



The **TIMBERJAY**



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CITY OF TOWER

Can Tower ambulance afford new staffing plan?

Director acknowledges budget surplus could drop significantly under paid on-call proposal

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— Tower Ambulance Director Steve Altenburg insists the city’s ambulance service will continue to operate in the black even when the service shifts to a paid on-call staffing system, beginning April 2.

But Altenburg acknowledged in an interview last week that the

service’s current budget surplus is likely to diminish, possibly significantly, as a result of hiring the on-call staff, who will work 24-hours a day, Monday-Friday.

That’s consistent with previous reporting in the *Timberjay*, which had noted that the service’s current operating surplus could offset the high cost of implementing the paid on-call staffing plan. However, final

The Tower Ambulance Service shifts to a paid on-call staffing system on April 2.
file photo

budget numbers for the ambulance from 2017 show a drop in the service’s operating margins even before

See...TOWER pg. 10



ORGAN DONATION

Lucky match

Soudan man donates kidney to his best friend’s fiancée

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

SOUDAN- “I’ve always been an organ donor,” said Steven Olson of Soudan. “Ever since I got my driver’s license.” But signing up to donate your organs in case of untimely death is one thing, deciding to give up one of your kidneys to help out a friend is another.

After signing up on his license form, Olson said he hadn’t given it much thought, that is, until he found out that the fiancée of his best friend was in dire need of a kidney transplant.

“She was so sick and wasn’t having any luck,” he said. “So I offered to go and get tested to see if I would be a match.”

“There was only a six-percent chance he would be a match,” said Nicole White, who is now doing well after receiving Olson’s kidney on Feb. 6.

“Dialysis was killing me,” said 26-year-old Nicole White, who suffers from a rare genetic disease that attacks the kidneys. White has struggled with kidney disease since she was a teenager at Tower-

Soudan High School.

White has been undergoing dialysis, three times a week for almost four hours, for the last 11 years. The procedure was never fun, she said, but she had developed a decent pain tolerance.

“You get used to it,” she said.

A blood disorder meant that White was not compatible with an organ donation from a deceased donor, so a living donor was her only option. And testing had shown that her own relatives were not compatible donors.

Olson said he felt he could give White a second chance at life.

“There wasn’t a light at the end of the tunnel with dialysis,” he said. “The doctor told me that the dialysis was killing her.”

The organ donation process took about a year, he said. After initial blood testing showed he was a possible match, there were many tests done at the University of Minnesota Transplant Center over the course of almost a year.

Luckily, White’s health was stable even with her long-term prognosis.



Steven and Paige Olson with their children Ethan, Audriana and Harper, of Soudan. Steve is recovering after donating one of his kidneys. submitted photo

The surgery was done at the U of M. White actually sailed through the procedure without any of the complications the doctors had been worried about. She was just cleared to go back to work, about a month after surgery, and has her first job interview this week.

And right now, White

is more concerned about her donor, than herself.

While Olson’s medical costs are being covered by White’s insurance, he has missed work since the surgery, and even when cleared to go back to work, will have restrictions on how

See...DONATE pg. 9

CRIME

Orr bank robber nabbed within minutes

Two tellers hospitalized after pepper-spraying

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ORR—A brazen midday bank robbery at the American Bank branch in Orr on Wednesday sent two tellers to the hospital and the suspect to jail after law enforcement apprehended him within minutes of the crime.

Members of the public who were at the scene report that the suspect robber pepper-sprayed two female tellers who were working at the bank branch at the time. Moments before, security footage shows the suspect, identified as William Lindeman, age 55, of rural Orr, arriving on an ATV, before donning a stocking cap and goggles and entering the bank office, located at the west end of the Pelican Bay grocery and convenience store.

The St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office took Lindeman into custody without further incident at his residence a few miles north of town. “He’s a real nut job,” is how one Orr area resident described Lindeman, who is currently being held in the St. Louis County Jail. He’s been booked on a charge of aggravated robbery. Law enforcement reacted quickly to the report of the robbery, in part because several law enforcement officials were already in the area. Doug Nakari, who manages the Pelican Bay store noted that there had been a steady stream of law enforcement officials in and out of

See...ORR pg. 11

PUBLIC SAFETY

Quick response to hotel blaze

Fortune Bay evacuated due to smoke from room fire

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

VERMILION RESERVATION — Firefighters from several area departments responded to an upper floor fire at the Fortune Bay Resort hotel late Wednesday

afternoon. Fortune Bay officials evacuated guests and employees at the resort hotel to the casino portion of the facility after the fire alarm sounded at 3:20 p.m.

According to Fortune Bay spokesperson Brian Anderson, a woman staying in a fourth floor room heard

Firefighters prepared to enter the hotel late Wednesday afternoon.
photo by Max HelMBERGER

a “pop” coming from the radiator unit, which suggests a possible electrical short.

See... FIRE pg. 11



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THE LEGISLATURE

New bill would nullify protections for wild rice

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Northeastern Minnesota legislators are advancing new legislation in St. Paul that would nullify existing water quality standards designed to protect wild rice, and possibly violate the federal Clean Water Act.

The bill, known as HF 3280, would eliminate the state's long-standing sulfate standard of 10 milligrams per liter for wild rice waters and would rescind the Legislature's previous directive to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to adopt a new standard by 2019. The agency had proposed a new so-called "flexible" standard which would have relied on an equation to

determine a sulfate standard on a case-by-case basis. An administrative law judge recently disallowed that approach, which has left agency officials unsure of how to proceed. The new legislation, if approved, would prohibit the MPCA from enforcing the flexible standard if a revised version is ultimately adopted.



Rep. Jason Metsa was one of the presenters of the bill this past week in St. Paul.

Northern Minnesota legislators, including Reps. Rob Ecklund, DFL-I-Falls, Jason Metsa, DFL-Virginia, and Sandy Layman, GOP-Grand Rapids, are co-authoring the measure. Sen. David Tomassoni, DFL-Chisholm, and Justin Eichorn, GOP-Grand Rapids, are co-authors of a Senate version of the bill. At a hearing on the



Late season wild rice on Big Rice Lake, located southwest of Tower. file photo

bill last week, before the House Environment and Natural Resources committee, a long list of tacomite industry advocates testified for the measure, which they believe would provide relief from the potential costs of enforcing either the existing wild rice standard or the equation-based alternative proposed by the MPCA.

Steve Georgi, with the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools, said the economic impact of enforcement of the MPCA's proposed new standard is major concern for his organization and its members. "The MPCA acknowledges that treatment for sulfate can be

extremely expensive," he said, adding that such costs could force tacomite producers to shut down, devastating the local economy.

Those comments were echoed by several other testifiers, including Kelsie Johnson, with the Iron Mining Association, Tony Kwilas, with the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, Larry Sutherland, head of Minnesota Operations for U.S. Steel, and Chrissy Bartovich, of U.S. Steel's environmental division.

Sutherland questioned the effectiveness of the current wild rice standard and the MPCA's proposed new standard. "How can the agency expect com-

panies or cities to move forward with compliance when the agency cannot even say with certainty that rice will be protected?"

"We need to spend our limited capital on issues that will clearly lead to environmental benefit," added Sutherland. "Unfortunately, the proposed sulfate rule does not do that."

The committee did hear from a handful of opponents of the measure, including Bois Forte Band member Sharon Day, who spoke about the sacred nature of wild rice to Ojibwe and Dakota residents of the state. "Sacred means sacred, which is something you protect,"

said Day. "This bill does nothing to protect wild rice. In fact, I see this bill to nullify the current standards as an attack on Ojibwe people."

Kathryn Hoffman, with the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, questioned the legality of the proposal. "Under federal law, the existing state water quality standards cannot simply be abandoned. There's a process under federal law for repealing or replacing water quality standards and this bill doesn't follow it," she said.

This is the same issue that confronted the

See RICE...pg. 5

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Morse residents set annual levy at \$272,730

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

MORSE TWP — Grassroots democracy played out on Tuesday at the Morse Town Hall during the township's

annual meeting. Turnout was limited, as fewer than a dozen residents attended the township's annual meeting that evening and set their own local property tax levy. Just about two dozen showed up to vote

throughout the day.

Annual meetings also took place in nearby Fall Lake, Stony River and Eagles Nest townships. Eagles Nest did not have elections that day.

Contested races have

been rare in Ely-area townships in the last several years, and in 2018 township board members and other officials ran for re-election without opposition.

Morse Township supervisor, Terry Soderberg, received all 25 votes cast and was re-elected to another three-year term.

Annual meetings are

unique to township government. Cities have no similar event and decisions related to tax levies, budgets and other governmental matters are left to elected officials.

Morse Township residents reviewed the 2019 budget and set their levy for the year. Next year's general fund is set at \$200,900, the same as

last year. The 2019 levy is exactly the same as it has been for the past seven years at \$272,730.

Township officials and the residents discussed a possible purchase of 60 acres of land from St. Louis County at a cost of about \$74,000. The parcel, located off Lookout Ridge Road, would be developed for recreational use.

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MINE READER

WE ARE TWIN METALS MINNESOTA

As the Twin Metals Minnesota Project continues to progress, we wanted to take a step back to highlight the organization and people behind it. In short, Twin Metals Minnesota is a mining company. We are focused on designing, constructing and operating an underground copper, nickel, platinum, palladium, gold and silver mine, and we are committed to doing so in an environmentally responsible way.

Twin Metals Minnesota is a wholly owned subsidiary of Antofagasta plc of Santiago, Chile. This structure gives us access to both local and international mining experts so we can harness and deploy some of the world's foremost mining knowledge. With offices in St. Paul and Ely, including staff that have spent their entire lives in northeast Minnesota, we are dedicated to the communities and natural treasures that give the region life.

We are building upon the rich history of mining in Minnesota, which dates back more than 130 years. By using state-of-the-art techniques and technology, we can safely remove the strategic metals our country so desperately needs for the growth of the green economy and national security. Additionally, we will bring 650 direct full-time jobs and 1,300 spinoff jobs to residents of Ely, Babbitt and the greater northeast Minnesota community – an unprecedented economic impact.

Moving forward, there are three things we want you to know about Twin Metals Minnesota:

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CITY OF TOWER

Johnson, longtime maintenance head, to retire

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — After nearly 27 years on the job, city maintenance foreman Randy Johnson is retiring. Johnson made it official Monday night, as the Tower City Council reluctantly accepted his letter of retirement.

Johnson said he made his decision with mixed emotions. “I’ve loved every day of this job,” said Johnson. But with four grandkids and a fifth on the way, Johnson said he wanted to have more family time while he’s still healthy.

Johnson was particularly well-suited to his job as the city’s maintenance foreman. Known for his meticulousness, he couldn’t rest until the city he loved was spic and span. And his ability to spend an entire day in a muddy ditch and emerge spotless, was frequently the source of amazement.

While his skills and knowledge will be missed, his depart-

ture will yield a considerable savings to the city budget—about \$35,000 per year due to reduced salary and medical costs.

Johnson’s retirement is effective June 30, although with accumulated vacation and comp time, his last day on the job is set for May 11. The city council also approved an early retirement package for Johnson, which is similar to that approved for other recent early retirees. The city will pay the remainder of Johnson’s insurance for 2018, and make a contribution to his health savings account in 2019 to offset the cost of his insurance next year.

With Johnson set to leave in May, the council approved the promotion of Dave Bjorgo to Johnson’s position, effective with Johnson’s departure. The city will advertise for a new maintenance worker to fill the position currently held by Bjorgo, and set up a hiring committee to interview applicants.

In other business, the council approved the hiring of

four new staff for the paid-on-call ambulance service, which is set to begin April 2, according to Ambulance Supervisor Steve Altenburg. The new hires include EMTs Tammy Ellison, of Chisholm, Lukas Morgan, of Babbitt, Brylie Landfried, of Embarrass, and EMR Hunter Gilbert, of Tower, who is expected to be upgraded to an EMT later this summer.

At the same time, the council approved a six-month rental agreement for a residence located at 704 North Second Street to house the new hires during their 60-hour shifts. The new staffing arrangement will include two on-call staff, working 24 hours a day, Monday-Friday. The rental rate is \$312/month, plus all utilities and light maintenance.

In other action, the council:

- Approved a new professional services contract with SEH for an airport project involving installation of signage and a fence, along with relocation of the airport’s wind sock. The

estimated cost of the engineering services totals \$15,000.

- Approved a resolution authorizing the city to move forward with the installation of two entrance signs along Hwy. 169. Funding for a new sign for the city’s west entrance was obtained by the Tower-Soudan Community Development Corporation through the IRRRB’s community enhancement program. As part of the project, the existing entrance sign near the harbor will be relocated to the city’s east entrance.

- Approved the sale of a city-owned 40-acre section near Mud Creek Road to Lisa Ann Hanes Goodlander for \$34,000.

- Approved a cabin lease transfer from Teresa Erickson to the new owner of the property, Samuel Vosburgh, of Eveleth.

- Approved the posting for sale of a “like new” aluminum snowmobile trailer that the ambulance service purchased five years ago. The trailer is no longer needed, according

to Altenburg, following the department’s recent purchase of a larger, covered trailer. The council set a minimum bid of \$2,000.

- Approved a data practices request form for use at city hall.

- Gave the second reading to ordinance 81B which pertains to the annexation of 23.13 acres of city-owned land on the city’s west side.

- Accepted a drainage study produced by Architectural Resources on the train depot. Funding for the study had been obtained by the Tower-Soudan Historical Society.

- Took a request for upgrades to the city-owned charter school building under advisement for a decision at the council’s next meeting. School officials have indicated the need to install a means to keep the school doors locked to the outside during school hours, while still allowing monitored entrance and

See COUNCIL...pg. 5

EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS

Noted experts to speak on foreign affairs

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — If you’re wondering about the state of foreign affairs in this unusual political environment, you won’t want to miss the upcoming presentations by Tom Hanson and Vladimir von Tsurikov, to be held in Tower and Ely, March 19 and 20.

Tom Hanson is a longtime U.S. Foreign Service officer who now serves as Diplomat-in-Residence at the Alworth Institute at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Hanson is



Tom Hanson



Vladimir von Tsurikov

a highly-accomplished speaker on foreign affairs, who goes far beyond the headlines in providing insight into U.S. foreign policy and international relations. Hanson’s Foreign Service postings included East Germany, France, Norway, the

Soviet Union, Sweden, and the former Soviet Republic of Georgia.

Joining Hanson will be Vladimir von Tsurikov, who serves as director of the Museum of Russian Art in Minneapolis and brings an engaging perspective on diplomacy through art and culture. Tsurikov has a passion for the advancement of Russian art and culture, and a strong record of international collaboration. Previously, Vladimir served as Director of the Foundation of Russian History in New York. “2018

is shaping up to be an unusually turbulent year in global politics,” says Hanson. His presentation will describe key issues facing the U.S. today, such as North Korea, the threat of trade wars, the implications of China’s massive Silk Road initiative, and escalating tensions among large, regional powers in the Middle East. Both speakers will focus on Russia as well, including the role of ongoing cultural relations in a time of strained bilateral ties.

This timely and thought-provoking presentation is recommended for anyone interested in international relations. The

presentation will also address how international developments may affect residents of the North Country.

Hanson’s and Tsurikov’s visit is being sponsored by Orlyn and Marit Kringstad and Tower Vision 2025.

Their presentations will be held on Monday, March 19, from 6-8 p.m. at the Vermilion Park Inn, located at 30 Center Street, in Soudan. Timberjay Publisher Marshall Helmburger will moderate the discussion.

The pair will also present on Tuesday, March 20, from noon-1 p.m., at Grand Ely Lodge in Ely.

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OPINION

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Editorial

Democrats and unions

By letting unions wither, the party has sown the seeds of its downfall

On the long list of strategic errors and ethical misjudgments by the Democratic Party establishment, one of the worst examples of both has been the party's failure under presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama to defend unions against the long-standing assault from corporate America and the right.

For decades in the wake of the New Deal, the union movement was closely aligned with the Democratic Party, both in strategic objectives and in philosophy, just as the GOP aligned itself with the religious right.

Unions and the Democrats both served the interests of average workers, together providing a bulwark that fought for a more equal distribution of the nation's wealth. For years, Democrats enacted laws that made it easier for workers to organize, and harder for corporate America to undermine the solidarity of union workers. As they did so, the wages and benefits of average workers rose accordingly, creating the largest middle class in world history. And they knew which politicians made it all possible, which is why Democrats dominated U.S. politics from the 1930s into the 1970s.

But times have changed. Republicans and their corporate backers learned how to fight unions, and Democrats failed to defend them. Writing in *The Guardian* shortly after Trump won election, economist Robert Reich put it well, noting that the Democratic establishment "stood by as corporations hammered trade unions, the backbone of the white working class - failing to reform labor laws to impose meaningful penalties on companies that violate them, or help workers form unions with simple up-or-down votes. Partly as a result, union membership sank from 22 percent of all workers when Bill Clinton was elected president to less than 12 percent today, and the working class lost bargaining leverage to get a share of the economy's gains."

The withering of unions has changed both America's economy and how Americans vote. A recent study (see nber.org/papers/w24259) published by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) found that the disappearance of unions is directly undermining support for Democratic candidates. The NBER examined the impact

of so-called "right-to-work" rules that have been passed in many states, including many neighboring Minnesota, in recent years. The study examined voting patterns in neighboring counties, separated only by a state line. These counties were very similar in terms of economic and demographic conditions, at least until the passage of right-to-work laws, which are designed to undermine union membership by preventing unions from requiring members to pay union dues. Such laws diminish the basic solidarity at the heart of unionism and they've proven effective at weakening unions and ending collective bargaining, leaving all the workers worse off in the end.

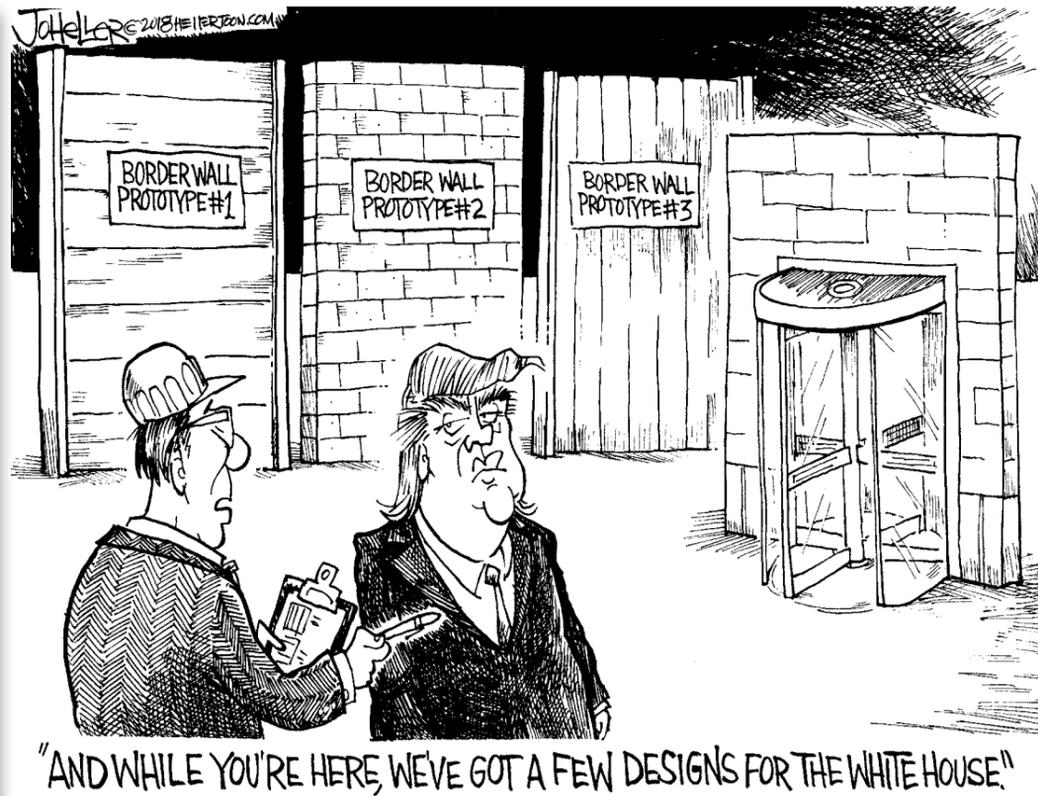
But the passage of right-to-work laws affects more than just workers' pay and benefits.

The NBER study found that voters in the counties where right-to-work laws were enacted, saw a dramatic fall-off in Democratic support, and overall voter turnout. While the neighboring counties generally voted very similarly in the past, within just four elections of enactment of right-to-work laws, the Democratic share of the vote in the examined counties fell from 43 percent to just 27 percent, even as Democratic support in their neighboring, union-friendly, county remained largely the same. Voter turnout also dipped, particularly among those voters who had voted Democratic in the past.

The study provides the clearest evidence yet linking the decline of Democratic political dominance with the party's woeful neglect of the union movement and the interests of average workers. It reveals how the Democrats, under the leadership of both Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, have sown the seeds of their own downfall and created an opening for a demagogue like Donald Trump.

When the Democratic Party establishment, now dominated by highly-paid Washington-based fundraisers and consultants, ponders "what happened," in 2016, they would do well to spend less time complaining about Russian interference and a lot more time looking in the mirror.

What happened is they lost touch with their base. In politics, that's always a recipe for disaster.



Letters from Readers

A new documentary on climate change to be shown at VCC

Don't miss the upcoming opportunity to watch the just-released documentary film entitled "Saving Snow." This film sees warming winters through the eyes of northern communities, and narrows its focus to skiing - ski resorts, ski races, and even Olympic skiers. Our winters are warming - we know that from the long-term graphs that document winter temperatures. But graphs don't do it for everybody; some of us need to see or hear it for ourselves.

There will be a showing of the film at VCC on Tuesday, March 20, at 6 p.m., Room 104. The film is 53 minutes long and will be followed by a panel discussion.

**Katya Gordon
Two Harbors**

Government for sale under Trump

The framers of our constitution were acutely aware that private financial interests could subtly sway even the most virtuous leaders, and entanglements between American officials and foreign representatives could pose serious, insidious threats to the United States. The Foreign Emoluments Clause was brought about by our founding fathers' hard-won wisdom. This is not an idea of the bygone past, but an insight into the nature of the human condition and the essential requirements of self-governance. The Foreign Emoluments Clause clearly states that self-dealing cannot be allowed.

Now, we have a Chilean billionaire who wants to open a mine in Minnesota. Andronico Luksic, whose family is the

richest in Chile, is intent on opening a huge mine that extracts copper and nickel, polluting the pristine BWCA.

So, what does Luksic do to manipulate Trump? He buys a house that Jared Kushner and Trump's daughter Ivanka Trump want and rents it to them. Trump's son-in-law and first daughter are both White House employees.

The Obama administration had blocked the family from opening the mine. Now, by fiat, Trump has overturned the Obama ruling and allowed the mining operation to progress. Luksic said that no connection exists between the mine and the house rental.

This and others are examples of the kind of foreign influence that requires vigilance by the citizenry of the United States and the good people of the Iron Range, as the United States government under Trump is up for sale.

**Tim Duff
Ely and Tonka Bay**

Storytelling in Ely is catching on

True Stories from the Edge is catching on! On Feb. 22 about 40 people gathered for the second time to listen to each other's stories. The theme was "Eye Openers." We heard about experiences that opened people's eyes and maybe even changed their minds about something they thought they knew to be true.

Some of the stories at the February event involved the death of the very last Civil War veteran and the mysterious item he left behind; a duck hunting trip with Grandpa that goes well until the game warden shows up; how the dances of different religions can build peace; how living in Ely opened one's eyes

to a true sense of belonging; and what happens when you actually live in a chicken coop for a while!

One young lad thought that tying the halter of an unruly pony around his wrist would keep the horse from running away; there once was an angry bear who turned into a nice bear after 12 years of kindness; a retired nurse takes heroic action in Guatemala; and living with a vision limitation helps a mom teach her children to accept people who are differently-abled.

There was an exciting story of sailing on Lake Superior in 35-foot waves; what happens when your child falls into a glass shower door; more excitement when a home intruder who needs money to catch the bus is out-smarted; and of course, the now famous story of two big bags of bananas!

We think everyone has a story. Come to tell us one, or just to listen. On March 22, the theme is "Living History", and on April 26, "Animal Encounters", at the Ely Senior Center, 6-8 p.m. It's free and there will be cookies!

**Julie Nester
and Terry Cooper
Ely**

We want your letters!

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

Showing up for our children when it counts

Survivors of last month's school shooting in Parkland, Florida, responded to the devastating experience they had lived through by taking action. The students came together to grieve and comfort each other and then organized the upcoming March For Our Lives event on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. on March 24, to demand of their country that their lives and safety become a priority, to demand the end of gun violence and mass shootings in our schools. Over 500,000 participants are expected and, as of this writing,



**BETTY
FIRTH**

730 marches are planned in other towns and cities across the country, including Ely, Hibbing, Grand Marais, Two Harbors, Duluth, Brainerd, Grand Rapids, St. Paul, Rochester, Willmar, and North Branch.

Ely resident Dayna Mase also looked to transform her dismay into action, unwilling to stay on the sidelines. She talked with many individuals and some groups to see if people were concerned about

the issue and interested in having a local March for Our Lives gathering to raise awareness and come together around

this issue. She found common ground. Of course, people didn't want children terrorized and people murdered. She discovered a lot of agreement on some basic measures that would make it more difficult for inappropriate people to get their hands on weapons:

- ▶ Universal background checks.
- ▶ Sharing data across state lines.
- ▶ Banning bump stocks, a modification that increases a semiautomatic rifle's rate of fire.
- ▶ A waiting period for guns.
- ▶ Limiting magazine size.

I asked some friends for their thoughts. One woman who will be attending the event said, "I've been concerned about gun violence for many years. I was

thrilled to see the young people rising up and speaking out." I asked if she could imagine using a gun, shooting someone to protect herself, and she said, "Absolutely not. Never." I asked if she could imagine using a gun if someone was threatening her grandchild. She hesitated and said, "Wow. Maybe. I don't know."

Another friend who lives out in the woods bought two handguns after she started distrusting a neighbor's strange behavior. A woodswoman I know, who was married to an avid hunter, joined in the deer hunt because she thought it was hypocritical to eat meat and not be ready to kill for it. However, she got to the

See **SAFETY...** pg. 5

Letters from Readers

With Trump, we face plenty of Stormy days ahead

1. According to the fact checkers (Politifact, FactCheck.org, CNN Fact Check, Snopes.com, the Washington Post), Trump made 2,140 misleading claims and lies this past year.

2. What does porn star “Stormy Daniels” know that’s so important it enabled her to receive a payment of \$130,000 to keep quiet about the affair(s) she had with President Trump? (It was paid via Trump’s personal attorney.)

3. The old saying, which is probably applicable today, goes, “If you give a dishonest person enough rope, eventually they’ll hang themselves with it.”

4. The Robert Mueller investigation team appears to be closing in on whether or not there was collusion and/or obstruction of justice concerning the past Presidential election. The noose

appears to be tightening as they are just following the money trail that could end up at the Oval Office. Some of Trump’s aides and associates are co-operating so their prison sentences will be lessened. It remains to be seen whether or not the President is directly involved with any of their wrongdoings.

5. The steel and aluminum tariffs imposed are great for the steel industry, especially in northern Minnesota. However, most economic analysts conclude that the likely trade wars that then ensue, as a result of these types of tariffs, have a negative effect on worldwide economies, including the USA. No one comes out ahead and it should be avoided. Trump’s top economic advisor even quit because of it. Time will tell whether it’s going to be good or bad.

6. Didn’t Trump promise to reduce our national debt? How come he is now saying to be ready for a significant

national debt increase for at least the next ten years? The recent tax credit, that favors the upper class, according to most financial experts, will increase our national debt by \$1.5 trillion alone. Donald subsequently has said we shouldn’t worry because he is the “Master of Debt”.

7. Donald Trump’s quick acceptance for a face-to-face meeting with the North Korean leader (Donald’s “Little Rocket Man”) may not be such a good idea after all. According to Trump’s and other former Presidents’ foreign affairs advisors, a good strategic plan needs to be set up and in place first, before the two top leaders meet. Some feel it could possibly blow up in Donald’s face and should be carefully approached before it is executed, which should take many months, not hours. Even (former) Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said it is definitely something you don’t agree to in the spur of the moment. Try telling Donald that! Now he has

even fired Rex!!

8. My wife and father, who were both teachers for many years, are against arming teachers with guns. What happens if even a gun-trained teacher is bi-polar, prejudiced, gets extremely mad at any students or faculty members, experiences a troubling home problem, or misjudges a situation and starts to shoot? There’s got to be a better way. Some NRA concessions may be needed.

9. How come Donald is asking Congress to fund a border wall costing \$20 billion now, when he said Mexico would pay for every penny of it, guaranteed? (“It will be OH SO EASY.”)

10. Most military upper brass don’t like the idea of a military parade costing \$20 million. They would rather it be spent on much-needed equipment. Donald doesn’t need to show off and gloat like they do in North Korea, Russia and China.

11. Without Donald’s

so-called “fake news” we would be left in the dark as to what’s happening in the world and in our own backyards.

12. I can’t recall any speaker, except Trump, who has had to clap for himself before he even utters one word of his upcoming speech. Is it done to incite and mesmerize his crowd in advance, making it less likely they’ll ever check the validity of his misleading claims?

13. I’m certainly not interested in buying any bridge Donald is trying to sell. The American public has never seen and/or heard such arrogance, bias, White House turmoil, use of name-calling, and habitual lying to achieve an agenda, as with Trump. The only one closer that I remember is Nixon, and we all know how that ended. A good leader unites people, not divides them. (Even Romney said he was “a phony”.)

Daryl Lamma Tower

SAFETY...Continued from page 4

point where she wasn’t willing to pull the trigger, not to mention that she wasn’t very good at it. The only shot she got off in five years missed the deer and killed a balsam tree. She helps out with the gutting, hauling, butchering and other aspects of the effort to put meat on the table. But she abhors the semi-automatic weapons designed for killing people as rapidly as possible. Her husband owns rifles and semi-automatic pistols. He is knowledgeable and responsible about gun use and safety, and while not opposed to the modifications mentioned previously, he doesn’t think they’d do much good.

Minnesota Gun Control Laws are stricter than in many states, which I will quote so as not to misinterpret: “Minnesota law requires purchasers of handguns and military assault-style rifles to present either a handgun transferee permit or carry permit, or undergo a seven-day waiting period and must undergo a criminal background check. Illegal Arms include a silencer; machine gun or machine gun conversion kit; short-barreled shotgun; spring gun; swivel guns, set guns. Who May Not

Own: 1. Minor under 18; Pistol or semi-automatic military-style assault weapon, except under supervision of parent/guardian, military instruction, firing range, successful completion of training course; 2. Convicted of crime of violence unless 10 yrs. has elapsed or civil rights have been restored, including juveniles; 3. Mentally ill; 4. Convicted for unlawful use, possession, sale of controlled substance other than small amount of marijuana or person who’s been hospitalized or committed for treatment for habitual use of controlled substance or marijuana unless proof that they haven’t abused in 2 yrs.; 5. Chemically dependent; 6. Peace officer who is informally admitted to treatment facility for chemical dependency unless he receives certificate for discharge; 7. Pistol or semi-automatic military-style assault weapon: aliens, fugitives from justice, those dishonorably discharged from armed forces. Firearms are prohibited on or near school grounds.”

The banner on the National Rifle Association website reads, “It’s not just about guns. It’s about freedom.” Even though 90 percent of the American public

supports background checks for all gun sales, the NRA opposes any expansion, arguing they are ineffective, while it assiduously promotes the expansion of boundaries where it’s acceptable to carry guns, successfully working to allow firearms on college campuses, and into bars, churches, day care centers and government buildings. In 2016, it spent \$6.6 million fighting a universal background check initiative for gun purchases in Nevada. That’s more money than it spent on any Senate or House race, second only to the \$30 million spent to get Donald Trump elected. I get it that people want to keep their guns for hunting and protection, but I do not get their willingness to be duped by the fear-mongering of the NRA.

The initiative passed with a very thin majority, but the Nevada attorney general said that the measure could not be enforced. The law requiring firearm transfers to go through a licensed gun dealer went into effect in January 2017, but as of October 2017, the FBI had not conducted a single background check on a private gun sale in the state. Stephen Paddock, the

gunman who killed 58 people and injured over 500 others on Oct. 1, 2017, on the Las Vegas strip, bought some of his guns through a dealer and passed a background check.

The underlying causes of imbalance and violence in our society are many-tentacled, not easy to disentangle. In the last century, our bodies and minds have been assaulted by conditions and chemicals never experienced by humans before: pesticides, insecticides, chemical additives in foods, reduced nutrition in our food supply through high levels of processing and depleted soil, excessive noise, overload of information from around the world, inadequate medical care, inadequate mental health care, and an acceleration of the pace of our daily lives, often resulting in chronic exhaustion with little sense of accomplishment or satisfaction. In spite of being one of the wealthiest countries in the world, many Americans must work two or three jobs to survive while others live in grinding poverty. At the same time, the gap between rich and poor widens as political decisions are made that benefit only

the wealthiest. Any one of these things can damage the immune system and the nervous system, causing imbalance, and we often experience many of them simultaneously.

The issue is obviously not simple, even when clearly defining many of the terms used in the laws.

But, I think, our responsibility is clear. As adults, it is our responsibility to protect the children as well as other vulnerable people in our communities. Period. That’s our job. So I think we need to seek out solutions and find some good answers around this issue and others. We need to remember we have far more in common than what divides us.

Come join your neighbors on Saturday, March 24, from 11 a.m. to 12 noon in Whiteside Park on Sheridan Ave. in Ely. People may bring signs, and we’ll walk together quietly around the park. It will not be boisterous—it’s not a protest but a demonstration of our commitment to non-violence, keeping dangerous weapons out of the hands of people who shouldn’t have them, and protecting the children.

RICE...Continued from page 2

Legislature back in 2011, the last time that legislators sought to eliminate the wild rice sulfate standard. At that time, legislators learned that the state must have a scientific basis for amending or repealing a water quality standard, which prompted the Legislature to fund new research into the validity of the existing 10 mg/l standard. When that state-funded research

largely confirmed the need for the standard, legislators prohibited the MPCA from enforcing the 10 mg/l standard and required that the agency develop a new scientifically-based standard, which resulted in the equation-based standard to which the taconite industry is equally opposed.

Hoffman said the bill is being presented as a means of providing regulatory certainty surround-

ing sulfates, but she said it actually invites chaos by terminating an existing rulemaking process before it’s completed and eliminating an existing standard with no viable replacement.

“Now the EPA, even our diminished EPA under President Trump, isn’t going to approve such an obvious undoing of a protective water quality standard with no replace-

ment. The only certainty associated with this bill is that it will bring on litigation,” said Hoffman.

Rather than eliminating the standard, Don Arnosti, with the Isaak Walton League of Minnesota, urged legislators to invest in developing new clean-up technology that could provide more cost-effective treatment of sulfate and other similar pollutants. Arnosti noted

that the taconite industry was created through a state-funded effort in cooperation with the University of Minnesota to develop the processing technology that made taconite a viable source of iron ore.

“We would love to see the Chamber [of Commerce], with their business expertise, step forward and offer to partner with NRRI or the U of M. Let’s come up with more cost-effective ways to ensure that sulfate does not get into our waters in a way that harms the environment. We’ve already spent nearly a decade on this issue. Maybe five or ten years from now, we could have a technology we could export to the globe,” he said.

COUNCIL...Continued from page 3

exit to the school. The cost is estimated at between \$3,000-\$5,000. The council has previously denied such requests, but school officials are again urging the city to consider the upgrade in light of the safety issues surrounding the continued threat of school shootings. The charter school pays the city \$78,000 a year in lease payments, well in excess of the roughly \$55,000 that the city pays on debt service for renovations for the school.

► Approved a proclamation for Sexual Assault Awareness Week.

Saturday, March 24 • 9 AM - 4 PM

March Madness

Loon Lake Community Center - 3816 Hwy 100, Aurora

50+ Vendors & Crafters
(with awesome products)
Door Prizes • Raffles

LUNCH, COFFEE AN', REFRESHMENTS

Palo's Open Mic!
All musicians welcome!
Open Jam

Any questions, contact Barb at 218-750-7327

Horse Drawn Wagon Rides
10 AM- 3 PM
\$2 per ride

by Strawberry Fields Paints & Drafts

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Skating parties on Saturday, March 17

SOUDAN- Chimpy is hosting a skating party on Saturday, March 17, from 12 noon – 3 p.m. There will be food and fun. While Chimpy is not sure the rink will be in good skating condition, there are plenty of other opportunities for outdoor fun, so do stop by. There may be sledding, snowman-making, and outdoor games.

Sponsors this week are Jim and Cathy Wright, Bob and Tina Wright, Renee and Tom Aro.

Everybody's Uncle playing at Tower Civic Center on Saturday, March 24; fundraiser for Fourth of July events

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan-Lake Vermilion Events Board is sponsoring a fundraiser dance on Saturday, March 24 starting at 8 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center. The dance will feature music by "Everybody's Uncle," featuring Jimmy Laine on the drums and Southside Willy on the sax.

Proceeds of the bar will be donated by the Good Ol' Days to the Fourth of July Fund, so please come and support this fun event.

Everyone is invited to stop by, have a fun night, and help raise money for this year's Fourth of July!

St. Martin's Annual Pasties Sale

TOWER- It's that time of year again – the St. Martin Youth are getting ready for their Annual Pasties Sale. Orders will be taken from now through March 21. You may place your order with any of our high school students, or by calling the rectory at 217-753-4310.

You have the option of having rutabaga in your pasties, if desired. You will need to tell us at the time of your order. The cost of the pasties is still \$5 and they must be paid at the time of the order. Pasties will be available for delivery on April 14.

Proceeds from this project will go towards the Steubenville Conference trip in July. This year we have nine students attending the conference in St. Louis!

"Open Art" where artists gather to work

COOK- Artists will be meeting in Cook at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery on Saturday, March 17 from 12 noon until 3 p.m. On the third Saturday each month, conspiring artists meet to work and discuss their own particular projects at 210 S River St. next to Dream Weaver Spa and Salon. Carvers, painters, sculptors, photographers, writers, weavers, musicians and, well, it's open season for "Open Art" at NWFA Gallery. Contact Sue Wolfe for more information at 218-666-2153.

Since 2010, NWFA has organized artists and their works of art at the NWFA Gallery as a non-profit membership organization. Winter gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays. The website is nwfamn.org.

Grief support group in Tower first Thursday of the month

TOWER- Experiencing the death of a loved one can be a very difficult experience. Learning about the grief process and having support from others can help a great deal. Please consider reserving your spot to participate in this new monthly grief support group in Tower. The group is open to anyone in our area who has experienced the death of a loved one.

The Monthly Grief Education and Support Group meets from 2 – 4 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 304 Spruce St. There is no cost for this group

The group is led by Catherine Burt, East Range Hospice Family Grief Support staff. Please call to register, 1-877-851-2213 or 218-749-7975. The group is being sponsored by Essentia Health St. Mary's East Range Hospice.

EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION

FUN NIGHT



Put several dozen preschoolers and toddlers into the TS School Gym and you have the perfect antidote to cabin fever, also known as an ECFE Fun Night! From top left: Ben, Lena, Blake, and Boone took advantage of all the fun toys for an evening of play time. The evening also included parachute play and a pizza dinner. photos by J. Summit



BREITUNG POLICE DEPARTMENT

January 2018

- Calls: 46
- Assist other agencies: 15
- Traffic stops: 12
- Arrests: 1
- Citations/Formal charges: 3
- Warnings: 15
- Monthly mileage: 2,176 (Tahoe 1,251; Charger 0; Explorer 925)

Additional shifts

During the month of December the Breitung Police Department did not work any additional shifts.

Training

During the month of January Chief Nylund attended training on the updated record management system.



January Police Report

Breitung Police Chief Dan Nylund

Squads

The Tahoe had a battery replaced and a coolant hose fitting replaced.

Current end of the month mileage for the Gold 2012 Chevy Tahoe (Tower) is 62,276. 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 7794.

Miscellaneous

Chief Nylund attended the community forum on Heroin and Opiates hosted at Fortune Bay. Chief Nylund also volunteered at the DARE America booth at Twins fest.

Call summary

Citations/Formal charges/Arrests: (M) Flee on foot Booked (ROR); (M) DAR cited and released; (M) underage consumption Booked (ROR)

Assist other agencies: (5) St. Louis County Sheriff's Office; (2) Tower Ambulance; (8) Bois Forte Police Department

Call Categories:

- (15) Agency Assists;
- (12) Traffic Stops;
- (4) Animal Complaint;
- (1) ATL;
- (3) Check Business;
- (7) Community Engagement;
- (1) Information Call;
- (1) Call Back;
- (2) Permit to Purchase;
- (1) Parking Complaint;
- (2) Information Call;
- (4) Disturbance;
- (1) Vehicle Information;
- (1) Threat;
- (1) DOA;
- (1) Lock-out;
- (1) CSC;
- (1) Open Door;
- (1) Fraud;
- (1) Out With;
- (1) Check Welfare;
- (1) Fight;
- (1) Unwanted Person;
- (1) Check Hazard.

"Everybody's Uncle"

Featuring Jimmy Laine on Drums & Southside Willy on Sax!



Classic Oldies and Cool Country

Proceeds of the bar donated by 'The Good Ol' Days'

Tower Civic Center

In Beautiful Downtown Tower

Saturday, March 24- 8pm

Tower's 4th of July Fund raiser

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

Learn about our native trees and tree care during class on Saturday, March 17

SOUDAN- Planting and caring for native trees benefits our wildlife, pollinators, soil, and water. If you are planning to plant trees this spring, this is the class for you. Beth Kleinke, a District Forester from the St. Louis County Soil, Water and Conservation District will present

information on the right tree for the right location, how to care for your trees, how to make them grow, and how to watch out for pests and diseases. The class will also profile several unique northern Minnesota trees for your front lawn, swamps, and river banks. A class will be offered

on Saturday, March 17 from 9 -10:30 a.m. at the Soudan Fire Hall. You must pre-register. For registration and more information please call or text Leone Graf at 218-343-3744 or email camplake@earthlink.net.



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BREITUNG

Tekautz re-elected to Breitung Board

by SCARLET STONE
Staff Writer

SOUDAN- Incumbent Chuck Tekautz won another term as township supervisor, outpolling challenger Gavin Bialke 82-47. Incumbent clerk Valeda "Polly" McDonald ran unopposed and garnered 126 votes. A total of 131 ballots were cast.

Township residents approved a six-percent increase, or \$32,000, in the levy for 2019. The 2018 levy is set at \$510,000, and the 2019 levy will be \$542,000. Increases in the budget include an additional \$10,000 in funding for the fire department, \$2,000 for the funding of the new recreation board, and \$20,000 for road/bridge/infrastructure which includes water and sewer.

Chairman Tim Tomsich presented the financial report for 2017. The township started the year with a balance of \$239,000 with disbursements and transfers totaling \$1,489,001 and an end-of-the year financial balance of \$233,108.

Breitung Maintenance Supervisor Dale Swanson discussed the road report and received a thank you from the board and citizens

present for his notable efforts.

Police Chief Dan Nylund gave the department's annual report highlighting their increased role in the community through various activities such as the DARE and Truth About Drug programs and fun events such as Big Truck Night and free ice cream cone give-aways at McKinley Park Campground.

Fire Chief Steve Burgess reported on department activities and focused on the need for more firefighters due to

a decline in numbers to the current 16-member team. The department responded to five structure fires last year and two wildland fires. There were a total of 43 emergency calls in 2017 compared to 57 in 2016. The department went on 27 mutual aid calls, and received mutual aid from other departments 11 times. Burgess stressed the need to raise the level of the department's service to our area and stated the department wants to invest in water rescue equipment and training because there is no service in Tower or Soudan at this time. He suggested the annual budget be increased from \$65,000 to \$75,000

in order to move towards this goal.

Other business

In other business, the residents:

➤ Made a motion to support the concept of changing the present clerk and treasurer positions to one appointed (hired) position. If the board decides to move ahead on this issue, residents would then vote on the change at the next annual town election. More discussion will follow at the next meeting.

➤ Heard discussion from Greg, Joan, and Nate Dostert about plans to pursue the construction of a town gazebo for events, install playground equipment for very small children, and create a smaller ballfield for Little League with a goal of providing more of an activity-based backdrop for families with small children. The township thanked Bois Forte for their donation of hockey boards for the township's hockey rink.

➤ Made a motion for the creation of a Board of Recreation.

Set the date for the next regular township and reorganizational meeting for Tuesday, March 27 at 6 p.m.



Chuck Tekautz

LOCAL TOWNSHIPS

Township elections and annual meeting results

Embarrass approves 2% increase in levy; facing dwindling township reserves

EMBARRASS- Eighteen residents attended the Embarrass Township annual meeting. The 2019 proposed levy of \$151,000 was raised to \$154,000 and approved, after an earlier motion to raise it to \$161,000 was defeated. The 2018 levy is \$150,000.

Although the board does not present a budget, township annual expenditures have averaged approximately \$200,000 a year over the previous four years. 2017 expenditures were \$359,430; the large increase reflects the money spent on the new Embarrass post office project.

At issue in the meeting was the replenishment of the township's reserves, which now are down to \$36,306. So far, \$55,669 has been withdrawn from township reserves for the post office project, leaving the amount well below the Minnesota Association of Townships' recommended 50 percent of the annual budget.

The Embarrass Post Office project has come in well over bud-



get, with the township's spending totalling \$127,235, and another \$24,000 estimated to be spent on landscaping, site prep, and black-top work. The township received a \$47,800 grant for the project. The township has been receiving \$1,100 a month rent for the building since last August.

Sarah Schmidt elected to Vermilion Lake Town Board; board will need to appoint one new supervisor

VERMILION LAKE TWP- Sarah Schmidt won the open seat on the Vermilion Lake Town Board with 32 votes to Robert Pratt's 10. Current Supervisor Steve Peterson Jr. was elected clerk with 42 votes. His supervisor term expires next

March. Once Peterson is sworn in as clerk, at the township's April meeting, the town board will need to appoint someone to fill the remainder of his term.

Ten residents attended the annual meeting. The levy was set at \$30,700, the same as 2018.

Kugler Township adjourns annual meeting; will be looking to appoint new clerk

KUGLER TWP- Kugler residents adjourned their annual meeting, and will meet again this summer to set their levy for 2019. The town board is not expecting any major changes. The board did hear from long-time clerk Julie Suihkonen, who told them she will be resigning from her post as of June 1 of this year due to other work commitments. Suihkonen, who has served as clerk for the last 20 years, said the board will need to appoint someone to fill out the remainder of her term. Any Kugler residents interested in learning more about the position should contact Tim Kotzian at 218-753-5416.

Mail-A-Book services available to many area residents

REGIONAL- Paperback books, DVDs, and audio books on CD can arrive in your mailbox thanks to the Arrowhead Library System's Mail-A-Book program.

The service loans paperback books and other items via the U.S. Mail, free of charge. This tax-supported service delivers library items directly to your mailbox including the cost of postage. They arrive in a

canvas bag with a return label and prepaid return postage.

Who is eligible for this service? Rural residents and people who live in a city without a public library. Paper catalogs listing more than 1,000 items are sent out twice a year to more than 2,250 households. If you are interested in cooking, audio books on CD, DVDs, inspirational books, or children's items, they

also have catalogs listing the titles available from Mail-A-Book. Do you have a favorite author? Mail-A-Book can provide you with a list of available titles by that author. Also, Mail-A-Book items are listed in the regional online catalog via the Internet at www.alslib.info/online_catalog/.

Items can be ordered by postcard, e-mail, phone, or a form on the ALS website at www.alslib.info/services/mail-a-book and mail-book@alslib.info, or 218-741-3840.

Find Mail-A-Book on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alslibinfo.

If you need "large print" reading materials, the Arrowhead Library System has a collection of large print books. Mail-A-Book staff are always happy to respond to your questions.

Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, April 4, 25, May 16, June 6, 27

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

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

Transfer station

Soudan Canister

Expanded hours year-round

Monday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wed.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For info: 1-800-450-9278

Hwy. 77 Canister

Winter hours now in effect

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

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

AEOA Senior Dining Menu

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

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 March 19

Monday- Chicken ala King in a Bread Bowl

Tuesday- Italian Meatball Sub Sandwich, Vegetable

Wednesday- Hamburger Gravy over Mashed Potatoes, Dinner Roll, Green Beans

Thursday- Lasagna, Dinner Roll

Friday- Breaded Pollock, Tater Tots, Bread Stick

Week of March 19

Monday

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

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

Tuesday

Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is March 20.

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- Next meeting is Tuesday, March 20 at 4:45 p.m. Meetings posted online at vermilioncountry.org.

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

THANK YOU



Voters for
Your Support!

BYRON BEIHOFFER



the TIMBERJAY

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BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA WILDERNESS

BWCA teen essay contest winner announced

More than 70 writers competed to win canoe trip from Ely Outfitting Co.

ELY - Jason Zabokrtsy, founder of Ely Outfitting Co., recently announced the winner of the First Annual Boundary Waters Teen Essay Contest. Julia Ruelle, 16, is a sophomore at Minnetonka High School in Minnetonka.

"Thank you to the over 70 high school authors who competed in this contest," Zabokrtsy said. "The essays are inspiring, well-written, and impressive. In short, it was amazingly stiff competition. We hope this contest inspired young writers to get outdoors, seek adventure, and love the Boundary Waters."

Julia Ruelle's Winning Essay

It's the start of the school year: everyone is sullen for being forced to sit still all day and teachers try in vain to pull us out of our school-induced slumber with a myriad of get-to-know-you activities.

As I fill out yet another form with questions I am tired of answering, I come to the question asking me to list my favorite activities. I pause for a moment, wondering which activities to include this time: running, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, sledding, ice skating, kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding, camping, gardening, walking, hiking, biking, hammocking, or exploring.

As a shortcut and with a melancholy glance at the sun shining through



Dozens of high school students wrote essays last fall to win a week-long, completely-outfitted trip into the BWCA with no adults. submitted photo

the window, I settle with writing, "being outside."

Though such get-to-know-you forms are rarely very honest, one fact always holds true to me: I love being outside.

In the summer, a typical day usually starts with running with the cross country team as the sun rises, paddling with a friend in the afternoon, and an evening walk with Rio, our faithful seven-year-old rescue dog, around a small lake of the over 10,000 our state is known for.

For the past five years, Rio and my family have been lucky to have a change in scenery to the beautiful, pristine Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness for about four days each summer. These days are when I feel most connected to my soul and surroundings and most at home, with no social media or material concerns to distract me from the purity of the air in my lungs, dirt beneath my feet, and the sounds of birds, water, and all things natural in my ears.

My love for these lands has caused me to be involved with the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters movement, regularly donating and wearing the logo on shirts, stickers, and pins as frequently as possible. All my classmates know of this passion of mine, as I take any opportunity to educate my peers about

the threat the proposed Twin Metals mine poses to the pristine waters so unique to the Boundary Waters and the many watersheds it affects.

Though Jerry Vandiver, a country singer with an album or two about the Boundary Waters area, sings that "winter is for... pull[ing] out the map" and "plan[ing] a new route" while keeping close to the warmth of the fireplace, to me, the snow and sub-zero temperatures of Minnesota winters make venturing outside even more exciting!

I joined the cross country ski team last year and immediately regretted not having tried it earlier. Skiing taught me to love winter and pray for more snow, instead of begrudging it. Though I grew up loving to ice skate at the park across the street, learning to ski ignited a desire to be outside everyday, even when the cold was biting.

Unfortunately, this winter has been a little different. Around Thanksgiving, I started experiencing exhaustion, headaches, and nausea at rates I had never before had to withstand. As doctors didn't perceive any viruses to be concerned about, we wrote it off as migraines and I continued to participate in life as usual, going to school and ski practices everyday.

However, after trying to fight through it for two weeks, I ended up in Urgent Care one night and scheduled an appointment with my doctor three days later. During those three days, I slept pretty much all day and barely ate, thanks to debilitating headaches and nausea. Arriving at the doctor's appointment, I threw up in the waiting room and the nurses deemed my low body temperature and slow heart rate alarming enough to rush me to the emergency room in an ambulance.

At the end of that day,

they still didn't have any answers as to what was causing it all. However, the next day, my doctor suggested getting an MRI and I squeezed into their last slot of the day. Halfway through the MRI, my parents were rushed into a special room and my doctors got in contact with the radiologist and a neurologist. All in all, the verdict was that there was a mass in my brain causing pressure build up, also known as hydrocephalus. I required an endoscopic third ventriculostomy, which is essentially a tube put into my head to allow the fluids to flow, and a biopsy to find out what it was. So there I was, getting brain surgery, which is definitely not the curve-ball most expect during sophomore year. The biopsy revealed that I had a rare brain tumor called a germinoma, luckily with a high cure rate. Obviously, this has changed my life completely and kept me from doing most normal teen things. But, the worst part was not being allowed to run, ski, skate, or do anything that had the potential of making me fall until the surgeons deemed me ready. Still, I made it my priority to be outside at least once a day, usually taking short walks. Getting outside even when I felt unable to do most other things has been a type of therapy for me. Breathing fresh air and feeling the cold on my face refreshed me and made me feel better, at least for a little while, every time.

After six weeks of limited activity, the Friday I got the OK to do any activity I wished began the best weekend since the diagnosis. In the afternoon, I went snowshoeing on a trail through the cat-tails. At night, I ice skated with friends. The next morning, I cross country skied on a frozen creek. On Sunday, I ran for the first time since the diagnosis and though it was incredibly slow-paced, the feeling of fighting through the burn and completing an entire loop of my go-to trail can only be understood by those who have experienced the phenomenon of a runner's high. Better yet was the soreness that almost kept me from making it down the stairs Monday morning. I had been sore many times due to the chemotherapy, but this pain was something I had caused myself by working hard and, in a weird way, made me very proud of myself.

Reading the announcement of this essay contest in the paper this Thursday, I could hardly withhold my excitement! I danced around the house, imagining the essay I would write and how much fun it would be to share my favorite place with my friends. Though I am such a lover of the BWCA, most of my friends have never experienced its hypnotic serenity and I've always wanted to share it with them, but not wanted to have to bring my parents along. This contest has the potential of granting me this wish. In addition, I am lucky to have a short treatment plan of chemotherapy and radiation that will be wrapped up in early May with no physical restrictions. This enables me to be perfectly ready for a summer trip to the greatest place on Earth with my closest friends.

As I reviewed the details of the contest, I found something additional that links me to this mission: Joseph [one of the contest judges]. Hi! I read that you were diagnosed with leukemia at 13 years old and I imagine you and I share many similar experiences. Other than just the typical cancer similarities, I wonder if you share the experience of growing a little sick of your parents. I know, it might seem impossible to them, but after being surrounded and worried about almost exclusively by my parents for the last couple months, I'm very ready to escape their concern for a little while. Of course, I have always and will always love and appreciate them for their constant love and support, but distance makes the heart grow fonder, right? My desire to spend a couple days deep in the wilderness, sharing unique experiences with my closest friends, has increased greatly in the last couple months.

As a long-time lover of the outdoors and the Boundary Waters and a recent parent-escape hopeful, I would cherish this opportunity to navigate the lakes and portages I'm so fond of with my friends. I know my dreams will soon be filled with mornings looking out over the water, long days of paddling, dinners laughing beside the campfire, and nights sleeping with only a tent between me and a sky full of stars. I pray these dreams will be made a reality.

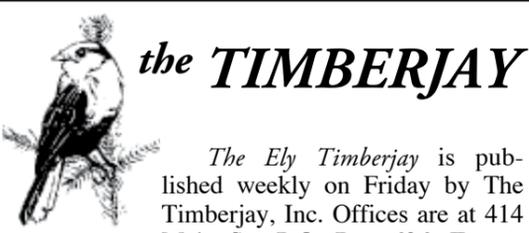
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10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturdays — 8 a.m. to noon
Closed on Sundays
Phone: 365-5140

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

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
AA - 7 p.m. Mondays, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St.
WOMEN'S AA - Noon Mondays, Ledgerock Community Church, Ely - use 15th Street entrance
BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church.
AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.
BABBITT AL-ANON - Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian Church.
CO-DEPENDENTS' 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Ely.
ELY 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.



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Breathing Out
by Cecilia Rolando © 2018

a move from winter transforming to warmth, sun, rain with the irish luck

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We are now accepting 2018 Arts Grant Applications
for Individual Artists, Project & Youth Grants, Scholarships & Operational Funding

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

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS: 12:00 noon on Friday, March 23

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Keiko Williams, Executive Director, before March 16 for help and review of their applications. Call 365-2639 or email info@gardnertrust.org

Open Office Hours are 10am - 3pm on Monday & Tuesday from 10am - 2pm or call for an appointment. Youth grant applicants must call for a grants review by March 9.

Tuesday Group schedule

ELY - The upcoming Tuesday Group schedule (subject to change) is listed below. All talks are at 12 noon on Tuesday at Grand Ely Lodge.

March 20 - Tom Hanson and Vladimir von Tsuvikov

ELY SCHOOL BANDS AND CHOIRS

MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS



Ely School band and choral students presented a Music in Our Schools Concert Thursday night at Washington Auditorium. The Middle School Choir above, included Reba Kissell and Joe Foster on djembes. The 5y-grade band flute players are shown below left. Part of the 6th-grade band brass section is shown below right. photos by K. Vandervort



The trumpet section of the high school band is shown above. The 7th- and 8th-grade band is shown at middle right. The 4th- and 5th-grade musical students, bottom right, did a number from their musical "Press Start." The Ely Memorial High School Choir, below, performed two songs they presented at a recent competition.



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NORTH WOODS GRIZZLIES



Above: Grizzliette Tori Phillips during their routine



There was a lot to cheer about during Parents Night, held recently at North Woods School. Tate Olson (left) scored his 1000th point, and the Varsity, Jr. Varsity, and Grizzliettes (pictured above) all performed a dance, as well as cheering on the team. photos by B. Smith

Right: Grizzliette Ella Kruse

Cook Lions Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 18

COOK- On Sunday, March 18, the Cook Lions Club will be preparing and serving a pancake breakfast in Cook at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 124 5th St. SE, from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. The donated Homestead Mills pancakes will be served with sausage and the butter, juice and syrup donated by McDonalds.

All proceeds benefit the Cook Food Shelf.

If you are interested in volunteering or joining the Cook Lions Club, contact Mark Eyre at 666-2758 or Norene and Roger Butalla at 666-2869.

Come and enjoy the community pancake breakfast!

Cook Library hosting early readers forum on March 22

COOK- The Cook Library is hosting an "Early Readers Forum" on Thursday, March 22 at 6 p.m. This event is for everyone interested in the lives of early readers. This will be a place to share input and ideas about resources and spaces for early readers in our community. The goal is the strengthen existing partnerships and create new collaborations. The event will include a discussion of existing library resources and reading programs. Other items on the agenda include 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, Bags to Go, librarian visits, teacher/day care

outreach, reading buddies, and do-it-yourself story time. Interested people are asked to RSVP by March 21 by calling 218-666-2210 or emailing crystal.phillips@alslib.info.

Planning beginning for Spring Art Expo

COOK- Planning for this year's Spring Art Expo will begin at a meeting on Tuesday, March 20 at 10:30 a.m. The public is welcome to attend. The regular monthly meeting, to plan other events, will be held afterwards, at 12 noon. It's a fun group to have lunch with!

Founded by artists and business owners in the Cook area, NWFA became a 501(c)3 organization

in 2010 and established the gallery immediately. NWFA, staffed by volunteers, provides a gallery to display art, hold classes and events for children and adults. Contact NWFA via email at nwfamn.org@gmail.com, website at www.nwfamn.org and on Facebook and Instagram.

"Open Art" where artists gather to work

COOK- Artists will be meeting in Cook at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery on Saturday, March 17 from 12 noon until 3 p.m. On the third Saturday each month, conspiring

artists meet to work and discuss their own particular projects at 210 S River St. next to Dream Weaver Spa and Salon. Carvers, painters, sculptors, photographers, writers, weavers, musicians and, well, open season for "Open Art" at NWFA Gallery. Contact Sue Wolfe for more information 218 666-2153.

Since 2010, NWFA has organized artists and their works of art at the NWFA Gallery as a non-profit membership organization. Winter gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. The website is nwfamn.org.

Bookmobile schedule

Visit your library on wheels, the Arrowhead Library System Bookmobile.

Thursday, March 22, April 12, May 3, 24

Nett Lake - Community Center 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Crane Lake - Ranger Station 11:15 a.m. - 12 noon

Orr - Lake Country ReMax building 1:45 - 2:30 p.m.

Kabetogama - Town Hall 3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
For further information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, write or call the Arrowhead Library System, 5528 Emerald Ave., Mt. Iron, MN 55768 218-741-3840, or check our website at www.alslib.info.



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NORTH WOODS ARCHERY



North Woods Archers still going strong



Above: North Woods Archers got ready for the Regional Tournament held at North Woods School. Left: The Sturgeon River Chapter of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association donated a check for \$1,000 to the North Woods archery program. From left: Roger Metsa, founder of the Sturgeon chapter, member Doug Kolstad, vice-president Greg Baty, and president Bret Haavisto. Archery participants (from left) Avery Thiel, Cole Theil, Jeremiah Voges, Alex Byram and Hannah Kinsey. photos by B. Smith

North Woods archers middle school team takes third at Regional Tournament

FIELD TWP- The North Woods Middle School team took third place at the North Region Archery Tournament held on March 10 at North Woods School in Field Township. The team was led by North Woods middle-schooler Cadence Nelson who took third-place honors in the individual competition. Nelson shot a 280.

Team winners (listed first, second, third)
 Elementary: Mesabi East Schools, Assumption Catholic School, Hill City School
 Middle School: Robert J. Elkington Middle School #1, Hill City School, North Woods School
 High School: Mt. Iron/Buhl, Grand Rapids High School #1, Mesabi East Schools

The next meet is the State Tournament on March 23 and 24. This meet will be held at Bemidji State University.

GRIZZLY UPDATES

A word about school safety

Happy Friday Everyone!

The recent school shooting in Florida has reignited debate and discussion in our country regarding guns, mental health, and school safety. As a school principal, I have a strong interest in the discussion and decisions about this.

At some point in history, the primary responsibility of a school seemingly shifted from educating children to protecting children. I am very disgusted that educators even need to be having this discussion amongst ourselves. It is not right. It is not normal. But it is our reality. Not a day goes by that I don't think about "what if?" My assurance to you is that I take my job of keeping our kids safe very seriously, and I feel that our school and district is ahead of the curve in terms of school safety.

Our School Resource Officers are a priceless resource in terms of school safety. Deputy Krueger and I have discussions weekly about school safety. We enlist the ideas of our staff and students in order to do all that we can. I have met with students to ask for their help in identifying students who may be reaching out for help or demonstrating concerning behavior. As



JOHN VUKMANICH

parents, if you see behavior or social media posts that seem worth mentioning, please let me know or notify law enforcement immediately.

Talk to your kids about making good decisions. In light of the recent school violence, you have likely seen on the news that students continue to make threats and post inappropriate things across the country. Now more than ever, kids need to take their own behavior seriously and realize how certain statements can be perceived.

In terms of our own building, we continue to discuss what we can do to make our school as safe as possible. We have secure doors, a lockdown system, and additional measures to secure classroom doors. We are looking at additional improvements, as we speak, that we hope to have in place

for next fall. This discussion actually was happening before the Parkland shooting.

Our ALICE training (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) allows us as teachers and students to make timely and appropriate decisions to keep ourselves as safe as possible, versus the previous lockdown model of "lock the door, sit, and wait." We have practiced these techniques and will continue to do so, modifying as we go to ensure that we are using best practices.

Nationally, we didn't arrive at this place overnight, and we are not going to resolve it overnight, either. There is not a simple fix. There are many components at play in this discussion including mental health, firearms, family/parenting issues, violent video games and other media, behavioral expectations

for our kids, school security measures, how we finance various programs, and deciding what types of preventative measures should be in place.

Opinions vary widely on how this should be addressed, and I sincerely hope that our policy makers will arrive at a decision on how to best keep our kids and teachers safe in a reasonable, timely, and attainable fashion.

Please encourage your kids to reach out to each other with kindness. A cohesive student body that sticks together and appreciates each other's uniqueness is truly a force for good in and out of school.

Have a great weekend and Go Grizzlies!

**Your principal,
John Vukmanich**

THANK YOU

Voters for
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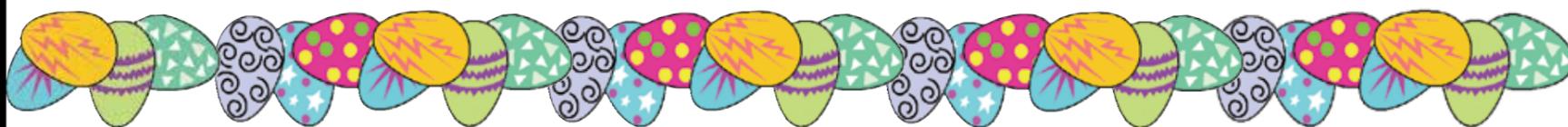
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ISD 696

Ely schools planning for facilities projects

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – School building facility improvements, maintenance, even a possible courtyard project to put all campus buildings under one roof, are all moving forward at ISD 696.

Superintendent Kevin Abrahamson updated school board members this week on various topics related to the physical structures at Ely schools.

The facilities planning committee, born out of the recent strategic planning and long-term planning sessions, is almost put together, will include as many as 15 to 18 members, and will conduct their first meeting before the end of the month. “This is your first strategic planning goal,” Abrahamson said, “and is followed closely by the facilities maintenance committee.”

School board members, administration, teachers, staff and community members will examine the entire “footprint” of

the school campus and work on a five-or 10-year-plan of what needs to be maintained or accomplished. Interfacing with the long-term maintenance plan as well as capital expenditures, the Ely School District hopes to have a direction for a long-term facilities maintenance plan, according to Abrahamson

A looming facilities project facing school board members is the roof replacement on the Memorial Building and how to finance that project. “One of the things we can do is to take a portion of our long-term facilities maintenance dollars and allocate that over 10 years to pay for (the roof),” Abrahamson said. “There are lots of options. I really believe we need to look at coordinating the strategic planning part with that.”

The enclosed courtyard is an option just recently brought to the table after the failed attempt to locate the Ely Regional

Community Complex on school grounds. Estimated to cost at least \$3 million, the new construction could include a commons area, new cafeteria and kitchen, central offices, and enclosed hallways to join the Memorial, Washington and Industrial Arts buildings. A new gymnasium is also being considered.

“This is a very good option, but it is not etched in stone,” Abrahamson said. “This, of course, would be a significant expenditure and we really need to know, far ahead, how to pay for that.”

Other facilities projects under consideration include an improved parent drop-off area for the elementary school. “We need to take a serious look at that, and it’s not a huge expenditure of dollars,” he said.

Abrahamson also suggested planning for resurfacing all the school campus parking lots. “We need to look at those

amounts so we don’t impact the taxpayers negatively,” he added.

School board member Rochelle Sjoberg asked for Abrahamson’s opinion on a time frame for the courtyard and other facilities projects.

He offered three options. “You are almost too late for a funding referendum this fall,” he said. “And the other piece of that is this is a mid-term election and turnout will be less. In 2019, if you were going to hold a bond (referendum) we would foot the whole bill for the election. In 2020 there is a general election, which is probably where you will get most of your voters out. Statistically, that is probably the best bet.”

He suggested that 2020 would be the best time to have a bonding referendum. “You also have to look at how much you want to bond for and what will the public bear,” he said. “You still have a bond put there until 2026.”

Board member Heidi Mann asked about addressing the American With Disabilities Act concerns around campus while waiting to complete a possible enclosed courtyard project.

Abrahamson indicated that concrete work in front of the boiler room could be addressed relatively inexpensively. “The designated access route is the front of the Memorial Building to the front of the Washington Building. That has been the designated route. We just have to make it more clear.”

He noted that the concrete caps over the tunnels could be repaired with asphalt. “If you are thinking of putting another facility in that space, you probably don’t want to tear up thousands of dollars of concrete and put thousands of dollars of concrete back on when asphalt would suffice.”

The softball field facility improvement and maintenance project is

still under consideration, according to Abrahamson. The project would cost \$2,500 this year and \$2,000 a year for the next three years. The school board will likely consider that request next month.

Other business

In other business, the board took the following action:

➤ Appointed James Pointer and Sjoberg to the Facilities Planning Committee, and Sjoberg and Ray Marsnik to the Insurance Committee;

➤ Approved the expansion of Early Childhood Family Education programming at an annual increase of about \$20,000;

➤ Tabled a request from Todd Hohenstein for an extended leave of absence to get clarification on the state statute authorizing the action;

➤ Hired Taylor Davis for the temporary cafeteria aide position.

DONATE...Continued from page 1

much weight he can lift, an issue with his job at Royal Tire in Virginia.

“My boss is being supportive of my decision,” he said.

And while White hasn’t suffered any complications, Olson developed a painful internal infection about a month after the surgery, which is now being treated.

Olson said that while

his wife Paige supported his decision to be a donor, other family members were skeptical.

“My mom was pretty leery about it,” he said, “and other friends thought I was crazy.” Olson said the idea that he could make the decision who his kidney was going to was important to him.

“I really didn’t think twice about it,” he said.

Olson has three young children, Audriana, Ethan, and Harper.

“I told them I was going to give somebody help,” he said, “and that I would feel bad for a little while.”

“I know it seems scary,” Olson said. “But once you go through everything and sit down and think about it, it’s not as bad as people think.”

Recovery from the surgery has included a lot of pain, especially at night, he said.

Even with the pain and complications, Olson said he is happy with his decision to donate.

“I would rather make the decision to donate and be able to watch the person become healthy again,” he said.

“Seeing the expres-

sion on Nicole’s face, and how happy she was, it was enough for me,” he said. “I knew I did something good.”

While it has become more common for family members to donate a kidney to a relative, non-family donations such as this are still fairly rare.

And while there was a GoFundMe campaign set up to fund the surgery,

White is hoping that people will step up to help out the Olson family at this time.

A fund has been set up at the Embarrass-Vermillion Federal Credit Union (Steven Olson Benefit Fund), and donations can be made at the Tower office, or any other EVFCU office.

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TOWER...Continued from page 1

Current ambulance financials vs. proposed paid on-call system

Current operations (2017)

Actual revenues and expenditures per city budget

Revenues

Revenue from 72 transfers: Approx.	\$90,000
Billings for emergency response:	\$206,500
Other revenues (minus township subsidy):	\$24,500

2017 Total operating revenues: \$321,000

Expenditures

Ambulance staff costs:	\$101,500
Other expenses:	\$139,300

2017 Total expenditures: \$240,800

Total 2017 margin: \$80,200

Paid on-call (proposed plan)

Revenue

Proj. revenues from 150 transfers: (based on actual 2017 payments)	\$190,000
State and county reimbursements:	\$19,000
Billing for emergency response:	\$206,500
Other revenues (minus township subsidy):	\$24,500

Total oper. revenues under plan: \$440,000

Expenditures

On call staff wages (not including OT):	\$153,000
Other ambulance staff wages:	\$86,600
Add'l gas/food for transfers:	\$15,000
Quarters rental:	\$9,000
Other expenses:	\$139,300

Total expenditures under plan: \$402,900

Total operating margin per plan: \$37,100

Net negative from current operations: \$43,000

Net negative from current operations (including OT): \$66,000

Total operating margin under plan (including OT): \$14,100

hiring the additional staff.

Last April, when the Tower City Council approved Altenburg's staffing proposal, his report to the council had claimed that the new staffing system would actually increase the service's net revenues. Altenburg now agrees that claim was in error, and that he should have claimed an increase in gross revenues, since costs of the program are likely to exceed any additional revenues. "I have never said we were going to profit more," Altenburg said, even though he acknowledges that his original written proposal did, in fact, make that claim.

Altenburg argues that new staff will allow the Tower Ambulance to take more inter-hospital transfers, which generate substantially more revenue than emergency calls. He said the service averages about \$600 for

an emergency call, while a transfer brings in about \$1,300 before subtracting expenses. An analysis of 2017 ambulance billing records by the *Timberjay* found an actual average of \$1,217 per transfer. The ambulance service completed 72 transfers last year, and Altenburg projects that will increase to 150 under his staffing proposal.

Altenburg was, at times, confrontational in the interview, repeatedly accusing this reporter of misrepresenting his proposal or "twisting numbers." Altenburg was also contradictory at times, sometimes acknowledging the on-call proposal will diminish current budget surpluses, at other times, going back to his previous claims that the plan would more than pay for itself.

Altenburg was also occasionally defensive.

"As long as we're not losing money, what business is it of yours," he said, referring to this reporter. "As long as we're not losing money, who cares? We're a not-for-profit agency."

While Altenburg dismissed the need for maintaining operating margins, he also acknowledged that the service will need to use those margins to cover an ongoing shortfall in the fund that pays for new ambulances. The service's two operating ambulances, which date back to 2011 and 2012, are close to retirement age, he said. "Some of the margin is going to have to cover the cost of buying new ambulances, because there's not anywhere near enough to buy new ones," said Altenburg.

The ambulance purchase amount is supposed to be funded by an annual subsidy from the townships, which was increased two years ago. Altenburg said the subsidy will need to go up again to cover the cost of upcoming vehicle purchases. The service is likely to need to purchase two ambulances over the next couple years, and Altenburg said he wants to add a third rig to the service as well, as back-up. Ambulances can run as much as \$200,000 or more.

According to budget data provided by City Clerk Treasurer Linda Keith, the ambulance rig account contained \$118,000 as of the end of 2017.

The ambulance service's 2017 fund balance totaled \$636,315, but that includes a \$140,000 insurance settlement for the fire that destroyed the service's storage garage several years ago. That money is allocated towards some kind of a new facility.

Potential shortfall

How much the service's operating margins might fall under Altenburg's paid on-call plan depends on a number of factors, including how many additional transfers the service can complete (which will affect revenues) and how well Altenburg has assessed the costs of the plan.

Altenburg projects that the service will accept more transfers with on-call staffing, projecting 150 transfers, up from the 72 transfers the service completed in 2017 under the old staffing model. That would generate an additional \$101,000 using Altenburg's estimate of \$1,300 per transfer, or \$95,000 based on the average of actual payments in 2017.

When Altenburg originally presented the plan to the council, it did not include the cost of travel, payroll taxes, or the expense of providing housing for staff while on-call. Altenburg does include those costs in an updated budget provided to the *Timberjay*, which pegs the cost of the proposal at \$177,000.

Altenburg at times continues to argue that his plan actually makes money, but he reaches that conclusion by attributing all 150 projected transfers, and the revenue they would generate, to be a result of the new staffing model. His analysis fails to account for the fact that the service's current volunteers completed 72 transfers in 2017, without

paid on-call staffing.

Altenburg's plan also assumes that the paid on-call staff would not qualify for overtime, which is at odds with the findings of some other area ambulance directors, whose research has concluded differently. Altenburg's proposal calls for on-call staff to work 60-hour shifts, which would potentially require the service to pay 20 hours of overtime on every shift. If so, that would add an additional \$23,000 annually to the cost of the plan, putting the total price tag at approximately \$200,000.

After the *Timberjay* raised questions in January about the potential for overtime costs associated with the plan, Linda Keith sought an opinion from city attorney Andy Peterson on the issue. Based on Keith's explanation of the working circumstances of the new staff, Peterson concluded that the staff would not be subject to overtime requirements for periods when they were only on-call. But as Keith noted in her explanation to Peterson, that decision hinged primarily on whether the workers would be required to reside at or near the hall while on call. "Are we correct that the 'being at the hall requirement' is what saves us from OT?," Keith asked in her letter to Peterson. Peterson concurred.

But Keith never informed the attorney in her letter that the city was planning to rent living quarters for the on-call staff, since they otherwise were unlikely to be able to make it to the hall within the five or ten-minute response time required by the position. To be exempt from the federal Fair Labor Standards Act and its overtime provisions, on-call personnel must generally be able to remain at home and use their on-call time as they see fit. If they're expected to remain on or near the employer's premises, whether at a fire hall or assigned living quarters, the more likely they'll be considered subject to the FLSA and overtime.

When questioned by email about the failure to inform the attorney about the living quarters, Altenburg reacted angrily: "DUDE SERIOUSLY?!? You would be absolutely right if you weren't so completely wrong. Of course the house is an extension of the fire hall as it is being rented by the ambulance, however I dnt (sic) give a flying monkeys butt if some one wants to live out of their car in Zup's parking lot." Altenburg said the only requirement is that paid on-call staff be within a ten-minute response time of the ambulance hall and would not be required to utilize the housing. Altenburg is proposing to spend approximately \$9,000 a year for the living quarters because three of the four individuals recently hired for the on-call positions live too far away to meet the ten-minute response time. Those individuals currently live in Chisholm, Babbitt, Embarrass, and Tower, so most would be unable to remain at home during their on-call hours.

Qualification for overtime for on-call service hinges on more than just housing arrange-

ments. The more frequently on-call staff are required to do work assignments, and the more hours those assignments entail, also factor into whether overtime rules would apply. In the case of the city's on-call staff, the service's average call volume suggests that on-call workers would be required to complete potentially lengthy work assignments multiple times each shift. Numerous legal cases in this area of law, reviewed by the *Timberjay*, suggest that the working arrangement established by the city could well leave the city liable for overtime. Failure to pay it up front could leave the city forced to provide back pay to on-call staff, as well as any attorney's fees the workers might incur in obtaining a favorable ruling.

Altenburg was dismissive of the issue during last week's interview. "I'm going by what the actual lawyer said," he responded.

The plan proposed by Altenburg would likely bring in some other sources of revenue, such as increased state and county Medicaid subsidies provided for transporting patients covered by the program. Altenburg projects those subsidies would total a minimum of \$19,000 under his plan, and likely more. "I assumed the lowest possible subsidy," he said. He also notes that the on-call staff won't be paid additionally for ambulance runs, and estimates that this will offset the higher pay afforded volunteer drivers, saving about \$14,000 annually. "Volunteer" drivers are currently paid \$25 an hour for ambulance runs, while Altenburg's latest plan calls for paying emergency medical technicians, or EMTs, \$11 an hour.

Even with the additional revenue and savings, a *Timberjay* analysis (see sidebar) concludes that the paid on-call staffing would reduce the ambulance service's margins by \$43,000, or \$66,000 if overtime costs are considered.

Under its current staffing model, the ambulance service took in a total of \$343,515 in 2017, according to the most recent numbers provided by the city, although \$22,675 of that is township support earmarked for ambulance purchases. That leaves operating income of \$320,840. Total expenditures through 2017 totaled \$240,827, according to the latest city budget numbers, leaving an operating surplus of \$80,013.

While Altenburg's staffing proposal would likely still leave a surplus, it could well be reduced by as much as 82 percent.

That's a different scenario from the one presented to the council last year when Altenburg originally offered his plan. Altenburg said he was satisfied that the council approved the plan and that members knew what they were voting for. But when asked if members of the council were aware that his plan would, in fact, likely not pay for itself as he had suggested, Altenburg responded: "I know for sure that two understand that," he said. "Actually, three of them do," said Keith, who was also in

the interview. "I was going to say three but I couldn't remember for sure," replied Altenburg.

"Why wouldn't the whole council know that?" this reporter asked.

"Because what difference does it make?" responded Altenburg. "Not a single one of them asked 'Are we going to profit less money?'"

Moments later, Altenburg again suggested his plan would not impact the service's budget. "The plan has been approved and I'm confident if executed the way I have laid it out that it will pay for itself, and that the ambulance isn't going to lose money."

A question of mission

Altenburg said the mission of the ambulance service is to provide emergency patient care, not to make money. "The issue is patient care—that is our mission," said Altenburg. "As long as you are still generating a net plus at the end of the day, that's all that matters."

Altenburg argues that the service will benefit by having staff on-call five days a week, arguing that it will provide a faster response time for patients.

That may well be true in many cases, but not in all instances. Altenburg's plan could increase response time for some local patients if it diverts available staff to non-emergency transfers more frequently. That is what happened on evening in mid-February, while one of the Tower service's two ambulances was on a transfer to a psychiatric facility in Thief River Falls. A mutual aid call from Ely took the service's second ambulance up the road, which meant no ambulance was available when an emergency medical call came in from Fortune Bay. Tower had to request mutual aid for that call from the Cook Ambulance.

"That's why we have mutual aid," noted Altenburg.

Mutual aid does provide a backstop for such situations, but relying on it can significantly increase response time, depending on the location of the patient and the distance of travel for a mutual aid responder.

That's why most ambulance services try to limit the number of transfers they'll accept. "You can do the transfer, but you always have to have a crew available to respond to an emergency," said Bob Norlen, field services supervisor for the state of Minnesota's Northeast EMS region. "It would be tough to explain if someone died of a cardiac arrest while you were on a transfer."

While most other services accept less than half of the transfer requests they receive, Altenburg suggests that Tower can do substantially more. His estimate of 150 transfers would be equal to two-thirds of the requests the service received in 2017, and he argues the service may be able to do even more, in order to generate more revenue. Which raises the question of whether the quest for transfer revenue could potentially overshadow the broader mission of emergency patient care.

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GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Bassing out, Beihoffer in on Greenwood Town Board

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- By a narrow five-vote margin, incumbent Greenwood Supervisor Larry Tahija retained his seat on the board, and Greenwood Chair John Bassing is now off the board. While Greenwood had two supervisor seats up for election, Bassing had initially decided not to run, and two others filed for his open seat. He then decided to file and put his name in against his fellow supervisor Tahija, setting up the unconventional pairing.

Byron Beihoffer, who has previously served on the board, but lost the last time he ran for office, also tallied a narrow six-vote victory with 154 votes to Rick Stoehr's 148.

I n c u m b e n t Greenwood Clerk Sue Drobac had the best showing of the night, with 189 votes to challenger Belinda Fazio's 122.



Byron Beihoffer and Larry Tahija, both won seats on the Greenwood Town Board at the annual meeting Tuesday night.
photo by J. Summit

Voter turnout was 313, which included 70 absentee ballots.

About 45 residents attended the annual meeting, which, on par with the last few years, started with a bit of rancor. The formality of nominating a meeting moderator resulted in three nominations from the floor: Mike Indihar,

Mike Ralston, and Jeff Maus. Ralston, who had been elected moderator last year but who now serves on the town board, declined to be considered. At the request of Carmen DeLuca, the matter was decided by a paper ballot, which meant registered voters had to get signed in and cast a paper ballot even before the annual meeting business got underway. Mike Indihar won the vote by a two-to-one margin. Indihar, who has spent many years as annual meeting moderator, was up to the task, and the rest of the meeting ran without a hitch.

"I hope you find that my goal is a fair meeting," he said.

Treasurer Pam Rodgers gave the financial report, which showed the township ending the year 2017 with a fund balance of \$747,819. The township levied only a single dollar for the year. Taxes and receipts collected in 2017 totaled \$23,257. Expenditures were \$351,723. The township had started the year with a fund balance

of \$1,017,085.

Residents approved a 2019 levy of \$150,000, the same as is in place for 2018.

The town board has been working to lower its fund balance (which was at a high of \$1,356,052 in 2014), to a more moderate amount. Some of the fund balance is in dedicated accounts, specifically funding set aside for eventual replacement of the Isle of Pines bridge, the community enhancement loan fund, and the bike trail fund.

Chairman Bassing presented the 2019 budget, which estimated spending of \$297,300 and revenue of \$225,827. The budget is lower than the \$340,122 budgeted in 2018.

In comparison, township spending was \$560,160 in 2009 with taxes collected totaling \$475,587, and a year end fund balance of \$529,449.

He explained that this would leave the township with an estimated fund balance of \$576,087 at the end of 2019.

Bassing said the board did include an extra \$25,000 in the budget for proposed repaving of the township parking lot areas. Other areas of the budget which showed large changes included the elimination of township planning and zoning, and the subsequent decrease in legal costs.

Treasurer Rodgers, in response to a question from Indihar, indicated that she would like to see the township maintaining their fund balance at around the \$576,000 level.

Supervisor Ralston said this means the town board would be asking

voters to approve an increase in the levy for 2020, perhaps up to \$250,000.

There is no clear rule for how much a township should keep in reserves. Estimates in the past have ranged from 50 percent to 200 percent of annual spending. Resident Lee Peterson noted that a township like Greenwood, which does not have expenses related to roads, water or sewer, would not need as much as some other townships.

Rodgers said the data is available for all towns statewide, and she offered to do some research.

Residents were given an update on the proposal by the Penguins Snowmobile Club to build a maintenance garage on a tax-forfeit parcel on Hwy. 77. Ralston said while initially the club had asked to township to consider acquiring the land and leasing it to the club, the club has now decided to purchase the 10-acre parcel on its own, and Rep. David Tomassoni will be helping with legislation to allow the sale at current market value.

Resident Marilyn Mueller said she was tired of "politics as usual" and asked the board to commit to annual training for all its members. She asked the board to institute a "three demerits and you're out" policy which would allow for the removal of any board member that didn't attend training classes or did things that were against state rules or township policy.

"When you don't perform well," she said, "there are consequences. I am tired of politics with no consequences."

Mueller maintained

that in the past, when the township had paid employees, "we never had any problems."

Others disputed Mueller's statement that there weren't problems when the township had paid employees. But they also agreed with her idea that supervisors need to commit to attend training classes.

"What Marilyn said is very good," said Lee Peterson, "But we did have a lot of training over the years and still ended up with activities that generated some horrendous legal fees."

Jeff Maus put a motion on the floor to recommend that the town board adopt a policy that every supervisor attend at least one training course offered by the Minnesota Association of Townships or sponsored by the township attorney's office each year. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

The voters also approved a motion to allow the town board to spend up to \$5,000 on expenses for the 40th Anniversary Celebration set for Saturday, Aug. 25 at the town hall pavilion. There will be food and live music. Organizer Pam Lundstrom is seeking local history to assemble into a short publication. She asked residents who may have information on how their road was named to contact her, as well as other road history. Lundstrom also noted that the Tower-Soudan-Lake Vermilion Events Board will host a spaghetti fundraiser at the town hall on Saturday, May 19. This is a fundraiser for the Fourth of July.

ORR...Continued from page 1

the convenience store and that several troopers had been at Pattons Café in and around the same time as the robbery. According to Nakari, law enforcement officers responded to the bank, but then quickly head north of town after apparently receiving a tip on the identity and residence of the suspect.

Whether the suspect actually obtained any money isn't clear. Nakari indicated he wasn't in the bank for more than a few moments. According to Nakari, "He probably just grabbed what he could," after incapacitating the tellers with the pepper spray.

The Cook Ambulance transported the two tellers to the Cook Hospital for treatment for the pepper spray. No report was available on their condition as of presstime. American Bank did not immediately offer any comment or a statement on the incident.

Several agencies responded to the scene, including the FBI, Bois Forte Polic, Minnesota State Patrol, Cook Ambulance, Orr First Responders, the Koochiching County Sheriff's Office and the DNR.

The *Timberjay* will have more on this story as it becomes available.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY DFL CONVENTION

State politics lives at the grassroots

Phifer, Otto secure bulk of District 3 delegates at Ely convention

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY — Eighth District congressional candidate Leah Phifer and State Auditor Rebecca Otto secured the bulk of the 14 delegates sent on to the next level of the DFL party endorsement process during the St. Louis County Senate District 3 convention held last Saturday in Ely.

Dozens of DFL party delegates and alternates elected at the February precinct caucuses gathered at the Washington Auditorium for the several

hours-long event.

Convention participants navigated their way through a gauntlet of candidates and their representatives who presented position papers, campaign buttons, yard signs and a sympathetic ear to anyone who wanted to talk about campaign issues pertinent to this year's state elections.

The 2018 mid-term election is particularly important in northern Minnesota with an open Eighth District congressional seat, along with statewide contests for both U.S. Senate seats and

governor.

By the end of the day-long session, delegates elected convention chairpersons, appointed a secretary and other convention officials, adopted the agenda and rules, listened to officer and committee reports, considered constitutional bylaws and amendments, elected party officers, adopted resolutions, and approved delegates and alternates for the next step in this unique political process. Leah Phifer secured nine delegates and alternates out of the 14, while Otto secured at least six delegates. Erin

Murphy secured one delegate. Other delegates were approved to move on under various other banners, such as uncommitted, party unity, or labor.

Delegates also elected Robert Miller, from Hermantown, as the new Third Senate District chairperson.

Following the Congressional District Convention in April, the DFL State Convention will be held June 1-3, at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester. The GOP State Convention is set for June 1-2 in Duluth.



DFL delegates and alternates register for the St. Louis County District 3 convention at Washington Auditorium in Ely Saturday morning. photo by K. Vandervort

FIRE...Continued from page 1

She reported the incident to the hotel desk, and staff there immediately instituted their emergency procedures.

Fire officials later ordered an evacuation

of the casino as well, although they lifted that order fairly quickly allowing guests back inside. The hotel remained evacuated as of the *Timberjay's* Wednesday presstime, due

to some lingering smoke. Anderson said guests were very understanding and patient under the circumstances.

Eyewitness accounts reported white smoke pouring from a window as firefighters, carrying fire hoses, worked to enter the room from an upper level balcony. Other firefighters were seen hauling a ventilation fan up the stairs inside the hotel.

Social media reports indicated that the fire was quickly contained within a single room, and that some employees may have been treated for smoke inhala-

tion. Ambulances from both Tower and Ely were dispatched to the scene.

Anderson expressed gratitude on behalf of Fortune Bay for the prompt response by emergency personnel. "We really appreciate their assistance," he said. "They did a great job."

Greenwood, Breitung, Tower, and Vermilion Lake fire departments responded to the scene, along with Virginia Fire/EMS, and the Tower Ambulance. Pike-Sandy-Britt, Embarrass, St. Louis County Sheriff and BIA also responded.



The fire was contained to a single room on the fourth floor, but smoke permeated through other parts of the hotel. photo by Max Helmsberger

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Olympic coach reflects on gold

Phill Drobnick grew up in curling

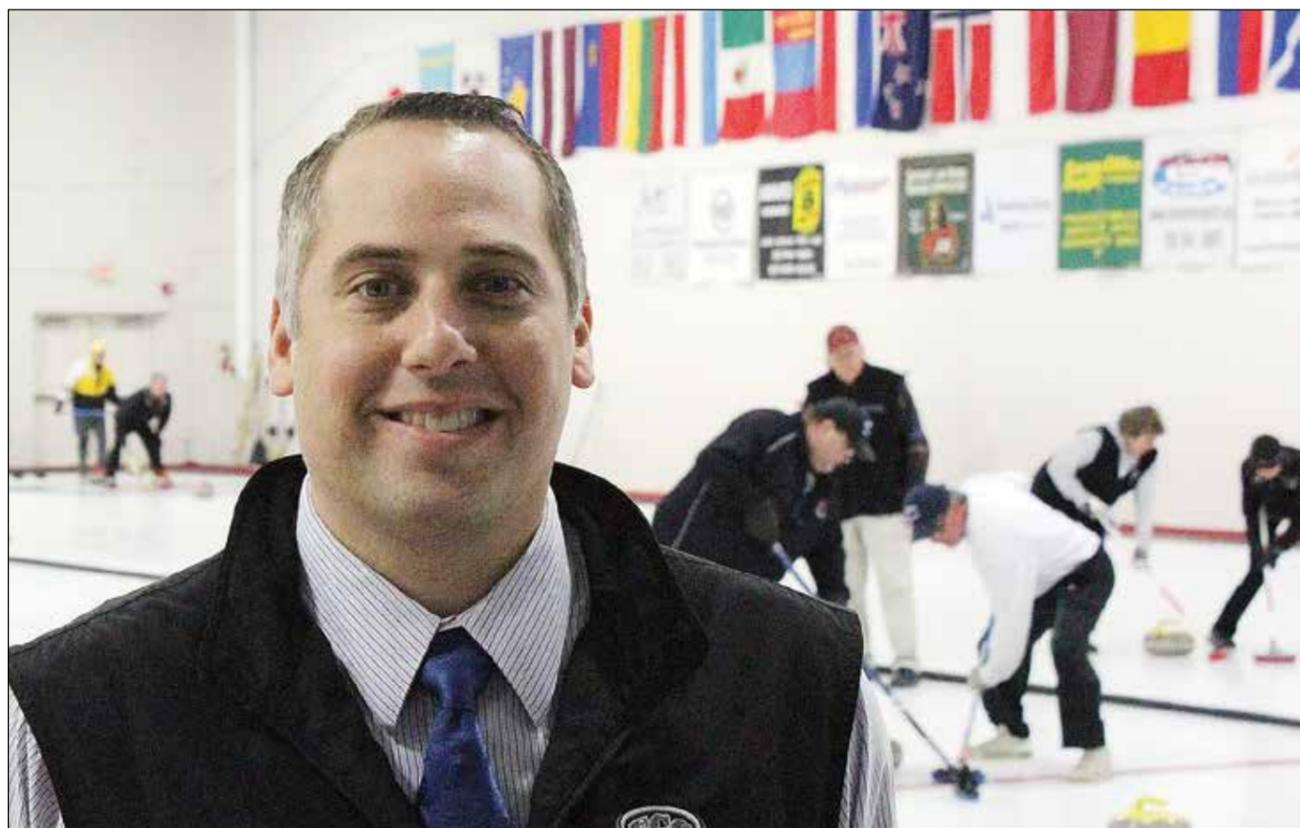
by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

EVELETH— Can a small group of northern Minnesota curlers help heal the divisions of a country and offer a bit of hope in a uniquely troubled time? That may be a tall order, but Phill Drobnick is still riding the high from his team's stunning come-from-behind victory to win gold at the Olympics in PyeongChang, Korea, last month, so he can be excused for thinking anything's possible.

Drobnick, an Eveleth native who still makes this Iron Range town his home, was coach of the U.S. Olympic curling team and he said he's never seen the kind of response that he and his team members have experienced in the wake of their storybook finish.

"America loves a winner and a good story, and this one has both," said Drobnick, during my interview with him last week at Curl Mesabi, in Eveleth. "Curling is really having a moment on the national stage," he said. "We always get a bump after the Olympics, but this group of guys and the way they interact on social media, they've really gotten a lot of people's interest. The country is just going crazy for curling right now."

Call it a diversion from the national political scene. Call it therapy. Call it hunger for an uplifting tale. Whatever you call it, Drobnick said Americans are finding a lot to like in this improbable



group of average Joes who worked hard and achieved the kind of success only few can imagine.

"I've been told there's a feeling out there that with all the negatives going on, that America really needed this group of guys," he said.

And it almost didn't happen.

While Drobnick had high hopes as the team headed to Korea, the team struggled in the early going, losing four of their first

six games in pool play, leaving them one loss away from elimination. Next up was Canada, the perennial curling powerhouse that had never finished lower than second in Olympic competition. In other words, the end was near, or so it seemed.

Drobnick admits the team members were frustrated with their early losses, but he said the team had prepared itself both physically and mentally, which allowed them to bounce back. The coaching staff

Above: Phill Drobnick stopped by Curl Mesabi, in Eveleth, last week to talk about his favorite sport.

photos by M. Helmberger

had imposed a new level of structure on the team, said Drobnick, and that included debriefings after each match to identify mistakes, and avoid them in subsequent matches.

See **CURLING...**pg. 2B

SECTION 7A BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS

Grizzlies advance to semis

Top Spartans, 84-40

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

HIBBING— An aggressive defense, strong rebounding, and the Grizzlies' usual offensive prowess provided the keys to advance to the semi-final round of the Section 7A boys basketball tournament this past Saturday. North Woods easily outpaced Nashwauk-Keewatin to win 84-40 at Hibbing Memorial Arena.

The Grizzlies were set to face Lakeview Christian Academy on Thursday, with the winner to compete for the Section 7A title on Saturday, March 17. North Woods easily outpaced Lakeview, 85-43, on Feb. 20, in their only contest this season.

Ely and Wrenshall, who have yet to meet on the court this year, were set to face off for the other slot in the championship match.

"It was a great defensive effort for us," said Grizzlies Head Coach Will Kleppe, in the wake of his team's win over the Spartans. "We created numerous turnovers and transition opportunities which gave us a comfortable lead at halftime," he added. "Holding their leading scorer scoreless in the first half was exactly what we needed to do to start the game."

For the Grizzlies— a team that clearly has the skills to go all the way— it will just come down to execution, and the team has shown remarkable consistency throughout its nearly perfect season. Its single loss came late in the season to Class 2A powerhouse Virginia.

Execution was right on track against the Spartans, as the Grizzlies jumped to a 14-3 lead and kept the defensive pressure on almost the entire game. The Spartans had a couple modest runs, but could never sustain the momentum to climb back into contention.

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



Above: North Woods standout point guard Cade Goggleye advances the ball down the court during last Saturday's game against Nashwauk-Keewatin.

Right: Junior Chase Kleppe goes up for a shot under pressure from a N-K defender.

photos by C. Stone



Wolves take out Huskies

A Thursday night win over Wrenshall would send Ely to Section 7A finals

by JAY GREENEY
Sports writer

COLERAINE— A slow start didn't keep Ely from easily outpacing Bigfork in their Section 7A quarterfinal contest on Saturday. Ely found its stride midway through the first half and cruised to a 77-48 victory.

"We struggled shooting a bit in the first part of the game," said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald. "We made a big run to push us up by 15 at half."

That run was fueled by junior Pat Vanderbeek who poured in 19 points in the first half as the Huskies couldn't find a way to contain him.

The Wolves continued the hot shooting in the second half but defense was the ultimately the

key to their success over the Huskies this year. Ely held a good

scoring Bigfork team to just 45 and 48 points in their two meetings this year.

Only one other team held them to fewer points in a game this season.

"We played great defense against Bigfork," said McDonald. "I think Trevor Mattson and Eric Omerza did a terrific job of playing defense on the Cook brothers in the second half and limited what they got offensively."

For the game, Pat Vanderbeek led the way, with 27 points. Carter Gaulke notched a double-double, with 14 points and ten rebounds, along with seven assists. Trevor Mattson notched 14 points and Eric Omerza added 13. Blaise Lah once again was the boards leader with 12.

The Wolves have won their two playoff games by large margins and find themselves playing very good team defense. They were set to face a major challenge Thursday night after the *Timberjay's* weekly presstime, as they were scheduled to take on 25-2 Wrenshall in the semi-final round. A win would put them in the Section 7A

See **WOLVES...**pg 2B

CURLING...Continued from page 1B

In fact, he said, much of his coaching duties focused on creating a structure that allowed the team members to focus solely on their play. That meant handling the complicated logistics of Olympic competition in addition to working with players on their technique and strategy.

Going into the do-or-die match with Canada, Drobnick said he left his team with a challenge. "I told them not to let anyone decide when our tournament was done," he said.

He said the team went into the game confident they had the ability to beat Canada—and when that final hammer shot clinched the stunning win, Drobnick said the entire team believed they would go all the way.

"It was the first time U.S. had ever beaten Canada in the Olympics, so that was a real confidence builder," he said. "In the next game, we played Switzerland, and we just drilled them. We shot about 92 percent as a team, and never looked back." They went on to win two more before knocking off Sweden for the gold.

For Drobnick, it was a moment of pure fulfillment. "It's really the pinnacle of coaching to help and watch as your

team achieves their goals," he said.

While the team relished its victory, they didn't realize the full extent of their accomplishment until they arrived back in Minnesota. "There were hundreds of people waiting for us at the airport, and just as many at the Duluth [curling] club," he said. Later, the team enjoyed a police escort as they made their way to Curl Mesabi. "I can't tell you how much this has meant to the club and for people in Minnesota, and around the country," he said. "It was a pretty cool thing, actually."

Growing up in curling

For Drobnick, curling has been a central part of life since childhood, when the original Eveleth Curling Club became like a second home. "My parents were both big into curling," he remembers. In fact, both his parents were instructors in the local youth curling league and he began learning the sport at the age of seven. Thirteen years later, in 2000, Drobnick won the junior national title and later that year, finished sixth at the World Junior Championships. He competed in the U.S. Olympic team trials in 2002 and 2010, and was runner-up

at the 2011 U.S. Men's National Championship.

Drobnick turned increasingly to coaching over the years, and led Team USA to gold at the 2008 World Junior Championship and to bronze in 2009. Along the way, he was twice named USA Curling Coach of the Year.

More than competition

While Drobnick has focused on the competitive nature of the sport of curling, he recognizes that for most curlers, competition is only a small part of the game. "Curling is a hidden gem," said Drobnick, who serves as board president of Curl Mesabi. "The social aspect is very enjoyable and is a big part of the experience."

That's a view echoed by others at Curl Mesabi, who were participating in a senior bonspiel last Tuesday.

"It's a chance to socialize," said Denny Bone, a longtime member of the club. Since retiring from the St. Louis County Land Department several years ago, he's found curling a great way to keep in shape in the winter and keep in touch with long-time friends.

A day at the curling club may involve a few hours on the ice, but once



A curler directs a stone down the ice during the recent senior bonspiel at Curl Mesabi, in Eveleth. photo by M. Helmberger

the stones are reset and the brooms are put away, the curlers head upstairs for lunch, dinner, or a few drinks with friends. It's a low-key, casual, and very friendly atmosphere, the kind of place, in other words, that has attracted a loyal following, with a membership of over 320.

Dennis Peterson, of Greaney, is one of them. He's been curling since the 1950s and has introduced a number of friends and acquaintances to the sport over the years.

A retired engineer, Peterson likes working out the strategy of each game, or "end" as it's known.

"It's like a chess

match that stretches a 150 feet long," he said. "Every end is a unique experience. With bowling you set up the pins the same way every time. With golf, it's all offense, no defense. With curling, there's a lot of strategy involved."

Drobnick, who works as a St. Louis County probation officer when he's not on the ice, encourages everyone to give curling a try. He notes that age is not a factor. Indeed, the club's oldest member, Bill Hill, of Eveleth, is still curling at age 97.

Peterson, now in his 70s, said that's one of the things he finds most appealing about curling.

"You can start curling at age nine or ten, and keep on until you're 97. It's definitely a lifetime sport."

The club offers senior leagues Mondays and Wednesdays, as well as junior and evening leagues. They also host occasional open houses and beginner nights for those thinking of trying the sport. If you'd like to give it a try, act soon, however, since the curling season wraps up in a week or so. Another season begins again around Nov. 1.

For more details, you can call Curl Mesabi at 218-744-1302.

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

championship, set for 7 p.m., on Saturday, March 17, in Hibbing. They would face the winner of Thursday night's tilt between North Woods and Lakeview Christian Academy.

Ely 74, MI-B 44

Ely opened the section 7 boys basketball playoffs on Wednesday, March 7, against Mt. Iron-Buhl. This was the third meeting of the season for the two teams and the Rangers were hoping for an upset.

The Wolves had other plans and shook off a slow start to win big 74-44.

"It was a nice win against a quality opponent," said Coach McDonald. "It was nice to get that first round win after losing in this round

our last two years."

The number two-seeded Wolves didn't shoot well to start but let their defense control the game.

"We struggled a bit in the first half but played well defensively to have a 30-22 lead at the half,"

added McDonald. "We came out and shot the ball well early in the second half and clamped down on defense even more which led to many defensive rebounds for us."

For Ely, senior Carter Gaulke had his first career

triple-double with 28 points, 12 assists, and ten rebounds. Pat Vanderbeek added 20 points while Blaise Lah had a team-high seven rebounds.

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GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

It was another excellent game for the Grizzlies' junior guard Cade Goggeye, who poured in a game-high 18 points.

But he had plenty of help from senior Tate Olson, who added 16 points, and junior Chase Kleppe, who added 13. Trevor Morrison

notched 10 points, Dylan Chiabotti added eight, and TJ Chiabotti tallied seven. Also scoring were Brendan Parson with five points,

Darius Goggeye with three, and Isaiah Squires with two.

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Obituaries And Death Notices



Sally J. Baglien

Sally Jean Baglien, 73, of Fergus Falls, passed away peacefully at home with her loving family by her side, on Monday, March 12, 2018. Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, March 15, with a 7 p.m. public prayer service, at Olson Funeral Home in Fergus Falls, and resumes at 9:30 a.m. prior to services at the funeral home on Friday, March 16 at the Olson Funeral Home Chapel in Fergus Falls with Deacon Chuck Kampa officiating. Interment will be at Knollwood Memorial Gardens in Fergus Falls. Arrangements are with Olson Funeral Home in Fergus Falls.

She was born on Sept. 23, 1944, in Duluth, to Eino J. and Jean A. Holappa. Sally graduated from Virginia High School in 1962, and then attended the University of Minnesota-Duluth, studying journalism. In November 1963, Sally married Lawrence J. Arkulary. They had three children, Robert, Deanne and Peter. On April 22, 1986, Sally married Milton K. "Milt" Baglien in Detroit Lakes.

Sally enjoyed being a licensed realtor and was employed by the Otter Tail County Health Department as an Administrative Secretary. She also served on the Viking Library System Board of Directors, as well as helping to manage the Fergus Falls American Legion with her husband Milt. Sally and Milt had also owned and operated the Pebble Lake Take Five in Fergus Falls.

Sally was a loving wife and mother. She loved spending time with her family, reading, traveling, and playing bingo with her special friends.

Survivors include her children, Robert (Lisa) Arkulary, Deanne Arkulary Stertz and Peter Arkulary; mother, Jean Holappa; sister, Peggy R. (Thomas) Brula; grandchildren, Cassandra Stertz, Jesse (Danielle) Stertz, Sarah Stertz, Jacob Stertz, Joshua (Carolyn) Arkulary and Jared Arkulary; and five great-grandchildren.

Sally was preceded in death by her loving husband, Milton K. Baglien; and father, Eino Holappa.

William A. Laitinen

William A. "Bill" Laitinen, 53, of Hoyt Lakes, died on Saturday, March 10, 2018, in Essentia-St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth. Services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, March 16 at the Bauman-Cron Funeral Home Chapel in Virginia. Visitation will begin one hour prior to the service. Family services provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his wife, Sherrie; children, Veronica Laitinen

of International Falls, William Jr. and Krista Marie Laitinen, both of Hoyt Lakes; step-children, Amanda Peters, Tracy Peters, Nancy Peters, William Peters and Caralee Peters; granddaughter, Sherrie; mom, Katherine "Katy" Laitinen of Cook; brother, Trevor (Marie) Rintala of Virginia; sister, Tylene Laitinen of Cook; and numerous extended family and friends.



Roger D. Anderson

Roger Dale Anderson, 65, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, March 1, 2018, in Ely. A Celebration of Life gathering is being planned for this summer for all family and friends to share precious memories, play music, and raise a glass. Further information regarding, date, time and venue will be forthcoming.

Roger was born on Aug. 14, 1952, to Milton and Audrey Anderson. He was one of three brothers. He graduated from JFK High School in Babbitt in the class of 1970. He attended St. Cloud State and Vermilion Community College. He married LaDonna Kim Steenerson on Sept. 4, 1976. Roger worked for the Frontier Telephone Co. for 32 years before retiring in 2007. He loved to play guitar and harmonica, sharing his gift of music with his family and wonderful circle of friends. He coached Little League and hockey for many years before becoming a snowboard enthusiast, at age 40, with his son Aaron. His love of sports was known to all. His favorite pastimes included reading, snorkeling on Burntside Lake, and caring for his one-and-only, special grandson, Noah Wallace. Roger was a wonderful husband and fun-loving person whose mere presence touched so many lives. He is not gone - just gone ahead.

Roger is survived by his loving wife of 41 years, Kim; their son, Aaron Wallace of Duluth; grandson, Noah Wallace of Ely; Noah's mother, Carrie Weisinger of Ely; special granddaughter, Odessa Dusich of Hibbing; brother, Byron (Sue) Anderson of Missoula, Mont., and nieces, Erika (JP) Dooley and Alisa (Tyler) Hayes; brother, Karl Anderson of Babbitt and nephews, Jack and Josh Anderson; mother-in-law, Audrey Steenerson, and brother-in-law, Kari Steenerson, both of Babbitt; sister-in-law, Kay Chisel, nephew, Cory Chisel (Ade and Rhodes) and niece, Tara Pohlkotte (Jason, Owen and Ava), all of Appleton, Wis.

George J. Dusich, 85, of Virginia, formerly of Babbitt, passed away on Wednesday, March 7, 2018, at Chris Jensen Nursing Home in Duluth. A Funeral Mass was held on Wednesday, March 14

at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely with Fr. Bill Skarich as celebrant. Inurnment was in the Ely Cemetery. Arrangements were with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his children, Jerry (Deb) Dusich of St. Cloud, Lorie (Doug) Wiermaa of Ely and Randy (Camy) Dusich of Woodbury; grandchildren, Richie (Molly) Milovich and Nicholas (Sarah) Milovich; great-granddaughter, Annabelle; sister, Mary Pendergast; stepsister, Rosemary Coombe; brothers Larry (Paula) Dusich and Bernie (Kari) Dusich; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Marie A. Wright

Marie Ann Sanden Wright, 76, of Elk River, passed away peacefully after a long battle with kidney disease on Thursday, March 1, 2018. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 17 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 1506 Main St. WW NW in Elk River, with visitation one hour prior. Interment will be in Big Lake Cemetery. Arrangements are with Dares Funeral Service.

Marie was a longtime owner of Wright's Way Bait & Tackle in Gheen.

She is survived by her daughter, Nicole (Mark) Klimstra; grandchildren, Travis and Michelle Klimstra; son, Lloyd Wright; grandchildren, Daniel, Teresa, Trinity and Arraya Wright; great-granddaughter, Justice (Teresa) Wright; former husband and friend, Melvin Wright; and brother, David Sanden.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Arthur and Evelyn Sanden; twin sister, Margaret Johnson; older brother, William Sanden; and granddaughter, Nicole (Lloyd) Wright.

More death notices on page 8B

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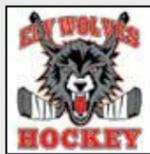
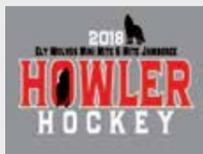
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| Ely Folk School | North Woods Collision Center | Wintergreen Dogsled Lodge |
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| | Perfectly Posh-Sara Schlosser | Zups Ely |



COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Aiden Kristian Alarcon



Ron and Laura Alarcon, of rural Tower, would like to welcome their new grandson, Aiden Kristian Alarcon. Aiden was born on Feb. 28, 2018. He was seven pounds, two ounces, and 18.5 inches long. Parents are Matthew and Miranda Alarcon of Meadowlands.

Babbitt Easter Egg Hunt on March 31

BABBITT- The Babbitt Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 31 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Babbitt Beach. If the weather is bad, it will be held at the Babbitt Municipal Gym. The hunt is sponsored by Just Bite Me Miller's Bait. Call Theresa at 218-235-7170 with any questions.

Ruby's Pantry in Babbitt on March 24

BABBITT- Ruby's Pantry will be distributing food at the Babbitt Municipal Center on Saturday, March 24 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. (Always on the fourth Saturday of each month.) A \$20 cash donation buys an abundance of food; no checks. There are no income or residency guidelines. Bring two large boxes or baskets.

Sponsored by St. Pius X Catholic Church. Volunteers are always welcome.

Ely AAUW hosts STEM workshop for girls on Saturday, March 24

ELY- Girls in grades five through eight from the Tower, Ely, and Babbitt areas are invited to participate in an upcoming STEM workshop. The workshop, sponsored by the Ely Branch of the American Association of University Women is scheduled for Saturday, March 24, from 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at Vermilion Community College in Ely. The event includes lunch and is free to participants.

The STEM workshop provides an opportunity for middle school girls to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math in a fun and interactive environment. Students will make marshmallow catapults, learn about veterinary technology opportunities, explore computer programming and have fun with physics.

According to the most recent statistics, women make up 47 percent of the workforce and only 24 percent of all STEM jobs. STEM fields pay better wages than many other fields. The workshop is an opportunity for girls to have fun with activities in these areas so they start to think seriously about careers in these fields.

For more information or to register for the workshop, call or text Jeanne Tomlinson at 218-235-8470 or e-mail elystem@gmail.com to receive registration and permission forms. Registration must be completed by March 21.

Check-in will be in the VCC Classroom Building from 9:30 to 10 a.m. on March 24. The parent or guardian must accompany the participant to the workshop if the permission form is not completed in advance.

The workshop is made possible by a collaboration between Vermilion Community College and AAUW with a grant from Lake Country Power Operation Round-Up.

MOVIES

"Cold November", a movie filmed on the Range, to be shown in Hibbing

Coming-of-age film focuses on young teen girl's first deer hunt

REGIONAL - Monument Releasing announces the theatrical release of the award-winning, coming-of-age film "Cold November" starring newcomer Bijou Abas, Karl Jacob (Pollywogs, The Dictator), Anna Klemp (Blue Sky, In an Instant), and Heidi Fellner (In Harm's Way, Planetfall). The film will be shown from March 23-29 at Mann Theaters in Hibbing and Grand Rapids, and on April 21 at the Zeitgeist Zinema in Duluth.

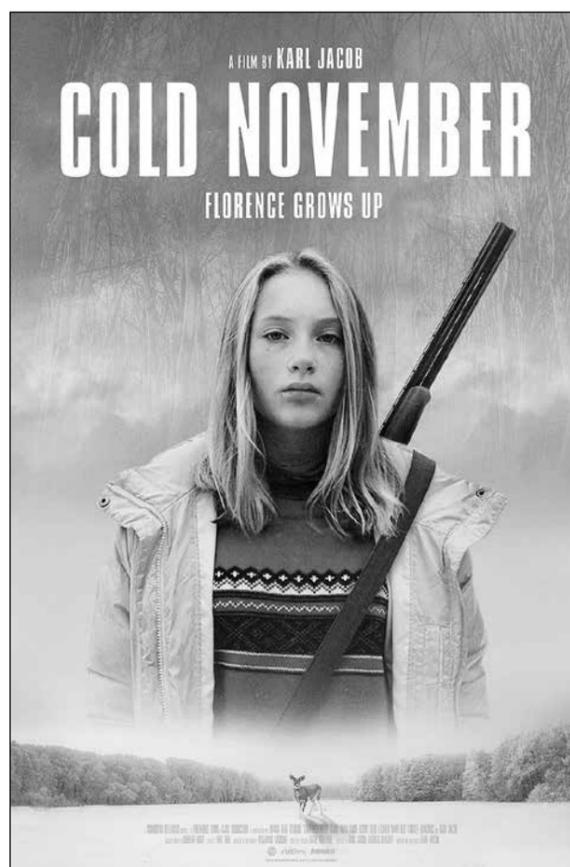
Written and directed by Jacob, this beautiful story of family tradition follows a young girl's experience as she transitions from childhood to adulthood. The film had its world premiere at CPH PIX 2017 and won the Jury Award for Best Narrative Feature at the 2017 Indie Memphis Film Festival. Cold November is the second in Jacob's planned trilogy of films spotlighting the unique culture of northern Minnesota. Monument will release the film in theaters on March 23 starting with showings in Minnesota, where the film was shot.

Deep in the wilderness of rural Middle America,

12-year-old Florence (Abas) is eager to undergo the rite-of-passage of her first deer hunt. A tradition passed down through many generations of women in her family, the act of killing a deer symbolizes the transition into adulthood. As Florence is taught how to shoot a gun and skin a deer, she gains a deeper understanding of life and death. When Florence finds herself alone during a hunt, however, expectations dissolve into chaos as she must rely on her instinct and training to follow through with her decisions, pull herself together, and face becoming an adult.

"The themes of tradition and family were very important for me in making this film," said Jacob. "Drawing on my own personal experience of killing my first deer at age 11, this story is a personal one, and my family played a big role in making this film; we shot the film on family-owned land during deer hunting season in Minnesota. My hope for the film is that it gives viewers a contemplative, touching story of a girl transitioning out of childhood."

Ryan Kamp



President of Monument Releasing, stated, "We love to see underrepresented communities on screen and are very glad to have discovered Karl's film, which shines a light on a female-focused hunting community in Minnesota. Having gone to college in the area, it was amazing to see someone so accurately

represent life outside of metropolitan areas."

For more info, please visit: <https://www.cold-novemberfilm.com/> or <https://www.monument-releasing.com/cold-november/>.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Traditional Irish Dance at Folk School, March 16

ELY- Celebrate Saint Patrick's Day one day early, at the Ely Folk School, on Friday, March 16, at 7 p.m. Music and dance instruction will be provided by FriendsOnTheRange. Group dances will include The Waves of Tory, The Haymakers Jig and other jigs and reels danced in circles and long lines. Couples' dances will include waltzes, polkas and hornpipes. Between the dances FriendsOnTheRange will lead everyone in a sing-a-long of popular Irish songs and ballads.

In Ireland, once upon a time, a Traditional Irish Ceili (kay-lee) Dance was a weekly event at the local town hall or in the front parlor of a farmer's cottage. The dancers and musicians were community friends and neighbors who came together to provide an evening's entertainment full of fun and excitement.

This Irish Dance will be a happy reunion for FriendsOnTheRange. Jim Ganahl, Carol Booth and Susan Hoppe will once again be joined on stage by Joey Kenig on guitar and Joey Lee on flute and pennywhistle. Jim plays the accordion, Carol plays the piano, and Susan plays the fiddle. FriendsOnTheRange has been playing traditional dance music in northern Minnesota for more than twenty years.

No experience is necessary. All dances are taught. Singles are welcome. Refreshments are potluck. Tickets in advance or at the door on Friday are \$10 per adult. Children accompanied by an adult will be admitted free of charge.

The Ely Folk School address is 209 East Sheridan St. Call 218-666-5990 for more information.



Irish Celtic Concert at the Edge on Friday, March 16 at 7 p.m.

BIGFORK- This year's season of performances at the Edge Center in Bigfork starts with a group that will provide an amazing variety with an equally amazing line-up of instruments. The Duluth-based group Eria provides music and entertainment from Ireland, Scotland, Canada, Wales, China, Scandinavia, and the U.S. They perform contemporary, traditional, and original songs, tunes, and stories. Their program is in English, Gaelic, Irish, Welsh, and Chinese played on fiddle, ehru, guitars, bodharn, bouzouki, button accordion, and whistles. That should satisfy everyone who attends the concert and leave a little extra to talk about. The concert will be held Friday, March 16, at 7 p.m. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children.

The Duluth-based group provides a mix of music and instruments that will be hard to find regardless of

where they are from. The word eira means snow in Welsh and certainly is appropriate for the group's origin and where they typically perform. The artists in the group provide a wide range of talents and come with an equally wide range of backgrounds.

Home for the Edge Center for the Arts is the northern Minnesota city of Bigfork located where the Big Fork and Rice rivers join. The center exists to enhance the edge of the wilderness by providing a welcoming and well-managed space where creating, enjoying, and sharing art experiences build community. Its 283-seat, state-of-the-art theatre and 1,400-square-foot art gallery provide opportunities for residents, guests, and vacationers. All this is in a city of under 500 people. The Edge is attached to and part of the community's school, enjoying the energy and vitality that only an education-based facility can offer. Visit us at www.the-edge-center.org, e-mail us at admin@the-edge-center.org, or call us at 218-743-6670.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

TOURISM

Fortune Bay honored by Explore Minnesota

MANKATO- It was a banner night for Fortune Bay Resort Casino at the 2018 Explore Minnesota Conference, which wrapped up on March 7.

"This is quite an honor for Fortune Bay and the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa," said Director of Public Relations Brian K. Anderson in reference to winning a Friend of Tourism Award. "We're very humbled winning this award as it means we are recognized for the hard work we all do to increase tourism to the Lake Vermilion area."

Fellow Lake Vermilion Resort Association member Mark Ludlow nominated Fortune Bay for the award, which was given out during the Excellence in Tourism Awards Banquet at the Verizon Center in downtown Mankato.

During the nomination process, Ludlow commended Fortune Bay and Bois Forte for all of its contributions to the area throughout the years, including hosting the 2005 and 2015 Minnesota Governor's Fishing Openers, plus its involvement with the annual Take A Kid and Take A Vet fishing events and several other worthwhile events.

"We are very proud of our association with the Take A Kid Fishing event and the Take a Vet Fishing event," said Anderson. "Both events continue to grow, thanks in part to a collaborative partnership with the Lake Vermilion Guide Association and LVRA resort owners, among others."

He said the Take A Kid Fishing event has maxed out the past three years with 100 kids, as that is the limit due to logistical purposes for the number of guides available to assist. Meanwhile, the Vets fishing event has steadily grown from 47 in the inaugural year in 2015, 75 in 2016, and then 102 this past summer.

Anderson also said its partnership with the Vermilion Lake Association to combat Aquatic Invasive Species has been well received.

"We have done this in an effort to protect the lake for future generations," said Anderson. "We have set up a boat cleaning station at the Y Store and have stepped up efforts at



Explore Minnesota Executive Director John Edman, left, Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers and Brian K. Anderson, pose for a photo after Fortune Bay won a Friend of Tourism Award at the 2018 Explore Minnesota Tourism Conference earlier this month. photo courtesy of Explore Minnesota

our marina as well. We'll continue these efforts as we, like the Vermilion Lake Association and many other stakeholders, want to ensure the long term survival of the lake."

Ludlow also commended Fortune Bay for its destination themed billboards in Wyoming, Minn., Canyon, Minn., and International Falls.

"We have had one in Wyoming for several years and have used it specifically to sell our property and the Lake Vermilion area to tourists," said Anderson. "Some members of the LVRA, specifically Ed Tausk from the Vermilion Dam Lodge, have thanked us for mentioning Lake Vermilion as it has helped them out to drive traffic to the area."

Bois Forte Tribal Chairwoman Cathy Chavers took time out of her busy schedule to come down to attend the ceremony and accept the award in front of a packed ballroom that was filled with many influential leaders in tourism.

"We certainly appreciated her support in coming down for this special

evening," said Anderson of Chavers. "You could tell that winning the award meant a lot to her as it validates the work Fortune Bay does for the Lake Vermilion area."

For Chavers, who had to battle poor weather conditions on the drive down to Mankato and then had to leave right after the conference due to a meeting at Fortune Bay, the trip was worth it.

"We are extremely proud and honored to be nominated by Mr. Mark Ludlow, who has meant so much to the tourism industry himself," said Chavers. "We're also very thankful to those who chose to honor us with such a prestigious award."

Chavers credited Fortune Bay's staff for their hard work and dedication, and for going above and beyond so that guests enjoy their Lake Vermilion experience.

"They should be extremely proud for the work they do day in and day out," said Chavers. "It was certainly a great day for Fortune Bay, and I just hope the Fortune Bay team realizes the difference they make."

Rangoli Sand Art with Shakun Maheshwari in Cook

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to present Shakun Maheshwari's Rangoli Sand Art, a free program being offered for ages six and up on Friday, March 16 at 6 p.m. at the Cook Community Center, 510 Gopher Dr.

Learn about Indian culture, history, and celebrations through art. Explore the use of art made from chalk, sand, or rice flour. Wrangle designs are a temporary floor art that people create and redo on a daily basis in India, in order to bring good luck and happiness to the home. Create stylized wrangle designs with flour or colored sand.

This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Cool and Creative Get Together set for March 29 at MDC

CHISHOLM- The Iron Range Cool and Creative Get Together is set for Thursday, March 29, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Minnesota Discovery Center in Chisholm. The Cool and Creative Get Together is a time for artists, arts organization leaders, economic developers, and civic leaders to get together to work on building arts across the Iron Range. Attendees can expect an interactive day of connecting artists with each other and with community leaders.

Laura Zabel, executive director of Springboard for the Arts, will be the keynote speaker. Zabel is an expert on inspiring artists and helping artists work with their communities.

Sheila Smith, executive director of Minnesota Citizens for the Arts, also will be speaking on the recent Creative Minnesota studies that show the tens of millions of dollars of economic impact that artists and arts organizations have on northeastern Minnesota.

There is \$15,000 available for small grants (up to \$5,000) to carry out the mission of the day. Details of the grants will be available at the event, and only groups that send a representative to the Cool and Creative Get Together will be eligible.

To register or for more information, email Sara Ferkul at sara.ferkul@state.mn.us or call 218-735-3020. Registration deadline is Wednesday, March 14.

The Cool and Creative Get Together is sponsored by Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, Lyric Center for the Arts, Blandin Foundation and Bush Foundation.

INTERNATIONAL FALLS

Junior Bards present Anne of Green Gables March 23-25 at the Backus

INT'L FALLS- Fifteen eager, young faces peer down from the stage as they listen intently for their instruction. First-time director Cody Boyer sits in the audience, watching the rehearsal and taking notes on slight changes to where an actor should stand or deliver a line. His assistant director, Graysen Gable, also takes notes,

often conferring with Cody on the feedback they will give following the scene practice.

Borealis Bards, the inter-generational community theatre program of Backus Community Center, will produce an all-youth cast performance of "Anne of Green Gables" as the third event of our 2017-2018 season. Our

youth program, The Junior Bards, will offer three showings on the Backus stage this month, at 900 5th Street, International Falls. Actors will range from age 7-18. This is the first full-length play for our youth program and the first full length youth production on the Backus stage in nearly 20 years.

Performances will be

at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, March 23 and 24; and 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 25. Tickets are available at City Drug and Backus office in International Falls, J&D Family Foods in Littlefork, Betty's in Fort Frances, and at the door. Prices are \$12 adult, \$6 children and \$25 for families.

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Outdoors

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DNR SAYS

Monday is deadline for fish house removal

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — You'll need to have your permanent fish house off the ice in northern Minnesota by Monday, March 19, according to the Department of Natural Resources. The deadline extends until March 31 on border waters with Canada.

Fish house owners should be aware of the requirement to take trash off the lake — whether it's theirs or was left by someone else.

If shelters aren't removed by the deadline, owners will be prosecuted and structures may be confiscated and removed, or destroyed by a conservation officer. After the deadline, shelters may be on the ice between midnight and one hour before sunrise only when occupied. They may not be left or stored at public accesses.

Outdoors briefly

Late season ice may not be as safe

REGIONAL — Most Minnesotans may be familiar with the Department of Natural Resources' ice thickness guidelines, but the DNR is advising that those guidelines may not be as reliable later in the winter, as the composition of ice changes.

This time of year, snow and slush that can accumulate on lake surfaces during warmer, sunny days, will often refreeze at night, adding to the apparent thickness of the ice. But this type of ice, known as "snow ice" or "white ice" is only about half as strong as the clear ice that typically forms earlier in the season.

In fact, the DNR recommends that you double the ice thickness guidelines when traveling over white ice. That would mean 10-14 inches for travel with a snowmobile or ATV, 16-24 inches for travel with a car or small pickup, or 24-30 inches for a medium truck.

VNP to hold listening session on Kabetogama winter operations

KABETOGAMA TWP- Join Voyageurs National Park staff at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 22 at the Kabetogama Lake Town Hall for an open discussion about winter operations at the Kabetogama/Ash River area. Specifically, the park is seeking input relating to ice road and snowmobile trail alignments in this portion of the park.

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MOOSE IN MINNESOTA

The data on moose and fire

Here's why quality habitat remains the key to moose recovery

According to the Department of Natural Resources, the increase in whitetail deer is the primary factor behind the decline of moose in northeastern Minnesota. Other researchers, like Dr. David Mech, have suggested the connection between the moose population and wolf density is a critical factor as well.

It turns out, there's a third factor that could be at least as important in determining whether the moose population is able to rebound in our region — and that's habitat.

Data recently assembled by researchers show that where moose can find habitat they like, they're thriving, even as their numbers remain relatively low elsewhere in the region. The key question is, what factors make habitat desirable for moose?

That's a question that researchers, like Mike Schrage, have been studying for several years now. Schrage, a biologist with the Fond du Lac Reservation, has been plotting the locations of moose encountered each year during the DNR's annual aerial survey. In particular, he's looking at how moose utilize nine sample plots that the DNR flies over each year. The survey's sample plots are otherwise selected at random each year, but researchers selected these nine to sample every year to see how moose reacted to the forest management changes experienced in those plots. Three of them include three large recent wildfires, the Pagami Creek, Cavity Lake, and Ham Lake fires, which burned close to 200,000 acres between them. Three other plots include recent large prescribed fires, including a large prescribed burn off the north and east side of Trout Lake, north of Lake Vermilion. The remaining three plots include areas where foresters and wildlife managers have worked to design timber management methods to benefit moose.

Schrage has recently assembled his findings, and the results are both eye-opening and encouraging.

Biologists have known for some time that moose like areas regenerating after fire, but Schrage's data shows just how strong that affinity really is. "If you like moose, fire should be your friend," said Schrage.

It turns out, moose stick to regenerating forest burns almost like Velcro. Outside of the burn perimeter, moose numbers dropped dramatically in many cases, even within the same test plot, while they were frequently abundant inside the fire's old boundaries. The moose usually take a few years to start moving in, but once they



come, they come in droves — and they don't care whether it's a wildfire or a prescribed burn. In fact, the highest moose numbers that researchers recorded this year were in the Trout Lake prescribed burn, where they estimated a total of 46 moose in the roughly 14 square-mile area of the sample plot. But it gets even better... the burn only encompasses about half of the land area in the sample plot, or maybe six square miles at the most — and every moose sighted was inside the burn perimeter. That's the kind of moose density you rarely see anywhere.

And it's not just a fluke. Schrage's survey data found the exact same moose behavior in the other burn plots. Outside the burn perimeter, moose were scarce to non-existent. Inside, it's wall-to-wall moose.

Schrage's data also suggests that forest management that seeks to mimic some of the attributes of large disturbance, such as fire, can help moose as well, although the moose tended to be more scattered, without as clear a preference as they show for fire.

The reasons for this aren't entirely clear, but there's room for reasoned speculation. Fires undoubtedly clear the land of things like winter ticks, which can be a major burden for moose. Over time, tick numbers can build, but a good fire knocks them back, probably for years.

Fire also kills off land snails, which facilitate the transfer of parasitic brainworms from deer to moose. "It's not a direct deer-to-moose disease transmission," noted Schrage.

The land snail is what's known as an intermediate host. The snails pick up the brainworms, most likely from deer scat, and then spread the disease to moose when

Top and second from top: Moose living within the Pagami Creek burn. Aerial surveys show burgeoning moose numbers in the 90,000-acre burn located southeast of Ely.

Above: The Pagami burn from the air.

photos courtesy Mike Schrage

they accidentally consume the snails while browsing vegetation. Each time a fire rolls through, it clears the landscape of the snails that make the spread of the deadly brainworm possible and it can take many years for the brainworm transmission to begin again.

Finally, fire tends to release a lot of nutrients into the soil, and that means regenerating growth is likely highly nutritious for moose, which improves their ability to fight off disease, or fend off predators like wolves. "We're talking about an 800 to 1,000-pound animal that makes its living on leaves and twigs," said Schrage. The quality of that forage makes a huge difference.

What this shows, more than anything, is that we very likely can rebuild our region's moose herd, if we're willing to adjust our forest management methods to create better habitat for moose. Keep in mind, we know that our current environment, even with wolves, deer, and warming winters, can still support high densities of moose. This survey data proves that. It's just a matter of making the commitment to create the kind of habitat that moose need.

That means using prescribed fire where

See **MOOSE...** pg. 7B



MARSHALL
HELMBERGER

Outdoors briefly

WICOLA honored at watershed forum

ELY - The White Iron Chain of Lakes Association was recently honored as the recipient of the 2018 Wilson Stewardship Award presented by the Lake of the Woods Water Sustainability Foundation.

The award was accepted by WICOLA President, Teresa Sagen, at the 2018 International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Forum in International Falls.

The Wilson Stewardship Award recognizes outstanding achievements of individuals, groups, or projects that are making a significant contribution to environmental stewardship and sustainability of the Rainy-Lake of the Woods watershed ecosystem.

The Awards

Committee noted WICOLA's contributions in initiating, coordinating, and maintaining a long-standing citizen-led water quality monitoring network on the White Iron Chain of Lakes, collecting water quality data that inform both residents and agencies.

WICOLA was recognized as one of the most consistent area information sources on issues related to water quality and invasive species. The committee was particularly appreciative of WICOLA's contributions to the science knowledge of the Rainy Headwaters. This contribution began in the early 2000's when WICOLA information and data helped in the development of the Rainy Basin Plan.

MOOSE...Continued from page 6B

it's possible, such as in the Boundary Waters and even in areas of public land outside the wilderness. It may mean going back to the use of fire to burn slashing after logging operations, as we used to do in the past. And it means planning timber harvests in such a way as to mimic this kind of large disturbance.

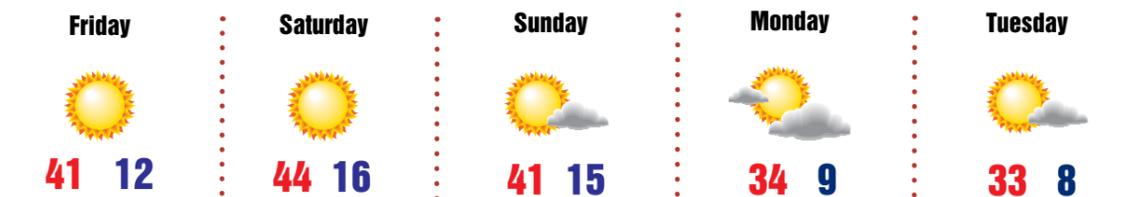
Biologists, like Schrage and Dr. John Pastor, at UMD, see the loss of this kind of habitat as a key factor, perhaps the major factor, behind the decline of moose in our region. "Wildlife species can withstand a lot of mortality if the habitat is good," said Pastor during an interview with me late last year. "There's too much 20-year old aspen on the landscape and that's just poor habitat for most animals," he added.

Schrage sees another

bane to wildlife out there as well, the large number of acres planted to pine plantations. "That ain't moose habitat," quipped Schrage, who said how we regenerate our forests is as important as how we cut it. "I think we're still paying the price for some of the decisions that were made on how to regenerate the forest in the past," said Schrage.

Both Schrage and Pastor say they aren't discounting the impact of other factors, like diseases and parasites carried by deer, but argue that quality habitat is bound to improve the health of the herd, and that's the key to rebuilding the population. "We can't just talk about wolves and deer," said Schrage. "If we don't provide good habitat for moose, nothing else is going to matter."

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather



Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	
03/05	36	29	0.00		03/05	33	27	0.00		03/05	38	29	0.00		03/05	36	21	0.00		03/05	37	28	0.00		
03/06	36	13	0.00		03/06	34	26	0.00		03/06	35	10	0.00		03/06	30	10	0.00		03/06	35	12	0.00		
03/07	33	11	0.00		03/07	25	10	0.00		03/07	28	5	0.00		03/07	25	5	0.00		03/07	32	9	0.00		
03/08	25	3	0.01	0.1"	03/08	23	5	0.00		03/08	24	3	0.00		03/08	27	-2	0.00		03/08	24	-3	0.00		
03/09	32	3	0.00		03/09	24	-2	0.00		03/09	29	1	0.00		03/09	30	7	0.00		03/09	30	-3	0.00		
03/10	33	-4	0.00		03/10	31	7	0.00		03/10	29	-5	0.00		03/10	36	-6	0.00		03/10	32	-8	0.00		
03/11	38	-4	0.00		03/11	33	-12	0.00		03/11	35	-5	0.00		03/11	34	27	0.00		03/11	38	-8	0.00		
Totals			1.55	63.8"	Totals			1.85	63.4"	Totals			1.95	68.4"	Totals			NA	NA	Totals				2.04	60.8"

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SAVE \$9,828 **27 On Hand*****

Buy Now For **\$35,763** Lease for **\$374/mo.+**

Tax/Lic. Included



#22029

2018 ECOSPORT SE 4WD

Heated Seats, Remote Start, Power Liftgate, 18" Aluminum Wheels, BLIS

\$25,991 MSRP
 -\$500 Customer Cash
 -\$500 Bonus Cash
 -\$500 SUV Fast Cash**
 -\$901 FOH Disc.

4 In Stock***

Buy Now For **\$23,590** Lease for **\$341/mo.+**

+ Tax/Lic. #22355



2018 FORD ESCAPE SE 4WD

EcoBoost, 18" Wheels

\$29,340 MSRP
 -\$2,000 Customer Cash
 -\$1,000 Auto Show Bonus
 -\$1,000 SUV Fast Cash Certificates**
 -\$3,241 FOH Disc.

29 In Stock***

Buy Now For **\$21,999** Lease for **\$318/mo.+**

+ Tax/Lic. #22218



2018 EXPLORER 4X4

Sirius Radio, 3.5 V-6, Trailer Tow

\$35,991 MSRP
 -\$2,000 Customer Cash
 -\$500 Ford Credit Cash*
 -\$1,000 Auto Show Cash
 -\$1,000 SUV Fast Cash**
 -\$1,832 FOH Disc.

11 In Stock***

Buy Now For **\$29,568**

+ Tax/Lic. #22208



2018 EDGE SE AWD

EcoBoost, All Wheel Drive

\$32,405 MSRP
 -\$2,300 Customer Cash
 -\$1,000 Auto Show Bonus
 -\$1,000 SUV Fast Cash**
 -\$1,502 FOH Disc.

11 Edges In Stock***

Buy Now For **\$26,603**

+ Tax/Lic. #00000



*Must Finance thru Ford Credit. **Limited Number of certificates available, First Come First Served. ***Price may vary due to optional equipment. *36 Month Lease, 10,500 Miles a Year, \$0 Down, 1st Payment at signing, Includes Tax & Lic.

3 TRUCKLOADS JUST ARRIVED!

4 Ford Edges Starting @ \$18,900	7 Ford Escapes Starting @ \$13,900	5 Fusions Starting @ \$11,900
4 Grand Caravan SXT Starting @ \$18,900	3 Ford Focus SE Starting @ \$10,900	2 Chrysler 200 Starting @ \$12,900

2007 Toyota RAV4 #21321A..... \$6,900	2011 Ford Taurus #9236A..... \$9,430
2007 Honda Pilot #21473A..... \$6,900	2011 Dodge Durango #22152B..... \$13,900
2007 Chevy Avalanche #22010B..... \$9,400	2013 Ford Expedition #21512A..... \$20,980
2009 Mitsubishi Outlander #9267A..... \$6,900	2014 Lincoln MKX #7258..... \$24,540
2009 Nissan Frontier #12020C..... \$8,900	2015 Jeep Cherokee #7263..... \$19,900
2011 Lincoln MKZ #7251A..... \$7,600	2016 Ford Fiesta #7249..... \$8,460

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Call now to reserve your time and talk about short-time orthodontics (218) 365-3565

before

after

ELY FAMILY DENTAL
 Crystal Chopp, DDS
 40 N 1st Ave E #5, Ely



EST. 1951

ELY SURPLUS and Outdoor

Spring 20% Off Sale!

Carhartt Jackets and Vests!
 Some Boots and Carhartt Jackets On Clearance!

All Winter Boots! Mens, Ladies & Kids **20% OFF!**

Some exclusions apply, in stock only. Photos representative. Sale ends April 1st.

129 N. Central Ave. • 365-4653 • ElySurplus.com
 Monday-Saturday 9-5 • Sunday Closed



Obituaries and Death Notices

Mary M. Mavetz

Mary Margaret Junke Mavetz, 92, of Ely, passed away on Tuesday, March 6, 2018, at Carefree Assisted Living in Ely. A memorial service is being planned for

early July. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

She is survived by her children, Beckie (Whitney Meddaugh) Lobe, Mary Jo (Ric) Toman, Darlene (Brian

LaFrenier and Al Mavetz; twelve grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and sister, ww Jean (Gary) Johnson.

More Obituaries on page 3B

EMPLOYMENT

Wanted: Now Hiring Shipping Manager

Piragis Northwoods Company

Management, Logistics and Customer Service Experience Required. Full time/Year Round position with benefits. Looking for a committed team member and leader who wants to join our growing business. Send resume to elli@piragis.com with a cover letter and references or deliver in person to: Piragis Northwoods Company 105 N Central Avenue, Ely, 218-365-6745 Interviewing now for April 15 start date.

Nett Lake School Teachers Wanted

The Nett Lake School is seeking applications for (2) elementary teachers for the 2018-19 SY. Applicants must submit a letter of interest, resume, copy of their valid MN teaching license or eligible for a variance and three letters of reference. Applicants may apply online at www.nettlakeschool.org. The district will begin reviewing applications on Friday, April 20.

Submit to: James J. Varichak, Superintendent, Nett Lake School, 13090 Westley Drive, Nett Lake, MN 55772. ttn

Nett Lake School Custodians Wanted

The Nett Lake School is taking applications for (1) full-time and (1) part-time custodian. Applicants must have a high school degree or equivalent, valid MN Drivers License, pass a pre-employment physical, drug test and a criminal background check. Interested parties must submit their application by 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 28.

Applications can be picked up at the school office or you can apply on line at www.nettlakeschool.org

Submit application to : James J. Varichak, Superintendent, Nett Lake School, 13090 Westley Drive, Nett Lake, MN 55772. ttn



Executive Director Full Time Position Available Ely Chamber of Commerce

Seeking an energetic, experienced professional to promote the needs and interests of Ely. Full job description and application details are available at www.ely.org/jobs.

Application Deadline: April 2nd, 2018 3/23

Vermilion Country School Special Education 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.vermillioncountry.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).

Position 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@vermillioncountry.org www.vermillioncountry.org

VCS is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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PUBLIC NOTICES

KUGLER TOWNSHIP CLERK APPOINTEE NEEDED

The Kugler Town Board will be looking to appoint a Kugler resident to the town clerk position as of June 1, 2018. This person will fill in until the next township election in November. The clerk spot is currently held by Julie Suihkonen, who is resigning due to her other work commitments. Anyone wanting to learn more about the position should contact Kugler Board Members Tim Kotzian at 218-753-5416 or Jack Brandt at 218-753-4241.

Published in the Timberjay, March 16 & 23, 2018

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT Court File No. 69VI-PR-17-168

ESTATE OF Joan Kay Kujala a.k.a. Joan K. Kujala a.k.a. Joan Kujala Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on April 11, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. a hearing will be held at the Virginia Courthouse, 300 S 5th Avenue S, Virginia, Minnesota on a petition for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of decedent's heirs, and for the appointment of Jerry D. Kujala, whose address is 4951 Spirit Lake Road, Mt. Iron, MN 55768, as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration.

Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the decedent's estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: Feb. 14, 2018 BY THE COURT HON. GARY PAGLIACETTI Judge AMY TURNQUIST/ STEFANIE HIGGINS Deputy Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner: Angela E. Sipila Sipila Law Office, LLC 108 South 5th Ave., Suite 1 Virginia, MN 55792 License No. 024501X Phone: 218-741-5000 Fax: 866-675-0629

Published in the Timberjay, March 16 & 23, 2018

City of Winton Full-time Public Works/Utility Manager Position

The City of Winton is seeking applications for a full-time Public Works and Utility Manager position. The normal working hours will be 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday to Friday. This is an AFSCME union position that includes benefits. The position requires possession of State of Minnesota Class D water and wastewater operator licenses. For more information call City Clerk Anne Jackson, 365-5941 or Mayor Kathy Brandau, 365-3985. Applications and job descriptions will be available from the City Clerk, Winton Community Center, 102 N. Main Street, Winton, or at Brandau Plumbing, Hwy 169, Winton. Applications and resumes with references may be brought to the City Clerk, Mayor, or mailed to City of Winton, PO Box 163, Winton, MN 55796. Applications are due by March 31, 2018. 3/23

Answers to March 16 puzzle

Super Crossword

Answers

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



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"We Love What We Do!"

Full-time Production Assistant

Have an eye for details? We are looking for a motivated individual with fresh energy. Livable wages and a great work environment. Call 218-365-6602 for more information or stop by to pick up an application at our store located at 205 East Sheridan Street, Ely.

Wintergreen Northern Wear

Quality Outdoor Apparel, Made in Ely since 1989



Quality & Convenience for Clients/Respect & Opportunity for Associates

We are in need of dependable employees to work as AIS (aquatic invasive species) Watercraft Inspectors on Burntside Lake, Ely Lake, Lake Vermilion, Shagawa Lake, and Ore-Be-Gone.

All training and equipment will be provided. 20-40 hours/week • \$12.50/hr

Visit our website at www.alwaystherestaffing.com for more information and to apply, or stop in to our office in Hibbing at 3131 1st Ave. Call: 218-440-1022. 3/30



Engineering Technician (Range)

Apply by 3/23/18

Financial Worker-

Apply by 3/21/18

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

Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 3/16

Nett Lake School

Indian Home-School Liaison/Director

The Nett Lake School is seeking applications for an Indian Home-School Liaison/Director. This is a 35 hr.wk for 42 weeks position. A complete job description and application can be found a www.nettlakeschool.org or you may stop by the Nett Lake School. Salary will be based on qualifications and experience.

The district will begin reviewing applications on April 20, 2018. This position will remain open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, March 16, 2018

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦♦ Moderate ♦♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

AUTOMOTIVE

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

Langevin Auto & Truck Repair
Full Service
Auto Repair & Garage

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

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 Becca Bundy at 218-780-5423 or vhhpdirector@gmail.com. This ad is paid for by Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners.

LICENSE BUREAU

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

REAL ESTATE

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

2BR FURNISHED HOUSE for sale in Soudan. Call Greg or Joan Dostert at 218-753-3047 for a showing. 5/4v

FOR RENT

FOR RENT BY THE MONTH- 2 BR, 1 BA housekeeping cabin on sandy shores of Lake Vermilion. May to Oct. Includes Lund fishing boat or slip in sheltered harbor. Linens provided. Call 218-666-3151. 3/16

2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS for rent in Orr. Call Dennis at Bayview Apartments, 218-757-0200. tfn

APARTMENT FOR RENT IN TOWER- Furnished, 2BR, 2BA, quality throughout, heated attached garage. \$850/mo. Call 218-750-6566 tfn

RENTAL WANTED

PROFESSIONAL, NON-SMOKER RELOCATED TO AREA- looking for quiet, rural, 2-4 BR house or cabin to rent within 20-25 miles of Cook. Call or text 651-238-4819 and leave message. Thanks. 3/30p

STORAGE

RED ROCK STORAGE- Boats, Cars, Household Items. Ideal Location. Many sizes. Also Mobile Storage Containers delivered to your location. www.redrock-storage.com. Call 218-753-2375. tfn

BUILDING SERVICES

EAST DHU RIVER SAWMILL INC
"Put A Piece Of Northern Minnesota In Your Home"
Superior Quality
• Plank Paneling
• Trim
• One-Of-A-Kind Moldings
• Industrial Lumber
218-744-1788
8825 Hwy 101, Iron, MN 55751

HELP WANTED

CAMP VOYAGEUR IS HIRING FOR THE SUMMER- PT, FT cooks and bakers, PT kitchen helpers/cleaners. Flexible schedule and we will train. This is a wonderful opportunity if you are creative, like working with youth and enjoy the outdoors. For more information contact cvsprit@campvoyageur.com or 218-365-6042. tfn

WHITE EAGLE is hiring for the 2018 vacation season! Various positions prepping cabins/grounds & welcoming/assisting vacationers. April through Oct. www.WhiteEagleResort.com/ Employment. 4/13

SEEKING CABIN CLEANERS for the 2018 season. Individuals/teams available a minimum of 2 Saturdays/month. www.WhiteEagleResort.com/Employment. 4/13

FOR SALE

Classic 1938 (or earlier) 18' Wood-Canvas Prospector Vee-Stern Canoe, refurbished 8 years ago, with (optional) 1933 Johnson Outboard A-65 4.1hp. Have pictures. Call 715-892-0901 for questions. No trailer. Asking \$3,000. 4/6p

WANTED

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

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.

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.

RV FOR SALE

2015 BRECKENRIDGE LAKEVIEW DESTINATION TRAILER 40 FKBS. Front kitchen, rear king bedroom, see it at craigslist.com. See it at craigslist.com 6461227559. 218-749-2014. 3/9

HELP WANTED

NOW HIRING SUMMER STAFF- Cooks, Waitstaff, Dishwashers, Pizza Cooks. Apply in person at the Vermilion Club, Old Hwy. 77, Lake Vermilion, Tower or email Talmiko@yahoo.com. 3/30

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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

MARINE

TIMBUKTU MARINA
218-666-2131
7801 Oak Narrows Rd - Cook MN
Cabin rentals
Year round boat storage and dockage
Boat and pontoon rental
Convenience store
Gas, bait & liquor
timbuktumarina.com

TIMBUKTU MARINE
218-666-2276
2423 Vermilion Dr - Cook MN
Ranger Boats
Premier Boats
Weeres
Boats
Mercury
Suzuki
Yamaha
Sales, service, storage, boat lifts, docks, trailers and accessories
timbuktumarine.com

MERCURY OUTBOARDS
Frank's Marine
Sales & Service, Orr, Mn 55771
Mercury Outboards, MerCruiser, Crestliner, Lund, Spartan Trailers, Ercoc Pontoons.
Call 218-757-3150

MOCCASIN POINT MARINE
4655 Moccasin Point Rd
Lake Vermilion
218-753-3319
Storage, Boat Rentals, Service/Repairs/Sales
Mechanic on Duty
moccasinpointmarine.com

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Located two miles southwest of Tower on Hwy. 169
Winter Hours:
Monday-Friday 9 AM-5 PM
Mercury
Lund
Honda
Dodge
Storage • Complete Service • Sales

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.

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).

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.)

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.

The Timberjay classified ads reach readers of all three editions every week.
Call 753-2950 to place yours now!

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Covered Wet & Dry Boat Storage
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Convenience Store
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www.shamrocklanding.com

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Crestliner
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Gift Shop:
Ice Cream Cones • Clothing
Gifts • Boat Accessories
Gas • Bait • Wifi
Inside/Outside Storage
Marina Slips • Daily RV Sites
218.993.2214
www.handbergs.com
7123 Handberg Rd, Crane Lake, MN

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Boat launch, rental, store & repair
Cabins for a great, fun vacation
See us at: www.grubens.com
Call us at: 218.753.5000
4296 Arrowhead Point Rd, Tower MN 55790

Subscribe Today
(218) 753-2950

DRESSING ROOM DELAY

Super Crossword

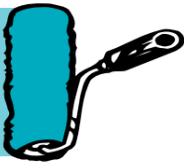
- ACROSS**
- 1 Bible book between Zephaniah and Zechariah
 - 7 Largest New Deal agcy.
 - 10 "The Wizard —"
 - 14 In the slightest
 - 19 Radiant
 - 20 Vacillating response
 - 22 Olive-green bird
 - 23 Start of a riddle
 - 26 iPod model
 - 27 Musician Brian
 - 28 From Jan. 1 until today
 - 29 Disagreeing (with)
 - 30 Tomorrow, to José
 - 33 Essen article
 - 35 Santa — winds
 - 36 Riddle, part 2
 - 45 Former WB rival
 - 46 Classical music record label
 - 47 Coup d'—
 - 48 Rises rapidly
 - 49 Overjoy
 - 51 Grafton's "— for Evidence"
 - 53 By way of
 - 55 Impel
 - 56 Riddle, part 3
 - 63 Within: Prefix
 - 64 Weapon
 - 65 Special span
 - 66 Lang. of the U.S.A.
 - 67 IRA options
 - 68 Riddle, part 4
 - 73 "... Mac — PC?"
 - 76 Buddhist discipline
 - 77 Letter after pi
 - 78 Pass along, as an email: Abbr.
 - 79 Male deer
 - 80 Riddle, part 5
 - 87 Minestrone, e.g.
 - 88 Moo — pork
 - 89 Pewter metal
 - 90 Reformer Sinclair
 - 91 Wide open, as a mouth
 - 93 Wide-mouthed fish
 - 96 Lassos
 - 100 Co. name
 - 101 End of the riddle
 - 105 Imitate a wolf
 - 106 "— haw!"
 - 107 Morally base messes
 - 112 "Evil Woman" gp.
 - 114 Riddle-me- —
 - 115 Actress Rowlands
 - 119 Riddle's answer
 - 125 Lopez of pop music
 - 126 More smart
 - 127 Straight, as an arm or leg
 - 128 Praise
 - 129 Trig calculation
 - 130 Gridiron pts.
 - 131 When wages are given
- DOWN**
- 1 Goldie of "Foul Play"
 - 2 Turkish chief
 - 3 Campbell of country
 - 4 Full chromosome set
 - 5 Car-towing org.
 - 6 Gigantic Shankar
 - 7 One of the Judds
 - 8 Shar- (dog breed)
 - 9 "With God — witness"
 - 10 Phrase on a thin coin
 - 11 New Deal prez
 - 12 Add- (extras)
 - 13 Wildlife park
 - 14 Incarnations of deities
 - 15 Jazz great Puente
 - 16 Very dry
 - 17 Advance, as money
 - 18 Captains' journals
 - 21 More fitting
 - 24 "For want of —, the shoe was lost"
 - 25 Half of Mork's sign-off
 - 31 Poker stakes
 - 32 Feel likewise
 - 34 Insect snare
 - 35 Be part of, as a film
 - 36 Montreal's province
 - 37 Elevated region
 - 38 Puts into law
 - 39 Tobaccoless smoke
 - 40 Sitarist Shankar
 - 41 Like a child
 - 42 Toad feature
 - 43 Jason's ship
 - 44 Reverse of NNW
 - 50 Boxing ref's ruling
 - 52 Be sure the job is done
 - 54 Docket
 - 57 Spoils
 - 58 "— longa, vita brevis"
 - 59 Big maker of SUVs
 - 60 Mr. Capote, to pals
 - 61 Tartan cap
 - 62 Neither Rep. nor Dem.
 - 68 "I'm talkin' to you!"
 - 69 Munic. law
 - 70 "Quiet down!"
 - 71 Little newt
 - 72 "So adorable!"
 - 73 Ear malady
 - 74 Kid-lit "pest"
 - 75 Part of NSA
 - 76 With 109- Down, one of five famed comedics
 - 79 Big name in fuel additives
 - 80 For takeout
 - 81 Red Scare gp.
 - 82 "Hot dog!"
 - 83 Oahu feast
 - 84 Sorvino of Hollywood
 - 85 Monogram, e.g.: Abbr.
 - 86 Japanese fish dish
 - 87 Used a bench
 - 92 Involve in conflict
 - 94 Pig's place
 - 95 Honey
 - 97 Loving ones
 - 98 Drowsy
 - 99 Made sense
 - 102 Part of 44-Down
 - 103 Trojan beauty
 - 104 Move past carefully
 - 108 Place
 - 109 See 76-Down
 - 110 Send forth
 - 111 Latin "year"
 - 113 "Think nothing —"
 - 116 One- — jack
 - 117 "99 Luftballons" group
 - 118 J.D. holder
 - 120 NFL players who pass
 - 121 Mentalist Geller
 - 122 Swimming star Thorpe
 - 123 Blushing hue
 - 124 — big way

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