sure that your vehicle is equipped for winter travel and has a full tank of gas.

ATLAS...Continued from page 4B

populations of bald eagles, osprey, peregrine falcons, and trumpeter swans. It also documented breeding locations for some rare breeders, like bufflehead and common terns, as well as confirmed the perilous state of species like the piping plover, sharp-tailed grouse, cerulean warblers, and chestnut-sided longspurs.

Many of those records came from the Tower-Soudan and Ely areas, where folks like Norma Malinowski, Bill Tefft, and Steve Wilson were combing through woods, swamps, and lakeshores for documentation of breeding birds. It was Wilson's efforts that helped put Tower-Soudan on the map for birders, since his records demonstrated that the area has the highest diversity of breeding birds of any place in Minnesota. "Steve was the champion," confirmed Neimi.

Wilson, who lives in Tower, called the collection effort "a lot of fun," and said he was disappointed when the collection phase of the project came to an end. Wilson documented breeding birds in Tower-Soudan, Kugler Township, the former LTV mine site, as well as the Isabella area, where he spends considerable time.

Wilson noted that the atlas is, in essence, a "snapshot in time," which will likely need to be updated over time as bird populations change. The project will provide a valuable historical record documenting where birds lived in Minnesota in the early part of the 21st century, with the recognition that those populations are likely to change significantly in the years to come as climate change brings major impacts to the state's bird habitat.

A comprehensive account of the status and distribution of Minnesota's breeding birds hasn't been compiled since 1936 when Professor T.S. Roberts published his second edition of *Birds of Minnesota*, a two-volume book. According to Neimi, a breeding bird survey should be done about every 20 years to better understand how bird populations and their distributions change over time. He noted that neighboring states and Canadian provinces are already working on updates to their bird atlases, even as Minnesota's first-ever atlas finally went online.

Check it out

You can find the interactive breeding bird atlas online at: mnbirdatlas.org.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday			
40 18				21 9				20 12				26 22				26 9			
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.
11/13	29	26	0.00	11/13	23	20	0.00	11/13	29	19	0.00	11/13	36	19	0.31 1.0"	No readings at presstime			
11/14	35	23	0.00	11/14	23	17	0.00	11/14	34	20	0.00	11/14	39	34	0.00				
11/15	40	35	0.01	11/15	33	26	0.01	11/15	39	34	0.05	11/15	36	21	0.00				
11/16	35	18	0.04 0.5"	11/16	32	24	0.04 1.0"	11/16	34	17	0.05	11/16	27	18	0.00				
11/17	31	17	0.01 0.2"	11/17	21	13	0.00	11/17	31	16	0.03 0.6"	11/17	34	23	0.00				
11/18	34	25	0.03 0.4"	11/18	29	21	0.05 1.0"	11/18	34	17	0.11 1.0"	11/18	21	12	0.00				
11/19	26	5	0.00	11/19	19	16	0.03 0.5"	11/19	22	3	0.02 0.3"	11/19	19	1	0.00				
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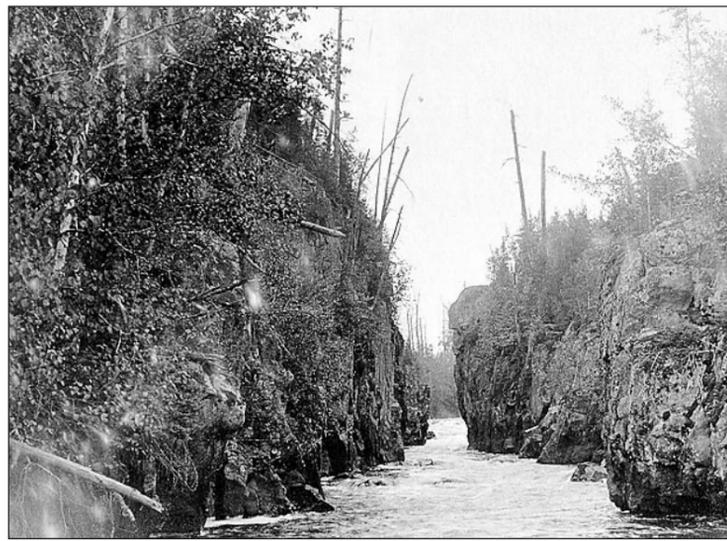
BOOK...Continued from page 4B

trees, fish, and even the geology of the places they visited, offering at least an anecdotal picture of the area's natural history a century ago.

Greene, a Milwaukee businessman, and a group of friends and family members, which he called "The Gang," experienced their share of travails, difficulties, and clouds of hungry mosquitoes, but that never discouraged them from planning their next adventure. Along the way, they visited jumping off points like Tower, Ely, Winton, and Ranier, places they could travel by train since roads in the region were limited and difficult to travel in those days.

Greene was a skilled photographer and he took pains to document the natural beauty, the devastation of unchecked logging, and the people of the North Country with his large format camera and the heavy glass photographic plates that The Gang, by necessity, lugged across countless portages.

Among the most memorable portions of the book is a visit to the Nequaguon Indian Reserve on the Canadian shore of Lac La Croix. For three dollars, Greene was given permission to photograph the people, including the family of John Otter, as well as ceremonial buildings and



Traveling into the Vermilion River gorge on a trip from Tower to Ranier in 1915.

graves. "We expected some objection when it came to picturing the graves," writes Greene, "but the three dollars was omnipotent."

During their travels in the border country, The Gang regularly came across natives traveling by birch bark canoe, and on their trip from Tower to Ranier, Greene's group even purchased one of the canoes for hauling extra gear.

While Greene died decades ago, his daughter Martha Greene

Phillips, of Madison, Wis., spent several years researching her father's canoeing and camping adventures and editing and annotating his journals. The 408-page hardcover volume is available for \$39.95 from the University of Minnesota press (www.upress.umn.edu) or for \$28.90 from Amazon.

Watch future issues of the *Timberjay* for extended excerpts from the book.

Outdoors briefly

DNR to auction of lands in northern part of the state

The Department of Natural Resources will offer 17 parcels for sale in three public oral bid auctions in December. Property information, auction instructions and a map of the parcels can be found on the DNR's land sale webpage.

The properties include unimproved recreational land in Anoka, Beltrami, Big Stone, Houston, Hubbard, Koochiching, Mahnommen, Meeker, Norman, Otter Tail, Pine, Wabasha and Wadena counties and lakeshore property in St. Louis County.

Public auction details, parcel information and the latest updates are available

online at www.dnr.state.mn.us/lands_minerals/land-sale/. Call 651-259-5432, (888) MINNDNR or email min.landsale@state.mn.us for more information.

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HOLIDAY TIPS

The U.S.P.S. announces holiday shipping deadlines

REGIONAL- The U.S. Postal Service will deliver more than 15 billion pieces of mail this holiday season. In the period between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, the Postal Service also expects to deliver 850 million packages, which is more than a 10-percent increase compared to last year.

"The Postal Service is well prepared to meet our customers' needs during the holiday season, especially as demand for package deliveries continues to grow," said Megan J. Brennan, Postmaster General and CEO.

The Postal Service will be expanding its Sunday delivery operations to locations with high package volumes beginning Nov. 26. The Postal Service already delivers packages on Sundays in most major cities, and anticipates delivering more than six million packages on Sundays this December. Mail carriers will also deliver packages on Christmas Day in select locations.

"America relies on the Postal Service and our 640,000 dedicated employees to deliver the holidays," said Brennan. "We take great pride in our holiday readiness and preparation, and in our ability to offer reliable, predictable and affordable service in every community in America."

With an increase in early and online shopping for gifts, there is no longer a "busiest day" for holiday shipping. Instead, the Postal Service's busiest time is now two weeks before



Christmas. Starting the week of Dec. 11, customer traffic is expected to increase, with the week of Dec. 18 - 24 predicted to be the busiest mailing, shipping, and delivery week. During this week, nearly three billion pieces of First Class Mail, including greeting cards, will be processed and delivered. The Postal Service also expects to deliver nearly 200 million packages per week during these two weeks.

The Postal Service recommends the following mailing and shipping deadlines:

- Dec. 11 – APO/FPO/DPO Priority Mail & First Class Mail
- Dec. 14 – USPS Retail Ground
- Dec. 15 – Hawaii to Mainland Priority Mail & First Class
- Dec. 16 – APO/FPO/DPO USPS Priority Mail Express
- Dec. 16 – First Class

- Packages (up to 15.99 ounces)
- Dec. 19 – First Class Mail (including greeting cards)
- Dec. 20 – Priority Mail
- Dec. 20 – Hawaii to Mainland Priority Mail Express
- Dec. 20 – Alaska to Mainland Priority Mail & First Class
- Dec. 21 – Alaska to Mainland Priority Mail Express
- Dec. 22 – Priority Mail Express

Additional news and information, including all domestic, international and military mailing and shipping deadlines, can be found at the Postal Service Holiday Newsroom at usps.com/holidaynews. The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

Community news

MnDOT District 1 wins award for Hwy. 1 work

REGIONAL- The Minnesota Department of Transportation, District 1, will receive a merit award at the 2017 Annual Grading and Base Forum, for work on Hwy. 1 in St. Louis County. The award-winning work is part of the Eagles Nest Lake Area project to reconstruct Highway 1/169.

"Work on Hwy. 1 was nominated for the grading award due to the projects complexity, size and uniqueness," said Jeff Tillman, construction engineer. "It is a wonderful accomplishment." The Eagles Nest reconstruction project will continue in spring of 2018. The recognized work on Hwy. 1 was completed on schedule and on budget. For more information, visit <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d1/projects/Hwy169eagles/>.

ChangeX and BSBC of MN. seek ideas for building healthy communities

REGIONAL- ChangeX, an international social entrepreneur platform that launched last year in Minnesota, and the Center for Prevention at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota wants to hear from people who have ideas about how to strengthen their communities. Funds and guidance are available to implement projects.

"We've seen leaders emerge across the state, take ideas from the platform and get them started in their local communities," said Paul O'Hara, CEO and founder of ChangeX. "Now, we're looking forward to growing that network for leaders more and more, continuing to support them to build thriving communities and also discovering more local, homegrown innovations in Minnesota to join the platform and grow their

impact," said Anika Ward, director of the Center for Prevention at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota. "ChangeX gives community members across the state greater access to initiatives proven to make a difference. This partnership also provides connections between people around the state who are implementing initiatives to make their communities healthier and more vibrant. Our state is filled with powerful leaders. We hope they will find this resource valuable as they do the day-to-day work of making their communities great places to live." Visit ChangeX.org to learn how to take part and share ideas for improving your community.

Affordable homeownership with Habitat for Humanity

REGIONAL- Are you tired of renting, overcrowded conditions, and paying too much for housing? North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity is now accepting applications for their affordable homeownership program.

Habitat selects individuals and families based on their need for housing, willingness to partner in the building of their home, and their ability to make affordable mortgage payments. Do you need a home, are you willing to partner, do you have a stable income?

Income guidelines have recently been updated. You may qualify. For example, a family of three, making between \$20,000 and \$36,300 annually, should be able to afford a Habitat Home. For more information about the application process and qualifications, please call Marnie at 218-749-8910 or email her at marnie@nslchfh.org.

Please help us get the word out by sharing this information with friends and family.

EMPLOYMENT

Vermilion Country School Special Ed Paraprofessional

\$14.00 per hour, benefit package (prorated at 20+ hours/week), approximately 180 days/school year plus a few training days, approximately 8:30 am to 3:15 pm, except with additional duties



Full job description online at www.vermilioncountry.org/employment

The Vermilion Country School (VCS), a grades 7-12 public charter school in Tower. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: interact with staff, students, parent/guardians, and the community; facilitate academic and personal goal-setting; assist students with skill development in reading and math; monitor student progress; manage the physical needs of students as needed; chaperone field explorations; records maintenance and due process paperwork; proctor assessments and diagnostic tests; supervise students during lunch and out in the community; address behavior issues in accordance with school policy; maintain strict confidentiality; assist office staff and director as needed.

Minimum qualifications: Experience working with children, and a commitment to their learning; Excellent math, reading, and organizing skills; Excellent computer and office machine skills; Mature, friendly, and responsible; Commitment to the school's mission and vision; Positive references; A minimum of 60 semester credits or the amount required to complete two full years of fulltime enrollment as determined by the institution of higher education attended; or an AA, AS, or AAS (or higher) degree; or a passing score on an assessment from the state-approved list (The ParaPro test has been approved for state-wide use. The cut score is 460). Additional desired qualifications (please see website).

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\$11.00/hour (\$16.00/hour CDL); 10-15 hours/week, am and pm routes; with additional hours as needed. Driver Qualifications: Regular Class D license (CDL preferred); Prefer experienced drivers (CDL highly preferred); Criminal and driving record clearance; Drug and alcohol tests may be mandated; Must be able to work entire school year; Must be able to work with and supervise students.

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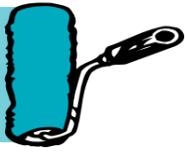
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