



the TIMBERJAY



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MINNESOTA POLITICS

Mrs. Smith goes to Washington

Minnesota Lieutenant Governor tapped to replace Sen. Al Franken

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Gov. Mark Dayton confirmed on Wednesday what has been widely rumored for days— he has chosen Lt. Gov. Tina Smith to replace U.S. Senator Al Franken, who announced his resignation on Dec. 7.

Smith, who previously served as chief of staff to Gov. Dayton and former Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak, indicated that she will seek election to the position during the 2018 campaign.

“Though I never anticipated this moment, I’m

“Though I never anticipated this moment, I’m resolved to do everything I can to move Minnesota forward.”

Lt. Gov. Tina Smith

resolved to do everything I can to move Minnesota forward,” Smith told reporters at a press conference on Wednesday. Smith called the current political moment an “extraordinary time” and said she decided this was the best way for her to continue to serve Minnesota. “I’m

prepared to do this. I’m qualified to do this. I have a unique role to play here.”

Smith also acknowledged that not all Minnesotans are benefiting from the current economy, noting that in her travels across the state

See...SMITH pg. 10



Minnesota Lt. Gov. Tina Smith caught her first-ever fish on Lake Vermilion during the 2015 state fishing opener, with help from guide Casey Sunsdahl, of Soudan. Timberjay staff photo

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Breitung Police Chief headed to State Patrol

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

BREITUNG TWP— Officials here will be looking for a new police chief after this week’s announcement by Chief Jesse Anderson that he has accepted a position with the Minnesota State Patrol. Anderson, who has served as chief of the Breitung Police Department since January 2014, tendered his resignation at the town board’s Dec. 12 meeting.



Jesse Anderson

Anderson said that he will be starting his new position with the State Patrol, based out of Hibbing, once he

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TOWER

Council OKs home rental for ambulance driver housing

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— City officials here are moving forward with renting a private residence to house prospective emergency responders for the city’s planned paid on-call ambulance service.

The council voted 4-1 on Tuesday night to proceed with the plan, despite opposition from Councilor Lance Dougherty, who questioned the need for a paid on-call system for the ambulance.

See.. TOWER pg. 10

ELY RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

No decision



Ely School Board tables vote on ERCC proposal

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY— The Ely School Board voted 4-2 on Monday night to table or delay making a decision on allowing the construction of a 50,000-square-foot recreation center on school property.

A standing-room-only crowd filled the high school media center to witness what they thought was the making of an up or down decision on moving ahead with partnering with the Ely Regional Community Complex (ERCC) board to explore the feasibility of a financially-viable plan for locating the facility on the west end of the school campus.

As many as 17 people voiced their opinion during the open forum portion of the meeting. After more than an hour of testimony, only three people, who just

See...ELY pg. 11



Ely residents filled the high school media center Monday night, top, expecting the school board to make a decision on moving forward with a recreation center proposal, shown above, from the Ely Regional Community Complex board. photo by K. Vandervort

Holiday deadlines

Please note the following deadlines for upcoming issues of the Timberjay.

► Dec. 22 Christmas issue— advertisements and news articles due by Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 10 a.m.

► Dec. 29 New Year’s issue— advertisements and news articles due by Thursday, Dec. 21 at 4 p.m.

► Jan. 5- No Timberjay printed this week

The Timberjay office will be closed Monday, Dec. 25 through Friday, Jan. 5. We wish all of our readers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Check out Poetry at the top of the stairs!

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CRIME

Novak sentenced following guilty plea in drug case

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL—Gary Allen Novak, age 48, has pled guilty to felony drug charges stemming from his arrest in Greaney back in July 2015. As part of his Dec. 11 plea in district court in Hibbing, St. Louis County prosecutors dismissed a charge of possession of 25 grams or more of methamphetamine, while Novak pled guilty to felony intent to sell a total of 190 grams of methamphetamine.

Prosecutors put the street value of the drugs at approximately \$14,000.

Novak has a long rap sheet, including convictions on previous drug charges as well as petty theft, burglary, receiving stolen property, including firearms, domestic assault, and dozens of traffic violations.

Novak was arrested following a tip from Gary's uncle, Beryl Novak, a Greaney resident who had seen Gary enter the woods just off Sethers Road, where he had stashed a blue duffel bag stuffed with what appeared to be drugs and related



Gary Novak

paraphernalia. Beryl Novak reported his discovery to law enforcement, and sheriff's deputies later confiscated the drugs, without immediately locating Gary, who later showed up at Beryl's residence on Sethers Road, made threats, and demanded to know where his drugs had gone.

Beryl, who was guarding his residence with a shotgun, while Gary and an accomplice pounded on his door, again contacted law enforcement. Five

deputies arrived on the scene shortly after and took Gary into custody. He has been housed in the St. Louis County Jail, and more recently, the St. Cloud Penitentiary, awaiting the final outcome of his case.

Beryl had been set to testify in the case on Monday, but the trial was cancelled as a result of the guilty plea.

Judge David Ackerson sentenced Novak to 110 months in prison, less the 864 days he has already served.

"We think there was a good result here," said Assistant County Attorney Carly Melin,

who prosecuted the case. "He pled guilty to the most serious charge, and it got a lot of drugs off the street. Law enforcement really did a tremendous job of putting this case together."

Besides addressing the meth problem, Beryl said the arrest of Gary has effectively ended a rash of break-ins and burglaries that had plagued the rural community. "It reinforces the idea that if you see something, you need to say something," said Beryl. "People need to look out for themselves and their neighbors. We need to make the criminals afraid," he said.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Wastewater tops TEDA agenda

Development group recommends 8,500 square foot industrial building as part of Lamppa expansion

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — Wastewater treatment capacity topped the Tower Economic Development Authority's agenda last Thursday night, as the board discussed ways to respond to a pending shortage of treatment capacity just as the city is poised for significant new development.

Wastewater plant operator Matt Tichel outlined the current situation, and updated the board on the latest estimate of remaining capacity in the wake of the city's planned hook-up of the Hoodoo Point

Campground. While Tichel said the additional flow from the campground had originally been estimated at 10,000 gallons per day, he said a new engineer's estimate lowered that number to 6,250 gallons per day. "That leaves us just under 8,000 gallons per day remaining," he said.

That's enough for the first round of 20 town homes at the harbor, he said, which are expected to generate about 4,800 gallons per day. "Dave Rose's campground is estimated at about 2,000 gallons per day," he added.

A second round of 20 town homes currently in the planning stage would add another 4,800 gallons. "At that point we're out?" asked developer Orlyn Kringstad, who was in the audience. "In fact it could be earlier than that, possibly," responded Tichel.

Tichel noted that the final decisions would be up to the city, which has to approve connections. "If, say, town homes and Dave Rose come in at the same time and they say there's only capacity for one, then the city has to decide if they get the extension or not," he said.

Tichel was asked about the hotel project that Kringstad has been pursuing and whether that would be problematic from a capacity issue. "Oh, absolutely," Tichel said.

Given the situation, TEDA members expressed strong support for addressing the problem as quickly as possible, which led to a lengthy discussion of options. All agreed that building new capacity may have to be part of the solution, but that project would take time and considerable funding, probably in excess of \$1 million.

Tichel suggested that both Breitung and Tower begin taking more steps to reduce inflow and infiltration, or "I and I," which could buy time as the wastewater board works towards added capacity.

Breitung Supervisor and wastewater board member Greg Dostert noted, however, that anything the board does is likely to cost money that the wastewater district doesn't have. "In reality, right now the wastewater board is strapped," he said.

Even preparing a funding application by the March 1 deadline for the state's public facilities authority, would likely cost several thousand dollars, he noted. He added that residents of Breitung may not be as receptive to incurring the cost of adding new sewage capacity, and he said some skepticism remains in the community about whether the development projects will actually happen. "Your plans are wonderful, but we've put a lot of seed in the

ground, and don't see the harvest yet," he said. "The only shovel in the ground recently has been at the cemetery," he added.

"A lot of things are happening behind the scenes that aren't always apparent right away," responded TEDA member Joan Broten.

Dostert said the wastewater board has been aware of the capacity concern for a couple years, but had assumed they would have more time to address it. "Hoodoo Point is a big add-on," he said. "It's really pushing us to the brink, I would say."

Broten and TEDA President Marshall HelMBERGER said they plan to attend the wastewater board meeting on Dec. 20 to encourage the members to take action to address the wastewater issue.

In other action, the TEDA board:

- Approved a motion to recommend that the city of Tower move ahead with construction of 8,000-8,500 square foot building in the industrial park, about half of which would be occupied by Lamppa Manufacturing. The additional space would be available for other prospective businesses or for later expansion by Lamppa Manufacturing.
- Approved a motion

See TEDA...pg. 5



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e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Continue the study

With so many unknowns, who can object to more information?

While the U.S. House voted late last month to end a two-year study of a proposed mineral withdrawal in the Superior National Forest, the study is likely to continue — and that’s a good thing.

When it comes to public policy, more information is almost always better, and that’s why a study of the potential costs, benefits, and risks of copper-nickel mining within the watershed of the 1.1 million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is worthwhile. The fact that the federal government is willing to foot the bill for the study makes it a no-brainer.

Why this study has caused such an uproar with supporters of the Twin Metals mine is something of a mystery. Even under the most optimistic scenario, the Twin Metals mine is decades away. Taking a couple years to see whether locating a vast sulfide mine on the edge of the nation’s only large, water-based wilderness, is basic due diligence. There are both environmental and economic questions that should be answered, and there is actual science with which federal officials should acquaint themselves before making a decision whether this is an acceptable location for a mine.

Those who complain that the delay is preventing Twin Metals from engaging in mineral exploration of the area in question are being disingenuous. As company officials are eager to point out, they have spent \$400 million developing their proposal to date, the vast majority on mineral exploration. They had already largely ended their drilling program, at least for now. In the end, the mineral potential of the area is already well known.

The question is, should the minerals be mined given current technology? Supporters say that modern mining techniques will protect the water, but studies suggest that’s far from certain.

Sulfide mines are safer in arid regions, because they generate less acid runoff, which is produced as air and

water interact with sulfur compounds in the waste rock. Were a future Twin Metals mine to generate acid mine drainage, as is highly likely according to the available science, the potential damage to some of the most pristine water in the country could be devastating. The surrounding geology is complex, which means both ground and surface water would be at risk. This is, without a doubt, one of the worst locations for a sulfide mine in the U.S., if not the world.

And there are very real economic questions that should be examined by independent analysts. Those who calculate only the economic pluses of sulfide mining fail to acknowledge the potential costs to a growing and sustainable local economy in the Ely area built on the edge-of-the-wilderness lifestyle. Those who dismiss this amenity-based economic activity as low-paying “tourism” should inform themselves of the economic reality. Many of the new residents being attracted to our area bring higher incomes along with them than most miners, and those incomes fuel local spending and entrepreneurial vitality. A sulfide mine could well stop this economic activity in its tracks.

Better to get the answers before we commit to a decision one way or another on this project.

We know that a green light from the feds will spark decades of bitter divide within the Ely area, which will undoubtedly harm the local economy and discourage investment in the amenity-based economy. We know that even with federal approval, the Twin Metals project is still highly speculative and may never be financially viable. Ely could well engage in decades of bloodletting for no purpose at all.

Who would want to wage such a fight if, in the end, the environmental risks and the economic downsides are too significant to justify it? Better, at least, to understand up front what the fight is really about.



Letters from Readers

Think globally, but mine locally

As a local business owner, retired laborer, and Iron Mining Association member, I want to thank Rick Nolan for his passage of the Superior National Forest Land Exchange Bill in the U.S. House of Representatives and for voting in support of the MINERS Act. The land exchange finalizes the long-awaited land swap between the U.S. Forest Service and PolyMet Mining and passed the House by a huge, bipartisan margin of 309-99. This legislation not only supports the creation of good-paying jobs, but also increases access to beautiful public lands for every Iron Ranger.

As part of this exchange, Minnesotans get more lakeshore, more accessible forest land and 2,000 acres of additional wetland. In return, the Forest Service is trading public lands already surrounded by the old LTV mining sites, with no public access. PolyMet already owns the mining and mineral rights to the acres they would receive.

If the future PolyMet mine becomes operational, it will not be in the same watershed as the BWCA. It is physically and geologically impossible for any water that flows from the PolyMet site to pollute the BWCA waters. If we decided not to mine here, these precious metals will still be mined in another country, but with fewer regulations and in a much less environmentally-friendly way. That’s why if we want to reduce the environmental impact of future mineral extraction then we should “Think Global, Mine Local.”

The MINERS Act would reverse a potential 20-year mining exploration moratorium in the Superior National Forest. This moratorium diverges from the explicit mining and timber

activities allowed in the creation of the Superior National Forest. This 20-year ban would also cripple the future growth of our mining economy and increase our dependence on precious metal imports for things like smartphones, windmills and solar panels. Rick Nolan, thank you for your work to support mining, our communities and the environment.

**Bill Whiteside
Hibbing**

We need to stop Frontier’s abuses

Last week I wrote into the *Timberjay* to express my opinion on my Frontier phone and internet bill going up by a buck plus about every few months. Last month’s bill went up \$1.13 with no explanation given me. Now a week to the day I wrote into the *Timberjay* on the subject, I got this month’s bill in the mail and guess what? It WENT UP by \$7.79. Yep you read that right, a whopping \$7.79.

I called once again, and got the beginning of the standard song and dance, when the customer service person connected me with someone she said could help me out better. After a few minutes talking to this person, and on hold for a few more minutes, I was told they could help me out by cutting \$5 off the bill. WHAT? To my way of thinking, if they can cut \$5 off, why have it there on the bill in the first place?

Having had enough of this foolishness, but still wanting my internet service, I went ahead and had the land line for the phone removed, to cut my bill in half. I’ll now just use my cell phone instead. I look forward to the savings. Being on a fixed income, this is much needed cash, and I have plenty of places for it.

I believe that we have been railroaded over time to just sit

back and let a handful of companies buy out the others, and shaft us because we’d have no other choice but to use them and pay their price. This needs to be fought by our reps in both the state and the federal government. We need to be able to make a choice in getting a service like this!

**Barry W. Tungseth
Ely**

Bills offer hope for the region

On behalf of Up North Jobs and its thousands of members and supporters, we wish to thank Minnesota Eighth District Congressman Rick Nolan and his staff for their efforts in achieving the passage of the Superior National Forest Land Exchange of 2017, H.R. 3115. Without passage of this bill, the PolyMet mining project located near Hoyt Lakes could not proceed.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Sixth District Congressman Tom Emmer for his efforts in achieving the passage of Minnesota’s Economic Rights in the Superior National Forest Act, H.R. 3905. Passage of this bill will require congressional approval of any mineral withdrawal or monument designation involving National Forest lands in the state of Minnesota, and provide renewal of certain mineral leases on such lands. Congressman Emmer’s bill and passage of a similar bill in the Senate, will allow Twin Metals Minnesota to proceed with their exploration of federal land.

With the passage of these bills, we can be cautiously optimistic regarding the future of Northeastern Minnesota’s economy.

**Gerald M. Tyler
Chairman
Up North Jobs Inc.
Ely**

Dems should remember, “It’s the economy, stupid!”

It appears that Democrats are lining up to make the same mistakes next year that cost them dearly in 2016. With the party’s decision to force out Rep. John Conyers and Sen. Al Franken over sexual harassment allegations, it is increasingly evident that party leaders hope to capitalize on the issue of women’s status in the workplace in general, and sexual harassment, in particular, as the latest social wedge issue in their quest to convert moderate-to-conservative suburban women into the ranks



**MARSHALL
HELMBERGER**

of the Democratic base.

It’s a fool’s errand, but it’s become the Holy Grail for the feckless Clinton wing of the party, which prefers narrow-casting to small subgroups of voters, mostly on social and racial issues, over the traditional economic message of Democrats. As usual, the Clinton Democrats are misreading the political moment, mistaking elite opinion in the coastal media and political establishment as

reflective of the views of average Americans. I’m not suggesting that many

average Americans aren’t concerned about sexual harassment in the workplace, and that a national discussion on the issue isn’t warranted. But in the immortal words of former Bill Clinton campaign advisor James Carville, “It’s the economy, stupid.”

Democrats understood that in the 1930s, and in the 1960s, and they recognized it as the winning issue in 1992, and 2008, and they’ve done well as a party when they focused on the failed plutocratic economic policies of the Republican Party. But ever since Bill Clinton, and to a lesser extent Barack Obama, reversed course, after running as economic populists, and governed as Rockefeller Republicans, the Democrats have largely

lost their voice on the economy, and they’ve paid the price. Donald Trump may have won the votes of racists and sexists, but he won the election because he made inroads into the traditional Democratic base, particularly in the Rust Belt. He did so because he ran on traditional Democratic economic policies, such as skepticism of the current “free” trade regime, a major push for expanded infrastructure spending, faster economic growth rates, opposition to an economic elite (Drain the swamp!), and higher taxes on the wealthy. Sure he lied about all of that, but so did Clinton in 1992.

See **DEMOCRATS...pg. 5**

Letters from Readers

Copper-nickel mining will be net loss for the area

What are they thinking?
Minnesota's legislators seem to be rallying around support for open pit mining in northern Minnesota on the basis of the new jobs it will create. But time after time after TIME, that employment is short-lived while the contamination from the projects is permanent.
Invariably (also known as "every effing time"), these contaminated lands are abandoned by those who first took its wealth and then magically disappear. State and federal governments must then assume ownership by default, forcing taxpayers to accept the cost of management and cleanup, a cleanup which often never happens. Water runs orange. Fish die. Cancer rates spike. Permanently. These are

called "actuaries," and you can look them up yourself.

These actuaries are all the proof we need. The probable net LOSS to our beautiful land and its people from open-pit mining is real, it is tragic, and it will be exponentially more costly than the financial benefit of limited job creation.

This isn't a "sometimes" thing. Contamination and cancers related to open-pit mining operations is a near-certainty, an actuarial that has been quietly tracked for 100 years, exposing the term "responsible mining" for the oxymoron that it is.

What are they thinking?
Duane Behrens
Ely

Terminology was revealing

In the Dec. 8 article about the Duluth mayor visiting Ely, I find objectionable language. The

second paragraph includes the phrase Emily "Larson visited Ely last Thursday with St. Louis County Commissioner Tom Rukavina as her chaperone..."

Would those words have been used if Larson were male? Of course not. If it is the writer's joke, it is misplaced.

Until we root out sexism as a society, in language as well as action, we will continue to have females treated differently and often worse than males. Witness Al Franken and the many who have gone before him.

Jeanine Emmons
Angora

Tax cut? Who will pay for the military shopping list?

We will have a tax cut when pigs fly! The USMC is testing a laser weapon designed to disable

and not kill. The Abrams M-1A1 tank shared by the Army and Marines is continually on an improvement list for more armor plates and other updates. The Marine Corps Air Wing is in critical need of new aircraft. The new F-22 McDonnell-Douglas fighter costs gazillions apiece and the Marines alone need 100 of them. How many of you readers know when the HUM-V was introduced in the USMC or the Army? They are old junk now, all beat to you know what. Who is going to pay for my short list?

Skip Dickinson
Britt

Frontier doesn't care about our area

Dear Mr. Helmberger:
I told you earlier about our very poor DSL internet service on Domich Road (east end of

Burntside Lake). We were paying about \$65 per month for phone and DSL. As of this month our bill went to about \$95 per month. I called Frontier. The operator told me that Ely was considered to be a "legacy" region and the were no packages available to reduce the charge. Plain old telephone service would be \$34 per month. The DSL service was substandard for an extra \$30 per month and would be outrageous for \$60 per month. So I have cancelled Frontier DSL service. I will decide what to do next summer. My choices seem to be very weak cellular and weak satellite.

Frontier does not care.
Russell K. Hobbie
Professor of Physics, Emeritus
St. Paul

THE ENGAGED CITIZEN

The events that connected politics to my life

by KATHLEEN MCQUILLAN
Citizens for Civic Education

Recently, I was asked, "What first hooked you on politics? Why is it so important to you?" In that split-second "hmmmm?" moment, several images flashed before me:

► April 22, 1970. Detroit, Michigan. First Earth Day. Making posters with Mom. Hanging them on lampposts, inviting kids to show up with rakes and garbage bags. Picking up trash that blighted our neighborhood. A lesson: We can all "make a difference."

► Thanksgiving Dinner, 1971. My sister, home from college on fire, stating her case that the Vietnam War was a mistake. My brother far away on



board a munitions ship in the Mekong Delta. My mother enraged. My aunt sympathetically listening to her young, passionate niece. Me, silently watching, trying to decide who is "right."

► October 1972, Sophomore year. Eastern Michigan University. A demonstration organized in front of the Student Union in support of the United Farm Workers national lettuce boycott, realizing the meaning of "solidarity."

► Summer, 1973. Organizing the Ypsilanti chapter of a statewide progressive third party called the Human Rights

Party.

► Fall, 1974. A difficult run for Ypsilanti City Council as the Human Rights Party candidate. Standing for affordable housing, rent control, and a community board to advise law enforcement. Knocking on doors, raising money, debating the issues, and losing by eight votes to the incumbent Democrat. Experiencing the thrill of seeking solutions and offering hope. And feeling the "sigh of relief," mingled with the "agony of defeat." My first up-close glimpse into the highs and lows of our electoral process.

Looking back, I realize that my story is made up of powerful images, inspiring language, and wise and skilled leaders. These experiences planted the seeds of understanding and my love for civic engagement and political

activism. My core values, shaped along the way, have found expression many times through the course of my adult life, when called to stand up or speak out on issues that matter to me — whether they be for the protection of our precious natural resources; better wages and working conditions; the end of inequality or the eradication of hunger; the empowerment of women; the safety and well-being of children; the defense of our communities, essential services, or our most cherished democratic institutions.

Through these experiences I have met incredible people from diverse backgrounds and beliefs. I have felt the joy of visioning a better future together, the wonder of seeing our actions prevail over what first appeared to be insurmountable odds, and

the pride in supporting something that benefited myself and others. I've also discovered that strength can be found in the pain of "failure," and growth in recognizing all the lessons learned along the way.

Now back to the initial question. Experience shows that through engagement, we are empowered, "hooked," to help shape the direction of "politics." Engagement is the heartbeat of our democracy. That we can engage means that our democracy is still alive! Once empowered, the engaged citizen finds it very hard to disengage. And, if we truly care about our country, why would we ever want to?

Kathleen McQuillan lives in Linden Grove Township.

DEMOCRATS...Continued from page 4

Bernie Sanders tried to right the Democratic ship in 2016, by refocusing on the bread and butter economic issues that had served both the party and country well for decades.

Sanders was simply touting the Democrats' old time religion, but he lit a fire under younger voters who had never heard a Democrat talk like that before.

Rather than recognizing the potential, the Clintonistas and their media allies dismissed the Sanders uprising, casting Sanders and his enthusiastic supporters as the enemy for wanting to reclaim the party's traditional economic message and dismissing any suggestion that Democrats try to refocus their policies to reclaim rural or traditional white, working class voters.

Instead, Democrats are planning to talk about sexual harassment.

Republicans are already licking their chops, knowing full well that it's an issue with little resonance in much of middle America. And as the resignations of Franken and Conyers makes clear, it's an issue more likely to wound Democrats than Republicans, since most GOP voters either don't care or simply choose to believe that any allegations against their own party's politicians are part of a media conspiracy.

You would think that the election of Donald Trump, less than a month after the Access Hollywood tape hit the airwaves, and after more than a dozen women came forward with credible accounts of actual improprieties, would have convinced Democrats that you can't beat a Republican over sexual harassment violations, no matter how appalling. Tuesday's defeat of Roy Moore would

suggest that child molestation is a bit too much for some Republicans, but it's fair to assume that Democrats won't be facing many more candidates as damaged as Moore.

Sexual harassment is a very real social issue, but it doesn't lend itself to a political wedge, particularly when Americans across the political aisles and in various parts of the country view the issue so differently. If Democrats are going to continue to take a zero tolerance approach, while Republicans are happy to ignore or dismiss the most egregious behavior, we can expect to see more Democrats forced from office, while Republicans face little or no consequence whatsoever.

If Democrats want to start winning again, they should take a lesson from the GOP, and run on "Repeal and Replace" of

the disastrous tax bill that the Republicans appear poised to approve later this month. The bill, which takes money from average Americans and funnels it to the top, is already far more unpopular than the Affordable Care Act ever was, and Republicans flogged that issue for votes for four straight election cycles. Democrats, unlike the GOP, should then follow through by actually scrapping the disastrous tax bill.

Rather than tailoring a message to conservative, suburban housewives in hopes of garnering narrow electoral victories, Democrats should be focused on bringing real majorities together behind an economic message focused on expanded opportunity for the middle and working classes, real support (rather than lip service) for unions, seriously addressing income

inequality, and protecting the public from the predatory impulses (think Frontier) of so much of corporate America today.

The biggest threat to the Democrats isn't Republican voters, it's that more and more of the Democratic base is too disillusioned with their own party to get out and vote. Until party leaders are willing to engage the 50 percent of the electorate that no longer shows up at the polls, they'll continue to suffer at the ballot box — and justifiably so.

Reclaiming their voice and their principles on the economy, wealth and power inequality, and expanded opportunity for everyone, would be the

best thing Democrats could do to advance their electoral prospects. More importantly, it's the best thing the party could do for the country.

TEDA...Continued from page 2

to recommend that the city of Tower submit an application to Minnesota Power for a cobra-style streetlight to be located at the new entrance to the Marjo Motel. Current motel operator Orlyn Kringstad has asked the city council to approve the new light to provide visibility for the new entrance, which was moved as part of the city's Hwy. 169 bridge project. Kringstad has offered to pay the \$197 installation cost and the \$22 a month in electricity for the light. Minnesota Power requires that the city make the application for the new streetlight. MnDOT officials

have already indicated their support for the project if the city agrees to be the permittee.

► Discussed how to respond to three different letters from two prospective business owners as well as the new owner of the city marina. Luke Kujawa, of Your Boat Club, reiterated his understanding that TEDA would assist his business in obtaining demolition funding from the IRRRB's demolition program. The new owners are looking at demolishing the existing docks and canopies, a collapsed sea wall, building interior walls, and the removal of

ramps and gangways, along with heaved pilings. Helmberger said he's been in contact with the IRRRB and will follow up with the agency. Kujawa also expressed concern about the prospects for a new hotel, given the wastewater limitations. He noted that his project was undertaken with an understanding that a new hotel was in the works.

► TEDA member Steve Peterson agreed to follow up with Karin and Doug Trail Johnson, who are looking at purchasing and renovating the former Classy Cars property owned by Ron Abrahamson

Sr. The couple has a number of questions and is seeking financial options for a feasibility or market study, as well as demolition and renovation dollars.

A Benefit for the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center

"A Child's Christmas In Wales"

by Dylan Thomas
Presented by William Kimes
Professor Emeritus-Hamline University

Wed, Dec. 27 • \$50 person (\$25 tax deductible)
Vermilion Park Inn Commons Room

5 PM-Social Hour
(View The Dickens Christmas Village by Tom Burns)
6 PM Gourmet Dinner with Wine
Reading-William Kimes, Carol-Singing-Janice Kimes

Limited Seating-Call for Reservations
612-360-7079 or email: malexbat@gmail.com

Vermilion Park Inn • 30 Center St, Soudan
218-753-2333 • vermillionparkinn.com

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Holiday shopping



The annual Tower Holiday Craft Show was held last Saturday at the Tower Civic Center. Shoppers got to browse through a great selection of gifts for all ages. The event was sponsored by Friends of Vermilion Country School.



Soudan Skating rink opens Saturday

SOUDAN- The Soudan Skating Rink will open for the season on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 11 a.m. All ages are welcome. The warming shack regular hours will be posted.

Loaner skates in all sizes are available in the warming shack.

St. Martin's Catholic Church Christmas/New Year Mass schedule

TOWER- St. Martin's is happy to announce their Christmas and New Year's schedule:

The Christmas Mass schedule is: Christmas Eve at St. Martin's (Tower) at 4 p.m.; and at Holy Cross (Orr) at 7 p.m.; and Christmas Day at St. Mary's (Cook) at 10 a.m.

With Jan. 1, the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God falling on a Monday, it is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation. Father will still offer a Mass in honor of Mary, the Mother of God at St. Mary's (Cook) on Monday, Jan. 1 at 10 a.m.

Confessions are heard one half-hour before all Masses. If these times do not work for you – contact the rectory.

Advent Services at St. James

TOWER- The theme for Advent at St. James is "Gifts of The Season." St. James's Christmas Eve Service will be at 7 p.m. followed by a birthday party for Jesus. Sunday Worship will be held at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 24 as well. The theme will be "God's Action Plan."



315 Main St, Tower
753-2725

Open
Dec. 24: 8 AM-2 PM
(Closed Christmas Day)

Open
Dec. 31: 8 AM-3 PM
(Closed New Year's Day)

YOUR HOLIDAY FOOD HEADQUARTERS!



Financing Available*

- Snowmobiles
- Ice Fishing Houses
- Side-by-Sides

24 S. River St. 401 Platt Ave. East
Cook, MN 55723 Nashwauk, MN 55769
218-666-5940 218-885-1600

www.NorthStarCreditUnion.org

*terms and conditions apply, subject to credit approval



FUNDRAISER

Gift-wrapping fundraiser on Saturday, Dec. 16

TSLV Events Board fundraiser will help fund upcoming community events

TOWER- The Tower Soudan Lake Vermilion Area Events Board has several upcoming events in the making and they want to see you there! First up is a gift-wrapping fundraiser at the Tower Civic Center scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 16. Board members will be available from 1 – 4 p.m. with wrap and ribbon to get your gifts looking picture perfect under the Christmas tree. Price per gift will range from \$1 - \$5 depending on the size; coffee and bars will be available as well, for a free-will donation.

Fundraisers like this help to sponsor bigger upcoming events like the Finlander Bocce Ball Tournament, which is slated for Jan. 20. The board



has also committed to helping with Soudan's annual Hockey Day, hosted by Gavin Bialke. Plans for the tournament and Hockey Day are being made right now, so if you'd like more information or want to help with the planning, the next TSLVAEB meeting

is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 18 at 5 p.m. at Benchwarmer Grille in Tower.

Of course, the TSLVAEB is also already getting ready for the Fourth of July in Tower – with only 30 weeks to fundraise and plan, they are already looking forward to throwing an amazing Independence Day celebration. Please consider joining us at the meeting this month to tell us your ideas and find out how you can help to make next year's Fourth of July the best one yet.

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY

Christmas card winner artists



The Timberjay would like to congratulate the winners of this year's Christmas Card Contest. Watch for the artwork from the following Tower-Soudan Elementary students, along with many others, in our special holiday edition on Dec. 22.

Winners listed in order, first, second, third (ties as noted)

Kindergarten- Melia Lund,

Macy Boshey, Kija Chosa and Nolan Lenci (tie)

First- Chase Kvistad, Katie Larson and Calvin Childs (tie), Serah Ross and Nailee Moyer (tie)

Second- Eva Larson, Matthias Boshey, Destiny Koivisto and Arlene King (tie)

Third- Thomas Aldrich, Raeanna Medicine-Strand, Presley

Chiabotti and Liz Achterling (tie)

Fourth- Chloe Adkisson and Rena Buckanaga (tie), Rogelio Noyes, Christian Nelson

Fifth- Greyson Reichensperger, Bailey Pratt, Colt Kvistad

Sixth- Jasmine Jabbar, Sam Kvistad, Truce Lightfeather.

BREITUNG POLICE DEPARTMENT

October 2017

Calls: 127
Assist other agencies: 18
Traffic stops: 67
Arrests: 2
Citations/Formal charges: 22
Warnings: 55
Monthly mileage: 3,574 (gold Tahoe 888, Charger 1,462, Explorer 1,224)

Additional shifts

During the month of October the Breitung Police Department worked 8 hours of extra DWI

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



October Police Report

Breitung Police Chief Jesse Anderson

enforcement through the Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) grant.

Training

During the month of October we attended the Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) Conference at the St. Paul River Centre. Chief Anderson spoke at the TZD Law Enforcement Grantee Session on enforcement strategies in greater Minnesota to maximize an impact with a smaller budget and fewer resources.

Squads

We did not have any mechanical issues with our squads during the month of October. Current end of the month mileage for the Gold 2012 Chevy Tahoe (Tower) is 59,110. Current end of the month mileage for the Blue 2008 Dodge Charger is 89,000. Current end of the month mileage for the Black 2017 Ford Explorer is 5,055.

Miscellaneous

While summer months are the deadliest on Minnesota roads, winter-

time leads to the most crashes and poses safety risks and hazards. Everyone should be cautious about traveling in extreme winter weather. Cold, snow and ice are demanding on cars, drivers and passengers. Cold affects metal, rubber and other materials in your car. It can reduce the effectiveness of your vehicle's battery by at least 50 percent. It can freeze tires and keep them flat on the bottom for at least the first half-mile of travel. It can thicken your car's lubricants, making the engine work too hard. Most importantly, extreme winter weather can threaten your life. Simple planning can save you trouble and even save your life. Be sure your vehicle is in good winter driving condition and also listen to forecasts, road reports and storm warnings.

Call summary

Citations/Formal Charges/Arrests: (1) (GM) 2nd Degree DWI (.22)- Charges Requested/Jailed; (5) (M) 4th Degree DWI (.08, .09, .09, .09, .10)- Cited/ROR;

(2) (M) Underage Consumption-Cited/ROR; (1) (M) 5th Degree Assault-Cited/Jailed; (1) (M) Disorderly Conduct-Cited/Jailed; (4) Possess/Allow Open Bottle- Cited/ROR; (4) Speed- Cited/ROR; (2) Driving After Revocation-Cited/ROR; (1) Driving After Suspension-Cited/ROR; (1) No Seatbelt Use- Cited/ROR

Assist other agencies: (9) Tower Ambulance; (4) St. Louis County Sheriff's Office; (2) Bois Forte Police Department; (1) Minnesota State Patrol; (1) Minnesota DNR Enforcement Division; (1) Breitung Fire Department

Call categories: (67) Traffic Stops; (18) Agency Assists; (9) Informational; (5) Community Engagement; (4) Attempt to Locate (Driving Complaint); (3) Found Property; (3) Check Welfare; (3) Check Hazard; (2) Disturbance; (2) Check Residence; (1) Alarm; (1) Theft; (1) Animal Complaint; (1) Property Damage Accident; (1) Unwanted Person; (1) Extra Patrol Request; (1) Loud Music; (1) Customer Trouble; (1) Garbage Dumping Complaint; (1) Child Visitation Issue; (1) Parking Complaint.

Subscribe Today • Call (218) 753-2950

HOLIDAY GIVING

Santa helpers still needed

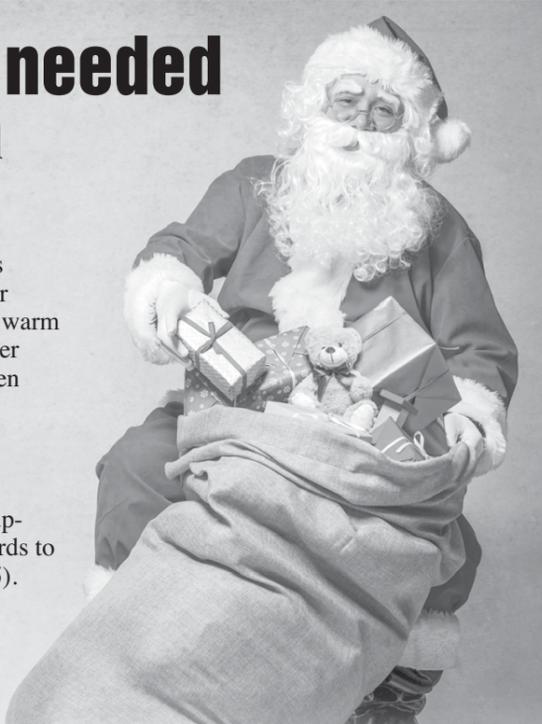
Last minute donations taken until Monday, Dec. 18

TOWER- This year's Operation Santa toy drive is almost complete. 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. We expect to serve as many as 150 children again this year.

The effort is organized by The Timberjay and the Tower Soudan Civic Club, with help from many area groups, churches, organizations, and individuals.

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).

Donations can be dropped off at the Timberjay in Tower, and will be distributed at the food shelf on Dec. 19. Any questions, please call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950.



AEOA Senior Dining Menu

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

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

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

Week of Dec. 18

- Monday- Chicken Sandwich, Vegetable
- Tuesday- Italian Meatball Sub, Vegetable
- Wednesday- Taco Salad, Corn Muffin
- Thursday- Turkey Dinner
- Friday- Pizza, Fruit Salad

Week of Dec. 25

No school all week

Week of Dec. 18

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.

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

Thursday
Vermilion Country School Board- Fourth Thursday (except near holidays). Meetings posted online at vermillioncountry.org.

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

Subscribe to the **TIMBERJAY!**
Call 218-753-2950



Holiday concert set for Sunday

The Tower-Soudan singers have prepared a holiday concert for all ages to take place on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. at the Tower-Soudan Elementary School. A combination of secular and spiritual, old and new, rousing and contemplative songs will bring you into the Christmas season. Enjoy the Grinch, Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, and Yuletide treats after the performance. Pictured is director Rolf Anderson with accompanist Lynn Watts. submitted photo



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

THE NEWS OF THE WEEK FROM MS. VERA MILION



Dear Hearts,

I do hope you are not waiting, nose pressed to that little window on your post office box or glued to your picture window, anticipating the appearance of the mailman with bags of cards meant just for you and that you will find a card from Vera!

Because, drum roll, there is not a card in your future.

I had clipped out this article last year about how NOT to get stressed during the holiday season.

It would seem the "Key to a Cool Yule," is not a double martini but advanced planning and a "Christmas BATTLE Plan!" For me, and I am sure most of you, the battle plan entails not waiting until the last minute to... 'git er' done!

So why not, as one lazes in those warm hazy lazy days of summer, prepare your Christmas cards? You can get great buys and just be careful that the greeting inside does not say "Merry Christmas and may 1999 bring you joy and peace!"

Well that's what we did. Swathed in suntan lotion, with a G-and-T close at hand, we did the cards. We included pithy little messages that would not be time sensitive:

"Hope you are as

Merry and Bright as your Christmas Tree."

"Hope your favorite fat guy was especially nice to you this year...and we don't mean your husband."

"I know that you and your entire family are together and happy this time of year." This one might be a bit problematic what with divorce and other fatal events.

We even had Christmas stamps to complete our Christmas conspiracy.

We had a cool July Yule but we cannot remember where we put the cards!

Back to square one and the kitchen.

We also thought, why wait until the last minute to get our cookie baking done?

What says Merry Christmas better than fresh-thawed spritz? On one cool summer day, up to our elbows in butter, candied cherries, and pecans, we did the Christmas cookies. We mixed and baked and trimmed and carefully packaged enough cookies to get us through "Twelfth Night"... whatever that is!

Hilda came up with the idea that because we had baked ahead maybe we had wrapped up the completed cards, created a special "Cool Yule" package and stuck everything into the Amana! We dashed to the freezer as fast as our chubby thighs would let us.

No Christmas cards to be found!

However, under the twenty-eight pounds of Zup's Special ground round we bought when there was a summer barbeque sale,

we did find bags and bags of Christmas Cookie crumbs!

Ray Charles was right again, "If it weren't for bad luck I wouldn't have no luck all!"

They do make a good 'sprinkle' over ice cream!

I really wouldn't mind the early snow so much if I could stop getting mailings about "SPECIAL FALL DEALS ON SPRING BULBS!" The acres and acres of daffodils and crocus that I will not have send thorns deep, deep into my heart. Why me, I cry as I crumble another, "special gardening deal for Ms. Vera Milion..." How do these wretches know my name?

One cannot be bitter this time of the year so here is a little recipe for wassail to make the season brighter.

- Wassail:
12 whole cloves
6 whole allspice
1/2-inch fresh ginger root, peeled and sliced
3 cinnamon sticks
12 whole white peppercorns
1 gallon fresh apple cider
6 ounces cranberry juice
3/4 cup light brown

- sugar, packed
10-12 ounces bourbon
Tools:
cheesecloth, kitchen string, large pot
Garnish:
ground nutmeg and 1 cinnamon stick per drink

Preparation: To make the wassail, wrap the cloves, allspice, ginger, cinnamon sticks, and peppercorns in cheesecloth and tie with kitchen string. Combine the cider, cranberry juice, brown sugar, and spice bag in a large pot over high heat. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer 30 minutes.

For each serving, put one ounce of the bourbon into a mug and fill it with hot Wassail. Garnish with a dusting of nutmeg and a cinnamon stick.

Tip: The Wassail can be stored for several days in a covered container in the refrigerator. If you like lots of spice, you can make it a day ahead and leave the spice bag in the container overnight.

Boys and girls, remember what Auntie Vera says, "Darlings if you boil wine all you get is warm grape juice."

Ms. Vera Milion

Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, Dec. 20, Jan. 10, 31; Feb. 21

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



the TIMBERJAY

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Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$27.95/year; details at www.timberjay.com.

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

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BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA WILDERNESS

BWCA essay contest for students only



The Ely Outfitting Co. is sponsoring a Teen Essay Contest for high school students. Grand prize is a completely outfitted BWCAW trip. No adults allowed. Deadline is Feb. 11, 2018. file photo

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, Ledgerrock
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

ELY — The Ely
Outfitting Company's
Boundary Waters Teen
Essay Contest is now open.
The competition is for high
school sophomores,
juniors, and seniors inter-
ested in the chance to win
a fully outfitted five-day
canoe-camping adventure
in the Boundary Waters
Canoe Area Wilderness
with two or three of their
friends - and no parents
allowed.

Before submitting an
essay, consider consulting
parents to ensure they'll
give you and your friends
the thumbs up to do this
trip if you win, contest
officials suggested.

In 1,000 to 1,500
words, answer this ques-
tion: Why do you want to
go on a parent-free BWCA
Wilderness canoe-
camping adventure with
your friends?

Grand prize is a com-
pletely outfitted BWCA
Wilderness canoe-camping
adventure. Ely Outfitting
Company will outfit the
winning writer's group with
a complete outfitting
package. This means you'll
explore the wilderness with
the best gear used by the
most savvy BWCA travel-
ers. The package includes
ultralight Kevlar canoes,
backcountry tents, sleeping
bags, specialized trail
meals, navigation maps
and much more. We are also
providing an emergency
communication device for
this self-guided trip.

"The Boundary
Waters Teen Essay Contest

is a celebration of unstruc-
tured time outside," said
Jason Zabokrtsky, founder
of Ely Outfitting
Company. "It's a chance
to prove that young people
can safely challenge them-
selves in the outdoors and
return more confident
leaders and self-reliant
individuals."

Recent studies show
that young people today
spend as little as four to
seven minutes outside each
day - less time outside
than prison inmates. "A
culture of fear and bubble-
wrapped experiences is
infringing on young
people's abilities to have
free ranging outdoor expe-
riences. Time in front of a
screen is replacing time
around a stream and this
new reality is leading to
health issues including
increased anxiety, obesity,
and attention deficit dis-
order. This is our response
and attempt to buck the
trend," Zabokrtsky said.

"We want this
country's next generation
to take the reins of schools,
businesses, and branches
of government with a
developed connection and
appreciation for public
lands and, in particular, the
Boundary Waters Canoe
Area Wilderness," he
added.

All entrants receive cool stuff

In addition to one
grand prize winner, Ely
Outfitting Company is ran-
domly giving away assort-
ed prizes like water bottles,
stickers, shirts, and hats
throughout the duration
of the contest. "Enter early
to increase your chances
of winning some prizes,"
he said. "Winning some-
thing through one of our
random prize giveaways
won't affect your chance
of winning the free trip."

Everyone who enters
will also receive a coupon
good for \$50 off a com-
plete outfitting
package during the 2018
season. "We hope that, if
you don't win a free trip,
this coupon will help make
it easier to still get out and
explore the BWCA,"
Zabokrtsky said.

Safety is top priority

The Boundary Waters
is a uniquely accessible
wilderness with routing
options appropriate for

people of all abilities and
skill levels.

"We want to ensure the
winning trip is set for
success," he said. "Ely
Outfitting Company will
help the group prepare for
the adventure. We'll help
select an appropriate route
based on previous experi-
ences, abilities, and interests.
Once in Ely, we'll review
your outfitting package in
detail, and go over canoe-
ing, portaging, navigating,
and camping skills. To
ensure adequate time to
provide a full pre-trip ori-
entation, we require all trip
participants to arrive at our
shop the afternoon before
launching their trip. We
strongly recommend all trip
participants spend at least
one day canoeing together
before arriving in Ely."

Judging criteria

A panel of judges will
select the contest winner.
The winning essay will be
selected based on the fol-
lowing criteria:

10% - Spelling,
grammar, and overall flow.
Essays should not have
spelling errors, sloppy
grammar, or incom-
plete/incoherent sentences.

35% - Originality of
idea and content. Essays
should be rooted in an
original idea that reflects
the writer's personality
and ambition. If, for
example, a writer is excited
about making this a fishing
trip, consider expanding on
how a fishing trip
shapes/defines a friend-
ship or what differentiates
a wilderness fishing trip
from one in the city or on
a populated lake.

35% - Individual
voice. Essays should
reflect a writer's personal
style and voice. Essays
should give the judging
panel a sense of who the
writer is in a fun-to-read
and well-thought-out
essay. Write from the heart
with open and honest
prose.

20% - Tone and
thoughtfulness. An essay's
tone and thoughtfulness
should reinforce the notion
that the writer is respon-
sible enough to venture
safely into the wilderness
without adult supervision.

BWCA experience
and canoeing experience
are not required, and are
not a judging criteria.

Judging panel

► Joseph Goldstein -
16-year-old who has
explored the BWCA every
summer (and several
winters) since age seven.
When diagnosed with
leukemia at age 13, he
made it his goal to protect
the Boundary Waters from
the threat of sulfide-ore
copper mining.

► Jason Zabokrtsky
- Founder, Ely Outfitting
Company. Wilderness
guide, outfitter, and mega-
BWCA enthusiast.

► Amy Freeman -
2014 National Geographic
Adventurer of the Year;
author of the newly
released book, "A Year in

the Wilderness," about
spending 366 consecutive
days in the BWCA; wilder-
ness guide.

► Kemia Sarraf,
M.D., M.P.H. - Founder of
Generation Healthy Kids;
advocate for youth engag-
ing the outdoors.

► Wendy Lindsay -
Successful Northwoods
entrepreneur; owner of the
Pebble Spa in Ely; cele-
brated her high school
graduation with a two-
week BWCA trip with
seven of her friends.

What if parents aren't game?

"We realize not all
parents may think their
teen kids are ready for a
wilderness canoe trip
without adults along,"
Zabokrtsky said. "When
discussing this opportuni-
ty with your parents, you
may want to discuss the
following:

"The BWCA has over
a thousand lakes and about
70 entry points to choose
from. We can help ensure
the winning group has a
route that matches their
previous experiences and
skill level. This may mean
a relatively short route
with travel on smaller lakes
that are not as wind prone
or a route that doesn't
require moving to a dif-
ferent campsite every
night.

"We will go over the
planned route in detail with
the group and provide infor-
mation about our favorite
campsites, as well as any
rapids, waterfalls, or espe-
cially difficult portages.
Note that this is a flatwa-
ter trip. All rapids and
waterfalls have portages
around them, and portages
must always be used.

"We will provide an
orientation that covers
important information
about safety, campsite
selection, paddling tech-
nique, and wilderness nav-
igation. We will also
discuss how to properly
store your food to mini-
mize bear encounters and
what to do in the event of
extreme weather.

"The Boundary
Waters Canoe Area
Wilderness is America's
most popular wilderness
area with Forest Service
rangers paddling through
the region to check permits
and offer assistance if
needed. Rangers and
fellow travelers offer an
additional safety net to
your own common sense
and know-how.

"The winning group's
outfitting will include an
emergency communica-
tion device. In the extreme-
ly unlikely event that an
emergency should occur,
the device can be used to
notify interested parties
and receive assistance.

"Ensure your parents
that you will wear your
lifejacket whenever canoe-
ing and swimming. It's a
safety requirement of this
contest, and always a wise
idea.

"If your parents still
aren't willing to sign off

on this trip, consider other
ways of doing a wilderness
trip. We can provide you
and your family with
expert trip planning assis-
tance, outfitting, and guide
services."

Contest rules

► The essay contest is
open to current sopho-
mores, juniors, and seniors
in high school.

► Essays must
include the entrant's name,
grade in school, phone
number, mailing address,
and email address.

► Submit your
contact info and essay
using our online form.
Note that bold, underline,
and italics text will be con-
verted to plain text.

► Deadline for
receipt of entries is 11:59
p.m. on Feb. 11, 2018.

► The writer of the
winning essay will be con-
tacted by phone and then
publicly announced on
March 6, 2018.

► Limit of one essay
per person. All essays must
be original work by
entrant.

► All essays become
the property of Ely
Outfitting Company which
reserves the right to print
and display essays.

► Any essay entered
in the 2017 Wild Words
Contest cannot be entered
in future Wild Words essay
contests.

► The determination
of the judges is final.

Grand prize requirements

No parents are
allowed to be on-trail with
the winning author's
BWCA canoe-camping
trip. All trip participants
must be 15, 16, 17, or 18
years old at the start of the
trip.

Trip participation is
limited to a maximum of
three or four people,
including the winning
author. We have chosen a
minimum group size of
three people (including
the winning author) for
safety reasons.

All trip participants
must submit a completed
and signed liability
waiver within two weeks
of the winner being noti-
fied. Trip participants
under 18 years old will
need a parent or legal
guardian to complete a li-
ability waiver. If this dead-
line is not met, the second
place essay will be
awarded the trip and have
ten days for all trip par-
ticipants to sign the liability
waiver.

The winning group
must submit their desired
launch date at the same
time that they submit their
release of liability waiver.

Trip participants agree
to provide photos from
their trip to Ely Outfitting
Company.

All trip participants,
regardless of their age,
must agree to wear a life-
jacket whenever they are
canoeing or swimming
while on their trip; and all
portage trails must be used.



the TIMBERJAY

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Marshall Helmsberger

General Manager

Jodi Summit

Ely Editor

Keith Vandervort

Staff Writer

Stephanie Ukkola

Office Manager

M. M. White

Graphics

Scarlet Lynn Stone

Ad Sales

Jay Greeney

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Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2017



decorating trees
we edge toward christmas day

celebrating starts

OUR COMMUNITY

Twins Winter Caravan returns

Team members will be at the Wolf Center on Jan. 25

ELY - Fans of the Minnesota Twins should circle Thursday, Jan. 25, on their calendars. The Major League Baseball team will make a stop in Ely on their annual Winter Caravan Tour.

Ely fans can expect to see pitcher Jose Berrios, outfielder Eddie Rosario, broadcaster Dick Bremer and the Twins mascot, TC, at the International Wolf Center beginning at 1 p.m.

Twins players and broadcasters making a trip to Ely has become somewhat of a tradition. This will be the 10th time since 2004 that the Winter Caravan Tour has stopped here. Typically,



at the stops, Twins players and representatives each speak for a few minutes about the

upcoming season. There's usually time for questions from the audience, too. It's expected

that the stop will last about 60 minutes.

Doors open at 12:30 p.m. on Jan. 25. There will be no fee for admission. The Wolf Center will close at about 4 p.m. The capacity of the Wolf Center's auditorium is approximately 150 people. Seating is not guaranteed.

Coffee and cookies will be served.

The Twins 2018 Winter Caravan will make stops in more than 50 communities throughout the upper Midwest from Jan. 15-25.

Later that day, the Twins players will help kick off the Northland 300 snowmobile rally at the Grand Ely Lodge.

Higher Education

Two Ely graduates honored at MSU-Mankato

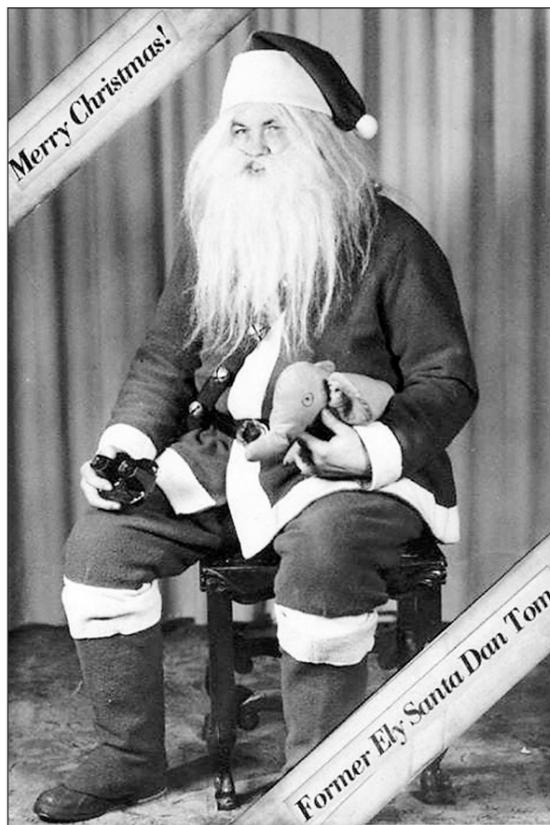
ELY - Minnesota State University-Mankato awarded 1,817 degrees at the end of the fall semester, including two graduates from Ely, April Levar, BSE, General Engineering, Summa Cum Laude, and Kimberly Renner Bielawski, BS, Nursing, Magna Cum Laude.

Commencement ceremonies were held Saturday, Dec. 9 in Taylor Center's Bresnan Arena on the Minnesota State-Mankato campus.

Levar joined 75 other undergraduate students receiving recognition graduating summa cum laude (3.8 grade point average and higher).

Bielawski and 186 other students graduated magna cum laude (grade point averages of 3.5 to 3.79), and 172 students graduating cum laude (grade point averages of 3.3 to 3.49).

VINTAGE SANTA



This archive photo shows Dan Toms, of Ely, dressed up as Santa Claus. photo courtesy of the Ely-Winton Historical Society

BUSINESS NEWS

NorthRidge Credit Union expands Ely branch

ELY - NorthRidge Community Credit Union (NorthRidge, NRCCU) is serving more members due to the expansion of their Ely branch. NorthRidge celebrated the remodel and expansion of the branch in September with a ribbon cutting and grand reopening.

The expanded facility project, which was managed by Gruba Construction of Ely, was designed to serve NorthRidge's growing membership at its location at 1321 E. Sheridan Street.

"With the expansion of our Ely office we have been able to serve more members, provide

enhanced services and give members better financial advice than we were able to before," said NorthRidge President/CEO Nicholas Mathiowetz. "This remodel also led us to an expansion of business hours, and has brought in more new accounts. We are very pleased with the results of the remodel and the increase in business and I hope that many more members can benefit from the services that NorthRidge provides."

NorthRidge Community Credit Union is a progressive, family-oriented, member-owned and -operated financial organ-

ization offering financial security, a broad range of personalized financial services and competitive rates on savings and loans. With offices in Ely, Virginia, Hoyt Lakes and Biwabik, NorthRidge serves members who live, work, or worship in St. Louis, Lake, or Itasca counties.

NorthRidge Community Credit Union was founded in 1957, and was originally called Hoyt Lakes Mine Credit Union. In 1958, the name was changed to Hoyt Lakes Taconite Credit Union (HLTCU). In 1974, HLTCU changed to a community charter including all

members of the community and changed its name to Hoyt Lakes Community Credit Union.

In 1998, the Biwabik office was opened, and in 2004 the Virginia office was opened and a new name, NorthRidge Community Credit Union (NorthRidge) was adopted. The Ely NorthRidge office was opened in 2012. NorthRidge serves the four communities and strives to live up to its philosophy of people helping people.

For more information on NorthRidge and its field of membership go to nrccu.org.

AROUND TOWN

Ely Public Library wins American Star honor

ELY - The Ely Public Library has been named an American Star Library with a four-star ranking. Star library designations are given out under the Library Journal (a publication of the American Library Association) Index of Public Service.

Libraries are scored based on data that they submit to their state libraries in the following categories: number of visits to the library, circulation of physical materials, circulation of electronic materials, program attendance, and public computer usage.

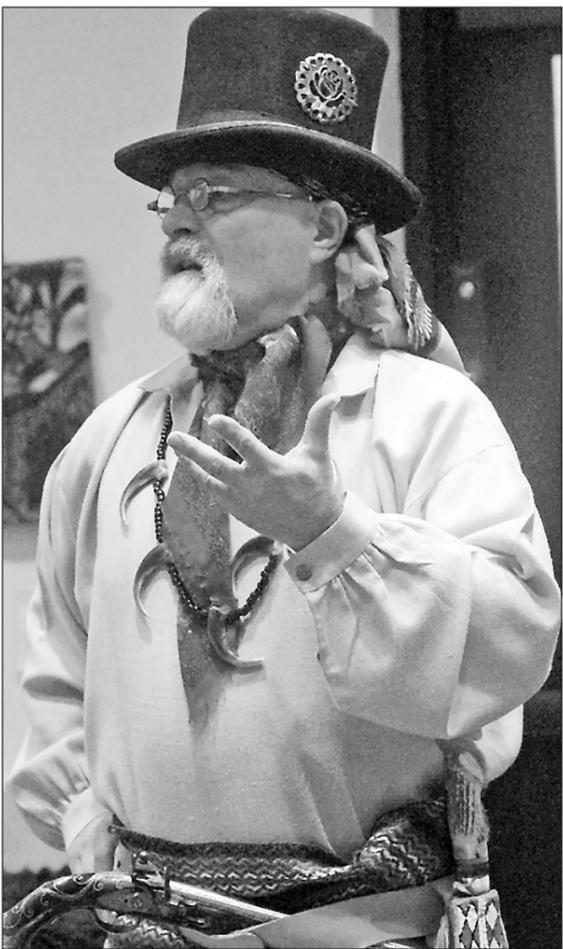
This data is divided by the library's service population and compared to other libraries across the country in "peer groups". Peer groups are based on the funding that each library receives - both from taxes and also supplemental funding from sources like Friends of the Library - and the top libraries in each group are awarded between three and five (highest possible) stars.

This year, 259 libraries

Visitors to the Ely Public Library last week experienced the wilderness of northern Minnesota through a reenactment of the 1800's with French Canadian Voyageur Jacques La Christian. He told stories, displayed Indian bead work, flintlock rifles and pistols, along with furs of various types used in the fur trade in the United States and Canada. Jacques provided an entertaining program, combining his expertise in balancing humor, history, and meaning. The program was sponsored by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

photo by K. Vandervort received stars; five of these star libraries were located in Minnesota. Star designations for this year are based on the statistics reported for the 2015 calendar year. That was the first full year that the Ely Library was in its new building.

Ely Library Director Rachel Heinrich said, "I'm



sure that the new building helped contribute to our high rating, but, overall, the four stars show how people in the community are actively using the library and keeping it a busy place."

Though the Ely Library has received a three-star rating for five of the past nine years of the program, this tenth year marks the first time the library has been given four stars.

Photography on exhibit at Front Porch

ELY - Meet photographer John Ratzloff and view his "Northtraits" exhibit on Thursday, Dec. 21, at the Front Porch Coffee House in Ely from 1-3 p.m.

His exhibit is a collection of black and white pho-

tographs depicting his passion for both north country nature and Native Americans (the White Earth Nation).

This event is sponsored by Story Portage, a local non-profit group connecting the community through visual, oral and written personal narrative.

Yesterday's news, this week

from the archives of

THE ELY MINER

Courtesy of the Ely-Winton Historical Society

December 14, 1917

Fish for food

The comment of sale of whitefish by the state for 12 cents a pound has brought a letter from Commissioner Avery of the State Game and Fish Department that sets forth the possibilities of fishing in waters of this section and thus helping out on the high cost of living.

When the law was passed preventing commercial fishing in the waters east of Lac La Croix, much damage was done to this part of the state and the commercial fishermen of the Rainy Lake district were benefitted.

When it is considered that all of the waters of this particular section where fishing was prohibited flow into the district where licenses were issued to commercial fishermen, it can plainly be seen who was injured and who benefitted.

There were two fish companies operating in the Winton district before this law prohibiting fishing in all waters east of Lac La Croix went into effect. These companies had gone to considerable expense in providing warehouses, freezing places and other necessities besides furnishing employment to a large number of settlers and Indians in the district. No commercial fishing has been done in the district since.

Ely is at present paying 22 cents per pound for pike (the best kind of food fish), and whitefish are also selling at about the same price. Our fish follow the waters to the Rainy Lake district where they are caught and sold to the fish companies at from six to ten cents per pound.

The companies reship them to Ely and they cost us 22 cents per pound. In this evolution the cost is doubled. The protection given the fish in this section increases the business of the Rainy Lake district fishermen and causes us to pay double for our fish.

This is not fair to the people of the best fishing section of the state and if the commission can remedy the condition it should be done. Our people need every possible consideration in these trying times of high prices and fish at from 12 to 15 cents per pound would be of material assistance. A fish peddler could dispose of large quantities of food fish in this city as meatless days would be increased.

“The King and Me” at First Baptist Church on Dec. 16 and 17

COOK- Come experience the joy and true meaning of Christmas as portrayed by the children of our community and surrounding area. “The King and Me” will be presented at the First Baptist Church of Cook on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 5 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 10:30 a.m. The musical is filled with vibrant songs that deliver the truth of God’s Word and a script that features an exuberant cast preparing for a theme park extravaganza in the Little Town of Bethlehem. King David, Goliath, Solomon and others will literally “explode” onto the scene...Goliath in full costume and the Kings in royal garb.

Following the Saturday performance, there will be a “Feast and Fellowship” time in the lower auditorium. All are welcome to attend one or both of these performances. You won’t want to miss it. The children invite you, too.

St. Mary’s, Holy Cross and St. Martin’s Christmas/New Year Mass schedule

REGIONAL- We are happy to announce the Christmas and New Year’s schedules at St. Mary’s, Holy Cross, and St. Martin’s.

The Christmas Mass schedule is Christmas Eve at St. Martin’s in Tower at 4 p.m and at Holy Cross in Orr at 7 p.m. Christmas Day Mass will be at St. Mary’s in Cook at 10 a.m.

With Jan. 1, the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, falling on a Monday, it is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation. Father will still offer a Mass in honor of Mary, the Mother of God, at St. Mary’s in Cook on Monday, Jan. 1 at 10 a.m.

Confessions are heard one half-hour before all Masses. If these times do not work for you please contact the rectory.

Wi-Fi hotspots available for checkout at Cook Library

COOK- The Cook Public Library now owns five wireless hotspots available for check out. A hotspot is a portable Wi-Fi device that allows you to connect your computer, tablet, smart phone and other devices to the Internet.

Hotspot Terms of Use

Eligibility- Borrowers must have an Arrowhead Library System library card. This card must be in good standing. Borrowers must sign the Hotspot User Agreement at check out. If under 18, a borrower must have a parent or caregiver sign the Hotspot User Agreement at check out.

Check Out Terms: The Hotspot loan period is 7 days. Hotspots cannot be renewed. Hotspots circulate only from the Cook Public Library. Hotspots are not available for interlibrary loan. Internet service will be disconnected if the Hotspot is overdue. Hotspots cannot be used outside of the United States.

Check In Terms: Hotspots cannot be placed in the overnight drop. Hotspots must be returned to the circulation counter. All items listed on the Packing Slip must be returned at the time of check in.

Coverage Area- Disclaimer: The Hotspot relies on AT&T 4G signal. There may be some areas without coverage.

Funding for these Hotspots was provided through the Blandin Broadband Grant. This grant was awarded to the Grizzlies community to support projects and raise awareness about Internet resources and services.

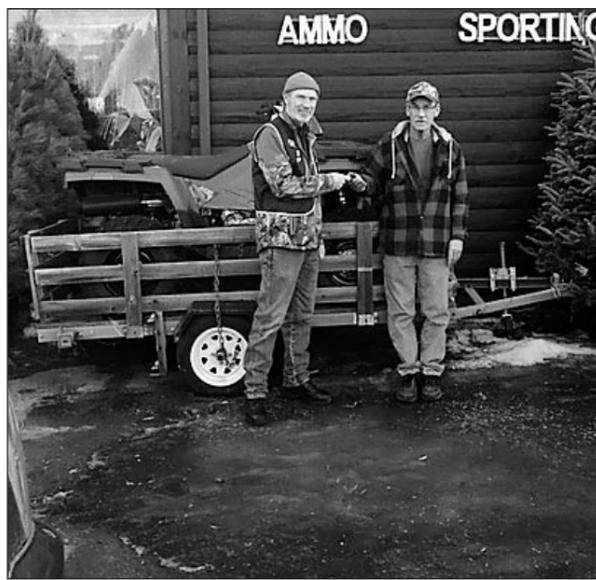
Ruby’s Pantry Christmas dinner for volunteers on Dec. 16

COOK- All who volunteer for Ruby’s Pantry in Cook are invited to a Christmas dinner at noon on Saturday, Dec. 16 at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. A program will follow the meal. Please RSVP with Sue at 218-741-3925 by Saturday, Dec. 9 if you plan to attend.

Local students receive degrees from MSU-Mankato

MANKATO - Brittany White, of Cook, received her Masters of Science in Nursing Degree from Minnesota State University-Mankato at the end of the fall semester, with commencement ceremonies on Saturday, Dec. 9 in Taylor Center’s Bresnan Arena on the Minnesota State-Mankato campus.

More information about the Minnesota State-Mankato December commencement is at <http://www.mnsu.edu/graduation/>.



Orr Lions Club raffle winner announced

Orr Lions Club president Scott Woodworth presents ATV winner John Manick with the keys to his new four-wheeler. submitted photo

FINANCIAL EDUCATION

North Star Credit Union earns national honorable mention for work with youth

COOK- North Star Credit Union’s mission is to provide our communities with high quality financial services and education. As part of their mission, they operate two student-led branches at North Woods and South Ridge schools. Students in grades 10-12 help their peers with financial transactions, such as depositing funds into their savings account, and teach students healthy financial habits, such as setting financial goals. In just one semester, North Star encouraged students to save over \$3,500 collectively. North Star’s efforts have been recognized at the state and national levels three years in a row since they opened their student branches in 2014.

North Star’s latest accomplishment is receiving the national-level Desjardan Youth Financial Education Honorable Mention Award at the national level. In early 2017, North Star accompanied upperclassmen

from North Woods and South Ridge to the Minnesota State Capitol. Students dialogued with Minnesota House Representatives Rob Ecklund and Jason Metsa as well as Minnesota Senate Representatives Tom Bakk and Dave Tomassoni. Jody Feist, North Star Credit Union’s Financial Education Coordinator, stated, “We are here to teach students how to make informed decisions. Most of our lessons focus on finance, but we also teach life skills such as job interviewing. Speaking with our representatives provided the students with another platform to share what they have learned and the importance of financial education in our schools.”

North Star raises awareness about the student branches and how students in grades K-12 can be involved by holding community wide educational events and presenting financial education lessons in the elementary classrooms. North

Star also launched their “Lunch and Learn” program this September. Lunch and Learns are open to students in grades 10-12 during senior high lunch once every month during the school year. So far, they have covered Choosing Your First Apartment, Buying a House, and Interviews and Job Hunting. Feist stated, “We provide students with practical knowledge they can use right out of high school. Our goal is to set students up for success; they just need to take advantage of the opportunity to learn.”

For more information regarding how students can open an account at The Money Cave or The Jungle, how your student can start saving, or for general student-branch questions contact Jody Feist at jfeist@northstarcreditunion.org or 218-666-4013.

CRANE LAKE

Crane Lake News by the Singing Teapot Dames



CRANE LAKE- Christmas is definitely in the air. Lights and decorations are appearing for everyone’s enjoyment. The highlight of the season was the Ladies Night Out gathering at Debbie Scot’s. The superbevening was hosted by Debbie and Amy Ulen. A fun game was played, something new that involved drinks. It surely brought out the giggles. Food was beyond description, as only Debbie and Amy can do. Sugar snap peas filled with cream cheese, and radishes displayed in a festive manner were only some of the many hors d’oeuvres to choose from. Did you know some of Debbie’s culinary skills are from the lessons

she took while on a trip to Paris? Paris to Crane Lake, brought to us by Debbie!

Christmas decorations are beautiful but can cause problems. Ruth Carlson had a problem tree. Terry Howard provided the beautiful eight-foot tree; Jeff Miller and Kara Knutson brought it to the lake and set it on the stand at Ruth’s house. Ruth, with help on the lights from Linda Lang, decorated the tree with ornaments and old fashioned tinsel. It was beautiful. However, on a night Ruth was not home, mischief occurred and Ruth came home to the tree smashed to the floor with ornaments broken and glass everywhere. The next morning, Mike and Linda Lang came to the rescue and righted the tree, wiring it to the wall. It will not fall again. Ruth is probably the only person who got to decorate the same tree twice. It is again beautiful, just a few less ornaments and tinsel.

Linda Lang reported that she has found four of the wayward Christmas wind banners that had blown away. They did not make it to Wisconsin, as

we surmised in our last edition. Two are still missing so maybe they are on the way.

We are happy to report Marie Anderson is home from the hospital after her knee surgery. She is recovering at home.

The entire community extends sympathy to Jay and Cheryl Handberg on the loss of their son, Campbell. Everyone remembers Campbell as the great fellow he was. He will be greatly missed.

Remember the Chapel Services are Christmas Eve at 4 p.m. The kids’ Christmas program is on Dec. 20 at 5 p.m. to be followed by a potluck dinner. Plan to attend. Everyone is welcome. The program is always a treat for the community. In time for the holidays, the Chapel got a face-lift with a new floor in Fellowship Hall. A fund expressly for a new floor was started by Brenda Crum’s family in her honor.

With all the fluffy white snow, have you had the urge to make snow angels? The world record was set by the people of Nova Scotia on Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011, when 22,022 Nova Scotians, coordinating in 130 locations, claimed the record for most snow angels made at the same time. The current snow is not good for making snowballs, but there is a world record for

that too—the largest outdoor snowball fight occurred in Saskatoon in Saskatchewan, Canada. Believe it or not, this was a result of a professional snowball-fighting competition. Just goes to show that when you live in the North Country, you make your own fun—and you might as well see who’s best at it!

Work is being done on the new shop building at Handberg’s Marine. It should be completed by spring. Also, the news from Jeff and Lori is that their Marine son, John, will be home for Christmas and Scott will be home from college so it will be a merry time at the Sanborns!

Let us know of your Christmas tradition. Share your Christmas tradition with us. Let us hear from you. If you are a snowbird tell us what life is like in your area. Snowbirds like to hear the news of what is going on at Crane Lake; we like to know about you. Send news by e-mail to info@thelakecountry.com, by fax to 218-757-3533, or by phone to Sandy at 218-757-3233 and it will be added. So fire away with your news.

Until the next time, the Teapot Dames are singing off.

Bookmobile schedule

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

- Thursday, Dec. 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.

NORTH STAR CREDIT UNION

Financing Available*

- Snowmobiles
- Ice Fishing Houses
- Side-by-Sides

24 S. River St.
Cook, MN 55723
218-666-5940

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Nashauk, MN 55769
218-885-1600

www.NorthStarCreditUnion.org

*terms and conditions apply, subject to credit approval

201 Hwy 53 SE Cook, MN
666-0205

Fall/Winter Hours

Sun: 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Mon-Sat: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

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Quality Eye Care for Less Stop in & Compare

HOURS: 9-4:30 Mon.-Fri.
Jerel D. Johnson, ABOC Certified
23 E. Vermilion Dr., Cook

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NORTH WOODS HIGH SCHOOL



North Woods School welcomed these new members to the National Honor Society Chapter. Students are admitted based on scholarship (cumulative GPA), leadership, character, and service (the four pillars of NHS). Back (from left): Hailey Hakkila, Sasha Strong, Karlyn Pierce, Neiva Smith, Lauren Arvila, Kayla Towner and Nicole Roy. Middle: Alanna Rutchasky, Nicole Olson, Kylie Parson, Bria Chiabotti, Olivia Niska and Cecilia Martinez. Front: Bethany Cotten, Trevor Morrison, Ian Sherman, Brendan Parson and Clay Janssen. photos by C. Stone



Above: Trevor Morrison received his declaration of membership. Above right: (from left) New initiates during presentation of the Gift of Light Bria Chiabotti, Bethany Cotten, Hailey Hakkila and Clay Janssen.

ORR

Orr approves three percent levy bump

by MELISSA ROACH
Staff Writer

ORR-The city council approved their final tax levy for 2018 with an increase of three percent. The council also approved the operating budget in the amount of \$380,559.65 for the coming year. Included in the budget is an increase of 1.5 percent for sewer and water usage rates. The city saw unbudgeted emergency repairs in this department this past year, bringing the council to approve a transfer of unallocated funds from 2016 liquor store profits to offset expenses in the budget for the water and sewer department. The liquor store is expected to show a profit of \$18,939 for 2017. The council approved allocation of \$19,710.31 to the Tourist Information Center to cover the deficit, and \$367.48 dedicated to the Community Library for operational expenses. The approval also included a transfer of \$4,000 to the general fund for 2018. Last year, the city did not raise the levy for 2017.

With the approaching New Year, the council approved the renewal of applications for 2018 insurance for liquor liability, property/casualty, and workmen's compensation coverage. The council also approved continuing the current health insurance plan in 2018 with Blue Cross/Blue Shield for full-time city

employees.

Other business

- In other business, the council:
 - Approved a request from Minnesota Rural Water Association asking for a letter of support to federal representatives requesting funding for the MRWA program. The MRWA has programs through the USDA Rural Development, Farm Services Agency, and the EPA for technical assistance and training for operation and maintenance of small water system infrastructure to comply with the Safe Drinking Water and Clean Water Acts.
 - Approved full-time status for assistant maintenance worker Rocky Hoffman, as he has completed a 90-day probationary period. Councilor Bruce Black took the opportunity to thank Hoffman for stepping into the position and helping with water and sewer supervisor Paul Koch.
 - Approved 2018 cigarette and 3.2 alcohol licenses for Norman's and Pelican Bay Foods.
 - Approved training and travel requests for ambulance personnel.

Department Reports

Water and Sewer Supervisor Paul Koch reported he had received a location request from the railroad to have underground lines marked 100 feet on each side of the railroad

track. He did not have much information as to the reason behind the request. Mayor Joel Astlefort remarked, "It would be nice if the railroad would let the city know." Koch suggested contacting County Commissioner Tom Rukavina to see if he knows what is being planned. Koch also reported that the ice rink is open.

Airport department head Rocky Hoffman told the council the portable fuel tank has a hole that is leaking. Options were discussed concerning a possible temporary fix. He also reported the maintenance truck isn't working well, and will try to keep it running until a new one could be purchased. He noted a grant for snow removal equipment has been sent to MnDOT for review.

The council also approved the transfer of funds from the Cook-Orr Health District to the ambulance savings account in the amount of \$35,084 for the second installment of district levy funds. The ambulance department received \$70,168 for 2017. It was noted that new officers will be elected at the Dec. 21 meeting.

Dallas Johnson reported for the fire department that during a recent test, the tender truck showed leaks in multiple fittings with repairs estimated at \$800.



the TIMBERJAY

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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

NER Elementary winter concert on Tuesday, Dec. 19

BABBITT- The Northeast Range Elementary School winter concert will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 1:30 p.m. at the school auditorium.

"Traditions and the Solstice" at Mesabi Unitarian

VIRGINIA- On Sunday, Dec. 17 at 10:30 a.m. Mesabi Unitarian will learn about the solstice with "The Beliefs That Sustain Us: Traditions and the Solstice." With four days until the solstice, Mary Erickson will discuss the significance of the Himmeli (straw mobiles). We will explore the meaning and beliefs associated with the winter solstice around the world and discuss our own experiences and traditions at the beginning of the winter season.

Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church is located at 230 7th Street S in Virginia. A parent/infant area is provided, as is toddler care, and religious education is provided for the over fives. All are welcome and the building is handicap accessible. Usual services are Sundays at 10:30 a.m. For more information, visit www.mesabiuu.org.

Old-Time Dance at Wolf Creek Dance Hall on Saturday, Dec. 16

ELY- There will be an Old-Time Dance with a caller, with music by "Sugar on the Roof," on Saturday, Dec. 16 starting at 5 p.m. at McKenzie's Dance Hall, 2140 Wolf Creek Pass Rd. (eight miles west of Ely on Hwy. 169). Pot luck dinner begins at 5 p.m. with dancing and music to follow. Donations taken at the door. Limited parking. Please carpool if possible. Any questions, call Tim McKenzie at 218-365-5136.

Genealogy Genie on Dec. 21 at MDC

CHISHOLM- Join us at the Minnesota Discovery Center on Thursday, Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.m. for our next Genealogy Genie class. The topic for this class will be how to use the Iron Range Research Center archives. Some questions that will be answered by our archivist Christopher Welter are: What is an archives? How can I use this archives? Am I able to find a specific family member? Can I get copies of specific items? Each class is free to the public and will last about an hour. Watch our website for upcoming Genealogy Genie classes.

Ruby's Pantry on Dec. 23 in Babbitt

BABBITT- Ruby's Pantry will be distributing food at the Babbitt Municipal Center, 71 South Drive, on Saturday, Dec. 23 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Ruby's Pantry is always the fourth Saturday of each month. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. A \$20 cash donation buys an abundance of food. There are no income or residency guidelines. Please bring two large boxes or baskets. Ruby's Pantry is sponsored by St. Pius X Catholic Church. Volunteers are always welcome.

Let's Make Lefse at MDC on Dec. 21

CHISHOLM- Minnesota Discovery Center's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, educate and promote the Iron Range history and cultural heritage and to serve, manage, promote, sustain and develop the MDC assets for the long-term benefit of regional Iron Range residents and visitors. Providing classes on the tradition of lefse-making helps further our mission.

Please join us at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 21 for our next lefse class. Mara Brownlee, with the Minnesota Discovery Center, and her mother, Nancy Hukka, will be teaching up to 12 participants of all ages how to make the Norwegian delicacy lefse. This hands-on event is offered for only \$10. Participants will get to experience the preparation at three different stations. Folks will have to measure and roll the dough into round balls in the first station. Then they get to practice rolling that dough nice and thin at the next station- which can be the hardest for some! Finally, participants have to transfer the thin lefse to the griddle where they'll have to keep a close eye on it to not burn it! Each person will get to take home some of the lefse that he or she makes along with a recipe card for when they want to make it with their family or friends.

Lefse is a soft, Norwegian flatbread made from potatoes and flour, mixed with cream. Typically lefse is served in Norwegian homes during Thanksgiving and Christmas. For some, lefse-making is a traditional holiday activity. Making lefse in a group is much more enjoyable, especially with family or friends. You can eat lefse by itself, with butter and brown sugar, or with meats and cheeses.

EMBARRASS

Ice candle celebration set for Saturday, Dec. 16



Drive through the candlelit Embarrass Cemetery (located on Hwy. 135 just north of Four Corners) and then stop by the Embarrass Town Hall for coffee an' and activities for children. file photo

EMBARRASS- Everyone is invited to stop by the Embarrass Cemetery on Saturday Dec. 16 for the display of candles in memory of loved ones. A holiday gathering will also be held at the Embarrass Town Hall from 4-6 p.m. Christmas goodies

will be served along with crafts for the kids. Santa will stop in for a visit. Come and enjoy the holiday spirit and the beauty of the ice candles. Donations of Christmas cookies or bars are needed for the Ice Candle and Holiday Gathering.

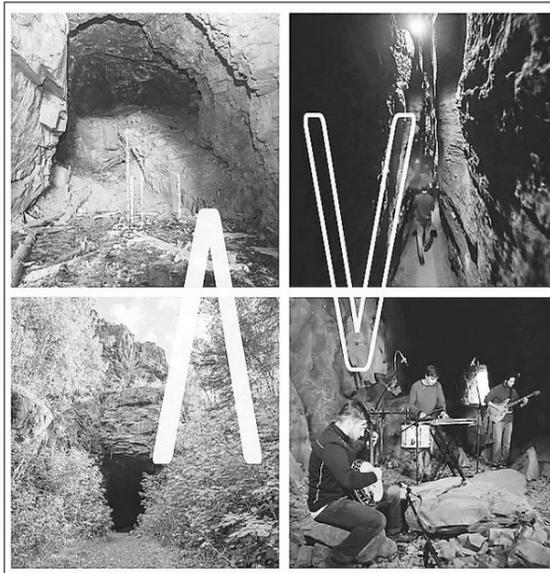
Volunteers are needed to help place the ice candles at the cemetery on Saturday afternoon. This is a fun time for everyone to get involved. Call the Clerk's Office at 218-984-2084 if you have any questions or wish to volunteer.

NORTHERN LAKES ARTS

Performance of Cavernous at VCC on Dec. 16

ELY- Musicians Zack Baltich, Colton Clouse, Ben Baltich, Reese King, and Carley Olson will do a live performance of their unique project, Cavernous, and other original arrangements, at Vermilion Community College on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m.

Throughout 2017, percussionist/composer Zack Baltich has been recording music in different cave-like environments in Minnesota, for a project called Cavernous. Locations included the Section 30 iron ore mine cave near Ely, an ancient natural cave along the Iowa border in Harmony, an abandoned train tunnel south of Duluth, and an abandoned grain silo in Minneapolis. The project has been an attempt to find unique acoustic environments as well as to explore the lesser-known parts and history of Minnesota. Utilizing common percussion instruments (drums, marimba, bells), as well as uncommon (wooden slats, pieces of metal), Zach was accompanied by Colton Clouse and Ben Baltich on guitar and banjo, Reese Kling on drums, and Carley Olson on clarinet. In addition to performing Cavernous in its entirety, the ensemble will also play other original music and arrangements for their



unique instrumentation in a one-hour performance.

Zack Baltich: Composer/percussionist Zack Baltich is interested in blending the world of experimental music with more familiar sounds. By combining years of playing in rock bands and the study of classical percussion, he often finds this intersection by placing these styles in context with one another. With a focus on marimba and custom percussion instruments, Zack has received commissions from the American Composers Forum, the Cedar Cultural Center, and the Minnesota State Arts Board. Originally from Ely, Zack is based out of Minneapolis.

Colton Clouse: Guitarist Colton Clouse is a uniquely versatile and technically skilled musician, as comfortable performing in a chamber music setting as he is playing rock music. Besides performing in various projects with Zack for the past decade, Colton plays in the Minneapolis-based band 50 Foot Canoe, and is an audio engineer. From Ely, Colton now resides in St. Paul.

Ben Baltich: Ben Baltich plays guitar and banjo, and has a knack for emotive and dynamic performance. Ben is not a trained musician, bringing an organic element to the projects that he contributes to. Aside, from playing

with Zack and Colton for years, Ben writes solo music. Also from Ely, Ben lives in St. Paul.

Reese Kling: Watertown native Reese Kling is one of the most sought-after drummers in the Twin Cities. He has performed nationally with various groups, and in early 2017 he performed for troops in Kuwait as a part of the USO program. Reese brings a dynamic and collaborative skill set to his many projects, including Ar.bim, Jessica Manning, Candid Kid, Greysheet, and Ingress/Passage.

Carley Olson: Carley Olson, a Watertown native, is a clarinetist in the Twin Cities area. She performs regularly as a chamber, orchestral, and experimental musician, and is passionate about teaching individual students, as well as small ensembles. Carley's orchestral experiences include playing with the Minneapolis-based Mankato Symphony Orchestra, Wayzata Symphony Orchestra, and the Civic Orchestra of Minneapolis. She also strives to combine her technical capabilities to blend genres, performing with Realtree improvisational group, and frequently with Zack to premier new adventurous music.

BABBITT

Hay Rides with Mr. and Mrs. Claus on Dec. 16

BABBITT- The Babbitt Library is a co-sponsor of this year's Hay Ride with Mr. and Mrs. Claus on Saturday, Dec. 16 from 4-8 p.m. at the Babbitt Municipal Gym. There

will be hot cocoa and cookies. The event is free and open to all. The event is sponsored by Just Bite Me Miller's Bait, Friends of the Babbitt Library, Lossing Building Supplies, Painted

Acres, Mrs. Claus cookie makers, and Frito Lay. The library is also hosting a series of free craft classes from Dec. 18-22 at 3:30 p.m. each day.

ELY WINTER FESTIVAL

2018 Ely ArtWalk artists wanted

ELY- Artists, it's that time again. Believe it or not, the 2018 Ely ArtWalk is just around the corner, Feb. 1-11. The show will once again be held during the Ely Winter Festival. Our non-competitive, non-profit display of Ely's creative talent will be the 19th edition of Ely's hardy midwinter window-shopping event. Traditionally more than 40 businesses participate by offering their store windows as a city-wide gallery. ArtWalk entry registrations are due

on Monday, Dec. 11.

Paper entry forms can be found at Kess Gallery, Art & Soul Gallery and the Chamber of Commerce. Artists can register at www.elyartwalk.org, which can also be accessed through www.elywinterfestival.com. Individual entries require a \$10 fee and groups may register for \$30. Those with PayPal accounts can pay online, the most popular method, but other options are detailed on the site and in the paper application.

The Ely ArtWalk draws many visitors from all around the Arrowhead and beyond. Most of the work can be purchased and one hundred percent of sales go to the artists. The event is made possible, in part, by Minnesota voters through legislative appropriations to the arts and cultural fund via the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council. Additional support comes from the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust Fund and the Ely Chamber of Commerce.

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GREENWOOD

Greenwood hires Mike Indihar as new Assistant Fire Chief

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- The Greenwood Town Board, Tuesday, finally made a decision on hiring employees for the two open fire department positions. But as usual with decisions relating to the fire department, the action was not without controversy.

On a 4-1 vote, with Chairman John Bassing voting against, the board voted to hire Mike Indihar as assistant chief. Indihar had retired from the department over six years ago after serving for 27 years, but recently rejoined. The township had also received an application from Jeff Maus.

The board had previously hired Donovan Strong as assistant fire chief on an interim basis, but had delayed permanently filling the spots until the township's personnel policy and the fire department's own policies and bylaws were approved.

But now that the township policies were all in place, there was still disagreement over how to proceed. At last month's meeting, the board had delayed a decision, because Fire Chief Dave Fazio was not at the meeting and the board did not have copies of the two applications he was recommending. Greenwood Chair John Bassing told the board that he had made repeated requests to Fazio for the applications, but Fazio never forwarded them. He said he finally got a copy of the applications from the clerk, prior to this meeting.

Bassing said there were a couple of issues with Indihar's application. The township's personnel policy for internal recruitment states that a fire department member must have completed a six-month "training period" before being qualified. He noted that Indihar did not technically meet this requirement. He also noted that Indihar had not yet completed the mandatory medical exam.

"I am just saying we passed our policies, and when we didn't follow policy recently it created a problem."

Supervisor Larry Tahija noted that Indihar had plenty of service time in the department. Supervisor Paul Skubic noted the

township had hired the chief to run the department, and that the board should honor his recommendation.

"He is the guy who has to work with these people on a regular basis," Skubic said.

"He was one of our first EMTs," Tahija added.

Bassing advocated for the hiring of Maus, who has 11 years experience as a fire fighter and nine as an EMR. Maus's application also included letters of recommendation from the fire chiefs from Virginia and Hibbing, as well as from Steve Flaherty from the MN Board of Firefighter Training and Education. He noted that Maus had already completed three of the four fire department leadership trainings offered at Camp Ripley.

Maus was previously a lieutenant in the fire department, but when that position was suddenly eliminated by Fazio with the town board's approval, he successfully pursued a case against the township with state regulators.

A motion to hire Maus failed 4-1 with only Bassing voting in favor.

"My feeling," said Bassing, "is that on paper there is a lot of difference here."

The motion to hire Indihar passed 4-1.

The decision to appoint Tammy Mortaloni as administrative assistant was unanimous. She was the single applicant for the position and was recommended by Fazio.

Former interim assistant chief Donovan Strong also spoke to the board, requesting minutes and taped recordings from meetings from the past 18 months, along with any emails relating to his service on the fire department.

"No state law would prevent me, even with the mark on my record, from serving as a fire department officer or member," he told the board. "There have not been any incidents or complaints while doing this job the last 18 months....I have made mistakes in my past and have corrected them." Strong noted he now works for St. Louis County and the DNR.

The board refused to address a memo sent by Township Attorney Mike Couri on the issue

of negligent hiring/retention. The memo was sent specifically in regard to the matter of Strong's hiring as interim assistant chief, and whether or not the township had completed a background check, as required by state law. The memo noted that with Strong's criminal conviction in 2013 (prior to his joining the department), there are liability issues at stake for the township, and recommended that he not be put in a position of authority, though Couri would not recommend dismissal from his position as a firefighter, as long as he would not have unsupervised contact with minors while on duty. The attorney suggested moving Strong to an administrative-only position, unless they would ensure that he would always be adequately supervised.

The board passed a motion, 4-1 with Bassing voting against, to move this item to the January agenda. Bassing has been urging the board to resolve this issue as soon as possible.

In other fire department matters, the board approved the purchase of a new set of turnout gear for a new member who has already completed the required training. The board approved a request from retired Fire Chief Scott Kregness to adjust his accrued number of service years from 23 years and seven months to 25 years, based on time served in 2014. The board also voted to pay Kregness for runs he had completed but had not been paid for in 2014. Fazio told the board that the runs completed might not qualify as a service year credit, and noted that Kregness had missed most trainings and meetings that year since he was working out of state.

Penguins Snowmobile Club land request

The board agreed to work with the Penguins Snowmobile Club on their building project. The club hopes to obtain tax-forfeit land from St. Louis County which they would use to build a maintenance and storage garage for the snowmobile grooming equipment. Club president Mike Indihar has been working with St. Louis County Commissioner Tom Rukavina on the matter. The simplest option, he noted, was

for the township to request the land from the county, since it will be used for the public good. The township could then lease the land to the club, which would build and maintain the building.

Bassing said there are some issues that the township must resolve as far as the public use issue.

The Penguins is an all-volunteer organization. The grooming crews all are volunteers, and at this time the equipment is all housed on private property.

"We carry our own liability insurance and have workman's comp for our volunteers," said Indihar. "We just are looking for a home base."

Indihar said their volunteer force is aging, and they are hoping to attract younger volunteers, such as his son Roth, who are willing to help but do not have the capacity to store equipment.

The motion to move forward with supporting the project passed 4-1 with Bassing voting against. Bassing noted he just wanted to have more information before moving forward. He said the township may need to take ownership of the building and then lease it back to the club, and in that case there may be a need to have some township use in the building, even if just for some equipment storage.

Other business

In other business the board:
 ► Did approve the minutes from the October meeting that were not approved in November. Supervisor Mike Ralston had asked that the complete text, not just a summary, of public input comments made by Jeff Maus be made part of the record. Ralston and Clerk Drobac transcribed the remarks from the recording of the meeting and added them to the minutes.

► Bassing voted no on approving the claims for the month, citing \$1,184.76 paid to Heisel Brothers for work on the outside faucet, and noting that exceeded the \$1,000 spending authority granted to DeLuca at the last meeting. DeLuca noted the claim covered two separate bills.

► Heard from Rick Stoehr, who expressed concerns that the town board is again heading back into controversy.

"Given what we've been seeing I have to ask myself what could possibly go wrong?" he said.

"The Minnesota Association of Township website has a 2017 Township Manual that can be downloaded or read online for free. If nothing else I'd suggest their "Township Government 101, A Township Government Primer". It's only two pages but give a person the basics. Go to mntownships.org," he said.

He noted the board's approval of spending authority for one board members was going against accepted practice. "I seriously doubt that any of the voters in Greenwood Township had given the board the keys to the kingdom," he told the board. "With assets consisting of the town hall, two relatively short roads, a fire department and guidelines readily available from various sources it shouldn't be that difficult to keep us all out of trouble and do the job you asked to do without a lot of drama."

► Was thanked by Mary Richard for their work on the skating rink. Ralston noted it should be ready for skating by this weekend. Bassing has been helping with plowing, and Ralston with flooding. Jeff Maus said the fire department will be helping with flooding.

► Heard from Joanne Bassing, who clarified statements made at the last meeting by DeLuca, who was upset that she had called the Minnesota Department of Health to ask questions about a non-compliant outdoor faucet that had been installed under DeLuca's supervision. Mark Peterson, from the MDH, also sent a letter to the township, which backed up Joanne Bassing's claims, and said her concerns were legitimate and she was correct to contact the department.

► DeLuca asked the board to consider the idea of drilling a second well by the pavilion area, but no action was taken.

► Drobac noted the last township equipment inventory she could find dated back to 1998, so plans are underway to update the inventory list.

► Will work on the township budget and levy request and present it to the board in February.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Northland Alert emergency notification system launched in St. Louis County

REGIONAL- In times of emergency, the sooner people can be notified of the situation and what they should do to protect themselves and others, the better. A new emergency communication tool - Northland Alert - is now available offering faster notification directly to the public.

Northland Alert has two parts. The first is an Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). In an emergency situation, IPAWS allows an emergency text message to be sent to all cell phones within a designated area. The text message will provide details of the emergency and instructions to people in the area of what actions to take, such as to evacuate, shelter in place, or other steps to



protect themselves. This is an automatic notification service, and is sent out through the county's 911 Emergency Communications Center. No subscription is required. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has authorized the county to use this service.

Northland Alert also includes a free subscription option for people who would like to receive alerts about other important - but not necessarily life threatening - situations. Examples include notices about weather conditions, road closures, or missing people. These alerts can be delivered by text, email or automated phone call. Anyone wishing to subscribe should visit northlandalert.com. People can choose any or all of the options for how to receive the alerts. They also can select which agencies' alerts - St. Louis County, Duluth, Hermantown, Hibbing and/or Virginia - they wish to receive.

What's going on at the Edge Center Gallery in Bigfork this winter

BIGFORK- During the snowy months and until April, the Edge Center Gallery has its permanent collection on display during office hours and events only. Behind the scenes, plans are being made for the upcoming season. You can help in three ways.

► If you are an artist, winter is a good time to create work. If you think that you have enough work, you may be interested in a solo or group exhibit in the Edge Center Gallery. In order to be considered, the gallery committee needs to see several photos of your work. These images may be sent to the Edge Center on a CD or emailed to Al.Gustaveson@arvig.net. The gallery

committee will make decisions about the 2018 season by mid-February, so please submit your work soon. Later submissions will be kept on file for next season.

► You may want to enter Art on the Edge: Fourteenth Annual Juried Art Exhibit, which will be on view in July. The submissions are due in early May. A juried art show has a time-honored way of being organized. An experienced independent juror is picked because of his or her involvement in the visual arts. They are paid to select from submitted artwork those pieces that they think are the strongest. Inevitably, some pieces are rejected. The local Gallery committee has no input on this

selection and the juror's decisions are final. There will be more information in next month's Watts News. When more details are available, they will be on the website www.the-edge-center.org.

► Become a "Friend of the Gallery". Your donations of \$30 go a long way toward allowing the Edge Gallery to present diverse and fascinating exhibits. Send a check to Edge Center Gallery, PO Box 303, Bigfork, MN 56628, or include a donation with your Edge Center membership, or easiest of all, use the Online Donations link on the Edge website at www.the-edge-center.org.

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TAX TIME

Tax-Aide Program provides free tax services

Volunteers needed to work four hours per week for AEOA program

REGIONAL- Before we know it, tax season will arrive. You can make someone's life less taxing by serving as a volunteer with the Tax-Aide Program. Volunteers provide free tax informa-

tion and return preparation for low and middle-income taxpayers of all ages, from Feb. 1 through April 15.

Tax-Aide preparers are people like you who enjoy working with numbers,

have community spirit, are eager to learn basic tax information, have good computer skills, take pride in doing a good job, and enjoy helping others.

Tax preparers are supported onsite by an experienced lead volunteer.

Training is scheduled for January in Mt. Iron. Materials are available prior to that date and are shipped to your home. If you can attend the training and are willing to provide

just four hours of service each week from Feb. 1 - April 15, call Denise, AEOA Volunteer Programs, at 218-735-6832 or 1-800-662-5711 ext. 6832 or e-mail denise.ramfjord@aeoa.org.

Volunteer tax preparers are being sought to serve the communities of Chisholm, Hibbing, and Virginia. Receptionists and an on-call IT volunteer are needed in the Virginia location.

SMITH...Continued from page 1

she's seen and heard their economic struggles. She vowed to be an advocate for "economic opportunity and fairness," especially for women and people of color.

Dayton praised her as a public official of "impeccable integrity" who'll make Minnesota proud in the Senate. Smith, 59, is a New Mexico native who moved to Minnesota for a job with General Mills. She lives in Minneapolis with her husband. They have two grown sons.

Smith has been a remarkably active Lt. Governor and has frequently represented the governor for events around the state. She has been in the North Country on several occasions, including the dedication of the Lake Vermilion Soudan Underground Mine State

Park and the most recent Governor's Fishing Opener on Lake Vermilion. Smith is an outdoor enthusiast, who had set a goal to visit each of the state's 67 state parks.

Smith has also led several administration initiatives, including rural broadband expansion, early childhood education and economic development. Smith had been widely considered to be a likely candidate to succeed Dayton, but she had announced earlier this year that she did not intend to run. "For me it was a personal decision as I thought about how I want to spend my time and where I can make a big difference," she told Minnesota Public Radio at the time. "There are so many different ways of contributing to the future of this state."

Smith's promotion comes in the wake of Franken's decision to resign over allegations of sexual misconduct from before and during his time in office. In his Dec. 7 remarks on the Senate floor, Franken said he strongly supports the current conversation about sexual harassment by powerful men and said that women's allegations need to be taken seriously. At the same time, he said some of the allegations against him are untrue, while others differ from his own recollection of events. He said he was confident that the ethics committee would have exonerated him.

"But this decision is not about me, it is about the people of the state of Minnesota," said Franken. "And it has become clear that I cannot both pursue

the ethics committee process and remain an effective senator for them."

Equally clear was that the steady drip of new allegations had reached a tipping point, and had prompted several Democratic senators to call for Franken's resignation earlier this week. Those calls came just one day after longtime Democratic Representative John Conyers had stepped down over alleged sexual improprieties.

Franken noted the contrast between how such allegations are affecting Democrats versus Republicans "I of all people am aware that there is some irony in the fact that I am leaving while a man who has bragged on tape about his history of sexual assault sits in the Oval Office and a man who has repeatedly

preyed on young girls campaigns for a seat in the Senate with the full support of his party," he said, alluding to President Donald Trump and Alabama U.S. Senate candidate Roy Moore.

Franken also paid homage to his staff and those who have helped him over the years, including his colleague Sen. Amy Klobuchar.

Franken hasn't said yet exactly when he'll be leaving the Senate, although Smith said she's been told it will be sometime in early January. While she applauded Franken as an effective voice for Minnesota, Smith made it clear she will not be in his shadow and that she should not be underestimated as a politician or as a candidate for election next year in what likely will be a highly

competitive race.

"I will take on this role in my own way using my own judgment and experience," she said.

Smith's appointment to the Senate does create some uncertainty surrounding leadership in the state Senate. Minnesota's succession plan calls for the Senate president to become lieutenant governor in the event of a vacancy, and that would fall to state Sen. Michelle Fischbach, R-Paynesville. With Republicans currently in control of the state Senate by a single vote, the move could alter the balance of power in the assembly.

Minnesota Public Radio contributed reporting for this story. You can hear Minnesota Public Radio at 89.3 FM in Ely and at 92.5 FM on the Iron Range.

TOWER...Continued from page 1

"I'm in favor of leaving the ambulance the way it is operating now," he said.

But Ambulance Director Steve Altenburg and Mayor Josh Carlson argued that the number of calls handled by volunteers and Altenburg has increased dramatically in recent years. Carlson noted that Altenburg has done 246 runs so far this year, while volunteer Jake Schmidt has done 171. "We are very lucky we have Steve and Jake," said Carlson. But that pace is not sustainable forever," said Altenburg.

Altenburg said the 120 hours per week when the department would have paid on-call staff available would provide a needed break to the system's volunteers.

Dougherty noted that the addition of First Responders to the ambulance system has provided some relief for other volunteers. "That solves an issue," said Dougherty. "That has helped, most definitely," acknowledged Altenburg, "but because we've won a battle doesn't mean we stop fighting the war."

Altenburg said the service has still had to turn down 144 transfers for the year, through the end of November, due to lack of personnel. He said volunteers were able to handle 64 transfers.

City Clerk Treasurer Linda Keith said the transfers net the city about \$1,000 per run, not including the salaries of staff, generating about \$150,000 per year if the city was able to do all the transfers. But the city is ramping up at the same time that several other larger area departments are doing the same, hoping to tap the transfer dollars, which could limit the actual number available to the Tower Ambulance in the future.

Councilor Brooke Anderson asked about the cost of the house rental.

"It would be \$1,937 for each six-month period," Keith answered.

"Ah, plus utilities," added Altenburg. "They're offering us a fair value, that's why we're considering it."

Councilor Kevin Fitton was convinced, and motioned to allow the department to move forward with the house

rental. "It doesn't look like, what \$3,000 in a year, and it sounds like with the estimates you already have here there's enough to be net positive."

The city will likely wait for a few months before renting the facility in either case. Altenburg said he'll need to re-advertise for the on-call positions, which means the new system likely won't be up and running until March.

In other business, the council gave the green light for the Tower Economic Development Authority to move forward with construction of an approximately 8,000-8,500 square foot building to provide space for the expansion of Lamppa Manufacturing as well as some additional space for a second business, or for a later expansion for Lamppa. TEDA had made the recommendation to move forward with the larger building at its regular meeting last week.

Carlson expressed skepticism of the idea initially, arguing that he didn't want the city to have to pay the cost of heating empty space if a tenant for the additional space didn't come along.

"I'd feel a hell of a lot better if I knew there was something that would go in there right away," said Carlson.

Altenburg questioned whether the space would meet the needs of many other businesses. But City Engineer Matt Bolf said the space would likely simply be roughed in and would be finished to meet the needs of whatever tenant was interested. "It would be left mostly open," said Bolf. Altenburg also questioned if the additional space would make it more difficult for one of the tenants to build a future expansion.

TEDA President Marshall Helmberger argued that it would be

much cheaper to build the extra square footage as part of the current project rather than build a second building a few years down the line. He noted that city officials have been complaining about a lack of storage space for the ambulance department and suggested the extra space could be used temporarily for city storage if a tenant was not immediately forthcoming.

Helmberger also noted that the Norwegian-based company Glami-tec, which is headed by Tower Vision 2025 investor Lars Hansted, is seriously interested in opening a franchise of the specialty glass manufacturer in Tower, and that the extra space would likely meet their needs.

Dougherty agreed that the city needs to encourage business development, and noted the lack of commercial space in the city. "What have we got to offer someone right now?" he asked. "This might be the perfect opportunity."

Councilor Brad Match agreed, and supported Dougherty's motion to move forward with the larger proposed building, which the council then approved.

In other action, the council again declined to approve the installation of a street light on an existing pole near the entrance to the Marjo Motel, despite the motel operator's offer to pay the \$197 installation cost along with the electric bill for its operation. TEDA had addressed the issue at their December meeting and had forwarded a recommendation to install the light given that it's an identified public safety issue and that the problem was created by the city, which significantly modified the entrance to the motel as a result of the Hwy. 169 bridge project. Helmberger said the new entrance is difficult to see, even in daylight. "At night-

time, it's very difficult," he said. "The street light seemed like a relatively low cost fix," he added. The council has twice before rejected the request, initially based on claims by the city clerk that the project would cost \$20,000. At the last meeting, Carlson suggested the light would cost \$15,000. But while the council seemed to agree this time that the light cost would actually be minimal, and that the motel operator would pay for it, they raised objections that the light would be located on private property. The light, in fact, appears to be located within the public right-of-way, which is why MnDOT's approval would be required for the light. MnDOT engineer Duane Hill has already agreed to installation of the light in the right-of-way if the city submits the request form to Minnesota Power.

Dougherty suggested looking at extending street lights to other parts of the city's west end. "If you put just one there, you're essentially putting it in for a private service," he said. "And it would be on private property," said Keith. "And it's on private property," repeated Dougherty.

Altenburg said if the council was going to approve a streetlight at the motel's highway entrance, he wanted one by his driveway. "My street is dark, I want the city to put up a light on my private property, too."

When asked following the meeting what documentation she had that the light pole is located on private property, Keith said she would have to have the site measured to be certain. This reporter measured the pole on Wednesday, which appears to be located well within the highway right-of-way, which is not considered private property.

In other business, the

council:

► Agreed to proceed with legal service to a property owner at 205 N. Third Street, whose fence was recently determined to be partially on a neighbor's property. The city will be seeking an order to relocate or remove the fence.

► Approved changes to the rules at the Tower Airport, as recommended by the Airport Commission, including a provision to begin termination of hangar leases if payment is not made within 90 days of the due date. The airport will also require each hangar owner to base an airplane in Tower, so the hangar owners are using airport services and not simply using the space for storage. The council also approved a modest tie-down fee for plane owners who make use of that opportunity.

► Approved a resolution establishing a water and sewer rate increase effective in 2018.

► Gave the first reading to an ordinance change that would incorporate a 40-acre parcel on the city's west end into the city limits.

► Approved an additional \$1,000 in longevity pay to cover a portion of Randy Johnson's medical costs for 2018. The council voted 4-1 for the increase, with Carlson voting no.

► Learned that Keith will be switching her union representation from MAPE to the Teamsters. Keith said the change would have no additional cost to the city.

► Approved an initial pay estimate for Utility Systems of America on the Hoodoo Point project for \$148,658.

► Approved a 2018 FAA Airport pre-application.

► Tabled action on the city budget until a second meeting set for Monday, Dec. 18.

ELY...Continued from page 1

happen to be members of the ERCC board, expressed favorable views for the idea.

Fourteen people told the board in various ways that locating the recreational center on the school campus was a bad idea for taxpayers, the community, and the students of ISD 696.

School board member Tom Omerza attempted to amend the motion to allow the board to get more information in order to agree on specific terms and conditions before voting on the matter at a later time.

Board chair Ray Marsnik, clearly irritated at Omerza's 11th-hour attempt to change the wording of the motion, said he would have appreciated bringing up the wording changes before the meeting. "This motion was put on the agenda, and I myself have studied this long enough," he said. "I've been looking at this for more than a year. What you are suggesting here is kicking this down the street."

The motion to change the wording of the motion was defeated by a 3-3 vote.

The original motion said, "Moved by (blank), seconded by (blank), if the Ely Regional Community Complex (ERCC) delivers a financially viable plan to construct, support and sustain its project consisting of a pool, gymnasium, fitness center and other spaces outlined in its proposal, without encumbering School District bonding or other funds, except for a fee for service/usage basis, is the School Board of Independent School District 696 willing to

allow its construction on existing school district property?"

Several members of the community chose to voice their opinions on the ERCC concept. Many of the comments centered on the financial viability and sustainability of a recreational center in a town of Ely's size. At least one resident asked about state bonding specifics and who would actually "own" the recreational facility. Another wondered why a community should pay more in property taxes to support a tax-exempt facility.

Many Ely community members have rallied around the competitive nature and financial impact of a recreational complex on existing fitness-related businesses in town.

Nichole Boitz, owner of Studio North Fitness Center, spoke about the effect the ERCC would have on her 19-year business. "In a small business, every dollar counts," she said. "The community was told the proposal would not duplicate or compete with existing businesses. The plan has drastically changed. Their goal is to operate like a YMCA or a non-profit government-subsidized organization using taxpayers' state bonding money."

She asked what such a facility would do to existing businesses in Ely. "This means the slow, painful demise, or a very quick (demise), both with the same end result: loss of several businesses, loss of hundreds of thousands of tax dollars, loss of an established fitness center, loss of community projects and outreach programs, and

loss of a dance program that has involved more than 3,000 Ely youth."

She added that all of those benefits would be taken away using taxpayers' dollars through state bonding money. The ERCC proposal calls for applying for as much as \$5 million in state borrowing. "There will also be a loss of economic development. I caution you not to put the school district and the community in financial risk. Ely is a huge proponent of small businesses. What kind of message would this send to the community if we don't embrace and encourage that?" she asked.

Boitz said she was in favor of the construction of a privately-funded pool on private property. "I would be open and supportive of dual memberships," she said. "I would also be supportive if the school district would reach out to the community for expansion of gym space on school property. Let's utilize the taxpayers' state bonding money for much needed infrastructure."

Ely Memorial High School senior Emma Larson followed Boitz and talked about the impact Studio North has had on her life. "I've been dancing at Studio North since I was two years old and I can't stress enough the way Studio North, and Nicole specifically, has changed my life in such a positive way," she said.

"Through dancing at Studio North, the most important things I have gained are self esteem, communication skills and how to push through the hard situations," Larson said. "Studio North is my

safe place."

She described her fear of the Ely community losing the popular dance studio. "If the proposed ERCC is built, business will be taken away from the gym at Studio North, which would also put the dance studio out of business. This facility is such a great asset to our community and I can't grasp the idea of it not being here."

Larson also questioned the issue of maintaining safety at the school campus with the ERCC building adjacent to the school buildings. "I would not feel safe going to gym class in a building that any person in the community had access to. Shouldn't your priority be student safety?"

Former Ely mayor and St. Louis County Planning Commission Chair Roger Skraba questioned the zoning ramifications of locating the ERCC on school property. "The property is zoned P-1. Our city code would allow that, but the issue that I have is if a day care is opened in it or if retail is brought in, that is not allowed," he said.

Skraba also questioned the parking issue. "You are going to need 250 parking spaces, minimum. These are zoning issues that you are going to be part of in this decision-making process," he said.

ERCC Board member Todd Heiman urged the school board to vote to "partner" with the ERCC board to determine whether it is feasible for the ERCC to be located on school grounds. "During this process, either party may determine that it is not feasible and stop the

process," he said. "The primary and fundamental reason we ask you to consider our proposal to locate the ERCC on school grounds is for the children of our community. We envision children flooding into the facility at the end of the school day. We picture them participating in open gym, open swim, team practices, and activities in the after-school lounge like doing homework with friends and working on computers."

Ely Police Chief John Lahtonen said he was concerned with the traffic congestion problems that exist around the school, already. "Building the rec center there would only make the situation more dangerous," he said. He also voiced his concerns with other safety issues involved with allowing the public to be on school property.

Under the old business portion of the meeting, school board member Scott Kellerman made a motion to approve the ERCC motion as stated. The motion was supported by Omerza.

Board member James Pointer said he did not agree with the wording of the motion. "It is important that we look at these other questions," he said.

Omerza expressed a desire to take the time to work out such issues as safety concerns and business competition. "I would like to further this so we can get specifics," he said.

Marsnik reiterated his opinion that the ERCC proposal has been put on hold long enough to get more information. "We had a study session last month where the board agreed to put this up for a

vote in December," he said. "I've been giving this much thought for the last year. I've talked to people, visited the Grand Marais complex, and listened to my constituents. I did my homework on this."

He said he "found it very rare" for a school district to open a recreational complex on its own land. "It is rarer yet for a school district to lease land to a private business," he said. "The role of a school board is to educate kids, and to provide and maintain the buildings necessary to do that. I don't think the (school) board should be getting into the recreational business. That falls into the hands of the city."

According to Marsnik, the school administrative team believes the present facilities are adequate for handling physical education offerings. "The athletic director feels we could use more space for our after-school activities," he said.

"My second concern is the financial or legal liabilities for this district," Marsnik added. I refuse to do anything to jeopardize this district."

Board member Scott Kellerman, who made the motion to vote on the ERCC proposal, said, "We can always change our minds," he said. "If we want more time to study the issues and the ERCC (board) can wait, I don't see why can't accommodate that."

Kellerman rescinded his motion, with support from Omerza, and made a new motion to table the issue. The vote was tabled on a 4-2 vote with Marsnik and Rochelle Sjoberg voting no.

PATROL...Continued from page 1

completes a 17-week training course at Camp Ripley. He'll begin his training shortly after the first of the year.

"I'm thankful for the opportunity I had to serve the citizens of Breitung Township and the city of Tower," Anderson said. "I'm also thankful for the friendships I've gained by living and working in our communities," he added. In the future, Anderson said that he looks forward to continuing to serve the community as a state trooper.

Anderson also reported that the police department has finished moving into their new office in the former MINOS Surface Building and is now in the last steps of organizing their equipment and paperwork. Anderson reported that the department has

been experiencing a low-call volume, as is usual for this time of year. A new camera was just installed in the 2012 Tahoe police squad. Anderson cautioned that the ice can be dangerous this year and ice fishermen should be checking ice depths to ensure their safety.

The town board also agreed to a new police contract, with pay increases for staff. The police chief position will be paid \$25.75 and the police lieutenant will receive \$22.50 starting in 2018. In 2019 they will each receive an additional \$0.90 per hour raise. The police chief currently makes \$23.69 and the lieutenant makes \$20.46. The full-time officers have the option to pay \$125 per month for medical insurance. The officers also received two additional

personal holidays and an increase in uniform allowance from \$600 to \$800.

The town board set a special meeting for Thursday, Dec. 28 at 1 p.m. to discuss finding a replacement for Anderson.

In other news, the township board:

- Received only one bid for the post office renovation project, from Lenci Enterprises. The project was bid at \$189,800, with alternates. The board rejected the bid and declined the project stating that the price was too high. The board also mentioned that other costs, such as \$20,000 estimated to regrade the asphalt outside, the cost of paying a postal worker to supervise construction, and costs for architectural services would add to the final cost putting the project further out of their budget.
- Cashed out two savings certificates for \$100,000 and \$200,000 in their equipment replacement fund from Frandsen Bank and will be combining them into one \$300,000 certificate for a one-year term.
- Will send Supervisor Greg Dostert to attend a CDBG meeting on Jan. 9 to follow up on a grant application made for funding for city maintenance projects.
- Received notice that the unemployment rate in Breitung is 0.2 percent, down from 0.22 percent last year.

Discussed combining the current Clerk and Treasurer positions into a single full-time hired position, rather than an elected position. Councilors stated that this may be an appropriate course of action because of the positions' difficult nature and need for

significant training and knowledge, as well as time required. The positions are both currently elected positions with two-year terms.

► Next meetings will be Thursday, Dec. 28 at 1 p.m. and Tuesday, Jan. 23 at 6 p.m.

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies romping on the court

Six players hit double figures in 111-38 rout of Nashwauk-Keewatin

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

FIELD TWP— For the Grizzlies, the basketball season is looking a lot like their section-winning effort in football this year, as they continue to dominate their opponents on the court.

On Tuesday, North Woods crushed Nashwauk-Keewatin 111-38 as six Grizzlies scorers

hit double figures. “We’re playing really well on both sides of the ball,” said Grizzlies Head Coach Will Kleppe. “Our defense caused a lot of turnovers early in the game and we were able to take advantage.” That allowed the Grizzlies to run up a 69-21 margin by the break, which they padded substantially in the second half.

Cade Goggeye and Brendan Parson paced the Grizzlies, with 19 points apiece, while Tate

Olson and Tanner Lokken each added 14. Chase Kleppe and TJ Chiabotti added ten apiece.

“It was a good balanced effort,” said Kleppe.

It was much the same story last Friday as the Grizzlies corralled Fond du Lac 97-40 on the Ogichidas’ home court. Fond du Lac’s Uriah Aubid kept the game interesting for a time, as his aggressive play and hot shooting gave the Ogichidas an early lead.

Right: Junior guard Chase Kleppe makes a jump shot during Tuesday’s rout of the Spartans.

But when the Grizzlies put it in gear, there was little stopping them. They rallied to lead 54-32 at the break and held Fond du Lac to just eight points in the second half.

See **GRIZZLIES...**pg. 2B



HOCKEY

Wolves ice first win of the season

Fall to Eveleth-Gilbert in midweek action

by JAY GREENEY
Sports writer

EVELETH – Ely traveled to Eveleth-Gilbert on Tuesday with just 13 healthy players on the roster. The Wolves got to within a goal early in the second period but then ran out of gas. They fell by a final score of 15-4.

On the bright side, they notched their first win of the season against May-Port on Saturday.

In Tuesday’s action, the Golden Bears put the pressure on early, scoring four goals in the first period, before Gage Merhar put Ely on the board with just 1:44 remaining. The Bears heavily outshot the Wolves 16-3 in the stanza.

Two quick Ely points closed the gap early in the second period, but that was the high point for the Wolves as Eveleth-Gilbert scored six of the next seven goals to take a 10-4 lead into the final period. The Bears converted two power plays into goals during the period.

Playing running time in the third, the Bears would add five more goals to their game total.

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



Junior forward Nick Mattila drives the puck towards the May-Port goal during last Friday’s game in Ely. The Wolves notched their first win of the season. photo by J. Greeney

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies slip to Cherry

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

CHERRY — The Grizzlies girls suffered their first loss of the season Monday night in Cherry, falling 63-41 to the Tigers. Cherry dominated much of the game defensively, but struggled with shooting, which helped keep the Grizzlies in the hunt until the final minutes. The Tigers took a 29-22 lead into the break, and expanded on it in the second half. The Grizzlies did rally early in the second half, closing the gap to four points after Cherry sent in their B-squad for a time. But the Tigers pulled away in the later going to clinch the win.

Junior guard Bria Chiabotti led scoring for the Grizzlies with 14 points, followed by sophomore center Sasha Strong, with nine points. Allana Rutchansky scored four points, and Brynn Simpson scored three. Nicole Olson, Hanna Sandberg, and Kennedy Wardas scored two points apiece.

In action last Thursday, at North Woods, four Grizzlies reached double



North Woods sophomore forward Nicole Olson looks cross-court during action against Cherry on Monday.

figures as they edged South Ridge in a hard-fought contest, 72-65.

It was a nail-biter from start to finish, as the Grizzlies clung to 36-35 lead at half-

time and were never able to pull away until the final minute or two.

Junior guard Bria

See **GIRLS...**pg. 2B

Ely back on a winning track

by JAY GREENEY
Sports writer

HILL CITY – Ely took to the road Saturday hoping to even their early season record at Hill City. The Wolves came out fast and never looked back to beat the Lady Hornets 65-28.

“This was a great team victory,” said Ely Head Coach Darren Visser. “We had many people contribute on both offense and defense.”

It appears the young team is building confidence and chemistry and is enjoying scoring success from several players.

“It was nice to see that when one person wasn’t shooting well other people picked them up and contributed,” said Visser. “It allowed everyone to find their rhythm with time.”

The Wolves were led by Erika Mattson with 20 points while Brielle Kallberg notched a double-double, with 16 points to go with a team high 12 rebounds. Shayla Zaverl had ten points and led the team with seven assists while Gabi Omerza had a good night shooting with ten points.

In home action last Thursday, the Wolves struggled against International Falls. The Broncos built a large first half deficit and the Wolves just couldn’t recover— losing by a final score of 60-

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

Sports week

Boys bball

Friday, Dec. 15
NW hosts Ely, 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 19
NW hosts Floodwood, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 21
Ely hosts Lake of the Woods, 7:15 p.m.

Girls bball

Monday, Dec 18
NW hosts Wrenshall, 7:15 pm
Ely hosts Chisholm, 7:15 pm

Tuesday, Dec 19
NER at Fond du Lac, 7:15 pm
Ely at Silver Bay, 6:15 pm

Hockey

Saturday, Dec. 16
Ely at SW Christian, 1:45 pm.

Nordic ski

Wednesday, Dec. 20
Grand Rapids Invite, 11 am

BOYS BASKETBALL

Ely stays perfect in early going

Wolves rout Hill City and beat bigger I-Falls squad, 76-61

by JAY GREENEY
Sports writer

HILL CITY – Ely used an aggressive full court pressure and a quick strike offense to overpower Hill City on Saturday, 89-35. The Wolves were again able to clear the bench to get some valuable playing time for the underclassmen as they have been playing a small rotation in close games so far this year.

“We got down early but played well after that,” said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald. “We jumped out to a 49-27 half-time lead and continued to add to our lead in the second half.”

Ely appears to be playing with plenty of confidence, but they will face some stiff competition in their next couple games

that will test their early season mettle.

The Wolves had four players in double figures against the Hornets, led by Adam McDonald who scored 32 points, six rebounds, and four assists. Carter Gaulke had 18 points along with nine assists while Blaise Lah notched another double-double, with ten points and 13 rebounds. Trevor Mattson added 11 points.

The Wolves were tested by a much taller International Falls team last Friday. The Wolves shot the ball well and limited their turnovers early to build a big lead and cruised to a 76-61 win.

The Wolves didn't let their lack of size bother them as they rebounded well and continued to drive to the hoop for layups.



Left: Senior guard Adam McDonald makes a move on a fast break. He led the Wolves with 32 points in their game against International Falls last Friday.

photo by J. Greeney

“We did a nice job of rebounding against a bigger more physical team,” said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald. “We played well as a team offensively.”

Ely had a number of big performances and was led again by senior Adam McDonald who put up 32 points along with five rebounds and Carter Gaulke, who notched 23 points, eight rebounds, and six assists.

Ely heads to North Woods on Friday to take on the undefeated Grizzlies. Game time is 7:15 p.m.

Sports briefly

More struggles for NER girls

EVELETH – Northeast Range continues to have problems scoring. They managed just 15 points in a 61-15 shellacking by Eveleth-Gilbert on Tuesday..

It has been a challenging season so far for the Nighthawks as they have lost by over 20 points in all but one game this year.

NER played two other games this past week. Silver Bay came to Babbitt and won 61-16. Before that, they played their best game of the season, but still lost to Chisholm

42-25.

The Nighthawks will have two more opportunities to get a win before the Christmas break. They were set to host Cook County Thursday night with an early start of 4:45 p.m. They hit the road to Fond du Lac on Dec. 19. Game time is 7:15 p.m.

HOCKEY...Continued from page 1B

Despite the blowout, Ely's Merhar notched a hat trick and now leads the team with nine points. Fellow senior Thomas Montana scored the Wolves' other goal.

Ely 5, May-Port 1

The Wolves gave up a first period goal to visiting May-Port this past Saturday. Ely then turned the tide and scored the next five goals to win their first game of the young season 5-1.

Ely has allowed their opponents

to take a one-goal lead in every game so far this year.

Ely scored its first goal of the game with 13:32 left in the second period to tie the score. The second period ended with the score tied 1-1.

The Wolves had their best period of the year scoring four unanswered goals in the third, with aggressive offense and penalty-free play.

The Wolves were led by sophomore Luke Olson who had two

goals while senior Gage Merhar had a goal and an assist. Juniors Nick Mattila and Austin Meskill each added a goal. Eighth-grade goal tender Chase Sandberg had a huge night as he allowed just one goal on 28 shot attempts for a .964 save percentage.

The 1-4 Wolves next head to St. Paul to play Highland Park at 7 p.m. on Friday. They take on Southwest Christian on Saturday. Tip off is set for 1:45 p.m.

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

“That was quite an accomplishment,” said Kleppe. “It was another good team effort.”

All five of the Grizzlies starters hit double digits again, with Tate

Olson leading the charge with 25 points.

The Grizzlies host undefeated Ely on Friday in a game that could offer a preview of a section show-

down. “They're a very good team,” said Kleppe. “Very athletic, and they've got a lot of the same guys they had last year.” Game time is 7:15 p.m.

ELY GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

48. Ely had 25 turnovers in the game with most of those coming in the first half as International Falls built their big lead. The Wolves rallied in the second half, but by then it was too late. “We were able to find some rhythm on offense,”

said Visser. “We were able to take a 23-point half time deficit and get it down to single digits in the second half.”

Brielle Kallberg led the Wolves with a double-double, including 19 points, ten rebounds and four blocked shots. Shayla Zaverl added 19 points

along with nine rebounds and Erika Mattson put up 11 points and a team-high five assists.

Ely defends its 2-2 record as they host Chisholm on Monday, Dec. 18. Game time is 7:15 p.m.

GIRLS...

Continued from page 1B

Chiabotti led the way for the Grizzlies, with 19 points, including two three-pointers, while Hanna Sandberg hit two treys of her own en route to 18 points for the game. Kate Stone added 14 points and Regan Ratai 13, including a three-pointer. Kayla Palm added four points and Allana Rutchasky and Kennedy Wardas added two points apiece.

The Grizzlies were set to host Fond du Lac on Thursday night. They'll host Wrenshall next Monday, with a 7:15 p.m. start.



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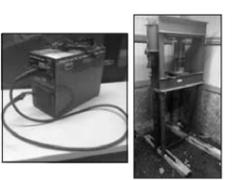
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Obituaries And Death Notices

George Rukavina

George Rukavina, 89, of Ely, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2017, in his home.

He was born to Steve Rukavina and Kathryn (Karakas) Rukavina on Jan. 26, 1928. George attended the Ely Schools until he quit in 1946 to go to work and take care of the family. He started work for the U.S. Forest Service in 1944; the following year he worked for the DMIR Railroad. He joined the U.S. Army in 1946, putting in one year in Korea, was honorably discharged and returned to work on the railroad. He was a part of a team of three who then started an Army Reserve unit, the 982nd Construction Battalion from Ely, which was three years inactive, then activated for two years during the Korean War in August 1950. In 1952, he was discharged again and started work for the Oliver Mining Company at Pioneer Mine for two years. He began work for the Reserve Mining Company in 1954, running jet-piercing machines and tottary drills for 34 years, and two years for Cyprus Minerals, after which he retired.

George's hobbies were netting fish in Shagawa Lake for 52 years, smoking and pickling tons of fish. He fished lake trout in Canada and was a sausage maker. He felt he must have done something right when asked to smoke trout for Governor Rudy Perpich for his last birthday in office. George's other hobbies were carpentry, plumbing, electrical work, baking poticas of all kinds, and tending a large garden.

He traveled to Mexico twice in one of his many vehicles, taking in the bull-fights, and deep-sea fishing off of Acapulco. He visited Las Vegas many times, the Seattle World's Fair, the Mardi Gras in New Orleans, hunted Hudson Bay for geese, and was a member of the Ely Bowling League and the Ely Golf Club.

George is survived by his brother, Karl Rukavina; niece, Cecilia Rolando; nephew, Seraphine M. Rolando (wife Pat), great-niece, Amanda and great-nephew, Mathew and their families; nieces, Andrea Bailey and Carol Stahl (husband Burnie) and their families; special friend, Pat Marty of Babbitt and family; sister-in-law, Mary Rukavina of Minneapolis, her sons, Tom and John, and her daughter, Susan Johnson; and many great friends.

George was preceded in death by his parents, Kathryn and Steve Rukavina; brother, Steve Rukavina; sisters, Olga Rolando and Mary Jaworski, and their spouses, Seraphine F. Rolando and Andrew Jaworski; and niece, Mary Jaworski.

William F. Mayerle

William "Billy" Frank Mayerle, 67, a lifelong resident of Ely, died on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017, at Essentia Health Virginia Care Center. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely with Rev. Dana Thompson officiating. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church. Luncheon will follow the service and interment will be at a later date in the Ely Cemetery. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his daughter, Kathie (Shawn) Hill and four grandsons, Timothy, Adam, Bryce Williamson and Easton Hill, all of Winton; and many close friends.

Carol D. Austreng

Carol Delores Ostlund Austreng, a longtime Babbitt resident, died on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017, at Carefree Living in Babbitt. Interment was in Lakeview Cemetery in Blackduck.

She is survived by her husband, Adolph Austreng; brothers, Richard Ostlund and family of Lake Elmo, and Stanley Ostlund and family of Minong, Wis.;

children, Pamela Austreng and family of Duluth, Kimberly (Austreng) Harvey and family of Eveleth, and Tracey Austreng and family of Babbitt.

Vera M. Keister

Vera Marie Gustavson Keister, 87, of Fairbanks, Alaska, formerly of Cook, passed away on Monday, Dec. 4, 2017, at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. Per Vera's wishes, there will be no service.

She is survived by her children, Shirley (Gary) Baumgartner of Cook, Barbara (Fred) McKenzie of Hohenwald, Tenn., Bonnie (Ronnie) Woods of Valdez, Alaska, James Keister of Seattle, Wash., Jeanne Keister of Sisters, Ore., and Bill (Karen) Keister of Fairbanks, Alaska; eight grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and special friends.

Carol J. Moore

Carol Jean Salo McCormick Moore, 66, of Eugene, Ore., formerly of Babbitt, passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017, at Peace Health Sacred Heart Medical Center at Riverbend in Springfield, Ore., following a brief illness. Per Carol's wishes, no services were held. She was cremated and her ashes

will be scattered at Cannon Beach, Ore.

She is survived by her husband, Ray Moore; daughter, Jacqueline (Brian) Harris of Brentwood, Calif.; son, Bruce McCormick (partner Craig Holley) of Eugene, Ore.; sister, Corrine (Randall) Mahlman of Owatonna; and brother, Kevin Salo of Soudan.

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Outdoors

Our lives in the
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Outdoors briefly

Snowmobile trails remain in poor condition

REGIONAL — Area snowmobile trails are now open, but DNR trails officials are recommending that riders stay off the trails until there's more snow. "Trails are open but are very rough," said DNR area trails specialist Brad Dekkers.

"Trails remain ungroomed due to lack of snow and the swamps aren't frozen well enough in many cases," Dekkers said. "The wetland areas are especially rough due to frozen ruts and hummocks."

Trail crews are continuing to clear portions of the Arrowhead Trail of trees and overhanging brush brought down in a late October snowstorm. Crews are also packing the trails in wetland areas to facilitate freeze-up.

Both the Taconite and Arrowhead trails are listed in poor condition and remain ungroomed. Snow depths range from two-to-five inches along portions of the Taconite Trail, with four-to-eight inches along the Arrowhead. Neither trail has anything more than a negligible base.

Wheeled trailers will need fishing licenses this year

REGIONAL — If you're using a wheeled trailer for a fish house this year, you're going to need a permit for the first time.

Beginning with this ice fishing season, anglers using a wheelhouse type of ice or dark-house shelter are required to purchase a license to place the shelter on the ice, even when occupying it.

A new definition for portable shelters has been provided in law, which states that a portable shelter is one that collapses, folds or is disassembled for transportation. In the past, anglers using wheelhouses could use them without shelter licenses as long as they were occupied, including overnight.

A shelter meeting the new definition of portable only needs a license when a person leaves it unattended, meaning they are farther than 200 feet from the shelter.

The change, pursued by the DNR and enabled by 2017 legislation, accompanied hunting and angling fee increases. For Minnesota residents, an annual shelter license is \$15; a three-year license is \$42. Shelter or fishing licenses can be purchased online, at DNR license agents across Minnesota, or by phone at 888-665-4236.



CATCHES

A FISH STORY

Vermilion Lake man lands nine-foot sturgeon

COLUMBIA RIVER — If you think you have a fish story, you'd better check with Jake Schmidt of rural Tower — he's probably got you beat.

Jake, who hails from Vermilion Lake Township, was fishing late last month out on the Columbia River, when he latched onto the fish of a lifetime. He'd been out on the water for four hours fishing for sturgeon, with a guide, his wife Sarah, and their daughter Emily, and it was three minutes until their time was up. Sarah had landed a number of modest-sized white sturgeon that morning, but Jake had come up empty and was figuring he'd have to hear about it for the rest of their Oregon trip. He was starting to reel in for the last time when the line started peeling out from his reel. When he set the hook and pulled back on the rod, he knew his morning had just gotten interesting. "You could just tell it was enormous," he said.

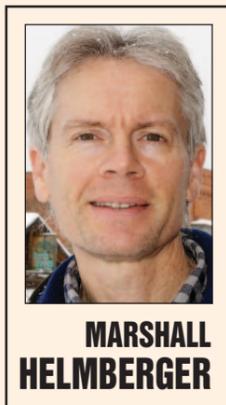
The Columbia, said Jake, is loaded with big white sturgeon and he had just hooked a monster. And just like the Old Man and the Sea, Jake had an epic battle on his hands. Working the big beast in towards the boat was a challenge, even with the 100-pound test on his reel. "He just kind of did his thing," said Jake. "Nothing would stop him from going to the bottom whenever he wanted." Video of the battle proves the point, as every run of the big fish sent the reel just whirring. Jake said he initially tried slowing it down with his thumb until it burned his finger.

Just holding the rod proved difficult against



Top: Jake Schmidt grasps the sucker-like mouth of a nine-foot long white sturgeon he caught while fishing on the Columbia River in Oregon. The fish was estimated to weigh about 400 pounds.

Above: Sarah Schmidt with a more manageable sturgeon, one of several she caught during their late November outing.
submitted photos



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

the strain, and Jake said his daughter gave him occasional breaks to rest. "I don't think I could have done it myself," he said.

He's not sure how long it took to coax the big fish to the boat. "It was at least twenty minutes to get it where we could hold it," he said. And as they got it up towards the boat, the scale of the giant fish became clear, measuring in at about nine feet long. Jake estimates it likely weighed about 400 pounds, but there was no way to know for sure since they never even tried to lift the giant out of the water.

Turns out, the fish wasn't even that spectacular for sturgeon in the Columbia. "They get them that big all the time," said Jake. "And they get a lot bigger than that."

Indeed, according to Kevin Peterson, the International Falls area fisheries manager for

See **STURGEON...**pg. 5B

TRAPPING



A curious pine marten.

Marten stable, but no sign of a fisher recovery

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Northeastern Minnesota trappers registered significantly more marten this year than last, although fisher numbers continue to show little or no recovery in the population.

Trappers reported seeing little fisher sign in the woods, and that's a concern to wildlife managers like Tom Rusch, the DNR's area wildlife manager in Tower.

Wildlife managers had expected to see some recovery from 2016, as a major snowstorm just ahead of the six-day marten and fisher season had prompted many trappers to stay home last year. Marten numbers did improve this year, running close to numbers recorded in 2015 and 2014, when trapper effort was similar to this year. Specifically, trappers registered 152 marten in Tower, 52 in Hibbing, and 78 in Eveleth.

But fisher numbers showed minimal rebound, and continued a dramatic decline over the past several years. As recently as 2012, trappers registered 47 fisher in Tower, 82 in Hibbing, and 42 in Eveleth, for a total of 171. This year, trappers registered a total of just 49 fishers across all three registration stations, including just 14 in Tower, where the number of trappers was on par with recent years.

"We've certainly been watching that trend," said Rusch, who believes the disappearance of large diameter aspen, which provide the cavities that fisher need to sleep and raise their young, is playing a role in the decline of the species in northeastern Minnesota.

Ongoing research by DNR biologist John Erb has documented that fisher are particularly dependent on nest cavities in large aspen, which research has shown make up three-quarters of the nesting sites for these large members of the weasel family. Marten, which are smaller than fisher, are less dependent on large aspen, as research has shown they more often use cavities in white cedar or underground burrows to sleep or raise young.

DNR officials had hoped that

See **TRAPPING...**pg. 5B



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12/04	44	28	0.04		12/04	38	25	0.00		12/04	43	28	0.00		12/04	37	25	0.00		12/04	41	27	0.00		
12/05	40	14	0.09	0.1"	12/05	36	33	0.15	2.0"	12/05	37	14	0.41	0.1"	12/05	23	7	0.00		12/05	38	10	0.00	0.3"	
12/06	14	8	0.01	0.2"	12/06	10	7	0.00		12/06	12	7	0.05	0.2"	12/06	14	1	0.00		12/06	13	6	0.00	0.5"	
12/07	17	1	0.01	0.1"	12/07	12	3	0.03		12/07	15	2	0.02	0.1"	12/07	18	0	0.00		12/07	15	-2	0.05	0.6"	
12/08	19	5	0.03	0.8"	12/08	16	-1	0.00		12/08	18	3	0.01	0.8"	12/08	18	10	0.00		12/08	18	4	0.03	0.4"	
12/09	20	3	0.04	2.8"	12/09	15	11	0.18	3.0"	12/09	17	4	0.08	2.8"	12/09	16	7	0.00		12/09	17	2	0.18	3.0"	
12/10	19	3	0.01	0.3"	12/10	15	15	0.00		12/10	17	4	0.00	0.3"	12/10	18	9	0.00		12/10	17	3	0.00		
Totals			28.49	17.4"	Totals			35.37	19.0"	Totals			29.05	27.9"	Totals			NA		Totals				30.18	17.7"

Time to start planning for 2018 BWCA permits

ELY – It may feel like winter, but it's time to start thinking about summer trips into the Boundary Waters. The application period for the BWCAW lottery for popular entry points opens on Dec. 20, so it isn't too early to begin making plans for the upcoming canoe season.

The lottery application period begins at 9 a.m. on Dec. 20 and runs through Jan. 17. The lottery is for the following entry points and dates: Fall Lake entry points D (Fall Lake, Newton Lake, Pipestone and beyond) and 24 (Fall Lake); Moose Lake entry points F (Moose Lake to Newfound and Sucker Lakes), G (Moose Lake to Prairie Portage to Basswood Lake) and 25 (Moose Lake) for dates between May 1, 2018 and Sept. 30, 2018. Lottery results will be available on Jan. 24, 2018.

There is a \$10 fee to

enter the lottery and it is non-refundable even if you don't win the lottery. This is a change from last year. The lottery system is going to be eliminated after the 2018 season is over.

Other information

► A BWCA permit is required for each group wishing to enter and camp overnight between May 1 through Sept. 30. Only one permit is required per group. Permits are for entering on a specific day and entry point.

► Separate permits are also required for entry into Quetico Provincial Park.

► BWCA reservations for all entry points can be made on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 9 a.m. on Jan. 31, 2018.

► Permits can be booked through outfitters or recreation.gov. Start planning with outfitters now so that they can work with you on routes/canoes/gear and book the permit when

STURGEON...Continued from page 4B

the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the white sturgeon that reside in the Columbia can grow up to 800 pounds and are the largest freshwater fish in North America.

Even the lake sturgeon that are increasingly common in northern Minnesota rivers and lakes can get enormous. Peterson said early records list some of the big fish weighing as much as 400 pounds. "The biggest one taken from Rainy Lake was 196 pounds," said Peterson, who has a picture of the 1930s-era fish hanging on the wall of his office.

Sturgeon can get so large not because they're fast-growing, but because they can live tremendously long, often well over 100 years, according to Peterson. Sturgeon don't even become sexually mature for about 20 years. Biologists can age sturgeon by clipping a portion of their pectoral fins and counting growth rings. "Just like with a tree," said Peterson.

As a family of fish, sturgeon are among the most ancient and

share a number of characteristics with dinosaurs, noted Peterson. They are also increasingly endangered in many parts of the world, where they are harvested, and often poached, for their highly valuable roe, otherwise known as caviar.

"We're fortunate to have a very healthy population of sturgeon right here in the Rainy, Lake of the Woods system," said Peterson, who noted that the fish are found in other big border lakes and connect-



Right: A closer view of the giant fish's mouth. Schmidt's guide stuck his arm into the mouth of the fish up past his elbow in order to remove the hook.

TRAPPING...Continued from page 4B

marten and fisher populations would recover when the agency slashed the trapping season for those two predators from 16 days to just six days a few years ago. The agency also reduced the bag limit on the two species from five to just two.

That seems to have allowed for recovery of marten numbers, but there's been no equivalent response to date in the fisher population.

The issue of rotation age on state lands has been a hot topic internally within the DNR, with foresters arguing for shorter rotations

as more productive. They've also argued that other ownerships, such as federal and private lands, can provide the large diameter aspen that fisher need.

Wildlife managers acknowledge those big trees may be available in some places, like Voyageurs National Park, the Boundary Waters, or in inaccessible locations, but he said that's not where most trappers go. He said some component of older forest needs to be retained across the landscape in order to provide the necessary habitat for

recovery of species like fisher.

Rusch said some trappers have suggested closing the fisher season to give the species time to recover. "But that won't help," he said. "If you don't have those 18-inch trees then you aren't going to have fisher."

Rusch said the focus on short rotation forestry, such as 40-45-year rotations for aspen, appears to be having repercussions for fisher. "In my perfect world, I'd prefer a 55-year rotation," said Rusch. "But we're not there now."

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2015 Ram 1500 - Express quad cab, #11342	\$24,990
2015 Jeep Cherokee Latitude - #R11341	\$19,990
2015 Chevrolet Equinox LS - AWD, #R11333	\$17,990
2015 Chevrolet Silverado LT - #R11324	\$28,990
2014 Buick Encore - AWD, #R11334	\$17,490
2014 Buick Verano - #R11335	\$14,490
2014 Chevrolet Silverado LTZ - crew cab, #3862A	\$28,990
2014 Chevrolet Sonic LTZ - great gas mileage, certified #11343	\$9,990
2013 Chevrolet Silverado LTZ - 4x4 crew, #3900A	\$25,990
2013 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD - 6.0L, 4x4, #3905A	\$20,990

* Must trade in a 1999 or newer passenger car or light duty truck to qualify, see dealer for details.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

St. Louis County intends to use federal funds made available under the Title III of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. These funds can only be spent for certain purposes set forth in 16 U.S.C. 7142. The County proposed to use the funds until they expire on September 30, 2018.

St. Louis County is holding a 45-day comment period which will end on January 21, 2018. St. Louis County plans to expend these funds for updating its community-wide fire protection plan (CWPP). Please send any feedback, suggestions, or concerns that you may have regarding the proposed use of these federal funds. Comments on this proposal may be sent by mail to St. Louis County Emergency Management, c/o Dewey Johnson-Emergency Management Coordinator, 5735 Old Miller Trunk Hwy., Duluth, MN 55811 or by email to johnsond@stlouiscountymn.gov.

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 15, 2017

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP PUBLIC NOTICE OF FILINGS

Filings for the following offices open on Tuesday, January 2, 2018, and close on Tuesday, January 16, 2018, at 5 p.m. Filing fee is \$2.

Supervisor Position: 3-year term
Clerk: 2-year term

Residents can file during regular clerk hours (Tuesday through Thursday, 12 noon - 4 p.m.) or by appointment, call 753-6020. Filing office hours on the last day of filing are from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Candidates must be 21 years of age, eligible to vote in Minnesota, and maintain residence in Breitung Township for 30 days prior to the Township Election.

Valeda McDonald, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 15 & 22, 2017

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING For the Proposed Voyageur Country ATV Trail System

The Voyageur Country ATV Club and Benchmark Engineering encourage the public to attend an informational meeting concerning the overall master plan of the proposed trail system that will extend throughout northern St. Louis and Koochiching Counties. This meeting will be held on Thursday, January 4, 2018 at 5 p.m. at the American Legion in Orr.

The project proposes to add approximately 250 miles of new routes to an existing 250 miles of existing shared routes for ATV usage. This meeting will primarily focus on a general introduction of the project, its regional significance to northern Minnesota, and current status.

We are encouraging comments and/or questions regarding the trail system. Comments received, either written or verbally, will be recorded and considered when making future project decisions.

If anyone is unable to attend the meeting, comments and/or questions may also be directed toward Voyageur Country or Benchmark Engineering.

Voyageur Country ATV Club:
Bruce Beste – (218) 993-2401
Steve Koch – (218) 374-3621
voyageurcountryatv@gmail.com
PO Box 414, Crane Lake, MN 55725

Benchmark Engineering:
Jeremy Schwarze
jeremys@bm-eng.com
8878 Main Street, PO Box 261
Mt. Iron, MN 55768
Office Phone – (218) 735-8914

EMPLOYMENT

Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners Program Director Position

Part-time position as an independent contractor available beginning January 15, 2018.

For additional information and/or a copy of the job description, call Chairperson, Shawna Kishel, 780-6510 or current Program Director, Liz Cheney, 780-8907.

To apply send resume by December 22 to: VHHP, P.O. Box 244, Cook MN 55723 12/15

VERMILION LAKE TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF FILINGS

Filings for the following offices open on Tuesday, January 2, 2018, and close on Tuesday, January 16, 2018, at 5 p.m.

Supervisor: 3-year term
Clerk: 2-year term

Filing fee is \$2.
Candidates: File the Affidavit of Candidacy at Clerk's Office, 5937 Wahlsten Road.

Frances R. Silverberg, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 15 & 22, 2017

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ELECTION

MN 205.16, subd. 4

THE GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP ANNUAL ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 13, 2018

Polls will be open 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Greenwood Town Hall

Offices to be elected:
Supervisor Position 3: 3-year term
Supervisor Position 5: 3-year term
Clerk Position: 2-year term

Filings will be open January 2 - 16, 2018 until 5:00 p.m. Applicants, please file at the town hall for affidavit of candidacy. Town hall offices will be open on January 16, 2018, until 5:00 p.m.

THE GREENWOOD TOWN BOARD WILL MEET IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING ON MARCH 13, 2018, TO PAY BILLS AND CANVASS ELECTION RESULTS.

In case of inclement weather, the election and meetings will be held the following Tuesday, March 20, 2018, at the same times listed. MS365.51 subd.1

Sue Drobac, Greenwood Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 8 & 15, 2018

KUGLER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Monday, December 18, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Julie Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 15, 2017

EMPLOYMENT

Como Oil & Propane, A Thompson Gas Company, is seeking a Part-Time Customer Service Representative.

Must have excellent communication skills and computer experience. Competitive wage and compensation package.



Send resume to Como Oil and Propane, 6403 Hwy 169, Tower, MN 55790.

Or email resume to: ljaniksela@comolp.com.

Equal Opportunity Employer 12/15

Nett Lake Schools, Nett Lake, MN Seeking Tech Support

The Nett Lake School is seeking Tech Support for the remainder of the 2017-18 school year. The current position is for 1 day a week, but may increase at specific times throughout the year based on district's needs.

Qualifications include:

- Self starter
- Dependable
- Experience with networks
- Experience with Apple platform and devices.
- Experience with SMART boards
- Willing to learn Telepresence Applications
- Ability to maintain hardware
- Ability to install new software and updates

Interested parties please submit a letter of interest, resume and 3 work-related references to: James J. Varichak
Nett Lake Schools
13090 Westley Drive
Nett Lake, MN 55772
This position will remain open until filled. Salary will be based on experience.



Planner/Senior Planner- Virginia Apply by Dec. 18, 2017

Apply online at www.stlouiscountymn.gov/jobs or call 218-726-2422

Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 12/15



International Wolf Center

Wolflink Marketing Coordinator

The International Wolf Center is seeking applicants for the position of WolfLink Coordinator. This position will market and promote education programs to past and prospective schools. The ideal candidate will have strong sales and organizational skills as well as oral and written communication skills. To apply, submit a cover letter and resume to careers@wolf.org or stop by the International Wolf Center (located just east of Ely on Highway 169) to pick up an application. Temporary, 12-month part-time position with hourly wage DOQ & E. For job description, please visit:

www.wolf.org
1396 Highway 169 • Ely, Minnesota

12/15/eaill

Read us online at timberjay.com

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), is 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).

Van Driver

\$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.

Van driver can also be employed as a para, or can be a stand-alone position. Both positions will remain open until filled.

Please e-mail resume, cover letter, transcripts of college work and/or ParaPro score, and three letters of recommendation to:
Vermilion Country School, P.O. Box 629, Tower, MN 55790
kfitton@vermilioncountry.org www.vermilioncountry.com

VCS is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

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HAIR CARE

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

VERMILION SHEAR IMAGE - Men's & Women's hairstyling. 314 Main St., Tower, 218-753-2928. Open Tuesday-Friday, 9am - 5pm. tfn

HOSPICE

VIRGIE HEGG HOSPICE PARTNERS can provide help for patients and their families in ways such as: comfort care, massages, last wishes and more. For more information, contact Program Director Liz Cheney at 218-780-8907 or vhpdirector@yahoo.com. This ad is paid for by Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners.

LICENSE BUREAU

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

MEDICAL/THERAPY

TRUE CARE MEDICAL THERAPY CENTER - Physical & Occupational Therapy. Mon.-Fri., 9-5, Phone: 218-666-2697. Fax: 218-666-2620. 12/15

REAL ESTATE

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

SNOWPLOWING

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

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WANTED

DISABLED VETERAN SEEKS SNOWMOBILE- 300cc or 350cc. Call Harold Goodsky at 218-410-4003. 12/15nc

WANTED TO BUY: Will pay cash for junk cars and pickups. Will pick up. Also, we collect used oil. Call 218-757-3255 or 218-780-2579. tfn

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

Classifieds run in all 3 editions of the Timberjay.
Line classifieds cost 30¢/word, \$6.00 minimum. Classified ads can be run a second time at half price (private parties only). We now accept payment by Visa, Mastercard and Discover. Call your ad in to 218-753-2950. Display (boxed) classifieds are billed by the "inch" - please call for prices and information on discounts. Call Today - 218-753-2950 or 218-365-3114

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

ORR AA and AL-ANON meet Tuesdays, AA at 8 p.m. and AL-ANON at 7 p.m. Holy Cross Catholic Church, Orr

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

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

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

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

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

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ACROSS
1 Defers (to)
5 Pretenders
11 Animistic religion of northern Asia
20 Adored star
21 How bed linens are often sold
22 Audio product introduced by Bose in 1993
23 CHARM
26 Spending jag
27 "— ed Euridice"
28 "Ben- —"
29 SEE
34 Citi Field MLB team
37 Clothed very shabbily
38 Prefix with color
39 Fleecy beast
42 Lose vigor
43 Not difficult
44 HEIGHTEN
48 Grows older
50 Daisy cousin
51 California's Point —
52 Was of use to
56 See 29-Down

DOWN
113 Eventual oak
114 ERASE
122 Proper noun in an atlas
123 Ripped thoroughly
124 Huge-scale
125 Person on both sides of an issue
126 Treats with malice
127 Gas brand
75 STEAL
79 Donne, e.g.
81 Lead-in to history
82 E.T.'s human friend
83 Ranch rope
86 Fizzy drinks
90 Holiday song
91 SUPPLY
95 "Aloha Oe" instruments, for short
99 Crux
100 Czar's edict
101 See 103-Down
102 Mint-family herbs
104 Gets more narrow
107 CHANGE
110 "... — mouse?"
111 Davis of "Hot Stuff"
112 Many adults

15 Don Marquis' "— and Mehitabel"
16 Poet Tate
17 "It really seems to me ..."
18 Moral failure
19 Pithy remark
24 Math subj.
25 Cave beings
29 With 56-Across, compete to obtain
30 Suffix with czar
31 LAX info
32 Madras "Mr."
33 Female sib
34 Turner of an insurrection
35 "Tall" story
36 Mil. officers
40 Rd. relative
41 Physicist Curie
44 Funny Foxx
45 English noble
46 Special time
47 Strikes (out)
48 Heady drinks
49 Docile
52 Actor Driver
53 "No" from a higher-up
54 Italian wine area
55 Luge surface

56 Ariel, e.g.
57 Large elliptical fish
59 Not volatile
61 Flying British mil. branch
62 Ridesharing app
63 Stir
64 Curly's bud
65 Ferrari who founded Ferrari
66 Riverbed deposit
67 "Keep it in" valley
73 Arm of Israel
76 "Don't worry"
77 — dixit (unproven assertion)
78 Cat cry
79 Chi-omega linkup
80 Alley —
83 Gave temporarily
84 Kind of blue
85 Of the region just north of the Antarctic Circle
87 Female gametes
88 Catastrophe
89 Antarctic penguin

90 Scale part (chain for kids)
93 TV "Science Guy"
94 Ruhr article
95 Turnpike toll, e.g.
96 Takes for ransom
97 Wallach of "Nuts"
98 Old aviation inits.
102 What pull-ups work
103 With 101-Across, thus far
105 Actress Durance
106 Evaluated
108 Sends cell messages
109 Unclear
111 Kind of gel
112 Unchanged
114 Photo —
115 Deli staple
116 Cut off
117 Fizzy drink
118 Geller from Israel
119 Bottom-line
120 Prefix with gender
121 Prefix with friendly

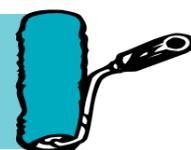
Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



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#132547 LAKE VERMILION 700 sq ft, 2 BR (including upper level loft) cabin. Private 1.5-acre setting among mature pines and rock outcroppings, 369 ft lsh w/ gravel beach and lift out dock. **\$189,900**

#131618 LAKE VERMILION 3 BR, 2 BA year-round home w/ 100 ft lsh. Sun porch, central vacuum, main floor laundry, and more. Lg garage, lift-out dock, warm southern exposure and scenic views! **\$389,000**

#131810 TOWER 4 BR, 3 BA w/attached 2-stall garage. Open floor plan, cathedral ceilings, recessed lighting, quality doors and windows. Lower level walk-out. Energy efficient home. Large wooded lot. **\$225,000**

RE/MAX
 Lake Country
 218-757-3233
 www.TheLakeCountry.com

Crane Lake-\$224,900 2 BR remodeled cabin with 147 ft of shoreline. **MLS#130146**

Lake Vermilion-\$45,000 1.35 acres and 360 ft of shoreline on Twin Lakes on Pine Island. **MLS#129212**

Cook-\$34,900 37.53 acres near Lake Vermilion. **MLS#132914**

Elbow Lake, Cook-\$397,500 2 BR quality home with large deck overlooking the lake and 159 ft of shoreline. **MLS#131313**

Orr-\$50,000 Up north cabin on 2 acres. Near many lakes. **MLS#132703**

Super Crossword

Answers

B	O	W	S	F	A	K	E	R	S	S	H	A	M	A	N	I	S	M					
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LITTLE FORK RIVER!
 1,400+ ft / 31 acres within 8 miles of Cook. Rd access. Scenic w/numerous bldg sites/hunting/rafting/fishing/privacy!
\$93,500

Contact: **Vicki Schelde**
 Associate Broker
 B.I.C. Realty, Cook, MN
 218-750-0443
 Email: vicki@bicrealty.com



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