N-K proposing $42 million new school
IRRRC Board to consider funding Tuesday for PreK-Grade 12 facility

LEE BLOOMQUIST
MESABI TRIBUNE
A proposal to build a new $42 million Nashwauk-Kee-watin school will be in front of the Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board on Tuesday.

Funding from a school collaboration amount at the Eveleth-based state of Minnesota economic development agency would help move construction of the school forward.

“They qualified because they’re collaborating with Grand Rapids,” Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Commissioner Mark Phillips said. “They’ve been working with Grand Rapids on a consolidation agreement.”

If Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation funding is approved — along with securing other funding sources — construction of the school would begin in 2023 toward a 2024-2025 completion date, Craig Menozzi, administrator on special assignment working on facility planning for the school district said.

Menozzi said the Nashwauk-Kee-watin and Grand Rapids school districts are working toward an eventual consolidation.

“We’ve had some joint school board meetings,” Menozzi said. “It’s going to take some time, but we’re definitely moving toward that (consolidation). We have a concept of Itasca area schools coming under ISD 118 (Grand Rapids).” There could eventually be a district of 3,000 students.

Nashwauk-Kee-watin school officials for several years have been working on plans to replace the district’s two century-old school buildings with a single state-of-the-art PreK-12 school.

The district is seeking $18 million in funding.

FINNISH ICE CANDLES WILL SET EMBARRASS GRAVES AGLOW
LINDA TYSSON
MESABI TRIBUNE
EMBARRAS — Come December 18, the wait until at least dusk the ice candles. 2 p.m. to place and light Highway 21, at 1:30 or Highway 135 just north placing candles on the graves of deceased relatives at Christmas time. Volunteers will meet at the cemetery, off Highway 135 just north of the intersection with Highway 21, at 1:30 or 2 p.m., to place and light the candles.

“For the best view, wait until at least dusk to drive through the cemetery and if you’re comfortable dealing with only your parking lights on, you will have less ‘light pollution’ for your patience and viewing pleasure,” reads the monthly Flying Finn newsletter.

Ice candles in a cemetery is a “deep-rooted tradition followed by non-churchgoers and members of the Finnish faith,” reads the majority Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland. Coffee and a bunch of local catalytic converter thefts have ‘skyrocketed’

Precious metals inside are sold for top dollar out of state

JIM ROMASAS
MESABI TRIBUNE
The Iron Range is part of a national trend, but unfortunately it’s not a good one.

Catalytic converter thefts are plaguing the area and the nation as the prices of the precious metals in them are soaring.

“They’re doing it in broad daylight,” Eveleth Police Chief Jesse Linde said in a telephone interview. “That’s a brazen way of committing those crimes.”

Linde estimated there have been at least 12 converter thefts in the last few months that were reported. He also hears about online traffic of similar thefts all across the area, Duluth and in Minneapolis.

Virginia Police Chief Nicole Young-Mattson recalls having about eight reported stolen going back to the summer. That’s a dramatic increase compared to years past when there was only one reported stolen in a several year span, she said in a telephone interview.

“Statewide, nationwide and in Canada, ‘thefts of catalytic converters have skyrocketed,’” she added, with platinum being the most sought-after metal. The metals harvested from the converters are usually sold in high-bright grade.

Linde and Young-Mattson said the most common way the converters are removed is with a SAWZALL reciprocating saw that cuts right through the exhaust pipe. Linde said the criminals can cut them off two to two hours.

Ahrens Insurance Agency
Virginia Office 740-2596
Call Today! Aurora Office 229-2536

INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENT
When 50-plus really is a plus.
Over fifty? Get a discount on home insurance. Contact me for a quote or details about HOME INSURANCE.

3280 Enterprise Drive N., Virginia, MN 55792
Phone: 712-549-2400 Fax: 712-541-2604

When 50-plus really is a plus.
Over fifty? Get a discount on home insurance. Contact me for a quote or details about HOME INSURANCE.