



Last day of school for now...

**Inside:**  
**Ely responds...** See /9  
**Grizzlies top Wolves...** See /1B  
**Hamtastic...** See /3B

# the Tower-Soudan TIMBERJAY



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## SULFIDE MINING

# Ruling upholds Twin Metals mineral leases

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

## Case now heads to D.C. Appellate Court

ELY — A federal district court judge has ruled in favor of the Trump administration's decision to reinstate federal mineral leases that could eventually lead to a sulfide-based copper-nickel mine near the

Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

The decision, issued Monday, was not a surprise to opponents of the mine, who had expected that Judge Trevor McFadden, a recent Trump appointee,

would rule against their legal claim.

McFadden is a long-time member of the conservative Federalist Society, which is dedicated to turning America's courts toward a more libertarian

and pro-business direction.

A coalition of nine Minnesota businesses and the Wilderness Society filed the lawsuit in 2018, arguing that the Trump administration had violated the law when it reinstated

mineral leases that the Obama administration had canceled in the waning days of the former administration.

In his 32-page opinion,

See...LEASES pg. 8



## COVID-19



# HEALTHCARE RESPONSE

## Regional providers prepare for the coronavirus

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Healthcare providers across the region are canceling non-emergency services and sharply restricting visitation to area medical facilities in the latest effort to head off the spread of an infectious disease unlike anything medical professionals have faced in the U.S. in decades.

"This is the first time that we've really faced an issue this large across the entire country, and the world," said Mike Holmes, CEO of Cook-

based Scenic Rivers Health Services. Holmes notes that contagions in the recent past, including the H1N1 virus, SARS, and Ebola, have generally been limited in scope and not as infectious as the COVID-19 virus now spreading rapidly in the U.S. "This is a broad-based contagion that's never been seen in humans before," said Holmes.

At this point, Holmes said doctors still don't have a clear understanding of the mortality rate that can be expected in the U.S. due to the relative lack of testing. While there are no confirmed infections of the COVID-

19 virus in northeastern Minnesota, Holmes confirmed that Scenic Rivers has tested eight patients so far, with only one result back as of Wednesday. That result was negative, with seven tests still outstanding. The relative lack of testing capacity has meant a backlog at the Minnesota Department of Health, which has been processing test kits sent in from around the state. "The reason we need testing is to determine if we have a developing issue within our population," said Holmes.

See...MEDICAL pg. 9

## Schools close and staff gear up for distance learning

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- It was supposed to be a busy, exciting time for students this week and next at North Woods School - baseball and softball teams starting practice, the robotics team heading to Milwaukee, rehearsals and performances for Prairie Fire Children's Theater, parent-teacher conferences, ACT testing, several other student trips, and the possibility of the

boys basketball team competing in the state tournament.

Instead, as of Wednesday, all activities were canceled, most of the students were empty and quiet. Teachers and staff were busy preparing for an uncertain future, not knowing when they would see students in their classes again.

The scene was the same in schools across the area and statewide as districts

See...SCHOOLS pg. 10



**Tower-Soudan first-grader Shenze Chavez headed home from school Tuesday afternoon.**  
photo by J. Summit

## CITY OF ELY

# Third time is not the charm for Ely council

## Avoids stand against boycott

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY — Given a third chance in as many meetings, the city council here declined to support a resolution disavowing boycotts designed to harm local businesses opposed to sulfide-based copper-nickel mining near the Boundary Waters. At the same time, the council passed a compromise resolution calling for tolerance for the diversity of viewpoints on the issue among city residents.

Ely Mayor Chuck Novak recently called for a boycott of Fortune Bay Resort Casino near Tower, after the Bois Forte Band joined other members of the Minnesota

“This resolution was forced upon this council.

**Albert Forsman**  
Ely City Council

Chippewa Tribe in supporting legislation to withdraw mineral leasing across 234,000 acres of the Superior National Forest. That proposed withdrawal includes land where Twin Metals says it hopes to build a copper-nickel mine someday.

Ely-area residents and business owners put forward the resolution to oppose the use of boycotts against local businesses. Last month, Ely resident Carol Orban spoke for supporters of the resolution when she implored city council members to take a stand against the incendiary comments. "These are our neighbors, and they have their way of life," said Orban. "They want their water and hunting, fishing and wild rice grounds protected. They have every right to advocate for their point of view, and I feel (the comments) were unnecessary.

See...ELY pg. 8

### More COVID-19 coverage

- Ely school board implements closure plan. **Page 10**
- Fortune Bay Resort Casino closing. **Page 8**
- City of Ely takes emergency action. **Page 9**



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# COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

## Ruby's Pantry canceled for March 28

BABBITT- Ruby's Pantry food distribution in Babbitt, scheduled for Saturday, March 28, has been canceled due to coronavirus concerns.

## Sunlight and Shadows reception canceled at NWFA

COOK- The reception for Sunlight and Shadows, an art exhibit of the works of Laura Pajari and Kris Musto at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook, has been canceled due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic. The reception had been scheduled for Friday, March 20.

## Cook Thrift Shop to close temporarily

COOK - The Cook Healthcare Auxiliary Thrift Shop will be closed this week and next week to help protect both our volunteers and our patrons, given the current threat of COVID-19.

As of now, the Thrift Shop will NOT be open on March 19, 20, 26, 27 or 28. Check our Facebook page (Cook Healthcare Auxiliary Thrift Shop) for updates. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but we're all looking forward to keeping our communities healthy and hope this passes soon. Thank you for your understanding.

## Tower Senior Bingo canceled in April

TOWER- Tower Senior Bingo for Monday, April 6 at the Tower Civic Center has been canceled. The schedule for May will be determined at a later date.



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## DINING

# Wilderness Grill hires Chef Bryan Morcom

TOWER - The Wilderness at Fortune Bay is pleased to announce that Tower native Bryan Morcom is their new chef. Morcom is a culinary expert returning to his hometown.

"We could not be more thrilled to have Chef Bryan Morcom leading our culinary team," said The Wilderness at Fortune Bay's General Manager and Head Golf Professional Ryan Peterson. "Chef Morcom is extremely talented and will bring a fresh look to our menu with locally-grown ingredients as well as his own wild-harvested foods to reflect the seasons."

After graduating from Tower-Soudan High School, Morcom enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where he traveled around the world. He said the Navy created a strong sense of discipline and teamwork that he carried into his civilian life.

"I understood for the first time the potential of myself," said Morcom. "I had great role models in the Navy who taught me that even though we are different from each other, we all want to be respected, supported and trusted as people. My Navy experience also taught me how to have a strong work ethic."

Building on this experience, Morcom left the Navy to follow his true passion for cooking, and he attended Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Minneapolis. Upon graduation, Morcom took an unpaid internship at Restaurant Alma in Minneapolis, which has been consistently rated one of the top restaurants in the Twin Cities. After 13 years, Morcom was running Alma until he



Tower native Bryan Morcom is taking the reins as head chef at The Wilderness Grill this summer. submitted photo

realized his self-discovery was not complete. This led to a bicycle trip from the headwaters of the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico. His journey continued to a Theravadin Buddhist monastery, where he spent five months with a monk in the deep woods. These experiences led him to opening his own pop-up restaurant in Ely last summer, called Moose Bear Wolf.

After 26 years in the restaurant industry, Morcom is coming back full circle to where he started his culinary career at Fortune Bay when he was 15 years old.

"This opportunity at The Wilderness could not have come at a better time," said Chef Morcom. "I am excited to bring New American cuisine to the shores of Lake Vermilion. How cool is it that you have the ability to boat to Fortune Bay's marina to dine and take in breathtaking views over the award-winning Wilderness Golf Course?"

With one simple call to the pro shop, The Wilderness staff will pick you up at the marina."

Morcom said he hopes to teach others who are willing to learn and want to grow their culinary experience with hands-on training.

"Businesses are successful because of the people," said Morcom. "We must invest in them."

Peterson said that The Wilderness will be looking to hire line cooks, dishwashers, wait staff and bartenders along with other positions for their upcoming season opening on Friday, May 8 (weather dependent). Anyone is more than welcome to send in a job application or to visit the website at [golftthewilderness.com](http://golftthewilderness.com) for more information.

"Not only will Bryan be a great asset to The Wilderness Grill, but he'll also be a huge asset for the community," said The Wilderness at Fortune Bay Sales and Marketing Director Rachel Indihar.

"I'm a local myself, who appreciates great food, so I look forward to Bryan's menu items, many of which will include locally-sourced ingredients."

The Wilderness Grill has received rave recognition through Golf Advisor and a variety of local events such as Flavor of the North, hosted by United Way, where they have won the Best Dessert and Appetizer Awards over the years. "Morcom will continue to deliver excellence and bring it to a level higher than the Iron Range has yet to see," said Indihar.

Peterson agreed and added that his team is excited to see what Chef Morcom and his team will be doing to bring a new flair to dining here on the Iron Range. "He'll be the perfect complement for those looking for a great golf experience, followed by an excellent dining experience."

## ARROWHEAD LIBRARIES

# Bookmobile services suspended

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Library System (ALS) has suspended its Bookmobile service indefinitely, according to Executive Director Jim Weikum. The service is being suspended due to health and safety concerns for both the public and the staff stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. Weikum said, "The Bookmobile is a relatively confined space where we

simply cannot comply with social distancing recommendations necessary to protect our staff and our loyal users."

While no date has been established for resuming the service, the suspension will be re-evaluated within six weeks. Materials borrowed from the Bookmobile will be automatically renewed until the Bookmobile is back on the road. ALS

would like to remind library users that many residents of the ALS service area are eligible to use the Mail-A-Book service offered by ALS. Check out the ALS website for more information at [www.alslib.info/services/mail-a-book/](http://www.alslib.info/services/mail-a-book/).

If you currently have library books and materials checked out from other public libraries in the area, please feel free to

return them to any public library book drop in the seven-county area. While most area public libraries are closing due to health and safety concerns, ALS has encouraged libraries that offer free public Wi-Fi access to keep that service turned on and available outside of closed buildings. The ALS headquarters facility in Mt. Iron will have free Wi-Fi service available outside of the building as well.

**CORONAVIRUS UPDATE**  
from the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board


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## Library cards

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CITY OF TOWER

# Changes underway in wake of Altenburg termination

Several resignations made in ambulance and fire departments, new applications received

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER— At a special meeting here on Monday, the Tower City Council took steps to address the limited fallout from their recent decision to terminate Steve Altenburg from his employment with the city. Altenburg had served as fire chief and ambulance director as well as an EMT and firefighter.

The impact of the decision on the city's ambulance service appears to be limited so far. Clerk-treasurer Victoria Ranua reported that one emergency medical responder, Robert Dicasmirro, had resigned in apparent protest along with the department's medical director, Dr. Michael Pettinelli. But the city had an interim medical director in place almost immediately. And the council took new steps on Monday to replace Altenburg as ambulance director on an interim basis, accepting a plan developed by city staff to share the position between the two former assistant directors, Dena Suikhonen and Josh Villebrun. The two will handle different aspects of the job and split the combined compensation that the city had previously paid to the director and the first assistant director position while the city develops new job descriptions. Mayor Orlyn Kringstad said he appreciated the willingness of both Suikhonen and Villebrun to step up to keep the ambulance service moving forward.

Among the changes that the co-directors have implemented already is to suspend taking non-emergency inter-hospital transfers, at least for the time

being, while the service ensures that it has sufficient staff on hand to cover emergency calls. In the meantime, the ambulance service and city staff will be reviewing whether to continue accepting transfers. While transfers do pay a higher reimbursement rate than emergency calls, they typically involve much longer travel and staff time for the service, which has raised questions about whether transfers are actually profitable. Some other small area ambulance services have also sharply limited transfers out of similar economic factors.

That review may become part of a new business plan that Ranua has committed to developing as part of addressing concerns raised by area townships, which help finance ambulance replacement.

While transfers will be under review, the ambulance service's paid on-call staffing will remain in place. The council gave its approval to explore alternative housing options, possibly temporary, for the paid on-call service. Ranua noted that the ambulance staff will need to be out of its existing quarters by April 12, leaving a relatively narrow window to find an alternative. She said there may be a significant budget impact given that the current housing was provided at a very low rental rate.

Ranua said the new co-directors have recommended keeping the paid on-call staff in place for now, to help cover calls, while a new business plan is being developed.

While the fallout to the ambulance service appears relatively modest, Ranua reported receiving six resignations from the city's fire department, includ-

ing former mayor Josh Carlson, former council members Lance Dougherty and Brad Matich, Bobby Anderson, Stephanie Carlson, and Jesse Gornick. Dougherty's resignation leaves the city without an interim fire chief, at least for the time being. Dougherty had served as assistant fire chief under Altenburg and the council had acted at their March 9 meeting to make him interim chief.

The council discussed various options for the position, and ultimately authorized Ranua and Kringstad to make a decision on the position once a candidate comes forward.

Getting an interim fire chief in place will help the department move forward in rebuilding its staffing levels. Ranua did report that the city has already received five new applications for the fire department which could significantly reduce the impact of the recent resignations.

That news appeared to irritate *Tower News* commentator Tony Sikora, who demanded to see copies of the new fire department applications. The city, however, is not able to release the applications at this point under the state's public records law. Minn. Stat. 13.43, Subd. 3 makes most information on a public employee application, including the name of the applicant, private data until such time as the applicant is determined to be qualified or is selected as a finalist for the position. That has not yet occurred with the applications in question.

Ranua did raise concerns about the city's fire department application itself. She noted that the application, which she said dated back to 2013, asked some



inappropriate questions that she speculated could be considered illegal. Even so, she said she was unaware of any other application and had provided them to the individuals who had indicated interest in joining.

The fire department resignations appeared timed to create a sense of crisis within the city's emergency services. Writing on Facebook last Friday, Gornick predicted the Tower Fire Department "will probably go away," and he blamed his and other resignations on Mayor Kringstad. Gornick also suggested a conspiracy to get rid of the fire department and merge with Breitung Township's fire department, yet Gornick's claim failed to mention that both the Tower and Breitung departments had already agreed to merge operations a few years ago. That merger eventually broke up over disagreements about the size and cost of a new joint emergency services building.

The resignations from the fire department are unlikely to have any noticeable impact in the event of a fire in Tower. Kringstad noted that he had spoken to the fire chiefs of neighboring departments to alert them of the temporary manpower

reduction on the department and said he'd been assured that the city would be covered through existing mutual aid and automatic alarm systems.

Monday's special meeting came against the backdrop of the worsening impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. The council held its meeting at the city's civic center, and spaced chairs at least six feet apart per the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control. Kringstad said he expects to hold future meetings at the civic center, for the time being, in order to accommodate the audience without creating the kind of crowding that can further spread the virus.

In other action, the council:   
 > Approved a resolution authorizing application to the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority for a loan for improvements to the city's drinking water treatment facility and the replacement of the main water line from the joint Tower-Breitung water tower to the city.

> Approved seeking additional bids for the replacement of the locking and security system at the fire hall and ambulance garage.

## Cook siding mill remains in limbo

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Trends in demand for siding have officials at LP Building Solutions eyeing the need for additional production capacity by 2022, but no decisions have been made about whether the shuttered Cook mill that Louisiana-Pacific, or LP, purchased in 2016 will be part of the answer.

LP senior manager of corporate communications Breeanna Straessle responded last week to an inquiry by the *Timberjay* by indicating that if the company's current assumptions hold, the need for increased production is coming.

"Given our current siding volume growth and mix assumptions, we expect to need additional siding capacity in late 2022," Straessle said. "If so, a public announcement about the location would likely be shared at the end of this year or early the following year." However, opening the Cook mill is just one possibility among many.

"We are currently evaluating locations, with several options under consideration," Straessle said. It's a story line familiar to those who originally hoped the Cook facility would re-open within two years of its purchase by LP, which acquired another plant in Val d'Or, Quebec, at the same time. As reported in the *Timberjay*, decisions about which facility would be developed first were anticipated in February and April

of 2017, according to comments made by former LP CEO Curt Stevens. However, in August 2017, the company instead decided to convert an existing plant in Dawson Creek, British Columbia, to produce siding.

Comments in an LP investors conference call in February 2019 suggested a decision could be made by the end of last year, but that date has again been pushed back. Under new CEO Brad Southern, the company's efforts have primarily been focused on fine-tuning its existing production capacity and product mix. Poor market conditions caused LP to close down production of oriented strand board production at its Peace Valley mill in Fort St. John, British Columbia, in August.

Conversely, LP made acquisitions in Green Bay, Wis., and Granite City, Ill., last year to quickly bring to market a new line of SmartSide prefinished siding and trim. A June 2019 company press release projected significant growth in prefinished siding over the next five years.

Cook and the area economy took a big hit when the Ainsworth-operated mill closed 12 years ago and would get a big boost should LP reopen the facility in the next two or three years. Initial projections in 2016 were that the mill would employ about 150 people. But as of now, the waiting game continues.

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# OPINION

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## Editorial

### Shirking responsibility

President Trump, as usual, passes the buck in current crisis

"The Buck Stops Here," was the sign that President Harry Truman famously kept on his desk in the Oval Office, as a symbol of the awesome responsibility placed on the shoulders of the President of the United States. It was a symbol, as well, of an era in the U.S. when people took responsibility for their own actions. Real men, and women, didn't blame others for their failings or mistakes. That was an America that believed in personal responsibility.

How times have changed, particularly at the White House.

"I don't take responsibility at all," which was Trump's answer to a reporter's question this past Friday during a White House press briefing, was the perfect encapsulation of Donald Trump's life and his presidency. It was, oddly enough, one of the few true things uttered by President Trump during that news conference in which he, again, made numerous false statements.

In this instance, Trump was talking about the federal government's slow response in making testing available for the COVID-19 virus. More than three years into his administration, the president still attempted to blame the lack of test kits on his predecessor.

It was, of course, classic Trump. This is a man born wealthy, who shirked military service during the Vietnam War, repeatedly broke his marriage vows, and cheated countless investors over the years. Trump structured most of his real estate deals to put his investors' money at risk, while he made his money on exorbitant management and consulting fees even as he declared bankruptcy multiple times. This is the same man who conned thousands of prospective students by pitching worthless degrees from Trump University, who used a so-called charity for his private benefit, and who has been sued thousands of times by contractors who completed work they had promised, only to be stiffed.

While Americans might have hoped Trump could change in the White House, the past

three years have demonstrated how truly unfit he remains for his high office.

The seemingly bottomless shirking of responsibility has become a hallmark of the Trump presidency. Anyone with honor or integrity has the shelf life of mayonnaise in the hot sun in the Trump White House, which is why the grown-ups all vacated the place long ago. What is left behind are the loyal incompetents, who are now desperate in their efforts to portray a White House in control of a national health emergency despite all the evidence to the contrary.

The lack of COVID-19 testing in the U.S. isn't the fault of President Obama, as Trump has tried to suggest. Numerous news accounts have detailed how it was Trump himself who has sought to limit testing out of fear that it could reveal many more cases than the current official estimates. After all, the only health emergency that Trump actually cares about is the health of his re-election effort.

Other countries are testing far more extensively than in the U.S. because their political and public health leaders are eager to understand the extent of their own outbreaks, so they can better address them. Trump, on the other hand, bemoaned having to allow Americans on a cruise ship to disembark on U.S. soil because it would make the official number of confirmed cases rise. As with all things in the Trump White House, the facts don't matter, only how they can be spun to fit the stage-managed reality TV show that we're now forced to rely on in a time of crisis.

Trump's constant distortion of reality is just another example of his chronic shirking of responsibility. And when his falsehoods are called out, the toadies gather round to make excuses, or grab a Sharpie to adjust the weather map to fit the storyline of the moment.

We can forget about "Make America Great Again." If Trump stood for truth in advertising, "Pass the Buck," would be the perfect motto of his re-election effort.



## Letters from Readers

### Copper-nickel mining risks pollution

Recently, the head of Conservationists With Common Sense took local media to task for overusing the term "sulfide ore" versus "copper-nickel ore" in regional publications. A quick Wikipedia search brought to light that copper ore comes in two forms: sulfide, (which we have here in the Canadian Shield), or oxide. I would recommend all who are interested in this subject to take a look at the refining process of copper ore. It is no small feat to extract metal from rocks. It takes much energy input and physical (crushing and separating), heating, chemical (reacting and leaching), and electrolytic processing.

The older refinery smelting processes' air pollution was responsible for killing large swaths of vegetation and heavy metal contamination in Sudbury, Ontario, not too distant from here. CWCS needs to study the history of all types of mining.

The reason the review of all mining, especially copper extraction, is so rigorous and time-consuming is because of the long history of corporate malfeasance in this sector. Whether it be pollution of people, environment or food supply, OR the deregulation of the investment and financial sector, all officers of corporations are basically protected from criminal prosecution and only have to pay fines to the government or restitution to victims. Jail time is rarely incurred by corporate leaders and they are well aware of this. Nobody went to jail for their part in the 2008 financial crisis and even the dramatic breaching of the Mt. Polley copper-gold mine in British Columbia still goes unpunished, still under "investigation."

Local pro-copper-nickel folk call me an alarmist and anti-mining. I realize the strong positive part mining plays in our local/state economy and the relief homeowners get from the higher real estate taxes that

would exist without the taconite industry. I also hear about the strong mining regulations we have in the state and the new technology that is supposed to prevent pollution. If that is so, then there should be NO contamination, damage or bad effect of any kind in our soil, water, or air, but it exists. So, why should I trust any foreign mining corporation that says it will obey all laws when the largest of domestic taconite mines—Minntac—cannot and will not fix its own problems with contamination?

**Mark Roalson  
Hoyt Lakes**

### Moderates should listen to the revolutionary left

In my Feb. 21 letter, I advised Democratic voters not to let fear of losing to President Trump cause them to fear voting for the bold, but needed, changes addressed in the Sanders and Warren campaigns. Since then the voters have spoken. And, whether out of fear or out of a perceived pragmatism, they have voted for Biden and the status quo. The anxiety of the political moment has led them to hold on to what they have. They may be correct in thinking that "moderate" Biden will rid us of the Trump nightmare, in that it will get us through the night. But will it get us through the days and years ahead?

The issue of income and wealth disparity, caused by a rigged economy, continues to divide and weaken us. Lack of access to affordable health care is bankrupting us individually, and nationally in global economic competition. Higher education debt is burdening an entire generation and depressing the economy. And long unaddressed issues of climate change pose an existential threat to the economic and political stability of democratic civilization itself.

Supporters of the Sanders and Warren campaigns that boldly address these critical

issues may not be a majority, but they and their issues are a significant political force that must be heard and respected when the party convention writes its platform.

For the sake of party unity, the Biden supporters must welcome the Sanders and Warren voices into the campaign. The Democratic tent must be big enough for all its voices if Trump is to be defeated in the fall. And their critical issues must be addressed if Democrats are going to govern successfully when in office, if they want to stay in office.

**Larry A. Johnson  
Duluth**

### Indihar owes an apology

First Amendment freedom of speech. Mike Indihar owes the citizens of Greenwood Township an apology. We should not need to feel insulted or intimidated. We deserve respect.

**Deb Andrick  
Greenwood Twp.**

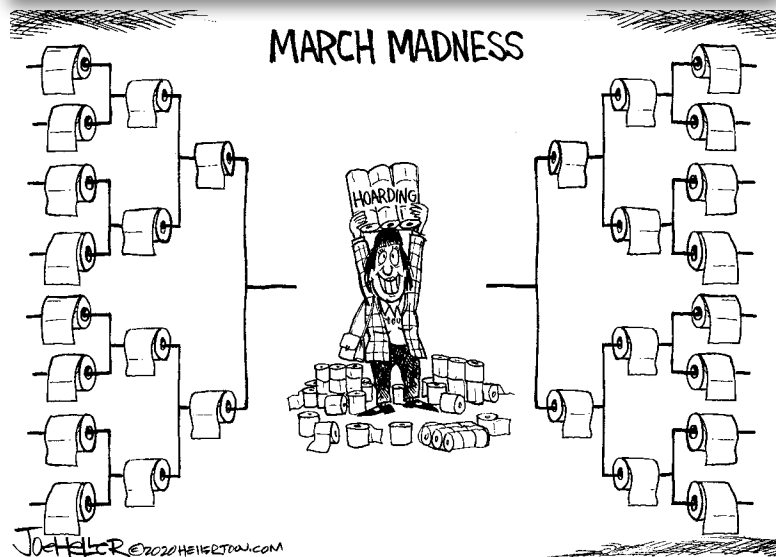
*Editor's note: This letter is referring to Greenwood annual meeting moderator Mike Indihar who loudly gavelled a resident, who was commenting on an issue, to silence them.*

### We welcome 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](mailto:marshall@timberjay.com).

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words. Letters are subject to editing, primarily for length and clarity.

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



## Who the heck took all the toilet paper?

This isn't something I normally think about. But in this moment of national emergency, when life as we know it has changed in such dramatic ways, seemingly overnight, the truly important question really can't be avoided.

Who the heck



**MARSHALL  
HELMBERGER**

took all the toilet paper?

From Target to Zup's, last week's emergency declaration cleared retailers' shelves of toilet paper within hours. A friend posted a photo of her husband on Facebook this past weekend, proudly displaying the last package of toilet paper from the Zup's store in Tower, which

he managed to score Sunday afternoon.

I mean, I get it. Schools are closed. Virtually every event is being cancelled for the foreseeable future. Professional sports have shut down. Senior living facilities are on lock-down. People are hunkering down in hopes of containing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. It's serious stuff, the kind of thing that really focuses us all on what really matters. Which, to some, appears to be a hall closet stacked

to the ceiling with Charmin. I guess people have decided the sh\_\_ is really going to hit the fan... and we're all assigned to the clean-up detail. And some folks obviously think it's going to get messy. Really messy.

It's helped to give me a new perspective on the things that really count in an emergency. So, if my house ever catches fire, I'll know what to say: "Honey, forget the photo album! Just grab the toilet paper!"

It's got me rethinking prior-

ities for any number of pending End of Days scenarios. I had long bought into the theory of a friend of mine who had his own priorities for the post-apocalypse, which included filling his basement with whiskey and ammo. That made more sense to me. When things get bad, I figured we'd revert to the law-of-the-jungle sensibilities of the frontier— think *Mad Max*, *A Boy and His Dog*, or *Terminator*.

See **HOARDING...pg. 5**

## Letters from Readers

### The *Timberjay* got it right

A letter in the March 13 edition criticized the *Timberjay's* reporting about an Ely city council meeting on the grounds that Keith Vandervort, the reporter who wrote the story, "used the words sulfide mining." The letter writer went on to claim that the "PolyMet and Twin Metals projects are not proposing mining for sulfide, and no one is supporting such mining."

The *Timberjay* got it right. The letter writer is wrong.

On June 18, 2019, CBS 3 in Duluth ran a story on Antofagasta's proposed Twin Metals project. The program included several statements by Dean Debeltz, the mining company's Director of Operations and Safety, including this one: "If there are concerns about the sulfides, that's what we're getting out of the ground and we want to take those as part of our product."

PolyMet's Environmental Impact Statement repeatedly refers to the ore to be processed as "metallic sulfide minerals." See, for example, the Supplemental Draft EIS at pages ES-23 and 3-99.

Jim Miller, a geologist and sulfide-mining cheerleader who is now retired from the University of Minnesota-Duluth, prepared a PowerPoint presentation (which he delivered in Ely several years ago) that refers repeatedly to copper-nickel sulfide deposits as the target of proposed mining in the Duluth Complex. One slide notes that "copper-sulfide mineralization" was discovered by F.W. Childers in 1948, and that in 1951 Childers and Whiteside drilled the first exploration hole on the Spruce Road.

At the direction of the late Governor Wendell Anderson, a Minnesota Inter-Agency Task Force chaired by the Department of Natural Resources prepared and issued a Report on Base Metal Mining Impacts (January 1973). At page 2-1, the Report states as follows:

Base metals composed of copper, nickel, and zinc combine with sulfur to produce the following minerals:

Chalcopyrite (Cu, Fe S<sub>2</sub>) - Copper sulfide

Pentlandite (Ni, Fe) S -Nickel sulfide

Sphalerite (Zn, Fe) S - Zinc sulfide

These minerals are found in various concentrations in many types of rocks throughout the world. In Minnesota, a number of companies are exploring two geologic formations in an attempt to locate a sizeable concentration of these minerals.

Independent geologists routinely characterize the minerals sought in the Duluth Complex as sulfides. See, for example, an article entitled "Origin of Cu-Ni-PGE Sulfide Mineralization in the Partridge River Intrusion, Duluth Complex, Minnesota" (Theriault, Barnes, and Severson), *Economic Geology*-the Journal of the Society of Economic Geologists (August 2000).

Why does it matter that mining boosters hate to name accurately the ore that Antofagasta and PolyMet propose to mine? Not so much because it matters how the ore is characterized, but far more because it reflects the overall mindset that denies reality. The reality is that sulfide-ore mining is poison and destruction. It kills land, water, creatures, and human communities. No amount of fancy corporate snake-oil spin or pontification by short-sighted local officials and legislators will change that.

**Reid Carron  
Morse Twp.**

### COVID-19 update from Essentia Health

As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds, we understand that our patients and communities will have questions. Please know that at Essentia Health we have been preparing tirelessly to respond to this threat. Our hospitals and caregivers are trained to manage infectious diseases, such as COVID-19, with a high level of care and compassion. We are now offering free E-visits to expedite pre-screening for COVID-19; other resources include a hotline, 1-833-494-0836, as well as frequent updates on our website, [essentiahealth.org](http://essentiahealth.org).

Our top priority remains the safety and wellbeing of all our patients and staff, as well as the

communities we are privileged to serve.

We recognize that this is a challenging time for everyone. But we all can take certain precautions to slow down the rate of transmission and reduce the risk of illness. Those include:

- Practice social distancing
- Stay home when you are sick

- Wash your hands often with soap for at least 20 seconds
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with tissue
- Clean frequently touched surfaces

- Avoid touching your face

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Patients who are concerned about their symptoms should start an E-visit or contact their primary care provider.

At Essentia Health we are collaborating with our partners across the health care industry, as well as state and local governments, to ensure a coordinated and cohesive response to COVID-19. We are following advice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Minnesota Department of Health as we work to ensure the health of our patients, staff and communities.

**Greg Jonas  
Operations Manager  
Essentia Health-Ely**

### Message from the Mayor of Tower

In these unprecedented challenging times, our citizens and organizations in Tower and surrounding areas are stepping up to contribute their time, resources and talent, in so many ways. I would expect nothing less from the community that Marit and I have grown to know so well.

I have contacted many businesses and organizations, primarily service-oriented, and found that most are already taking necessary action to make sure that our most vulnerable and needy are receiving the help and support that they need. Both of our Tower newspapers are publishing comprehensive information that we all need to protect ourselves and our community. There are also numerous help/assistance agencies, including St. Louis County, that are providing necessary information for

and about organizations where assistance is available, including website and published notices.

I am extremely grateful for the incredible response of all of you in addressing major needs of the community including schools, churches, police and emergency services, area food shelves, city/township administrations, and especially individuals.

No matter the extent of how seriously COVID-19 spreads and affects our communities, we will meet the challenges as they come - this too shall pass! Sincere thanks!

**Orlyn Kringstad  
Mayor of Tower**

### Greenwood's budget a disappointment

My description of the Greenwood Annual Meeting would be that it was full of excuses and disingenuous fear-mongering. The sixty-four residents attending that night were there to receive factual information in answer to their questions and vote on a levy for 2021. A sore spot with the majority was audibly obvious by the groans made by the dissatisfied attendees; there was no completed budget. The board had not gone to the trouble of creating one. The excuse given by Deluca numerous times was that MATIT, our insurance company, told him that the board did not have to put together a budget. My thoughts, you do not have to wipe your backside, but I would highly recommend it. In an open and inclusive public working session practiced for decades, the board has presented a budget to the residents in January and February. Not this year, there was no process. Why? Only laziness or fear can describe it. At its February meeting, the board just threw out a political number of \$250,000. Not too high and not too low as to affect the upcoming election of supervisors. Counting votes rather than money. As the meeting proceeded, the levy discussion began with the treasurer speaking. Then the fear-mongering began, "The Township will not be able to make payroll." Followed by, "There will be no money to replace the roof." if it needs replacement. (The

roof is less than fifteen years old.) Then came the disorganized seven pages of revenues and expenses that the treasurer handed out. It reminded me of the shoebox of receipts and scraps of paper you dump on your accountant's desk each April. As I attempted to find any numbers on those handouts that would support the presentation I was listening to, it became clear. These numbers look like what I can only describe as an inverted Ponzi scheme. The "other revenues" were adjusted dramatically lower, for no reason. They have been fairly constant in the past, \$95K to \$105K. The future expenses were so padded they would rival that "My Pillow" sold on TV. No discussion on the automatic two-percent raises for all salaried employees/officers. No discussion of spending could be smarter or reduced. What about the idea of the board working within the levy set by the residents? Need versus want.

The treasurer told the residents, "I cannot create a budget until I have the levy amount." She told us all about her many years of experience as an accountant. I thought to myself, did the definition of budget mean something different to an experienced accountant than to the rest of us? The Oxford Dictionary of Finance and Banking Vol. 6 defines a budget as: A financial or quantitative statement, prepared prior to a specified accounting period, containing the plans and policies to be pursued during that period. OK, we were doing it correctly all these years. The budget is the future plan and the levy funds the future plan. Actions of this nature will only breed distrust which is followed by unwanted scrutiny which is then followed by name-calling, such as "naysayers". Then the divisiveness continues. If trust could be reestablished there would be a chance to heal the situation. Unfortunately, when trust is broken it is difficult to repair. It would likely take a whole new slate of supervisors to get there. Not unlike the levy, that would take the votes of the residents to decide.

**Jeff Maus  
Greenwood Twp.**

## COMMENTARY

# Sunshine week: fighting a virus with truth and transparency

by **KEN PAULSON**  
Middle Tennessee State University

As the scope and threat of the coronavirus pandemic becomes clear, people all over the world hunger for two things: an effective vaccine and truthful information about the disease. The former may be more than a year away, but the latter is critical to stemming the pandemic in the meantime. This is Sunshine Week, a time each year when people like me write columns about some legislature's wrong-headed move to limit access to public records, and then try to make the case for greater access to public information and transparency in government. But we're facing something far more dangerous than any state legislature could conjure up. It's a worldwide crisis worsened by governments whose impulse is to hide, control and

cancel news and information. When a Chinese doctor shared with his colleagues his concerns that a mysterious new virus might be emerging, he was reprimanded and silenced. The doctor, Li Wenliang, died last month of coronavirus. After China mishandled and hid the virus from the public, the epidemic dramatically worsened. The Chinese government "is now leading a sweeping campaign to purge the public sphere of dissent, censoring news reports, harassing citizen journalists and shutting down news sites," according to the New York Times. Similar suppression has appeared in other nations, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. In Thailand, the prime minister has threatened to arrest journalists who publish "fake news" about the virus and Iran detained a journalist for posts critical of the government's response, according to the CPJ.

But even a democracy is going to be tempted to manage the messaging, as the U.S. did by initially channeling the government's comments through a single spokesman - Vice President Mike Pence. That has improved significantly over the past week. When the public is desperate for information, government needs to maximize authoritative information from scientists and experts on the public payroll. That appropriately gives Americans what they need to know, and counters irresponsible pundits who have sought to minimize the threat to score political or ratings points. Most encouraging, though, has been the response of state and local governments, schools and the private sector. Governments at every level resist disclosure and scrutiny, but this has been a refreshing change, with leaders saying: "Here's what we need to do, here's

why we're doing it and here's how you can find out more." Sports leagues and private businesses, not known for transparency, have been refreshingly transparent. How many emails have you received this week that began "Out of an abundance of caution..."? There are a lot of institutions making tough decisions these days, but they're largely doing it in partnership with the American people. More than anything, else, though, this crisis reminds us of how wise the first generation of Americans was in demanding a free press. Despite the inevitable accusations by some that the news media were "hyping" this threat, traditional media have been measured and thorough in their coverage, making the most of their on-air medical and scientific consultants. Closer to home, local newspapers and broadcasters have devoted extensive resources to report-

ing how the virus will affect the communities they serve. President Trump told the nation last week that "we are all in this together" and that's exactly what needs to happen: the government sharing what it knows truthfully and without spin or bravado, private and public institutions engaging constructively with America's most pressing challenge and news organizations keeping the public informed in a thorough and even-handed way. In the end, science will prevail in curbing this virus. Yet the path to that victory can only emerge from true collaboration and collective sacrifice, fueled by a shared understanding of exactly what we're up against. That can only come from the free flow of information.

*Ken Paulson is the director of the Free Speech Center at Middle Tennessee State University.*

## HOARDING...Continued from page 4

Whiskey and ammo would be the perfect currency in such a dystopian future.

Perhaps the run on toilet paper is a hopeful sign that true societal breakdown has not yet arrived. We'll recognize dystopia when we no longer care just how clean things are down there.

But it has made us all aware of just how central toilet paper has become as a symbol of

modern life, even though we're only a generation or two removed from the time when the Sears and Roebuck catalog served as the paper of choice, at least in most rural outhouses. Both my parents still remember those days well, if not exactly fondly.

The astonishing disappearance of toilet paper from store shelves reminds us that in a time of national angst, a closet full of

the stuff is like the new comfort food, or an emotional support animal. The latest hyperventilation on cable news may leave us unsettled, but at least we can be soothed at the thought of our hall closet stuffed to overflowing.

It probably wasn't always that way. Even as toilet paper came into common usage in this country, it clearly didn't provide the lush and quilted

comfort we've come to expect these days. As recently as the 1930s, the Northern Tissue company advertised their toilet paper as "splinter-free," which certainly suggests there was a period of refinement involved in the manufacturing process. Just imagine the hardships faced by our forebearers. That's definitely one place you don't want a splinter!

At this point, I'm not really complaining. If buying up shopping carts of toilet paper is the emotional salve some people need to make it through the current emergency, I guess I'm willing to make accommodations. But the day I have to pull out an old Sears and Roebuck catalog to get things done down there, well... then I'll start taking names!

DINING OUT

# Carry-outs and off-sale become the new normal

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

Local restaurants and bars adjusting to the 10-day closure rule

TOWER- When local restaurant and bar owners got the news late on Monday afternoon, there was not a lot of time to prepare.

Effective at 5 p.m. the next day, March 17, all restaurants and bars (the closures also affect gyms, museums, movie theaters, and most indoor recreational facilities) were ordered closed for 10 days.

Delivery and curbside takeout services are permitted and should continue to observe the community mitigation strategies recommended by the Minnesota Department of Health.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recommends that grocery stores, pharmacies, hardware stores, and retail outlets with these services remain open with social distancing measures. MDH is recommending that non-essential retail outlets close, with the exception of those that choose to remain open on a limited basis to fill online or phone orders for pickup and delivery.

Local establishments were taking the new MDH rules seriously.

Good Ol' Days manager

Micki Ferguson said they were setting up to do carry-outs, curbside delivery, and in-town delivery to Tower and Soudan. "We will be limiting the indoor waiting area and setting up chairs to make sure our customers are separated by at least six feet," she said.

"People were happy to hear that we will be doing carry-outs," she said. The bar will be closed.

Good Ol' Days owners Randy and Carol Semo are out of the country on vacation, so Ferguson has been navigating the closure on her own. She and cook Bailey Lindell feel confident they can keep carry-out orders going.

"We have plenty of food," they said.

The one issue they were worried about was the fact that the tap beer would go bad if left to sit for 10 days. Customers on Tuesday were being treated to happy hour pricing on tap beer all day, helping to run down the stock.

The Tower Café and Benchwarmer's will also be offering carry-out service.

Sulu's coffee shop is offering carry-out service through their side door, and will be



open 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and serving their full menu.

The closing of bars had many local residents worried about the ability to buy off-sale liquor.

Those worries, at least for now, are unfounded. Both D'Erick's and Benchwarmer's will keep their off-sale open. Benchwarmer's will be open for 2 - 8 p.m., and will also be offering carry-out meals during this time. D'Erick's off-sale will be open from 12 noon - 8 p.m. Monday through Satur-

day, with Sunday hours to be determined.

There were a few bright spots to report.

"I am so excited that I can get Vermilion Club pizza delivered to Soudan," said Shara Dostert.

The Vermilion Club will be doing carry-out and deliveries of Poor Gary's pizzas starting on March 19, to the Tower end of Lake Vermilion and Tower and Soudan proper.

Fortune Bay Resort Casino, as of Tuesday, still planned

to be open, but Wednesday announced they would be closing for a period of time.

And just a note about your favorite local eating establishments and servers. The financial hit of having to shut down sit-down service will be substantial, so think about ordering carry-outs whenever possible. Also, servers depend on tips for the majority of their income, so if ordering carry-out, please do remember to add in the tip.

## AREA TOWNSHIP NEWS

### Breitung Annual Meeting updates

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA  
Staff Writer

**BREITUNG TWP-** As reported in last week's *Timberjay*, at the Breitung annual meeting, voters approved keeping the levy at the 2020 level of \$616,000. Last year, the levy was increased by \$74,000 to pay for the town hall renovations and to account for training for the new maintenance director. Other business discussed at the annual meeting included:

#### Town hall renovation project

Tomsich said that the entire rehab project cost \$1.4 million. A few remaining items have yet to be finished and the township still has a retainer on the contractor, Lenci Enterprises. The parking lot will get another layer of blacktop.

#### Treasurer's report

The township ended the year with \$316,319 in total reserve funds and \$253,356 in total operating funds. The township has three outstanding debts, a \$350,000 loan from Frandsen Bank for the renovation project with a 10-year expected payback, and a \$12,000 and a \$21,000 loan for township maintenance projects. Total income in 2019 was \$1,622,170 and total expenses were \$2,332,220, creating a

total loss for the township of \$710,050. The large loss was expected because of the town hall rehab project.

#### Police report

Police Chief Dan Nylund reported that the Breitung Police responded to 2,633 calls over 2019. Most calls happen on Saturdays (503 calls) and Friday (415), but Thursdays were relatively busy too, with 404 calls. May through August are the busiest months for the department, with a steep decline during the winter months. The busiest month, June, had 381 calls, while February, the slowest month, had 115 calls. Breitung Police were active in the community during 2019. They participated in the Breitung Fourth of July Picnic, Big Truck Night, Halloween, Stuff the Ambulance fundraiser, Shop with a Cop, I Got Caught (wearing a bicycle helmet), were active on social media, and gave out ice cream cones at Hoodoo Point Campground.

#### Fire Department

Breitung Fire and Rescue responded to 51 calls in 2019, compared to 49 calls the year before. Fourteen calls were canceled before response, 11 times the department responded and was cancelled en route, 10 times for hazardous conditions, four public service calls,

three medical assistance, three wildland fires, two auto fires, two chimney fires, and two structure fires. The department gave mutual aid 29 times and received it six times.

The department has 15 members and is in need of more. The department trains and has a business meeting once monthly.

The department contributed 230 volunteer hours for fire department and community events, 220 hours for emergency calls, and 200 hours toward the rehab project. The department purchased and equipped a new mini-pumper truck. They completed a boat house project that will enable a 25-minute quicker response time to water emergencies. They received cold water rescue equipment, a snowmobile, \$2,645 reimbursement for training costs from MBFTE, a \$2,200 grant from MN DNR, and a small generator. Insurance Services Office conducted their five-year review of the department and moved their rating from a six to a five, which could mean insurance savings for some township residents.

#### McKinley Park

Park revenue was up \$14,000, and expenses were only up by \$386. Campground manager Susie Chiabotti said

in her report the season went smoothly with no problems, and that reservations are strong for 2020 and rates will remain the same. She thanked the township for its strong support of the campground.

#### Chairman's Report

Tomsich said the township received \$295,000 in grants for the town hall rehab project. He thanked maintenance director Dale Swanson who is retiring in September for his many years of service and clerk Polly McDonald, who will be leaving next month, for her service as well. Tomsich said that an annual taconite municipal aid payment of \$15,000 to the township will begin being paid in 2020 through legislation the governor signed into law. This will be the first taconite aid received in 20-30 years, he said. "Thank you to employees, volunteers and the clerk and treasurer. Your continued dedication, integrity and work ethic result in an open and effective township government."

#### Midco

At the next Breitung Town Board meeting, on Tuesday, March 24 at 12 p.m. a Midco Communications representative will be there to answer questions about their services. Any township resident is welcome to come

### Embarrass raises levy by 8.5 percent

EMBARRASS- The 20 residents at the Embarrass Annual Meeting voted to raise their levy to \$166,000, an increase of 8.5 percent over the 2020 levy of \$153,000. The vote was 11-4 with 5 abstaining.

The town board did not present a budget for 2021, but said that anticipated spending, including the need for a new pickup truck and repairs or possible replacement of the town hall roof needed to be planned for. In addition, the town board wants to start replenishing the road and bridge fund, due to higher than expected spending in 2019 on the county plowing and calcium chloride application to gravel roads.

The Embarrass Region Volunteer Fire Department report was presented by Tom Martin. They are asking for a three-percent increase in the contract. The fire department had seven new members in 2019, and a


total membership of 21. The department recorded 1,684 hours of volunteer service in 2019. They recorded 38 EMS runs, 14 fire calls, and six miscellaneous calls. The department is planning on creating a helicopter landing pad at the fire hall.

Reports were given by Sisu Heritage, the Embarrass Region Fair Board, the Heritage Park and Campground, and Finnish Homestead Tours.

A lengthy discussion was held on the finances of the homestead tours, which took in \$178 in receipts in 2019, but had expenses of \$1,154. The tours are run by the township. Discussion was held on whether they should be handled by Sisu Heritage, use a volunteer versus a paid tour guide, or perhaps be made into a self-guided activity. Mike Salo led the tours in 2019, and said he plans to return in 2020.

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Open: Thur-Fri: 10 AM-4 PM, Sat: 9 AM-1 PM

### Eagles Nest keeps levy at \$217,603, same as 2020

EAGLES NEST TWP- Residents in Eagles Nest Township voted to keep their levy at \$217,603. The township's proposed budget for 2021 is set at \$225,872, which includes \$45,000 in dedicated funds for future road projects, fire department equipment purchases, and planning for a major expansion of the town hall building.

### Vermilion Lake Township sets levy at \$36,000

VERMILION LAKE TWP- A total of nine voters in Vermilion Lake Township attended this year's annual meeting. The 2021 levy was set at \$36,000, with \$20,000 in the general fund, \$4,800 in the road and bridge fund, and \$11,200 for the fire protection fund. The township discussed plans for the annual volunteer cemetery work day on Saturday, April 25 starting at 1 p.m. Incumbent Supervisor Phil Anderson and Incumbent Clerk Crystal Alaspa were both reelected.

**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**

SHOPPING ESSENTIALS

Zup's Grocery able to keep up with demand so far

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- The only real shortage seen on the shelves at our local Zup's Grocery in Tower has been of hand sanitizer, said store manager Jon Ojala on Tuesday. While the toilet paper aisle had been emptied right before closing on Sunday, by Monday shelves had been restocked and on Tuesday, they were still pretty darn full. Milk and bananas have also been popular items, but are being restocked almost daily. Ojala said their suppliers are not looking at any major shortages, and that new shipments come in at least five days a week. Right now, the only shortage of a food item was a single brand of russet potatoes, but other brands were available. The only change to regular service at this point, said Ojala, is that the on-site homemade soups will not be available due to Minnesota Department of Health guidance.

The store itself has been rather busy.

"This is not a good way to get an uptick in business," Ojala said. "But we are well stocked."

Staff said they are seeing a lot of new faces in the store and speculated that customers are driving up to Tower because stores in the Virginia area are showing some shortages.



**Above: The toilet paper and paper towel aisle was fairly well stocked on Tuesday. Left: Checkout lines were very busy on Tuesday morning.**  
photos by J. Summit

Tower to provide home delivery in Tower and Soudan. Deliveries can be scheduled on Tuesdays by calling the store at 218-753-2725 between 8 a.m. and 12 noon and talking with Chimp, Julie, or Jon. Deliveries will be done on Tuesday afternoon. Payment must be done by debit or credit card.

**Breitung PD to help deliver groceries in Tower and Soudan**

TOWER-SOUDAN- The Breitung Police Department is teaming up with Zup's Grocery in

locations during their regular business hours. The Vermilion Branch at Fortune Bay will be open 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Embarrass location will be closed.

**Volunteer painters needed at LVCC**

TOWER- Volunteers are need-

ed to help paint the new wood siding before it gets installed on the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center building. Painting will be done in the heated lower level of the building in Tower. Call or text Mary Batinich at 612-360-7079 or email maxelbat@gmail.com.

**EVFCU to provide drive-through service in Tower; Embarrass branch closed**

REGIONAL- The Embarrass-Vermillion Federal Credit Union announced on Tuesday they are closing lobby service in Tower, Nett Lake, and Aurora, but providing drive-through service at these

CHURCH NEWS

**Editor's Note:** Activities and gatherings have generally been cancelled throughout the area due to the guidance of limiting such activities that have over 10 people. Please check in advance to make sure an event is still scheduled, and *the Timberjay* will do its best to get updated information in the paper each week.

**St. Martin's cancels Masses, Holy Week services**

TOWER- St. Martin's, Wednesday, announced that all their Masses and their Holy Week Services have been canceled due to the dangers of the coronavirus. At this time, they expect to resume their regular services on April 20, but this is subject to change. The annual pasty sale is still underway.

**St. Martin's annual pasties sale, order by March 29**

TOWER- It's that time of year again; the St. Martin youth are getting ready for their Annual Pasties Sale. Orders are now being taken; the last day to order is Sunday, March 29. You may place your order with any of our high school students, or by calling the rectory at 218-753-4310 or Jeanne's Card Shop at 218-753-2601.

You have the option of having rutabaga in your pasties or not; you will need to tell us at the time of your order. The cost of the pasties is \$6 and they must be paid at the time of the order. Pasties will be available for delivery/pick up on Wednesday, April 15. Proceeds from this project will go towards the Steubenville Conference trip in June. We have four students attending this year.

**St. Paul's hosting movie nights on Sundays during Lent**

SOUDAN- St. Paul's Lutheran and Soudan Baptist are jointly sponsoring Lenten Movie Night on Sundays at 6 p.m. at St. Paul's during Lent. All are welcome, refreshments will be served.

**St. James weekly get-togethers on Wednesdays**

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church of Tower is beginning a weekly get-together starting Wednesday, March 18 from 10 to 10:30 a.m. for community, coffee, fellowship and prayer. The group will meet on a weekly basis; please join us for a time of sharing with others from the church and community. Everyone is welcome.

**St. James 2020 Lenten Worship Theme**

TOWER- The theme for Lenten worship at St. James Presbyterian this year is "The Upside Down Teachings Of Jesus."

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

Sunday, March 29 - "Life From Death", Matthew 22:23-33. Modern day Sadducees still teach that a bodily resurrection is unbelievable. For what three reasons do they re-

ject a teaching that is so obviously Biblical?

**St. James Presbyterian Holy Week and Easter schedule**

TOWER- Palm Sunday - "From Triumph To Tragedy", Matthew 21:1-11, Jesus went from triumph to tragedy in a week.

Maundy Thursday - The Lord's Supper and Potluck at 6 p.m. "The Fifth Cup: Our Way Of Hope" from our series "The Path To The Cross."

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

Easter Sunday - "A Living Hope For The Hopeless", Luke 24:10-35. When Jesus rose from the dead, Thomas got a five-minute show and tell. By contrast, the two men on the road to Emmaus received a three-hour dissertation. Why the difference? Perhaps Jesus spent more time with these hopeless men, to show us how to have a living Hope in a hopeless world. The service will be followed by a potluck Easter Brunch.

**Ecumenical Community Good Friday Service**

TOWER- This year's Ecumenical Community Good Friday Service will

be held on Friday, April 9 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower at 7 p.m.

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

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

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

In case the event needs to be cancelled, Pastor Doug said they will assemble easter egg hunt take-home kits for families to come and pick up.

**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 are 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 - 1:30 p.m. on days when the charter school is open. Call the school at 218-300-1447 for reservations, or call AEOA at 1-800-662-5711 ext. 7323 for the one-time registration process.

Homebound seniors can sign up for meal delivery. To register for Meals on Wheels, or for more information, please call AEOA Senior Nutrition at 218-735-6899.

**Week of March 23**

No school. Planning is underway about providing carry-out senior dining, stay tuned for details.

**Week of March 30**

Monday- Chicken Broccoli Alfredo, Green Beans, Garlic Bread Stick

Tuesday- Taco Salad, Cornbread

Wednesday- Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread Stick

Thursday- Meatballs w/Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans, Dinner Roll

Friday- Pizza, Soup

Week of March 23

**Monday**

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

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

**Tuesday**

Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is March 17.

Greenwood Fire Dept.- Meetings on the first (business meeting) and third (drill) Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Breitung Town Board- 12 noon on March 24

Greenwood Town Board- 6:30 p.m. on April 21.

**Wednesday**

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

**Thursday**

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

Vermilion Country School Board- Meetings posted online at [vermilioncountry.org](http://vermilioncountry.org).



*the* **TIMBERJAY**

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Sunday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For info: 1-800-450-9278

**Hwy. 77 Canister**

Winter hours now in effect

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

Recycling canisters available at the canister site when open. For info: 1-800-450-9278

**Libraries**

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

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

**Support groups**

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

**Tuesday Group  
schedule**  
ELY - All Tuesday  
Group gatherings are  
canceled until further  
notice due to COVID-  
19 pandemic.

**Ely Free Clinic**  
ELY - The Ely  
Community Health  
Center is open every  
Thursday evening from  
5:30-7 p.m. in the AFU  
Building, 111 S 4th  
Ave. E.  
For more infor-  
mation, call 218-365-  
5678, or visit their  
website, www.elycom-  
munityhealth.org.

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OUR COMMUNITY

**Chamber seeks award nominations**

Four prizes will recognize extraordinary Ely people, businesses

ELY - The Ely Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for four annual awards to recognize and celebrate the commitment of the extraordinary people and businesses of the Ely area. These awards seek to recognize the invaluable contributions of the recipients and inspire others to follow their examples.

“Help us honor the hardworking individuals, groups and businesses whose contributions elevate our region and make it a better place for everyone to work, live and visit by nominating someone you feel should receive recognition,” said Executive Director Eva Sebesta.

Local legend Jackpine Bob Cary, author, artist, photographer, wilderness guide and ski racer, epitomized the spirit that is still alive in Ely today, and helped put Ely on the map when he ran for president as a representative of the Independent Fisherman’s Party. He is remembered for his passion for life and his ability to have fun.

Bob was an outspoken community representative. “He loved Ely and constantly worked to promote it through his writings, artistic works and the stories he shared with anyone who would listen,” Sebesta said. “He had a tremendous willingness to serve and give time in support of Ely and the

surrounding area.”

In 2009, the Ely Chamber of Commerce established an award in Bob’s honor, the Jackpine Bob Cary Community Spirit Award. The purpose of the award is to recognize an individual or group for their unselfish giving and promotion of Ely, which has had a positive impact on the Ely area and tourism. The award may or may not be given annually.

Criteria include: individuals, groups, or organizations are eligible; is an enthusiastic promoter of Ely and all it has to offer; and actively involved in projects and activities that significantly contribute to the quality of life in the community and in the promotion of Ely as a great place to visit.

“Ely is very fortunate to have businesses that provide valuable goods and services to our residents, create jobs, give back to the community through charitable endeavors and work to promote the Ely area as a great place to visit or live,” she said.

“The Ely Chamber of Commerce wishes to recognize businesses that go above and beyond to foster an environment of community improvement and support. The owners or managers of these companies demonstrate good business citizenship through ongoing commitment to helping and supporting the community.

They monetarily support and/or share their or their staff’s time and talent for the betterment of the Ely area,” Sebesta said.

There are a number of ways these businesses demonstrate their commitment to the community, she added. “A few examples include financial contributions to various organizations or fundraisers; sponsorships of events; volunteer work (owners or their staff); donations of services, facilities or other resources; and involvement in community organizations or activities.”

Criteria for the Good Neighbor Business Award include: any for-profit business is eligible; nominees do not have to be members of the Ely Chamber of Commerce. Nominees should be actively involved through time commitment or financial support of projects and activities that significantly contribute to the quality of life in the community.

The Chamber announced a new award this year, the Good Citizen Volunteer of the Year Award. “We all know someone who is always stepping forward to assist others,” Sebesta said. “Their work may include assisting neighbors, serving as an active member of area clubs and organizations, or just lending a hand no matter the situation. Our com-

munity is full of many outstanding examples of those who make our daily lives better through their efforts. Help us identify and recognize a community member for their ongoing commitment to Ely as demonstrated through their volunteer efforts.”

A second new award offered this year is the Excellence in Customer Service Award. “Employees are the face of every business,” she said. “Whether it is a service or retail business, employees make an impact on customer and guest experiences. We would like to hear about an employee who personifies excellence in customer service. Do they go the extra distance to help find merchandise, always find the answer to all your questions, or customize services to meet your needs? We invite you to share your top customer service employee pick.”

To nominate an individual or business for one of these awards, please include a short statement (150-500 words) of why they deserve recognition. Identify specific, recent achievements that describe the nominee’s work and its impact on the community.

Submit nominations to: Ely Chamber of Commerce, 1600 E. Sheridan St., Ely, MN 55731 or via email at director@ely.org. Nominations will be accepted through March 29, 2020.

AROUND TOWN

‘ELY’ license plates now available

ELY - ELY vehicle registration plates are in the Ely License Bureau office, according to owner Penny Ready, and they began selling them this week.

“If you have a special number you want, please wait until you get a message or phone call to tell you we are on that box,” she said. The first box is 001-050. “Once notified, you will have a week to come in. I must open boxes and sell in numerical order. We have 999 plates and approxi-



mately 200 are reserved.” There is no need to rush in to get one, she said. “They will not be sold out for probably weeks if not months.”

These are not specialty plates. They are not transferable. They can only go on passenger vehicles. They are valid for seven years and then need to be

replaced. “If you need to renew your registration, it will add about \$12 to the transaction,” she said. “If you do not need to renew registration, it will be \$19 and you will get the same month and year that you have now.”

The Ely License Bureau can only sell these to be put on Minnesota registered vehicles or those being transferred to Minnesota.

For more information, call 218-365-6262.

Ely woman arrested for drug possession

ELY - A 34-year-old Ely woman was arrested for drug possession last weekend at Pioneer Apartments.

Cassie Jean Eggebraaten of Ely was held at the St. Louis County Jail for third degree controlled substance (possession of methamphetamine in public housing zone), possession of small amount of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, according to a news release from the Ely Police Department.

On Saturday, March 14, a walk-through was conducted at Pioneer Apartments, a public housing facility, according to the release,

“to enable relationships among the residents that live in public housing, and enhance enforcement and problem-solving capability for everyone. Walk-throughs are conducted in areas that are open to the public.”

Ely Police Sergeant George Burger, Babbitt Police Department Officer Cody Siebert and his Police K9, Tac, conducted the public housing visit due to reports of possible drug activity. “The walk through also gave residents an opportunity to meet a local Police K9,” according to the release.

The walk-through occurred at

1 p.m. and shortly after arriving, while walking through a hallway, K9 Tac alerted officers to the door of an apartment. The tenant was not inside the apartment.

While officers were on scene, a tip was received of suspicious activity in the recreation room. The tip led to police finding the tenant of the apartment. After investigating, officers found methamphetamine, marijuana, cannabis extract and paraphernalia, according to the release.

Also assisting with the investigation was a resident agent from the U.S. Border Patrol.

**Firefighters from Ely, Morse-Fall Lake, and Babbitt were dispatched last Thursday evening to a report of a fire in a storage and repair shop building owned by Louis Leustek & Sons, Inc., located near Central Avenue and Camp Street in Ely. The fire was quickly brought under control. No damage estimate was available and the Minnesota State Fire Marshal’s Office is investigating the cause. No injuries were reported.**



submitted photo



**the TIMBERJAY**

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## THE CORONAVIRUS REALITY

# Ely library responds to COVID-19

## Curbside pick-up, extended loan periods implemented

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – The Public Library here has implemented a curbside pickup plan to provide access to patrons while the city facility is closed because of the coronavirus.

To begin with, according to Library Director Rachel Heinrich, staff will take phone calls from the public on weekdays during the duration of the closure from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m.

“We will post updates about changes to curbside pick-up and when we will reopen on the website and our Facebook page,” she said.

“As patrons call, we answer questions as normal. We will also take requests for our “Beat the Bug Bags” over the phone,” she said. “Please have your library card ready when you call, if you will be requesting specific items.”

Library patrons may place requests online as normal. Some of the other libraries in the region will not be sending their items during this period, so it may take much longer for items to get to the Ely facility. “We will check our pull list twice per day during our closed period,” Heinrich said.

The library’s online e-circulation of books, audios, and magazines is working normally. “If you have never used any of these services, now might be a great time to try them out,” she said. We can



The Ely Public Library has implemented a plan to provide services during the COVID-19 closure rule. photo by K. Vandervort

give you more information when you call.”

Loan periods have been extended region-wide to account for those libraries that are closed to the public. “You will not need to worry about returning items while the library is closed to the public; however, our book drop will be available if you choose to make a return,” she said.

The Ely library will be closed until at least Monday, March 30. The closure period may be extended past that date.

### Curbside pick-up

Library staff members will watch for patrons from 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. on weekdays during the duration of the closure.

Curbside service will only be available for items that are on hold and waiting for pick-up, or as part of the “Beat the Bug Bags” program. “Please pull up directly in front of the building entrance, so we

can see you,” Heinrich said. “Please have your library card ready when you pull up. A library staff person will be watching and will come out to collect your card. The staff person will bring your card inside and check out your items, and then bring your card and checked out items back out to your car.”

Library staff will only will check out items that have been requested in advance with curbside service. “Our goal is to keep these interactions as brief as possible for the safety of the staff,” she said.

### Beat the Bug Bags

For library patrons who don’t have something specific to request, but need some reading material, call the library and the staff will prepare a Beat the Bug Bag to pick up.

“These bags won’t have specifically requested titles in them,” Heinrich said. “Instead, you can

choose one or more categories of books that you like to read and we will pull a random assortment of titles that you might like. We make no guarantee that you have not already read the title; however, we will not grab a book that is in the middle of a series.”

Bags will have 10 book titles included, and one may also request that staff add two movie titles as well. “Please give us any rating restrictions for movies when you call,” Heinrich said. “We will only check out one bag per card at a time; however, you may return all the titles of a bag and request a new bag.”

Beat the Bug Bags need to be requested via phone before one drives up to the curb, so the staff has enough time to pull the items.

The library’s phone number is 218-365-5140. The library’s website is [elylibrary.org](http://elylibrary.org).

# Lake County takes COVID-19 precautions

LAKE COUNTY – In response to Governor Walz’s announcements on March 13 and March 15, Lake County continues to work with Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and partners to support the health and wellbeing of our communities, according to Lake County Emergency Manager B.J. Kohlstedt.

“We are our own best defense against the transmission of COVID-19,” he said. “Wash your hands, cover your coughs,

keep a social distance, and stay home when sick. The situation is rapidly evolving and we’re updating our strategies to provide essential services, protect the health of our staff and emergency workers, and maintain economic stability.”

Currently Lake County is open for essential business. The public is encouraged to conduct their business remotely rather than in person at County facilities. Call 218-834-8300, use email,

or use the dropboxes at the Two Harbors or Silver Bay Service Centers.

“By closing schools, limiting exposures, and protecting our senior citizens, we are fighting back,” Kohlstedt said. “Schools, businesses and governments are planning not only for education of our students, but also for parents to keep working, and to help cover expenses while caring for children or sick family members. We all need to share the challenges caused by these uncertain

and trying times.”

The MN Dept of Health (MDH) has set up a hot line for questions about COVID-19 at 651-201-3920 or 800-657-3903 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day of the week. The Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) also has a hotline for questions about Governor Walz’s orders at 651-297-1304 or 800-657-3504, also from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day of the week.

## News in Brief

### Ely Irish Dance canceled

ELY – The Annual Irish Dance, sponsored by the Ely Folk School, scheduled for Friday, canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The event was to be made possible in part by the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust.

### ‘Unhappy Hour’ event postponed

ELY – “Unhappy Hour,” previously scheduled for March 31 at Northern Grounds, has been delayed because of COVID-19.

According to Bureau of Labor statistics, it takes until the last week of March for women to earn a salary comparable to their male counterparts’ previous year’s salary. The day is marked in Ely with an “Unhappy Hour” event sponsored by the Ely branch of American Association of University Women and the Ely Rotary Club in cooperation with Northern Grounds.

AAUW-Ely Branch public policy chair, Caroline Owens, said, “We do expect the event will be rescheduled for later in the year, but, we will wait for further guidance from health professionals before making that decision.”

### NLAA’s ‘Fiddler’ production canceled

ELY – Due to the closures recommended by Gov. Tim Walz, because of the coronavirus, the Ely Community Spring Musical, Fiddler on the Roof, has been canceled.

We are sad to announce this cancellation,” said Director Sara Skelton. “Because we have already incurred much expense toward the production, we ask that you consider a donation to NLAA to offset these costs. If you would like a refund of your already-purchased tickets, please contact us and we will work with you to refund your money.”

Go to [www.northernlakes.org](http://www.northernlakes.org) or call 365-5070 for more information.

“Thank you for your years of support to the Ely Community Spring Musical,” she added. “We look forward to our college-community collaboration at next year’s Ely Community Spring Musical event.”

### Studio North closed thru March 27

ELY – Due to the executive order announced by Governor Walz, concerning the coronavirus, Studio North will be closed through Friday, March 27. They will post any updates regarding the order as they receive them.

“We will be posting a variety of on-line workouts you can follow at home during the closure,” said owner Nicole Boitz. “We are working our best to maintain our fitness community virtually. We will keep pushing through and working for you. We are all in this together and we will all get through this together. We appreciate your support and understanding and are thankful to be a part of this amazing community.”

### AAUW’s STEM workshop canceled

ELY – The annual STEM (Science Technology, Engineering Math) day for middle school girls, hosted by the Ely chapter of the American Association of University Women that was scheduled for Saturday, April 4 has been canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

### Ely Ace Hardware offers free delivery

ELY – Over the next few weeks, Ely’s Ace Hardware store will be delivering for free to those of you who don’t want to risk leaving home because of the coronavirus.

Please call with your order, whether it be a light bulb, sandpaper, paint, etc., and store personnel will do a credit card over the phone and deliver to your door.

## ELY MEMORIAL SCHOOL



Ely Middle School students, from left, Evelie Cooley-Cramer, Tatum Gubrud, and Molly Lindsay enjoyed a recent field trip with classmates to Giants Ridge for a day of outdoor activities, including snow tubing. submitted photo

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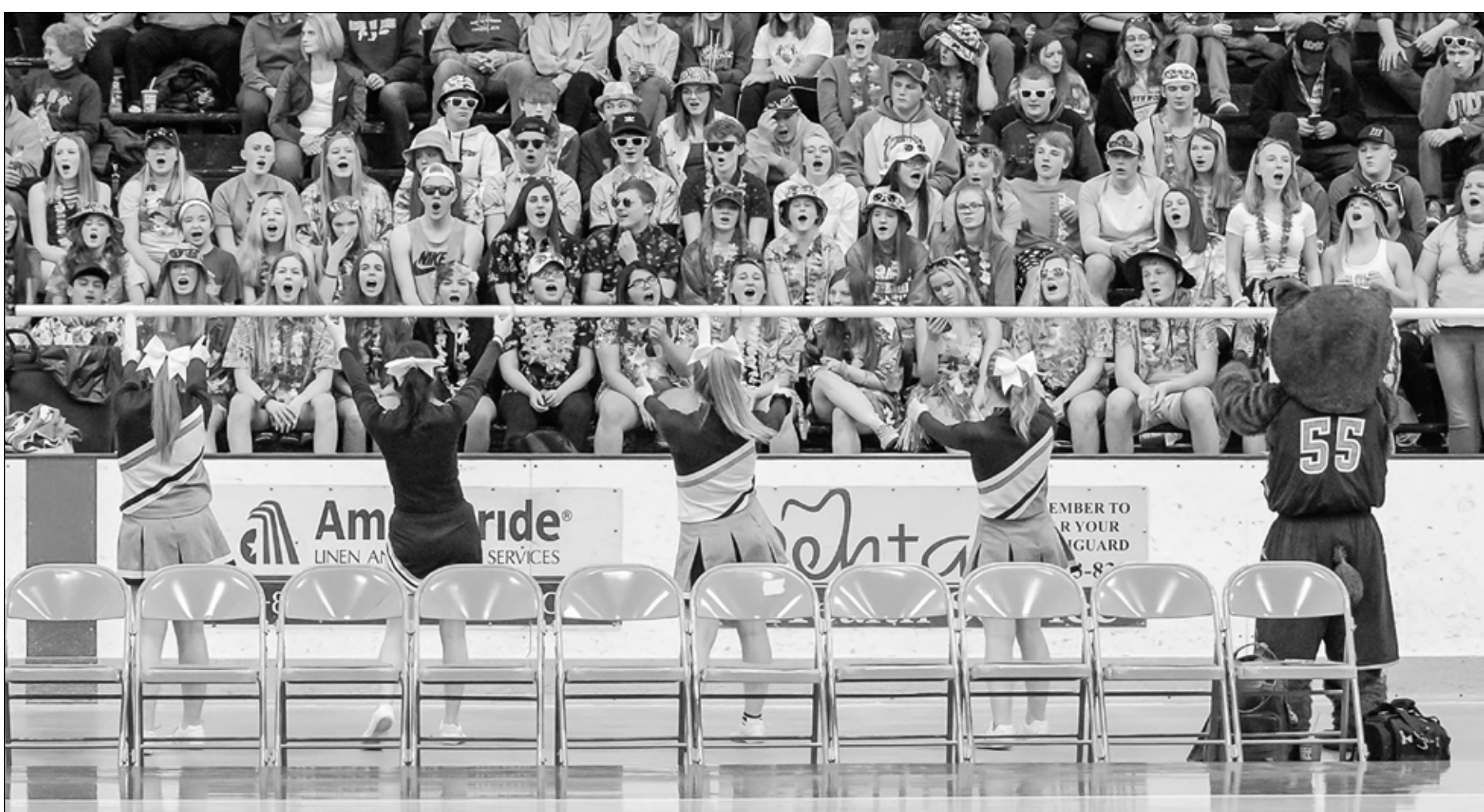
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# Grizzlies are GRRRRREAT!

When the North Woods boys basketball team faced off against Ely in the Class 7A sectional last week in Hibbing, the turnout of Grizzlies supporters was enough to make Hibbing Memorial Arena feel like home court advantage.

Students decked out in tropical gear were surrounded by enthusiastic fans in Grizzlies gear, with the entire entourage nearly filling the east side of the arena.

The crowd was somewhat subdued as Ely raced out to a 13-point lead, but the energy started rising with each Grizzlies basket and takeaway. When North Woods pulled ahead late in the second half, the Grizzlies' supporters went wild.

The Grizzlies completed a 28-point turnaround to win what proved to be the final game of the season 72-55.

photos by B. Smith



# Vintage snowmobiles ride again at Melgeorges

## Raffle brings in \$3,000 for juvenile diabetes foundation

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR-Terry Smith has been attending the annual Antique and Classic Snowmobile Race at Melgeorge's Elephant Lake Lodge and Resort for so many years that he's become a kind of fixture, enough so that he was the official poster boy for the flyer advertising Saturday's 34th edition of the popular event.

He was pictured beside a vintage sled with a rusty patina that, compared to slick modern models, looked to the uninformed as if it could have been cobbled together from discarded washing machine, lawn mower, and tractor parts.

"It's a '64 Polaris Snow Traveler K80 I bought from Jerry's Bait in Mora," Smith said Saturday. "It had been sitting since 1971. Surprisingly, I had it going in about two weeks. Cleaned the gas tank, changed the oil, and that's about it."

Smith took a moment to scan the blue skies and the light snow cover on the icy lake. Racing conditions were good, he said.

"The temperature is perfect; a bluebird day - we'll take it," he said. "There's no water on the ice. This is one of the only shows you get to use your old sled. Everybody else, it's just a show, they just look at them. Here we get to race them."

Smith has been coming to the Orr area to snowmobile since he was a child and has been racing at Melgeorge's since 1991. His constantly growing stable of vintage sleds currently stands at 35.

"I've got a problem - I'm a hoarder," he grinned. "I've got the fever. Every time I find a really old one I buy another one."

One snowmobile in the mix carries special meaning.

"I still have my dad's first snowmobile that he

bought when he got married and gave to my mom, which is a '70 Arctic Cat Panther 295."

Several years ago Smith started a tradition of bringing a new vintage snowmobile to the race every year, and it wasn't long before he convinced some of his buddies to do the same.

Todd Carlson of Duluth stepped up with a new 1966 Polaris Colt 100.

"I wanted something that was older, something that was a little bit unique," he said.

"I've got a month of work into it, paint, polished up the hood and windshield, carburetors and clutches and everything else. We did OK. We got all the way around, which was an accomplishment."

But Carlson clearly had a soft spot for his other ride, a 1972 Arctic Cat Lynx 292.

"My dad bought it in '73 and it's the first machine I ever rode,"

Carlson said. "I was eight years old. My kids learned to ride on it, then it sat out back for a long time. I took it all apart and put it back together - burned up a couple of pistons doing it. When I ride this I'm eight or ten years old again."

More than 90 registered for the race, and more signed up just to show their snowmobiles. Resort co-owner Carla Koch was pleased with the turnout.

"I was really surprised, since the snowmobile trails weren't in prime condition," she said. "It's a time of year when it's a little warmer and snowmobiling is dying down."

A raffle to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation raised \$3,000.

"We were overwhelmed with the donations people provided for the raffle," Koch said. "We didn't ask people to bring anything. Then a lady brought three big



As friends and fellow competitors look on, Terry Smith rounds the final corner of the timed circuit course on Elephant Lake.

photo by D. Colburn

baskets. It was unbelievable the people who showed up with things."

Steve and Carla Koch's oldest son, Matthew, is a type 1 diabetic,

Carla said, which is why they raise funds for JDRF. A portion of the proceeds also goes to a local juvenile diabetes support group, she said.

# Principal gives updates on school closure



JOHN VUKMANICH

This week I will do my best to update families in our region on the status of North Woods School as of March 17 in the

wake of the COVID-19 virus.

The Minnesota State High School League canceled all region and state athletic contests as of Friday, March 13.

Spring sports are currently postponed with no practices being allowed beginning Wednesday, March 18.

Schools statewide are closed by order of Gov. Tim Walz as of Wednesday, March 18 and continuing through Friday, March 27. There will be no instruction happening during this time. During this time, teachers will

be working on plans to provide students with "distance learning." This will use a combination of traditional materials and technology to provide our kids with education during this time away from school.

Schools will be providing meals to qualifying families. We are looking at ways to use our kitchen staff to prepare breakfast and lunch, along with our transportation department and paras to deliver meals.

Child care for families working in health care and emergency re-

sponse will be provided at the school. Transportation can be arranged as well.

In the event that schools remain closed starting March 30 we will begin distance learning.

School activities are canceled, as are field trips and community education classes.

This is uncharted territory for us, and we are doing the best we can to provide kids with as much normalcy as possible during this time. I have iterated to our teachers that the most important thing we do during

this time is keep the relationships we have with our kids, and help them through this. We want to reassure families that we will help you out, too. If you need assistance with setting a schedule for your kids or navigating the conversation regarding COVID-19, please let us know. Students may have mixed emotions right now, and they need the adults in their lives to reassure them that things will get back to normal, in time.

Teachers will be in touch with students in the event of schools remain-

ing closed starting March 30. They will communicate the procedures for their classes. There will be an expectation for student participation in this new model. There are sure to be questions about this, and we will do our best to answer them. Thank you to our North Woods Grizzlies students for your composure and positive attitude the last few days. Lastly, thanks to our teachers and staff for your flexibility and willingness to do whatever needed to move forward in this new situation.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Events at Cook Public Library

COOK- Cook Public Library is closed until further notice. All events have been canceled.

### Catholic churches cancel services

REGIONAL- All Masses and all Holy Week Service at St. Mary's, St. Martin's, and Holy Cross are canceled until April 20 due to the health threats of coronavirus. Call MaryAnn at 218-410-7830 with any questions.

### Community meal available as take-out

Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook will offer its Mar. 26 community meal as a take-out event. Patrons can pick up packaged meals from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. This month's menu includes meatloaf, baked potato, and sides. The meal is free and open to the public.

### Events at Northwoods Friends of the Arts

COOK- Friday, March 20 - A scheduled reception for "Sunlight and Shadows" exhibit artists Kris Musto and Laura Pajari has been canceled.

The Take Your Best Shot photo contest is in progress and accepting photo entries until Saturday, April 25. Adults pay \$10 for each 5x7 or 8x10 photo entry and students

may submit three photos without charge. Registration forms are available at the NWFA Gallery or online at nwfamn.org.

The "Sunlight and Shadow" exhibit continues to March 28. The new exhibit features the three-dimensional art of Kris Musto and Laura Pajari.

"A Canvas and You" fundraising event begins April 2 when participants can begin purchasing canvas for \$10 each at the gallery, continuing through June 26.

Gallery hours: Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 210 S River St. in Cook. For more information, visit the website, nwfamn.org, or email nwfamn.org@gmail.com. The gallery will be open on Wednesdays beginning in April.

### NWCT Radio Suspense Theater postponed

COOK- Due to recommendations to avoid crowded events for com-

munity health and safety, the North Woods Community Theatre and Community Education has decided to delay the performances of "Radio Suspense Theatre" on March 20 and 22. Please watch for a future performance date.

### Cook city buildings are closed

COOK- Cook City Hall, Cook Public Library, and Cook Community Center all were closed as of Wednesday until further notice as the city takes steps to curb the spread of the new coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

"We understand and apologize for the inconvenience of these actions," said a statement released Tuesday. "Our top priority is to keep everyone safe. City staff will continue to work and provide essential city ser-

vices."

The ambulance/fire hall remains open but is restricted to staff only.

The city-operated airport and Last Chance Liquors are unaffected by the closures.

Those needing to pay a utility bill can do so online at www.cookmn.us or use the outdoor drop box at city hall.

More information is available by calling the city hall at 218-666-2200 or emailing frontdesk@cookmn.us.

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COVID-19

# Fortune Bay casino and hotel are now closed

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

**TOWER**— Fortune Bay Resort Casino joined most other gaming operations around the state on Wednesday in announcing that they would close their doors until further notice as part of the effort to halt the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Bois Forte Acting Executive Director Sidra Starkovich announced the closure in a video conference posted late Wednesday. Earlier in the week, tribal officials had indicated their intent to keep the hotel and casino open while limiting hours. But that decision changed on Wednesday as most other tribal casinos announced their own plans

to close.

The hotel at Fortune Bay was also scheduled to close as of Thursday. Operations will remain shuttered indefinitely.

As sovereign nations, Minnesota tribes are not required to abide by the governor's closure mandate, but virtually all have now agreed to a request by Gov. Tim Walz to do so. The state's largest casino, Mystic Lake, closed at noon Wednesday for at least two weeks. The casino is in Prior Lake, a Twin Cities suburb near the state's highest concentration of people who have tested positive for COVID-19.

"We have been working diligently on this by the hour to make the

right decisions at the right time for our members, employees, team members and guests," said Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Chairman Keith Anderson in a news release Tuesday. "It is best for our community and the larger community to temporarily close at this time."

Black Bear Casino Resort, Fond-du-Luth Casino, Grand Casino Hinckley, and Grand Casino also have closed for two weeks and will reassess before determining re-open dates.

While wrestling with the casino issue, the Bois Forte Band Tribal Council also has been addressing other items to promote the well-being of tribal members.

Items described by Acting Executive Director Sidra Starkovich in a videoconference Tuesday included:

► An elder water run for Nett Lake elders and the community will be continued.

► Managers at the Y-Store and C-Store have been directed to work with vendors to order items such as toilet paper and hand sanitizer that are in short supply.

► The board of dentistry has suspended services, so dentists are currently available only for emergencies.

► Members are encouraged to check and refill propane tanks to be prepared for cold weather.

► wNett Lake School has suspended classes



through March 27 and has started a home delivery service for student breakfasts and lunches.

► Both wellness centers are closed through March 27.

The Tribal Elections Council also met Tuesday and affirmed its intention to conduct tribal elections on March 31 as scheduled.

However, the council will continue evaluating changing conditions and could make a change if circumstances warrant, Starkovich said. In the meantime, Starkovich said the tribal council is asking tribal members to remain isolated and avoid visiting elders, while stick checking up on them.

BANKRUPTCY

# Frontier Communications skips interest payments to bondholders

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

**REGIONAL**— The Connecticut-based telecom that serves much of northeastern Minnesota appears headed for bankruptcy, perhaps as early as the end of the month.

The *Wall Street Journal* and other business media reported this week that Frontier Communications skipped

interest payments to bondholders that were due on March 15, starting a 60-day countdown before they can declare a default and potentially force a bankruptcy.

The company, which serves much of northern St. Louis and Lake counties, will defer the payments on unsecured notes and enter a 60-day grace period during which it hopes to reach a deal with bondholders that

would reduce the company's massive debt burden. According to Bloomberg News, company officials have floated a plan to turn operations of Frontier over to its creditors.

A Frontier bankruptcy would be the largest telecom reorganization since the 2002 Worldcom collapse and it raises questions about the company's capacity to continue to provide service

to customers during the bankruptcy process. While the company is expected to continue to operate as it moves through the reorganization, it's less clear whether the company will have the resources to address the ongoing deterioration of its infrastructure. Frontier has already been under pressure by regulators in Minnesota for its poor-quality service and questionable billing

practices.

For now, state officials are offering reinsurance that a potential Frontier bankruptcy won't impact telecommunication service in areas served by the company. "Commerce has been in communication with Frontier, and at this point, there has been nothing shared with Commerce to suggest that Frontier will be unable to serve its customers,"

said Emma Bauer, a spokesperson with the Minnesota Department of Commerce. "If Frontier were to go into bankruptcy, Commerce would assist the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in an effort to ensure consumers' service is uninterrupted. In such a scenario, decisions on service would ultimately belong to the PUC."

## ELY...Continued from page 1

Why create more conflict and bad feelings up here?"

After putting off resolution supporters for two meetings on technical objections, the council finally responded on Tuesday night by unanimously adopting a resolution, apparently authored by Novak, that reaffirms the council's "commitment to the citizens of Ely."

During the "mayor's report" portion of the agenda, Novak presented Resolution 2020-009 that called for the city of Ely to reaffirm its commitment to:

- Act with honesty and integrity,
- Promote an inclusive environment for all citizens, and
- Promote respect

for others and encourage tolerance for the diverse points of view held by our citizens.

The council adopted the resolution on a 7-0 vote.

Orban's resolution, 2020-011 was addressed later in the meeting and appeared on the "communications" portion of the agenda among six other correspondence items. It read, "The city of Ely does not support a boycott of the Bois Forte's Band Fortune Bay Casino or any other business."

"This item has now been on our agenda for three meetings," said council member Al Forsman, "and it's time to put this to rest."

He noted that any council member who

wanted to make a motion on the resolution needed to pull the issue out of the "communications" portion of the agenda so the council could act on it. "I personally do not want to do that," Forsman said.

He proceeded to address the issue. "We live in a small community that will only survive if we support each other. We are dependent on one another in too many ways. There is no way I could endorse, support or boycott any business in our community or a neighboring community," said Forsman. "A vote against this resolution or a failure to bring this up might not appear to support that ideal, but there is much more to it than appears on the surface. This resolution was forced upon

this council. This was an attempt at causing division and anger in an effort to create a media firestorm. It amazes me how groups like this will regularly tout inclusiveness and respect while they twist other's words without a thought to the damage those statements would have. I will not be a pawn to those who create controversy to try to make themselves appear to be the righteous ones. We do not need this resolution. Those that know us know who we are. That is the last (time) I will discuss this resolution."

Council member Paul Kess said the intent of Orban's resolution was covered in the "reaffirmation" resolution passed earlier in the meeting.

The other council

members, Heidi Omerza, Ryan Callen, Angela Campbell and Jerome Debeltz, agreed with Forsman's comments. No action was taken on the resolution.

**Other business**

In other business, the council:

► Approved the mayor's proclamation and declaration of emergency in reference to the coronavirus (the city of Ely's COVID-19 action plan is detailed in a separate story on Page 9).

► Heard from Sanitation Committee member Mauro Caruso on the group's ongoing development of a revised garbage pick-up contract for residential and commercial entities. All city committee meetings are on

hold because of COVID-19 precautions.

► Awarded bids for the James Street renovation project to Utility Systems of America, Inc. for \$961,086.05.

► Awarded the bid for the clearing of the Burntside right-of-way project to L. Murphy Construction for \$17,760.

► Accepted the bid from McDonald and Mack to complete the construction design for the Pioneer Mine retaining wall project for \$16,800.

► Cancelled the March meeting of the Ely Economic Development Authority due to the coronavirus virus.

► Approved the appointment of Morgan Sauls to the city Parks and Recreation Board.

## LEASES...Continued from page 1

however, Judge McFadden concludes that the administration acted reasonably and that it had a right to "a mulligan" regarding the Obama administration's prior decision. While acknowledging that the contract terms that applied to the original mineral leases were not expressed clearly, McFadden determined that the Interior Department's decision was "reasonable," based on the available evidence and notes that courts can only overturn an agency decision when it is deemed "arbitrary or capricious."

While a number of relatively obscure legal

principles were raised in the case, the case hinged in part on whether the current holders of the leases, Twin Metals and Franconia, had an absolute right to a third renewal. The Interior Department originally issued the two adjacent leases to the International Nickel Company in 1966 and appeared to make their rights to subsequent 10-year renewals contingent on the start of mineral production within the first 20-year lease period. That expectation was stated in both the original lease as well as a 1966 press release issued by the Department of the Interior announcing

the issuance of the leases. It was further confirmed in a 2016 legal opinion issued by an Interior Department legal counsel, which determined that the lease renewal was discretionary based on the failure of the leaseholders to begin production in the initial term. When the U.S. Forest Service exercised its legal right to veto the lease renewal, out of concerns for the potential environmental impact to the BWCAW, Interior's Bureau of Land Management announced in January 2017 that it would cancel the leases

But a new Trump-

appointed Interior Department legal counsel reversed the earlier opinion and argued that the BLM had no choice but to renew the leases, denying the Forest Service its right to object. The Trump administration reissued the leases in May 2019, which prompted the lawsuit led by a number of Ely-area businesses.

Twin Metals, which is solely controlled by the Chilean copper giant Antofagasta, said in a statement that it was pleased with McFadden's ruling. "We're very gratified that this decision - a summary judgment - validates our

contention that the decision to cancel leases held in good standing for more than 50 years was arbitrary and wrong," said Kelly Osborne, Chief Executive Officer of Twin Metals. "Companies must be able to trust the regulatory process in order to risk the enormous capital required to extract metals such as copper, nickel, cobalt and platinum group metals that are vital to creation of the green economy our world so desperately needs."

McFadden's ruling will not be the last word on the matter. "We believe the decision is in error and we will be appealing to the

D.C. Court of Appeals," said Becky Rom, chair of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters.

Meanwhile, Twin Metals has taken steps to advance its proposed mining project, which would be located along the South Kawishiwi River, part of a major watershed that flows into the 1.1 million-acre BWCAW.

The company, in December, submitted its proposed mine plan to state and federal regulators, who are in the initial stages of evaluating the proposal ahead of planned environmental reviews.

Twin Metals, however, has yet to demonstrate that the mine proposal is financially feasible. Its mine proposal submitted to regulators did not include financial projections and the company did not respond to a request from the *Timberjay* for its latest technical report, which would include financial estimates.

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COVID-19

# City of Ely ramps up emergency procedures

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY — As the Minnesota Department of Health leads the state-wide response to the coronavirus, that causes the disease COVID-19, the city of Ely is prepared and working with all appropriate agencies to stay ready, according to Emergency Management Director George Burger.

The city council gathered for an emergency meeting Monday afternoon to review the situation. Council members, staff and a limited audience were physically separated in accordance with the current social distancing guidelines of maintaining six feet of separation.

“We will only allow 49 people in the chambers according to the requirements,” said Mayor Chuck Novak.

In the midst of the meeting, Novak interjected that President Donald Trump announced new guidelines limiting public gatherings to just 10 people.

“It’s getting tighter folks,” Novak said.

Burger summarized steps city staff is taking to be prepared.

“The city of Ely is taking precaution when it comes to assuring clean and healthy workplaces and public facilities,” Burger said. “Supervisory staff are also taking steps to maintain a safe continuity of services by reviewing and making necessary changes in procedures to prevent the spread of illness. We have actively posted flyers in offices and public spaces to remind both staff and public to take the same precautions as they would to avoid colds and flu.”

The city of Ely has plans in place for continuity of business and services in the event they experience situations related to COVID-19.

“We will provide updates to the public if there are any noticeable developments,” Burger said. “This is a fluid situation and the best resources for updated information can be found on the Minnesota Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention websites. The city of Ely website is also a source for local updates.”

City public works operations will continue as usual. Novak noted that city meter readers must still physically enter some

homes in the city to record utility usage.

“At this time, we will be putting hangers on the doors and ask those customers to call in their readings,” he said.

Police and fire department operations continue as usual.

“The only concern we have at this time is for protective equipment that is somewhat limited or unavailable,” Novak said. “Once we run out of hazmat equipment, we’re out.”

Novak asserted that it is not his intent to declare a local emergency. “We will follow federal and state guidelines,” he said. “We want to be proactive and deal with this emergency situation that has been declared on the national and state level. We don’t want to impose severe instructions that prevent people from normal day-to-day activities as much as possible.”

An updated emergency operations plan was set to be reviewed and approved by the council on Tuesday.

Travel restrictions are also in effect for all city employees.

“There will be no travel outside the city limits for city business,”

Novak said. “The state legislature is on recess until mid-April so we have no reason to travel to St. Paul.”

Novak indicated that the council would meet for business meetings until further notice.

At Novak’s suggestion, the council cancelled their March 31 study session. The city’s support of boycotting businesses that are opposed to sulfide mining in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness watershed was on the agenda for discussion.

“That would bring a lot of people here. I think we can hold off on that,” Novak said.

Council committees, commissions and boards will only meet when necessary until further notice.

“If they have no pending business emergency, they should forgo it for a month or two,” Novak said.

Council member Angela Campbell, who is on a trip to New York City, participated in the meeting through cell phone communication.

Ely Police Chief John Lahtonen, who reportedly is participating in a cruise ship vacation, along with Ely Zup’s Market owner

Jimmy Zupancich and several other city residents, was not present at the emergency meeting.

## Rec Center, library closed

The Ely Public Library and the Ely Rec Center are closed to the public for an indefinite period due to COVID-19.

“There is no public library entry into the library,” said librarian Rachel Heinrich, “however, we will offer limited curbside pick-up services.”

She noted that library patrons would still be able to pick up materials that have been on hold.

“We also welcome people to call in and we will put together a pre-packaged selection of books. If you like mysteries, for example, we will provide a selection of those types of books.”

Due dates of library items will be extended until after the library reopens, according to Heinrich.

“All programming will also be suspended during this period,” she said.

Library staff will also be answering the phone from 9 a.m. until noon and 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. during

the closure period. The library’s Wi-Fi will still be available in the parking lot as usual. The password is posted on the door.

## Other updates

➤ The Ely Area Food Shelf implemented changes for food shelf “shopping day” this week. In order to promote social distancing (keeping six feet of separation between people), volunteers met shoppers outside at their vehicles or transportation service.

➤ The Ely Carefree Living facility also implemented precautions for the COVID-19 virus. They restricted visitation and canceled all planned events and outings. Only those persons who are considered essential visitors (i.e., healthcare professionals, caseworkers, social workers, delivery persons) are allowed in the buildings. No visitors will be admitted into a building without a pre-screening. Feel free to call your loved ones to check on them at anytime. All residents have been advised of the precautions and staff posted notices at building entrances. Call 218-365-2261 with any questions or concerns.

## MEDICAL...Continued from page 1

Additional testing may prove difficult, at least in the short term. The Minnesota Department of Health announced on Tuesday that due to an extreme national shortage of COVID-19 test materials, the department would be limiting the use of tests to healthcare workers already showing symptoms, individuals who are already hospitalized with symptoms, or seniors with symptoms residing in nursing homes or assisted living facilities.

Meanwhile, healthcare providers are expecting things to change rapidly as test results begin to filter in. “We’re working under the assumption that there is already COVID-19 in St. Louis and Koochiching counties,” said Holmes. That assumption has local healthcare providers looking at more than just treating potential victims. “We also want to make sure there isn’t a pathway from patients with a possible infection,

to other patients and staff,” said Holmes. That’s why local healthcare facilities are implementing a wide range of changes in their operations.

The Cook Hospital and Care Center, for example, declared a public health emergency as of March 13, implementing a number of restrictions on visitation and suspending most non-emergency services, including outpatient colonoscopies and pain injections. The hospital’s Adult Day Services Program and the Wellness Center were closed as of March 16 until further notice.

Hospital staff in Cook will keep exterior doors locked in order to allow for the pre-screening of individuals entering the facility. An intercom system will allow people requiring medical care to contact hospital staff for assistance.

No patient visitors will be allowed in the hospital, except for instances of compassionate care and those visits must be arranged and approved prior to arrival. Instead of in-person visits, hospital officials are urging family of patients or residents at the facility to reach out to loved ones via phone,

video chat, e-mail or social media.

Scenic Rivers, meanwhile, is rescheduling most non-emergency dental appointments, according to Holmes, although emergency dental appointments are still being accepted.

Essentia Health has announced a similar set of restrictions for clinics it operates throughout the region. On Monday, Essentia facilities, including the Essentia Clinic in Ely and the Essentia Clinic and Hospital in Virginia, were closed to most patient visitation. “We recognize this change will be difficult, but we believe it is

necessary to protect our patients and staff from spreading illness,” stated an Essentia press release issued this week.

Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, on Wednesday, announced that it would be closing its Wellness Center until further notice and would be restricting visitation to the facility and will be requiring those entering to complete a short screening form.

The Cook Hospital is also restricting public access to its business office and medical records. Employees will continue to provide customers with

access to their medical records and will be available to answer any billing-related questions over the phone.

Hospital employees in Cook are also subject to travel restrictions as of March 16. Any employees returning from travel will be placed on administrative leave for 14 days after returning home and must follow the Minnesota Department of Health guidelines on self-isolation. Employees must also self-screen for illness every shift they report to work.

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12 S River Street  
Open Monday - Friday  
(218) 666-5958

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## COVID-19

# Ely School District implements closure plan

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – Ely School District classes were suspended Wednesday in response to the coronavirus sweeping the state, and the district will remain closed until at least Monday, March 30, in accordance with instructions from Gov. Tim Walz and Education Commissioner Mary Cathryn Ricker.

ISD 696 school board members held an emergency meeting Monday night to review and approve a school closure plan and began preliminary discussions about a potential off-campus teaching scenario that could be mandated for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year and beyond.

A March 15 letter to district families and staff indicated that during the school closure period for students next week, Ely school staff will report to duty and join school districts and charter schools across the state to create plans to equitably deliver distance learning to students should the need arise to close schools for a longer period of time due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

First and foremost, school board members considered steps to be taken during the temporary closure.

“All this happened sooner than we had hoped, but we were somewhat expecting something like this to happen in short order,” Superintendent Erik Erie said.

Erie said the closure plan mirrors other plans from other districts.

“We have addressed all of the areas in the gov-

## Vermilion Community College closed through end of year

ELY – Vermilion Community College will remain closed to students through the end of the spring semester as part of the ongoing effort to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

“In this rapidly changing situation around COVID-19, Minnesota State has taken numerous actions at the system level for all of our 32 colleges and universities,” said VCC Provost Shawn Bina in a statement issued Tuesday. “In addition, VCC has further clarified our actions as they apply directly to our college constituents. As this situation continues to evolve, recommendations and actions are certain to change, but the two guiding principles to all of our actions remain, to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of our faculty, staff, and students, and to enable students to complete the spring semester and progress toward their educational goals.”

Among the measures that VCC will implement are the following:

- ▶ Spring break has been extended for all VCC students until March 30.
- ▶ When instruction resumes, all Vermilion classes will be delivered in a distance learning format through the remainder of spring semester. There will be no face-to-face instruction during this time.
- ▶ All spring sports and athletic related activities

have been canceled for spring semester.

▶ Closing the college weight room facilities and beginning a systematic closing of certain academic spaces that will not be in use as a result of moving to distance learning for spring semester.

▶ Cancelling all scheduled group events and activities, both sponsored by the college and hosted by the college for the remainder of spring semester. This includes the college’s in-person spring new student registration sessions.

▶ Rolling out a process for new student registration sessions to be conducted remotely this spring.

▶ Reaching out to all current students to assist them in remotely scheduling their classes for fall semester, 2020.

▶ Informing students that although the dorms and college food service currently remain open, there are very few reasons why students should return to their residence halls as classes will be delivered via distance learning and practicing social distancing will be more conducive outside of the campus residential living environment.

▶ Establishing an information page on the college website for current information regarding this rapidly changing situation. That page can be found at <https://www.vcc.edu/covid-19/>.

ernor’s executive order,” he said.

Principal Megan Anderson likened the closure plan to an “extended spring break” and said, “There are no educational expectations, at this point, to come from our teachers or the district. This is just planning for potential long-term closure beginning on (March) 30th.”

All long-term, distance-learning plans developed next week will be communicated to all district families via email and posted on the district’s website. A survey is being conducted to gauge availability of internet access and internet-capable devices for students.

According to the plan, the district may provide devices to students who need them, and alternate methods of distance learning may also be incorpo-

rated.

“The other thing that is important is, distance learning does not mean E-learning,” Erie added. “These are two different types of terms. Distance learning in the high school could look much different than in elementary.”

Other facets of the school closure plan stated that mental health services may be available for students during the closure period. No special education or other instructional services are required during the closure period.

School meals for Wednesday were sent home with students on Tuesday. And starting Monday, March 23, students will be offered bagged breakfast and lunch to be picked up at the school or at another location. Breakfast and lunch will be provided on

regularly scheduled school days.

“We could use school bus drivers to help deliver lunches,” Erie said.

School-aged daycare for school employees, emergency workers, and essential personnel (health care workers, law enforcement personnel, mental health workers, etc.), will be provided by school staff during the closure period, as required by Walz’s declaration.

School board member James Pointer inquired as to the activities of the students in child care next week.

“What will they be doing in that school-day time frame?” he asked.

Principal Anne Oelke said that staff had yet to address those details.

“With our surveys we are still determining how many kids we need

to plan for and how much staff we need,” she said. “These kids will be in different locations around the school. We are still planning all of that.”

Pointer persisted in his quest for more details. When fellow school board member Heidi Mann suggested to Pointer that he allow the staff more time to work out details, Pointer responded, “They had all day Sunday.”

Erie quickly pushed on with other facets of the closure plan. The state high school athletics organization cancelled all sports tournaments.

“And no (spring sports) practices, scrimmages or games are allowed until further notice,” Anderson said. “We’ll just have to wait and see. Hopefully things will be better in April and they can get going.”

The senior class trip to Washington, D.C., is postponed at this point.

“We have a back-up date in May that we are looking at, but it is really hard to know right now whether we go or not,” Anderson added.

Ely Community Education classes are all closed until further notice.

“This includes pickle ball,” Erie said. “That is a very active and fairly large group and they hope it can get up and running as soon as possible.”

Erie repeated that all staff members are required to be on campus during the closure period next week.

“In the governor’s executive order, he wants to make sure that employees are not harmed by this school closure, so we will honor that and find a way to make that work. We value their input on that.”

School Board member Rochelle Sjoberg asked about “ramping up” additional janitorial and extra duties to disinfect the school facilities.

“We are looking at that as part of our planning process,” Erie said. “One of the things is that they are represented by unions, so if we have them work outside of their classification, we have to know what that means.”

If an employee does not wish to be in school during the closure, according to Erie, they would be able to use accrued leave time. He noted that some district employees are “medically vulnerable” and may not be required to be in school.

“This is an unprecedented and fluid situation and we have to be ready for changes,” Erie said.

## SCHOOLS...Continued from page 1

shuttered their doors to students and instruction for eight days at the direction of Gov. Tim Walz as part of the state’s evolving response to combat the spread of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

While instruction is scheduled to resume March 30, teachers and staff are spending this time developing distance learning options for students to continue their education at home if the closure is extended.

ISD 2142 Superintendent Reggie Engebritson, who oversees North Woods School and Tower-Soudan Elementary School, said her staff members are feeling challenged.

“This is all new to us,” she said. “I have tried to give them as much information as possible and will continue to have conference calls and be here to support them as we create our distance learning plan.”

Staff also are emotional about the students being gone, particularly given the possibility the closure

could be extended.

“There is sadness, as they might not have students back again this school year,” Engebritson said, “and our seniors are missing out on all the ‘last’ things that happen senior year.”

North Woods Principal John Vukmanich had one central message for his teachers.

“The most important thing we do during this time is to keep the relationships we have with our kids and to help them through this,” he said. “We want to reassure families that we will help you out, too. Students may have mixed emotions right now, and they need the adults in their lives to reassure them that things will get back to normal in time.”

For now, things are anything but normal, as a flurry of communications between parents and schools has been aimed at nailing down demand for the most immediate needs – meal service and school-based childcare for children whose parents are healthcare or emergency

workers, both items specified in Walz’s directive.

As of Tuesday, Engebritson said plans were coming together even as they still were contacting families to get a handle on need.

Food service staff will package breakfast and lunch together in bags. For parents who can’t come to a school to pick up the meals, the district will engage its transportation department for a solution.

“We are coordinating several drop off sites for families,” Engebritson said.

Vukmanich said the school was also looking at the possibility of having paraprofessionals support meal distribution efforts.

The district will also be transporting students who need to get to a school for childcare. The service is for students, age 12 and under, of healthcare and emergency services workers.

“We have childcare set up at each of the schools,” Engebritson said. “They will have access to the gym and a

variety of activities, plus breakfast and lunch.”

The biggest challenge during the eight-day closure is for teachers and staff to come up with a plan to provide distance education and at-home learning for students. Everything has to be ready to go by March 30, the date instruction is supposed to resume.

“This will use a combination of traditional materials and technology,” Vukmanich said.

Teachers aren’t starting from scratch, but Engebritson said there were numerous challenges that have to be met.

“We have some online instruction happening either through Schoology or Google Hangouts,” she said. “We have many students who do not have access to the internet, so we need to be mindful of them and figure out ways to provide an education for all students. Distance learning will give all teachers an opportunity to learn more about technology and how to provide instruction in a variety of ways.”

## Vermilion Country School

Director Frank Zobitz and his staff at Vermilion Country School caught a couple of small breaks in the short term, as the 7-12 charter school with 31 students is on spring break this week. The school won’t have to start providing meals until next week, and the students are old enough that they don’t have to provide childcare.

Like everyone else, Zobitz said they’re diving into how they’re going to provide education to students if they can’t return to school on March 30.

“Our approach will be twofold,” Zobitz said. “First, what do we need to do in the short term? Chances are it’s going to be packet-based – here’s a packet of information, here are some worksheets, just getting them to be doing something again. If this is a longer-term thing, then what might we need to change, what might we need to do differently?”

Students have school-issued computers, although they haven’t often gone home with the students. Zobitz said he would be assessing

who has internet access, noting that the quality of connections can vary widely depending on the location and provider.

However, the school’s size relative to others in the area gives Zobitz and his staff some advantage in adapting to new paradigms.

“We don’t have a lot of students; we’re only dealing with 31,” he said. “Compared to some of these districts with Kindergarten through twelfth and 300 students, this is where small size can be an asset. The logistics don’t keep compounding on you.”

One challenge unique to Vermilion Country School, should the closure be extended, is what to do about the senior meals they provide at lunchtime.

“We do have a nice contingent of seniors who come to us,” Zobitz said. “We need to figure out what our strategy is going to be around that and how we can continue to be an asset to the community by providing meals for seniors.”

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## BOYS SECTION 7A PLAYOFFS

# Season ender

### North Woods tops Ely but High School League cancels season, ending Grizzlies' bid for fourth straight state tournament appearance

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

HIBBING- Every team in postseason competition plays knowing its next game could be its last.

When North Woods clawed back from a 13-point deficit to beat Ely, 72-57, in a Class 7A sectional semi-final game March 11, the Timberwolves knew their season was over.

What the exuberant Grizzlies couldn't know that night was that they had come to the end of the line, too. The next day the Minnesota State High School League unceremoniously ended the Grizzlies' quest for a fourth consecutive trip to the state tournament when it canceled all sectional finals and the state tournament.

Both teams ended the season on sour notes, but neither had to apologize for a drama-filled semifinal skirmish that was in doubt until the game's final minutes.

After a tentative start by both teams, Ely was the first to catch fire. Leading 7-6 after three minutes of play, the Timberwolves stunned the Grizzlies with a 15-3 run. Will Davies and Emmett Faltesek sank three-pointers and Dylan Fenske scored five points in three consecutive trips down the floor to stake Ely to a commanding 22-9 lead with 11 minutes left in the half.

"They came to play and I think we didn't have the intensity to match them in the first eight minutes," North Woods Head Coach Will Kleppe said.

After being doubled up for a charge kicked off by a Trevor Morrison bucket at the 9:30 mark. Another bucket by Morrison, a trey by Brenden Chiabotti, and fast break scores by TJ Chiabotti and Jared Chiabotti, and North Woods was suddenly back to within two, 26-24.

However, Ely refused to relinquish the lead, once again building a nine-point margin, 43-34, on a Joey Bianco shot with 1:31 left. The Timberwolves had a chance to go up by double-digits before the half, but the Grizzlies forced a turnover that Darius Goggeye turned into a fast break layup with nine seconds left. The teams headed into the break with Ely leading 43-36.

Both teams were strong on the offensive end of the floor, with Ely hitting 51 percent of its shots and North Woods connecting on 47 percent of its attempts.

The teams' shooting fortunes would diverge dramatically in the second half, ultimately spelling doom for the Timberwolves.

North Woods quickly cut

See SEASON...pg. 2B

“They came to play and I think we didn't have the intensity to match them in the first eight minutes.”

Head Coach Will Kleppe

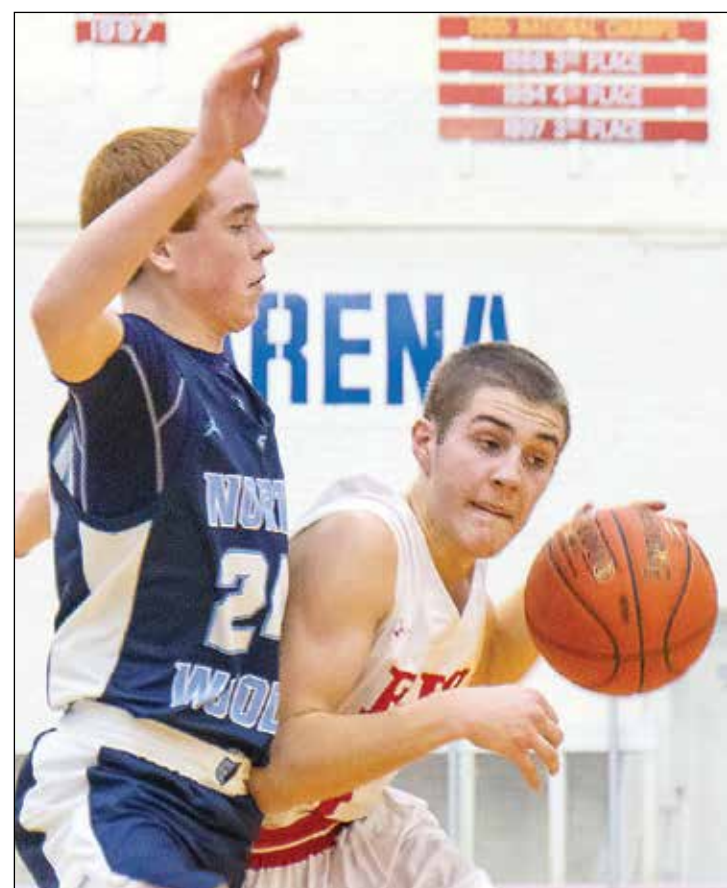


Above: Grizzlies senior Trevor Morrison defends against Ely's Emmett Faltesek.

Right: Ely's Eric Omerza tries to work around the Grizzlies' Alex Hartway.

Below: 86-year-old Betty Kunstel, a 1951 Ely High School graduate, leads Ely faithful in a pregame cheer.

Bottom: Morrison's long reach stymies a shot by Ely's Dylan Fenske.  
photos by D. Colburn



## COUNTY SCHOOLS

# Social workers and coach pay get board scrutiny again

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL — Board member Chris Koivisto sparked a lengthy discussion during an ISD 2142 school board meeting when he questioned the rationale for the proposed hiring of social workers to be stationed at three district schools.

Koivisto said the district should better utilize its existing counselors and refer students and families to public health resources, instead.

"We do have county services, social services, public health and human services," Koivisto said. "Our county com-

missioners are supporting social services across the county. I just don't see why we aren't using those social services or pushing for those social services and asking them to collaborate and partner with us in the school."

Board member Lynette Zupetz responded by pointing out that it's often difficult to make contact with outside services.

"The biggest problem with that is that they have a real hard time getting hold of these social workers when they're needed in the school," she said. "They call and call and call."

"Why don't we work with them to improve that?" Koivisto said.

Board member Chet Larson countered that the school and county did work together at one time.

"When the school district started we were working with the county," he said. "Then they said they were not going to work in the schools at all. They said if you want these people, go hire them yourself."

Providing additional intervention and support services for struggling students and additional counseling, psychological, and social work services were two of the top three priorities staff identified in a survey last fall, a fact reinforced by board member Troy Swanson as he

supported the proposal.

"We have to do something," Swanson said. "It was priority one in every community."

Board member Christina Taylor expressed concern that negotiating service agreements with the county could take too long to be of help to current students and families.

"What do we tell the kids next year and the year after that when we don't have social services in the school and nothing has improved for them?" Taylor said. "We have to recognize things are not the same as when we were younger, when we were kids growing up. We don't have the same support services out

there and schools are more and more expected to do it."

Engebretson was open to approaching the county, but said that individual student issues that teachers have been dealing with, ones that could be addressed by a social worker, have been taking time away from instruction.

"I still think we should go to the commissioners since that's their job," Koivisto said. "They've got money allocated to it and they should be the ones doing it. We're in education. We should be educating."

Engebretson addressed the issue raised at the last board meeting.  
See SCHOOLS...pg. 2B

## ADVENTURES

## Freemans again on the move, to warmer climes

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY — Local adventurers David and Amy Freeman have dog-sledded through the northern wilds and spent a year living inside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. But at the last Tuesday Group gathering in Ely for the foreseeable future, the couple recounted a more hospitable recent adventure, navigating a small sailboat from Duluth to the Bahamas for the winter, and then up to Nova Scotia the following summer.

In the spring of 2018, following the success of their book, *A Year in the Wilderness: Bearing Witness to the Boundary Waters*, David admitted, “We could write a book from anywhere.”

So, they planned to head someplace warm. “That summer we took off with a destination of the Bahamas,” he said.

“When you think about sailing in tropical paradises, you think about warm winds, sunny skies, hiking on deserted islands, beautiful sand beaches, and dolphins swimming in your bow wake,” he said. “All of those things happened, but one thing that most people don’t realize is that sailing is basically working on your boat in beautiful locations.”

Their 27-foot Vancouver sailboat, called *Discovery*, is based on a 1960s-era design made for ocean sailing. “It is really small, but built to go anywhere,” he said.

The couple spent about six weeks at the Knife River marina by Two Harbors preparing for

their voyage. That included redesigning the cockpit, replacing the rigging and learning how to get along with the 20-horsepower diesel engine. Once that was accomplished, the couple finally left port in mid-August.

“When we took off, heading east along the south shore of Lake Superior, we wanted to get a little practice with longer sails overnight, and we spent time on longer stretches,” Amy said.

Their presentation earlier this month in Ely included photographs and short video clips to help describe their journey. “It was such a relief to reach the point where we were on the move,” said Amy. “Moving under wind power is a great feeling.”

They reached the locks at Sault Ste. Marie, sailed down the St. Mary’s River, into lakes Huron, Ontario and Erie. “For the most part, we just dropped anchor along the way, which was free,” David said. “If we docked we would have to spend at least \$50, and we tried to do this trip on a pretty Spartan budget.”

When the Freemans reached the Erie Canal they needed to take down the ship’s mast to navigate through the 363-mile waterway. They stopped at a marina to remove the mast and rigged it to the boat. “We stepped our way down through 36 locks and traveled under numerous bridges, guard gates, and pipelines, some with a clearance of four feet,” Amy said. “We counted 294 structures that we had to go under.”

As they made their way through the Erie Canal, they



**Above: Dave and Amy Freeman on board their 27-foot sailboat known as Discovery.**

submitted photo



**Left: The Freemans smile just ahead of their presentation to the Tuesday Group in Ely earlier this month.**

photo by K. Vandervort

intimidating. Those ferries are super fast and come whizzing by. They are not going to get out of your way.”

They left New York, sailed past Sandy Hook and entered the Atlantic. Their next challenge was to head toward Delaware Bay, some 140 miles away.

*Editor’s Note: Part 2 of Dave and Amy Freeman’s adventure will be featured in the March 27 issue of the Timberjay.*

got a sense that they were part of a migration. “All of these Canadians in their boats were coming down from Ontario and Quebec, and others from the Great Lakes were converging through the canal all at the same time,” David said. “They were all heading south. It was really neat to meet all those people.”

From Albany, they made their way down the Hudson

River toward New York City. After about 20 miles of motoring down the Hudson, they stopped at a marina and re-mounted their sail mast to become a legitimate sailboat once again as they neared the Atlantic Ocean.

“The Hudson is really pretty with a lot of rolling hills,” David said. “After five days on the Hudson, we entered New York Harbor, which is pretty

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

## Tower seeks family for “Habitat” home

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER — Are you interested in owning your own affordable home in Tower? The Tower Economic Development Authority is looking for a family interested in possibly partnering with the North St. Louis County

Habitat for Humanity to build a new home on property located on S Second St. in Tower.

Habitat for Humanity is an international organization that helps make home ownership possible by partnering with volunteers and other agencies to provide affordable housing for individuals

or families. The North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity (NSLCHFH) serves 14 communities in the North Country, including Babbitt, Cook, Ely, Embarrass, Tower, and Soudan. Prospective families for a Habitat home are expected to invest at least 200 hours of volunteer time, or “sweat

equity,” into building their own home or other Habitat homes in the region.

The prospective homeowners must also have the ability to repay an affordable 30-year mortgage.

Anyone who meets the qualifications may be considered for a Habitat for Humanity home without

regard for their race, religion, age, gender, or political views.

If you would like to be considered, you can request an application by emailing [habitat@nslchfh.org](mailto:habitat@nslchfh.org) with the subject title Application Request. You can also stop by their office located at 5558 Enterprise Dr. NE in Virginia. The

office is open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday. You can also download an application from their website at [www.nslchfh.org/how-to-apply](http://www.nslchfh.org/how-to-apply).

You can also contact TEDA Executive Director Marshall HelMBERGER for assistance at 218-753-2950 or at [marshall@timberjay.com](mailto:marshall@timberjay.com).

## SCHOOLS...Continued from page 1B

meeting of some sports coaches being paid less than others. As the pay schedule for coaching and extracurricular activities is part of the negotiated teaching contract, she said an appropriate time to address the concern would be next spring when the contract is up for renegotiation.

Taylor expressed frustration that the district was

not being more responsive to the concern and the coach who raised it.

“I understand that it’s in the contract and it’s what the teachers have had forever,” Taylor said. “For me it’s one thing to say that and another to sit here and look at an individual who comes to us and says, ‘Hey, I can’t seem to get any response from anybody, I’ve tried a couple times,

and you guys are my very last resort. Can anybody else figure out if this fair, and if it’s not, why not, and try to change it?’ I don’t think it’s OK to constantly pass the buck and say it’s in the teachers’ contract. I think we should look into it, and I appreciate you (Engebretson) doing that. But I’m really tired of hearing it’s in the teachers’ contract, because I don’t

think that always has to be the be all, end all.”

Larson responded.

“It’s in this contract and there’s no way we can change it without their agreement,” he said.

In other business, the board:

► Reviewed a summary report of graduation rates compiled from Minnesota Report Cards data. After dropping by 2.7

percent to 86.1 percent in 2018, the districtwide rate rebounded to 93.4 percent in 2019. The district graduation rate has exceeded the statewide rate for the past five years.

► Met with transportation director Kay Cornelius to review a complaint from a parent who wanted door-to-door service for a student who lives out of the designated transpor-

tation zone for the school they attend. Cornelius suggested a compromise of picking the student up at the transportation border and taking them directly home. Board members encouraged her to make the proposal to the parent.

► Agreed to a proposal to hire an additional assistant track coach to accommodate larger than anticipated turnout.

## SEASON...Continued from page 1B

Ely’s lead to two, 43-41, but another three-pointer by Faltsek gave the Timberwolves a 46-41 cushion. When Davies hit a second consecutive trey at the 11:31 mark, Ely was back up by eight, 55-47.

And then the Timberwolves’ shooters went colder than a subzero Minnesota night, going scoreless for an agonizing seven minutes.

While defensive adjustments at halftime by the Grizzlies were partially responsible, the Timberwolves were still getting plenty of good looks at the basket. Absolutely nothing was falling.

Wide open drives to the basket ended with the

ball clanging off the underside of the rim. Three-pointers went halfway down and popped back out. Name a hard-luck way to miss a hoop, and you’ll probably find it among Ely’s 25 missed shots in the second half. The Timberwolves shot just 21 percent in the period.

Making it even worse for the ice-cold Timberwolves, the Grizzlies were red-hot. North Woods had success working the ball into the paint for high-percentage shots and scoring on fast breaks as they finally captured a 56-55 lead on a nifty spin move and shot off the glass by Goggleye with just over seven minutes remaining. The Grizzlies

shot a torrid 65 percent from the field in the second half.

When Faltsek finally ended the scoring drought with a basket at the 4:29 mark, the Timberwolves were still within striking distance, trailing 62-57.

Unfortunately for Ely, it proved to be their final basket of the season. The Timberwolves closed out the game with a 10-0 run for the 15-point win, completing a stunning 28-point turnaround.

“Our boys did a good job of battling back in the second half,” Kleppe said. “We had things we had to improve and I thought in the second half the defense and the rebounding really came around. Credit to our

guys, they found a way to do it. I guess that’s kind of been our motto -- figure out how to get the job done.”

Grizzlies upperclassmen Goggleye and Morrison were stellar in the paint, connecting on 16 of 22 shots. Goggleye topped the scoring chart with 20, followed by Morrison and TJ Chiabotti with 16 each. Jared Chiabotti tallied 11.

The Timberwolves also had four players with double-digit contributions. Eric Omerza and Faltsek popped in 12 apiece, while Davies and Fenske each scored 11.

The teams finished the season with identical records of 23-6.



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Open 7 days a week

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Spring planting is right around the corner!

### **Ely Surplus**

Quality goods, Affordable prices

Hours: M-Sat: 9-5

### **Mealey's Gift & Sauna Shop**

When in Ely, Shop at Mealey's

Hours: Th, F, Sat, Mon: 10-4

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Offering Carry-out Service

### **Ely Northland Market**

Groceries, meat, deli and produce

## **BABBITT**

### **Babbitt Branch -Ely Credit Union**

24 Commerce Rd, Babbitt • 218-827-3121

### **Zup's Grocery**

Shop for all your holiday needs in our NEW store!



# Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

## HEALTH RESPONSE

# DNR cancels deer open houses, parks still open

Agency still seeking input on deer management, but through phone calls or emails

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

**REGIONAL**— The Department of Natural Resources is looking to hear from the public about its ongoing deer management, just not in person right now. The DNR announced this week that it is canceling a wide variety of public events to help contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That list of cancellations includes deer management open houses that had been scheduled in much of northeastern Minnesota this

past week and next week. Instead of public meetings, the DNR is encouraging members of the public interested in deer management to contact their local wildlife manager by phone or email to discuss any concerns they have regarding deer management in the area. The public can contact Tower Area Wildlife Manager Tom Rusch at 218-300-7861 or by email at tom.rusch@state.mn.us. In the International Falls area, the public should call or email area wildlife manager

Larry Petersen at 218-286-5434 or email him at larry.petersen@state.mn.us. The agency is asking the public to reach out to their local wildlife manager by Wednesday, April 1. The public meetings, now canceled, were part of the DNR's recently-developed deer management plan and the agency notes that public engagement remains a top priority. As such, the DNR is exploring a range of digital options to support public meetings and other engagement opportunities.

Minnesotans should check the DNR's website, the DNR's social media channels, and email updates from the agency for more information about how to weigh in on deer management or other concerns. **State parks still open** State parks, recreation areas, campgrounds, and other public lands remain open to the public for people to enjoy. "Now is a great time to get outdoors," said DNR. See **DNR...pg. 5B**



**Despite the cancellation of deer management open houses, you can still weigh in with your comments by contacting your local wildlife manager.** file photo



## FASCINATING NATURE

# The season of snow fleas

Watch for these common organisms on mild late winter days

**T**hey appear, seemingly like magic, on mild winter days— looking like flecks of pepper on the snow. And unless you look closely you might not realize they're alive. They're commonly called "snow fleas" and March is perhaps the best time of year to take a closer look at these tiny creatures that manage to survive even in sub-freezing temperatures. The term snow flea is applied to any number of small organisms that can appear in large numbers on the surface of snow. The type of snow fleas found in northern Minnesota aren't true fleas— in fact, they aren't even insects. Instead, they're a common soil invertebrate known as a "spring-tail." They're dark gray in color and live most of the time in the forest floor duff, where they feed primarily on fungi and decaying organic matter. They're so small, measuring barely a millimeter in length, that we hardly ever notice them at other times of the year. But during the winter, when they take advantage of milder days to pop up out of the snow,

**Above: Snow fleas were out in significant numbers during a recent warm spell.**

**Right: Snow fleas greatly magnified.**  
photos by M. HelMBERGER

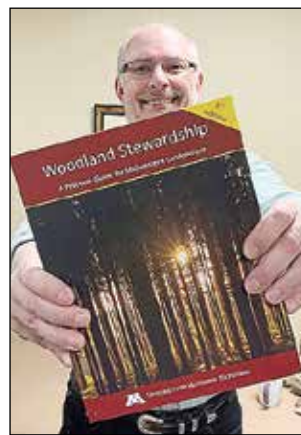
their dark bodies, especially when they accumulate in large numbers, stand out against the backdrop of white. They come to feed on algae, fungi, and other bits of debris and dust that accumulate on top of the snow and then they disappear back under the snow when the real cold returns. Our snow fleas can't fly, but as their name suggests, these springtails are able to jump, flea-like, many times their body length through the use of a tail-like appendage. And they hop a lot. If you stop and watch a concentration of these snow fleas, you'll see these little springtails are leaping about almost continuously. We've posted a video of them online at timberjay.com so you can see them in action. These snow fleas are one of the few very small organisms that remain active during



the winter months. They have glycine in their bodies, which acts like a natural form of antifreeze that allows them to function even when temperatures are below freezing. With milder weather ahead,

keep an eye out for snow fleas over the next few weeks. Once the snow is gone, they'll still be there— you just won't be able to find them.

## MANAGEMENT



# Book helps you manage your woods

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

**REGIONAL**— An update of a book designed to help forest landowners better manage their woodlands is now available online for free. The book, *Woodland Stewardship, A Practical Guide for Midwestern Landowners*, is designed to help woodland owners identify goals for their property and work with a professional forester to choose the management practices that will help meet those goals. The first edition of this book was published in 1996 and a second edition was published in 2009. From the beginning, it's been a collaborative effort between the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and similar agencies and schools in Wisconsin and Michigan. Anyone interested in the book can download the entire book or individual chapters in a variety of formats. The book will guide forest landowners in identifying and prioritizing management goals, developing a stewardship plan, conducting a timber inventory, forest regeneration, timber marketing and harvest, and thinking about the impacts of climate change. It also discusses how to manage for wildlife, develop recreational trails, and other priorities. You can find and download the book for free at <https://open.lib.umn.edu/woodlandstewardship/front-matter/about/>.

DEER MORTALITY



It's the most vulnerable time of the year for whitetailed deer. With anywhere from 16-20 inches of crusted snow still on the ground, the advantage in the woods has clearly shifted to predators, particularly gray wolves, which appear to have been the cause of death of this deer earlier this month near Tower. Domestic dogs can also pose a risk to deer this time of year, so pet owners are encouraged to keep their dogs under control at all times. photo by M. Helmberger

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday								
22 -2				30 10				37 21				40 22				42 25								
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.
03/09	53	21	0.00		03/09	54	20	0.00		03/09	54	19	0.00		03/09	28	18	0.00		03/09	54	19	0.00	
03/10	34	13	0.00		03/10	31	8	0.00		03/10	29	15	0.00		03/10	36	10	0.00		03/10	31	9	0.00	
03/11	38	10	0.00		03/11	37	7	0.00		03/11	35	10	0.00		03/11	37	12	0.00		03/11	36	6	0.00	
03/12	40	10	0.00		03/12	41	6	0.00		03/12	40	10	0.03	0.6"	03/12	36	27	0.01		03/12	40	9	0.00	
03/13	40	21	0.08		03/13	39	18	0.08		03/13	37	20	0.03	0.5"	03/13	27	18	0.01		03/13	39	17	0.00	
03/14	28	11	0.00		03/14	28	9	0.00		03/14	27	8	0.00		03/14	28	3	0.00		03/14	28	8	0.00	
03/15	31	5	0.00		03/15	30	8	0.00		03/15	28	7	0.00		03/15	34	5	0.00		03/15	30	3	0.00	
Total				1.12	YTD Total				1.39	YTD Total				1.81	YTD Total				NA	YTD Total				1.34

Outdoors briefly

DNR seeks comments on Tower area lake plans

REGIONAL—Anglers and others interested in learning about the Department of Natural Resources' strategies for managing lakes and streams in the Tower area are invited to comment on several lake management plans through Monday, March 30.

Lake management plans describe the past, present and desired future conditions of the fishery. The plans identify specific management activities planned for designated lakes over the next 5 to 20 years. They include background information such as water chemistry characteristics, water temperature information, and species presence.

Comments and suggestions from the public are crucial for planning and determining management success. For anglers, this is the best opportunity to influence how these lakes are managed.

Every year, DNR fisheries

staff prepare or revise individual lake management plans for several waters in each management area. In the Tower area, plans for the following lakes will be reviewed.

St. Louis County lakes:

- Agassa
- Cub
- Bird
- Discovery
- Erickson
- Grassy
- Iron
- James (Jammer)
- Norberg
- Oriniack
- Purvis
- Saint Mary's
- Skeleton (Horseshoe)

Lake County lakes:

- Amoeber
- Cherry
- Clear
- Ester

- Garden Reservoir (Garden, Farm, and South Farm Lakes)
- Hanson
- Ottertrack

Draft plans for these lakes, as well as recent fish survey information, may be viewed from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the DNR's Tower area fisheries office located on Hwy. 169 at Tower's west entrance. Electronic copies may be requested by calling 218-300-7802 or emailing [lisa.sanderson@state.mn.us](mailto:lisa.sanderson@state.mn.us).

Questions or comments about the plans may be sent by email to Tower area fisheries supervisor, Edie Evarts, at [edie.evarts@state.mn.us](mailto:edie.evarts@state.mn.us). Comments and suggestions for management of other lakes and streams in the Tower area are welcome at any time, and will be considered when those plans are due for review.

DNR...Continued from page 4B

Commissioner Sarah Strommen. "Parks are a great place to do some social distancing and enjoy the health benefits of nature."

Consistent with state health guidelines, however, visitors will experience some changes in ser-

vices available. State park visitor centers, contact stations, and other ancillary buildings will be closed until further notice. With contact stations closed, visitors will pay through self-pay and informational kiosks located at each facility.

For the time being, state parks naturalist programs are canceled.

State park bathrooms, vault toilets and shower buildings that are currently open will remain open, with increased cleaning protocols.

MAKING THE BEST OF IT

Things to do while you're stuck at home

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL — Restaurants and bars are closed. Schools are shut down, and virtually every community event or gathering has been canceled. It can seem like life is virtually on hold and it has many of us hunkered down at home.

So, what do you do in this unusual time?

For many, it's meant more time on the Internet, or catching up on their favorite TV shows. But if you're looking for more creative and healthier alternatives to life as a couch potato, consider some of these ideas:

► Go outside. It's safe to be outdoors as long as you are not in a group. The weather has been relatively mild, so take the dog for a walk. Take your kids for a hike. The snow is crusted in the mornings right now, so it can be the best time of the year to explore the woods. It's fun for kids to be able to walk on top of the snow. You can also explore the snowmobile trails, with the snowmobile season winding down. Because the snow is crusted on the lakes, you can also try skate skiing this time of year. You might be amazed at how fast you can go under the current conditions. If you don't want to ski, you could take up running by trying the "Couch to 5K" app, or for something more exciting, check out the free app "Zombies, Run!," where you listen to a story about being chased by zombies, and when they get close, you had better start running.

► Vary your routine. Have breakfast for dinner. Make a picnic lunch in your living room. Let the kids camp out in the den. Have a "black tie" dinner, complete with menus, different courses, and a fancy home-baked dessert.

► Write a letter to the editor. You can email a letter to [editor@timberjay.com](mailto:editor@timberjay.com) or mail it to The Timberjay, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790.

► Do a jigsaw puzzle. Look in your closet and dig out some old puzzles (or talk to some friends and do a jigsaw puzzle exchange).

► Teach your children some crafts—knitting, crocheting, woodworking, or whatever craft supplies you have on hand. Try to avoid any craft that uses large amounts of toilet paper!

► Have a family book club. Read a classic out loud and discuss the book (you can find readers guides for many books online). If you have a library card, the Arrowhead Library System website lets you download digital and audio books, free of charge. There are tons of great family-friendly podcasts that you can download to your smartphone or computer for free.

► Call all those distant aunts and uncles, cousins, and other long-lost friends you haven't talked to in a long time.

► Play some old-fashioned games. Teach your kids how to play cribbage or even poker or blackjack. Find your old checkers board and have a family tournament. Buy some puzzle books—crosswords, word search, and sudoku all appeal to many ages. Also, check out the puzzles in the *Timberjay* each week. Plus, our annual puzzle book, featuring more than 50 puzzles, will be inserted in everyone's newspaper on March 27, so watch for that!

► Create a photo story and journal. Document this time in your family's life. Assemble drawings, poems, stories, and photographs into a scrapbook or poster board. Create some greeting cards to send to residents at our area assisted living and nursing homes who are extremely isolated during this period of time.

► Have a dance party. Make an indoor obstacle course. Have your kids write and record their own hand-washing song (20 seconds long). Find some workout videos on YouTube. Create a scavenger hunt (indoors or outdoors). Go down that deep, dark hole of things to do called Pinterest. There are literally thousands of great ideas for relatively easy activities to do at home that just take common household materials.

► Have a virtual get-together with friends, share a favorite game (but not food please) or movie with a neighbor. Play 20 questions over Skype or FaceTime. No in-person company please, even if everyone appears healthy.

We want to see photos of your creative ideas for having fun at home. Please email them to [editor@timberjay.com](mailto:editor@timberjay.com) and we will print our favorites in an upcoming paper.

NOTICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS

For the safety and health of our members and staff, North Star Credit Union will temporarily close our lobby.

Our drive-up locations will remain open in order to continue serving our customers.

We encourage customers to use our online services, mobile banking, ATMs and online loan application process to conduct business.

Our loan officers are also ready to take your calls during normal business hours to help you conduct your banking needs.

218-666-5940



24 S. River Street, Cook • [www.northstarcreditunion.org](http://www.northstarcreditunion.org)

See us at [timberjay.com](http://timberjay.com)



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[aronsonboatworks@frontiernet.net](mailto:aronsonboatworks@frontiernet.net)

Obituaries and Death Notices



**Thor H. Nordwall**

Thor H. Nordwall, 98, of St. Paul and Ely, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, March 4, 2020. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 28 at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, 1669 Arcade St. in St. Paul. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church. Arrangements are with Anderson Funeral Home and Cremation of St. Paul.

A second memorial service will be held in Ely in the late spring or early summer, with details to follow. Memorials are preferred to YMCA Camp du Nord, Lakewood Salvation Army Adult Day Center, or Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church.

Thor was born in Sweden on April 7, 1921. He emigrated to St. Paul with his mother when he was four-years-old, to join his father who had come two years earlier. Thor's life was long, and full of adventure and good times with family and friends. He grew up in St. Paul and joined the U. S. Army in 1942, serving in Europe during World War II. Most notably, he was part of a group that set up a communications network for the troops during the Allied Invasion of Normandy in June 1944.

After raising his family and retiring from the Bell Telephone Company at age 55, Thor began the work of fulfilling his dream of building a log cabin in the woods near Ely, with the help of family, neighbors and friends. He spent the next few years on the project, overcoming many obstacles along the way. But, as the quote from Samuel Johnson posted above the cabin door states, "Nothing will be attempted if all possible objections must first be overcome."

During these years, he was also a dedicated volunteer at Camp du Nord, including a stint on the board of directors, where he was a key member of the group involved in the camp's early development. In 1988, he married Audry Delano, who loved the cabin as much as he did. They spent as much time there as possible, skiing and hiking with friends, hosting holiday meals cooked on the wood stove, and toasting the New Year with their famous glogg. They also enjoyed many trips abroad over the years. Thor loved his family, his friends (who are legion), and his cabin.... and sometimes a small glass of wine at the end of the day. He will be remembered by all for his warmth, kindness, and good hugs.

Thor is survived by his beloved wife, Audry; three sons, Kurt (Julie), Karl (LouAnn) and Kris (Heidi); son-in-law, Allen Kupferschmidt; Audry's children, Richard (Betty) Delano and Carol (Rod) Quick; ten beloved grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and siblings, Bari

Campbell, Barbara Wojahn and Ronald (MaryJo) Nordwall.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Raleane Kupferschmidt; and brother, Roy.

**Norma Postudensek**

Norma Ellen Folkedal Postudensek, 79, of Duluth and Lake Vermilion-Tower, passed away on Saturday, March 7, 2020. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 21 at St. Benedict's Catholic Church in Duluth, with visitation for one hour prior at the church. Arrangements are by Dougherty Funeral Home of Duluth.

She is survived by her children, Lynne (Peter) Postudensek-Hart and Mark (Paula) Postudensek; grandchildren, Stella (Addison Benzshawel) Hart, Roland Hart, Ellen Postudensek, Eddie Postudensek and Anthony Postudensek; sisters, Julie Christenson and Doris Caranicas; and other family and friends.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL & EQUALIZATION  
KUGLER TOWNSHIP**

**Important Information Regarding Property Assessments**  
This may affect your 2021 property taxes

**Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization for Kugler Township shall meet on Wednesday, April 8, 2020 from 10 - 11 a.m. at the Kugler Town Hall.**

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and to determine whether corrections need to be made.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county board of appeal and equalization.

Julie Suihkonen, Kugler Township Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, March 20, 2020

EMPLOYMENT

**Tribal Liaison**  
State Program Administrator Coordinator  
Permanent, Full-time Position  
Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation  
Eveleth, MN

Serve as Tribal Liaison for IRRR to develop, support and promote effective working partnerships between IRRR and Native American tribal governments located within the Agency's service area. Coordinate and participate in Agency efforts that relate to and have an impact on Native American tribal governments located within the Agency's service area. Coordinate with Native American tribal governments and IRRR to develop, recommend and support state and regional policy and legislative proposals that impact Native American tribal governments' economic development and quality of life relative to services provided by IRRR. Undertake additional special work assignments as requested by the Commissioner.

Learn more and apply online at [mn.gov/careers](http://mn.gov/careers)  
Job ID # 39443

Contact Barbara Sanders with questions at [barbara.sanders@state.mn.us](mailto:barbara.sanders@state.mn.us) or 218-735-3027

Application deadline: 04/01/2020

Equal Opportunity Employer 3/27

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

**LAWN MOWING SERVICE**  
Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital is seeking proposals for lawn mowing service for the 2020 season. Proposal shall include mowing, edging, trimming and cleanup of all campus lawns as needed throughout the summer. Efforts shall be made to mow after business hours to ensure the safety of customers, staff, and property. Certificate of Liability insurance will be required. Call Keith 365-8731 to review areas included. Proposals shall be submitted by April 25 to: EBCH, Attention: Keith Beal  
Lawn Care Proposals  
328 W Conan St, Ely, MN 55731. 3/20

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

**Local Delivery Driver**  
If you live in the Tower-Babbitt area this may be a perfect opportunity for you!

Deliver fuel oil and propane to residents and businesses in the Ely, Lake Vermillion, Virginia areas. We're growing, expanding and we need good help. Class B license at a minimum but we pay more for Class A CDL with experience and a willingness to drive other equipment. Perfect job for someone wanting to get off the over-the-road or those who prefer a more stay-local routine and more family time. Good pay with benefits. Consistent schedule. Consistent work. OT available. We're a local, family-run business with family values. So if you're tired of working for "the corporation", come see us.

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

**HELP WANTED**

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

- Parts & Service Manager
- Rigger
- Service Tech
- Gas/Dock/Yard Person

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

**Superintendent/Principal Search**  
Nett Lake Public Schools ISD 707

The Nett Lake School District # 707 is seeking applications for a full-time Superintendent/Principal. A complete job description and application can be found at [www.nettlake-school.org](http://www.nettlake-school.org) or you may stop by the Nett Lake School. Compensation package will be based on qualifications and work experience. The district will begin reviewing applications on April 3, 2020.

Questions: Contact Superintendent James J. Varichak, 3090 Westley Drive, Nett Lake, MN 55772  
Email: [jvarichak@isd707.org](mailto:jvarichak@isd707.org)  
Phone: 218-757-3102

Published in the Timberjay, March 13, 20, 27 & April 3, 2020

**Super Crossword**

**Answers**

A	B	S	O	R	B	S	P	I	R	I	T	S	T	W	I	R	L	S	
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L	O	S	S	E	S	S	T	A	T	E	R	S	S	Y	S	T	E	M	

**OPEN POSITIONS** 10 Fifth Street SE, Cook, MN 55723

**Care Center**  
FT Director of Nursing- LTC (sign-on bonus)  
PT Nursing Assistant (sign-on bonus- wage starting at \$15.88/hr.)  
PT Restorative Nursing Assistant

**Medical Records**  
FT Health Information Manager

**Adult Day Services**  
Casual RN/LPN

**Rehabilitation**  
FT Physical Therapist (sign-on bonus)

**Imaging**  
Full Time Radiologic Tech (sign-on bonus)

**Dietary**  
Full and Part Time Dietary Aide/Cook (Wage starting at \$12.80/hr.)

**Environmental Services**  
Casual Housekeeper & Laundry Aide (Wage starting at \$12.80/hr.)

**Business Office**  
Casual Secretary/Receptionist

**TO APPLY:**  
[www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/](http://www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/)  
More Info? Contact Human Resources  
**218-666-6220**  
[humanresources@cookhospital.org](mailto:humanresources@cookhospital.org)

The Cook Hospital & Care Center offers competitive pay and benefits including PBA retirement, Health and Dental coverage, Life and LTD.

**Weekly SUDOKU**  
by Linda Thistle

			6			9			4
5				6				9	
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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

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45 E. Chapman Street  
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Auto Repair & Garage

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## HAIR CARE

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

## FOR RENT

2 BR APARTMENT AVAIL. MARCH 1- Bay View Apartments in Orr. Call Dennis at 218-780-0200. tfn

1 BEDROOM APARTMENT- In Aurora. Private entrance, 2nd floor, \$450/month, all utilities included. Call 320-703-8424. 3/27pd

## COMMERCIAL SPACE/RENT

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

Certificate of Assumed Name Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333. The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business. Assumed Name: End of the Road Handyman PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 3120 Van Vac Road, Ely, MN 55731 NAMEHOLDER(S): Rory Carlson, 3120 Van Vac Road, Ely, MN 55731

I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

Dated: March 3, 2020  
SIGNED BY: Rory Carlson  
MAILING ADDRESS: 3120 Van Vac Road, Ely, MN 55731

Published in the Timberjay, March 20 & 27, 2020

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## WANTED

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

## 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 meets Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Church, Orr.

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.

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

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.

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

## HELP WANTED

SUMMER KITCHEN HELP WANTED- Now hiring cook/bakers/kitchen assistant and cleaners. Join our happy kitchen at Camp Voyageur on Farm Lake. We do from scratch cooking and baking. If you appreciate the outdoors, are a quick learner, an independent worker and enjoy working with youth, contact us at: cvspirit@campvoyageur.com or 218-235-1975. tfn

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower, MN is looking for a PART-TIME OFFICE MANAGER. Three days a week, 10-15 hours a week. Bookkeeping experience desired. Computer skills, communication, friendly and flexible. Please inquire by emailing a resume to ielctower@gmail.com. 3/20

HELP WANTED- Seeking applicants for two Seasonal Part-Time Positions at McCarthy Beach State Park. For more information and to apply visit www.mn.gov/mmb/careers/. 3/20

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5	4	3	6	7	8	1	9	2
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7	6	4	3	1	5	2	8	9
1	9	8	7	2	4	3	6	5
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## SUPPORT GROUPS

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.

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

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.

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.)

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

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

## FOUND

LG CELL PHONE- found on Elbow Lake Forest Rd on Friday, March 6. Call 218-742-4356. 3/20nc

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## SOUL RESCUER

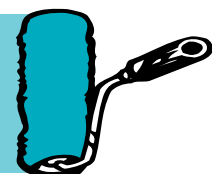
## Super Crossword

- ACROSS**  
1 Sop up  
7 Liquor  
14 Spins  
20 "Amen to that!"  
21 Actress Hudgens  
22 Abate  
23 Start of a riddle  
25 Batter's miss  
26 Do wrong  
27 Pol with a six-yr. post  
28 Me, to Michel  
29 Riddle, part 2  
31 Pinchpenny  
33 Sue Grafton's "— for Noose"  
35 Steak order  
36 Riddle, part 3  
42 Food holder  
46 Goddess with a cow's head  
47 McCartney of fashion  
48 Kailua Bay locale  
50 Scam  
51 Agree (with)  
54 "Yoo- —!" ("Hey!")  
55 Paintball need  
57 Circus clown — Kelly  
59 Riddle, part 4  
63 Big-top star  
64 DiFranco of folk rock  
65 More spiteful  
66 "We need assistance!"  
69 Used a daggerlike weapon on  
73 B followers  
74 Wife of Mark Antony  
78 Consented to  
79 "Nick and —'s Infinite Playlist" (2008 film)  
83 Riddle, part 5  
89 Wasp variety  
90 Suffering  
91 Capote, to his buddies  
92 With 77-Down, does thorough research on  
94 Freezer trayful  
95 TV's Spelling  
97 Camera lens settings  
100 Exec's benefit  
101 Ohio tire city  
103 Riddle, part 6  
107 Sitarist Shankar  
109 Org. for teachers  
110 Coin toss call  
111 End of the riddle  
115 Lucy of "Kill Bill: Vol. 1"  
118 — League college  
119 Toward a boat's back  
122 Makes glad  
123 Riddle's answer  
127 Declare under oath  
128 Source of licorice-flavored oil  
129 More prying  
130 Sports team letdowns  
131 Red — (many Republicans)  
132 Modus operandi  
**DOWN**  
1 "Even — speak ..."  
2 Atom studier  
3 Movie draw  
4 Meal leftover  
5 Putin's land  
6 Command  
7 "Law & Order: —"  
8 Hand part  
9 —  
-European languages  
10 Another name for vitamin A  
11 Suffix with fool or owl  
12 Fearsome fly  
13 "Don't — didn't warn you!"  
14 Inventor Nikola  
15 Radiator hoses may lead to them  
16 Haifa's land  
17 Harness part  
18 Leia's twin  
19 Spurt out  
24 "No — to blame"  
30 "— little kindness"  
31 Capital of Oman  
32 Alternative to a 401(k) or a Keogh  
34 Envision  
36 [not my error]  
37 "Time — the essence"  
38 Rake part  
39 Inert element  
40 Pipe problem  
41 Ringing — sound  
43 — acid (vinegar flavorer)  
44 Added (up)  
45 Not broken  
49 Zeus' sister and wife  
52 Stage actress Hagen  
53 Pirate's quaff  
56 Syllabus segment  
58 Gym floor covering  
60 Put in a different sack  
61 Mortgage-issuing inst.  
62 Ewoks' forest moon  
66 "El Cid" co-star Loren  
67 Five — shadow  
68 Person eyeballing  
70 Pirate chant starter  
71 Artist Georgia  
72 Ultimately reach  
75 Author Rand  
76 From Hanoi  
77 See 92-Across  
80 Lightning — sound  
81 Heady drink  
82 "We need assistance!"  
84 Small branch  
85 Ending for major  
86 Yankees slugger, to fans  
87 It's often preheated  
88 Nonflowering plant  
93 Sun setting  
96 Sortie, say  
98 Most musty  
99 Fishtank pest  
102 Speaks bombastically  
104 Recite ritually, as a spell  
105 Large sofas  
106 Air Force pilot, in slang  
108 Three-piece pieces  
111 Ringing sound  
112 Choir range  
113 Slum vermin  
114 "Pretty — pretty does"  
116 Notion, to Jean-Luc  
117 "Deutschland — alles"  
119 Landed (on)  
120 Cut and run  
121 Time in office  
124 By the agency of  
125 Football field units: Abbr.  
126 Letter for Superman

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