

FREE

Cabin
Fever



Puzzle Book...
See inside

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Coronavirus 101...See /8
Growing greens... See /1B
Skiing the crust...See /4B

The TIMBERJAY



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\$1.00

EDUCATION

IRRR commits to Ely school building project

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

\$7 million grant requires successful taxpayer referendum

ELY—If voters here approve a \$10 million bond measure later this year, the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation will kick in an additional \$7 million towards a major facility upgrade for the Ely schools. The IRRR board unan-

imously approved that funding proposal last week.

The \$20 million project, in the works for months by school officials, combines renovations of the existing campus buildings and new construction of a

portal linking the Washington and Memorial buildings. That new connection also includes new classrooms, a cafeteria and commons area, a secure entry and additional gymnasium space. The Industrial Arts

Building would be demolished to make room for the new structure.

The nine-member IRRR board of directors is comprised of state legislators, chaired by Rep. Rob Ecklund, and includes Sens. Tom Bakk, Justin

Eichorn, Carrie Ruud and David Tomassoni, and Reps. Sandy Layman, David Lislegard, Dale Lueck and Julie Sandstede. Eichorn and Lueck were absent

See...ELY pg. 9

SUPPORTING THE ARTS

Reborn

B'nai Abraham gets new life as venue for Northern Lights Music Festival

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

VIRGINIA- A synagogue built in 1909, which was lovingly restored over the last decade, has been donated to the Northern Lights Music Festival (NLMF) with the hope it will serve as a permanent performance and community space.

On March 18, representatives from the Friends of B'nai Abraham handed over ownership of the historic building to festival officials, including Veda Zuponic, artistic director, and Barb Baldrice, board chair.

The synagogue, located at 328 5th Street S in Virginia, closed its doors in the mid-1990s when its congregation dwindled to only a few members. The synagogue hired its first rabbi in 1910, when Virginia's Jewish population numbered 121. The Jewish community in Virginia

See...REBORN pg. 9



A 100-year-old synagogue is now owned by the Northern Lights Music Festival which will use it as a performance and community events venue. The building, including the stained glass windows, was restored by Friends of B'nai Abraham. submitted photos

COVID-19

Gov. Walz extends closures

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— In a dramatic pronouncement on Wednesday, Gov. Tim Walz announced a shelter-in-place order for all Minnesotans effective at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, March 27 through 5 p.m. on Friday, April 10. "We must take bold action to save the lives of Minnesotans," said Governor Walz. "Having served as a Command Sergeant Major in the Army National Guard, I know the importance of having a plan. While the virus will still be here when this order ends, this action will slow the spread of COVID-19 and give Minnesota time to get ready for battle."

And a battle it will be, according to Walz, who cited recently-completed modeling by the Minnesota Department of Health that projects that more than 70,000 Minnesotans will die without further efforts to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That same modeling shows that the governor's shelter-in-place order will significantly slow the rate of new infections and give the state time to dramatically ramp up its capacity to deal with a health crisis that is unprecedented within the past century.

Walz acknowledged that the actions he ordered this week will not reduce the number of Minnesotans who are eventually stricken with the COVID-19 virus. State health officials expect that 2.4 million Minnesotans

See...STATE pg. 8

CULTURAL TRADITIONS

Ojibwe drum circle shares songs of health

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

NETT LAKE- The empty halls of Nett Lake School reverberated with the sounds of drums and singing Monday as a drum circle of five Bois Forte Ojibwe men shared songs of healing and protection with more than 1,000 viewers on social media.

Charles "Chaz" Wagner, legacy project coordinator for tribal radio station KBFT, said he was inspired to put the performance together by a multitude of posts from Native performers

who have been responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This virus has gotten to us in our native communities and there have been a lot of posts on Facebook sharing cultural traditions," Wagner said. "If they're dancers, they'll share a video of dancing; if they're singers, they're sharing singing. It's drawing huge inspiration in our native communities to share these things."

When he proposed the idea to fellow drummers and singers Darren Landgren,

See...ONLINE pg. 9



A drum circle of five Bois Forte Ojibwe men shared songs of healing and protection on social media this week. photo courtesy of KBFT Radio



We are closed due to ongoing concern for our staff & customers. We can be reached by email or phone 365-6745 for special deliveries in the area or for sidewalk pick up at our door if needed. Our staff continues to be employed working at home and occasionally in the offices. Thanks for your continued support everyone. Steve, Nancy and Elli

Contact The Timberjay

218-753-2950
editor@timberjay.com



8 0 4 8 7 9 3 5 1 4 0 5

Vermilion Dream Quilters still plan to meet on April 9, other updates

TOWER- Vermilion Dream Quilters is still scheduled to meet on Thursday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Martin's Catholic Church Social Hall in Tower, though this is subject to change.

The program will be Stripology Rulers, presented by Colleen Lepper. Anyone with a project done in this format is encouraged to bring it for show and tell.

Our first PhD project will be due. All completed projects should be brought for show and tell. We will then draw a new number for the next PhD project. If your project is not completed, please bring your fat quarter of flannel for Maggie. In addition, we look forward to everyone's Show and Tell.

As a reminder, the VDQ Retreat, originally scheduled for April 2-5 at Grand Ely Lodge, has been canceled. All hotel reservations have been canceled also.

Kathy Sacchetti will be displaying a quilt at the Cook Public Library for the first two weeks of April. Liz Villnow will be displaying for the remainder of April and all of May.

Our members are from throughout the Iron Range. We encourage, instruct and share tips with each other. Guests and visitors interested in quilting and creative sewing are welcome. For more information, please contact Corrine Hill in Tower at 218-753-4600.

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.

MnDOT to cut trees along Hwy. 169 for upcoming road project

REGIONAL- MnDOT is planning a road construction project along Hwy. 169 from Hwy. 53 to County Road 26 (Wahlsten Rd.) this summer. The project includes tree clearing along Hwy. 169. All trees being cleared are on the state's right-of-way.

Some trees along the highway have already been marked but most will not be cleared until the fall and winter of 2020-21. A select few will be cleared this week for culvert and guardrail work that will take place this summer. Those adjacent property owners have been notified of the tree removal.

Clearing trees along the highway is for safety and maintenance purposes. For safety considerations, the clearing opens up the clear zone - distancing the traveling public from trees in terms of collision potential. For maintenance, the clearing addresses seasonal shading that hinders the thawing of the highway, keeping ice and snow present longer.

For your safety and ours, MnDOT is currently not hosting any public meetings. If you have questions or concerns about the tree clearing or the project, please contact Project Manager Josie Olson at josie.olson@state.mn.us or 218-725-2808.

You can also visit <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/d1/projects/hwy169resurfacing/index.html> for more information on the project.

For more information on projects in northeast Minnesota, follow us on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/groups/MnDOTnortheast>. For real-time traffic and travel information in Minnesota, visit www.511mn.org.

MINING

DNR requesting USFS mine study docs

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has requested the full release of documents compiled for a federal study into a proposed withdrawal of mineral leasing from a portion of the Superior National Forest. That request came in a March 10 letter from DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen to Bob Lueckel, acting regional forester for the U.S. Forest Service.

The DNR, in December, announced that Twin Metals— owned by Chilean copper giant Antofagasta— had submitted a proposal to mine sulfide-based copper-nickel ore just upstream from the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, near Ely. Agency officials have begun a preliminary environmental review of the proposal and as part of that review, DNR officials say they want to see the materials that the Forest Service developed during their study of the withdrawal proposal, which encompassed lands that Twin Metals hopes to mine someday. The Trump administration halted the study just weeks before its scheduled completion in 2019.

The *Star Tribune* first reported on the DNR request last week.

In the letter, Commissioner Strommen notes that the DNR participated in the scoping for the withdrawal study and that the agency has “wide ranging resource management

responsibilities in the study area.” The DNR also contributed specific comments for the study, ranging from the importance of the area to waterfowl, to wild rice, to the nature of the existing water quality in the downstream waters, particularly the BWCAW and Voyageurs National Park. As the government agency charged with conducting environmental review of the Twin Metals mining proposal, Strommen said the agency “has a responsibility to obtain access to existing information that may aid in our review of the project and in our determination of the scope of information that must be created.” Strommen cites a 2017 letter to the Forest Service in which state officials indicated their interest in seeing the findings of the federal study, which they believed would have “important implications for the people of Minnesota.”

Specifically, Commissioner Strommen requests complete access “to all information generated in the [study] process, including the mineral resources report, the biological and economic impact assessment, and the assessment or potential impacts to water resources, wilderness areas, and cultural resources.” The DNR is asking to receive the information within the next 30 days.

The federal study has been kept under wraps by the Trump administration for months, despite numerous requests to release the information. The Forest Service review, commissioned during the Obama administration, was supposed to

analyze the potential environmental and economic impacts of a proposal to withdraw 234,000 acres of the Superior National Forest from the federal mineral leasing program for 20 years. The withdrawal, had it been approved, would have essentially blocked Twin Metals mine proposal during the 20-year period.

The request could prove to be a point of friction between the Trump Forest Service and the administration of Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz. The Trump administration has been adamant about its refusal to release any details of the study, despite repeated requests from members of Congress and a lawsuit by The Wilderness Society. When court action forced the Trump administration to release materials related to the study earlier this month, it released 60 pages of materials that were redacted virtually in their entirety.

Yet the state may have leverage in the fight for access that Congress and environmental groups have lacked. Given that the DNR has opted to conduct its own environmental review, denying information that state officials believe is critical to advancing that review, could well create significant delays. While the Trump administration may be willing to advance the project quickly, virtually all of the key permits for the mine would need to be issued by the state of Minnesota.

HEALTHCARE

MNSure opens special enrollment period to increase health care access during COVID-19

REGIONAL- Amid growing COVID-19 concerns, a special enrollment period has been opened to help protect the health and well-being of uninsured Minnesotans.

Governor Tim Walz and MNSure announced a 30-day special enrollment period (SEP) for qualified individuals who are currently without insurance in response to the potential growth of COVID-19 cases. This SEP, which begins Monday, March 23 and runs through Tuesday, April 21, will give uninsured individuals 30 days to enroll in health insurance coverage through MNSure.org.

“Every Minnesotan deserves access to health coverage during this uncertain time,” said Governor Tim Walz. “This critical action will help ensure Minnesotans can receive the care they need during the COVID-19 crisis. I want to thank MNSure and the health plans for stepping up. Everyone is doing their part.”

“It’s incredible to see our community partners and health plans working to ensure Minnesotans have security and stability during this pandemic,” said Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan. “I strongly encourage people who do not currently have health

coverage to take advantage of this opportunity, which will help make sure all Minnesotans have access to the health care they deserve.”

“As more cases of COVID-19 are diagnosed throughout the state, we want to make sure every Minnesotan has the security of health insurance to ensure they can get the care they need if they contract this serious illness,” said MNSure CEO Nate Clark. “Uninsured Minnesotans can come to MNSure.org to sign up for coverage.”

Governor Tim Walz recently declared a peacetime emergency in response to the pandemic and stressed the importance of all Minnesotans taking action to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Individuals seeking coverage can visit MNSure.org to complete an application and enroll in coverage.

Plans selected by April 21 will have a retroactive coverage start date beginning April 1.

Help is available

MNSure has a statewide network of expert assisters who can help Minnesotans apply and enroll, free of charge.

MNSure’s online help tools can be used to access frequently requested services.

The MNSure Contact Center is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday at 651-539-2099 or 855-366-7873.

If Minnesotans have lost health insurance through their employer, they may also be eligible for a special enrollment period through MNSure.

NOTICE

**Cook Area License Bureau
TEMPORARILY CLOSED
through Friday, April 10
and then will re-assess
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COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS

Ely schools busy despite closure order

Preparations underway for distance learning with extended shutdown

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY —As Ely students remained home this week due to the statewide school closure order, administration staff and teachers still reported to campus to meet several responsibilities.

Gov. Walz's executive order closing schools in an effort to slow the spread of the new coronavirus required schools to provide childcare for employees considered essential in the community, including healthcare workers, fire fighters, law enforcement personnel and others.

School staff provided the school-day supervision for dozens of children and divided them into small groups to participate in learning activities, exercise and gym class, and meals.

Meals were also provided by the district during the school closure period, free of charge, to those families that requested them.

Breakfast and lunch meals were combined and were available free of charge to all students who requested them.

ISD 696 assistant cook Sheila Angus and cafeteria aide Jane Hall were stationed from 11 a.m. to 1

p.m. near the front doors of the Memorial building to provide the meals to those who registered for meal pick up.

"We assembled 76 bags that contain both breakfast and lunch items, Hall said on Monday. "We have a crackers and egg package, orange juice, a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, grapes, broccoli, string cheese and two cartons of milk."

School staff also used district vehicles to deliver meals to those households who couldn't make it to town.

To order meals, please call 218 -365-1799.

ISD 696 Media Specialist Maddie Swenson was also busy this week despite the absence of students. On Monday, she spent time restocking, organizing and completing an inventory of media center materials.

"I am also here to assist teachers and staff with technology components and procedures as we prepare for a possible distance learning scenario," she said.

Administration and staff are gathering information from families regarding their access to the Internet and other technology needs

See **SCHOOLS...** pg. 5



Ely assistant cook Sheila Angus and cafeteria aide Jane Hall check a list of students registered for school meals. K. Vawndervort

SULFIDE MINING

Court of Appeals rejects air permit for PolyMet

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— State regulators of PolyMet Mining's proposed NorthMet copper-nickel mine near Hoyt Lakes continued their losing streak in the courts this week. On Monday, the Minnesota Court of Appeals struck down the air emissions permit that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency issued to PolyMet back in December of 2018, remanding it back to the agency for further proceedings. It was the fourth PolyMet permit struck down by the state's appellate court in recent months.

A coalition of environmental organizations and the Fond du Lac Band challenged the permit, known as a "synthetic minor permit," arguing that

PolyMet does not intend to abide by the pollution limits it sets forth. Instead, the groups contend that the company plans a much larger operation than it originally claimed, and said the permit issued by the MPCA was "a sham."

To support their claim, the appellants point to what's known as a "43-101 technical report" created by an independent consultant on behalf of PolyMet in March of 2018. That report included updated financial projections which showed that PolyMet's proposed NorthMet mine was only marginally profitable at the 32,000 tons-per-day (tpd) scale the company had proposed from early on. In that same report, PolyMet had asked the consultant to consider substantially larger mining

operations, including a 59,000 tpd scenario and a 118,000 tpd alternative, which had higher returns on investment.

Environmental critics of the mine had argued since the release of that report that the company intends to build a much larger operation that would have significantly greater environmental impacts than were considered in the environmental review and subsequent permitting process.

The Court of Appeals largely agreed and indicated that the MPCA did not adequately respond to the evidence found in the technical report, which suggested the company would likely expand the mine once it became operational.

The court agreed with the appellants that the MPCA had failed to adequately consider the

"substantial new information" contained in the technical report. Instead, the agency had simply dismissed the consideration that PolyMet intended to produce ore at a significantly elevated pace, which would produce additional emissions and potentially exceed the limits set in their air permit. The court also found that the MPCA's findings of fact, which accompanied the permit, were so limited that the court could not fulfill its obligation to conduct judicial review.

"Judicial review of decisionmaking is only possible if the agency states with clarity and completeness the facts and conclusions essential to its decision so that the reviewing court can determine whether the facts support the agency's action," wrote the three-judge panel that

decided the case. "An agency not only must identify the evidence on which it is relying, but also it must explain . . . how that evidence connects rationally with the agency's choice of action," the court continued.

The court found that environmental groups which were contesting the permit had raised concerns about the technical report and the possibility that PolyMet was engaged in a sham almost immediately after it was released. "Notwithstanding these documented concerns, the MPCA's decision to grant the permit...does not address in any fashion whether PolyMet is engaged in sham permitting."

While PolyMet would need to apply for a new and expanded

See **RULING...** pg. 5

KELLY KLUN
Attorney At Law
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OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Tower EMS

Fire and ambulance shakeup provides a chance to seek a professional leader

City officials in Tower should see the current shakeup in the city's emergency services as an opportunity to bring professional leadership onboard while saving taxpayer dollars at the same time.

The dismissal of Steve Altenburg as the city's ambulance director and fire chief along with the recent spate of resignations from the fire department make now the time to end what had become a drain on city finances and city hall personnel. The city has paid out a steadily increasing amount of money on salaries for various positions of questionable utility to the city in recent years. In the fire department, four paid positions, including chief, assistant chief, training officer, and safety officer amounted to \$1,325 per month. On the ambulance side, the cost of a director, two assistant directors, and a training officer cost \$3,350 a month. The city also spent \$200 a month for an emergency management director that no one has heard from for months, although the clerk-treasurer Victoria Ranua justifiably discontinued paying that salary for now. On an hourly basis, some of these individuals were almost certainly making well over \$50 an hour, some probably twice that much in some months. In the case of the emergency management director, the city was paying \$200 a month effectively for nothing.

As far as we're aware, many of the individuals receiving these salaries never had to account for any of their time. That situation isn't their fault, of course. It's the city council's job to determine whether public funds are being spent to the benefit of taxpayers. Fortunately, Ranua is, for the first time, starting to demand some accountability for the dollars that go out the door each month. That's welcome but it doesn't change the fact that having so many people paid to play poorly-defined roles is a poor way to manage.

All of these salaries do add up, after all. In fact, they come to \$4,875 a month, or \$58,500 per year. And that doesn't include the shocking amount of time that city hall

staff spend administering the emergency services, particularly the ambulance. That easily adds another \$20,000 to the cost of administering the city's emergency services.

For significantly less than what Tower currently spends, the city could afford to hire a full-time professional administrator, including benefits, to oversee its emergency services. This isn't an unusual idea. In fact, it's a commonplace approach used by many cities in Minnesota.

A professional, capable administrator would ensure that the city's policies and applications were up-to-date, ensure that personnel issues were addressed appropriately, and that firefighters and EMTs were properly trained. A professional could write grants, manage department budgets, and deal with much of the billing and payroll paperwork for the ambulance service. Most of that workload has fallen in recent years on city hall because the city hasn't had a fire chief or ambulance director who could handle that kind of higher-level work.

While the city is understandably eager to get permanent leadership in place at both its fire and ambulance services, it would be worth the effort to develop a job description for such a combined position and advertise it widely. City officials might be pleasantly surprised at some of the candidates who apply. If they don't find the person they're looking for, they can always advertise the positions separately as they've done in the past. There's very little to lose by exploring the possibility. If they could land a quality administrator it could do wonders for morale, improve the quality of the services the city can provide, and save taxpayers money over the current cost of administering the city's fire and ambulance.

Now is the time to make such a change. If the city opts to hire separate replacements for fire and ambulance, with existing or only slightly modified job descriptions, Tower will miss out on a golden opportunity to make a change for the better.



Letters from Readers

Think of crisis as an opportunity to set a positive example

Strange times, historic times really. Life with the novel coronavirus is and will be beyond anything we ever dreamed. Predictions of how long it will last range from two months to two years. The duration and intensity of the impact is really up to us. We all must adhere to the best practices that I think we've been hearing and reading about. Stay home as much as possible and out of circulation so as not to get the bug and not to spread it. Squash the curve so hospitals don't see that exponential spike in severe cases that will overwhelm the health care system. We all have our part to play yet life must go on. We all need food and some interaction with others. Shop at markets early in the morning to avoid crowds or just before closing. Get essentials in bulk but don't horde. Talk on the phone with family and friends and visit neighbors outside. Take the chance while we have some time to stay healthy by exercising in nature. As Bob Cary advised us years ago, get your exercise outside in this beautiful environment around Ely. It's why most of us have chosen to live here.

Those of us with fewer preconditions that make one susceptible can take this opportunity to help our neighbors. This is our opportunity to bind our human bonds by helping those less well off. Make a point to check in on elderly neighbors without endangering them. By making a Zup's or Northland Market run for an elderly friend, relative or neighbor we may save them. We at our shop have for years tried to help out a few elderly Elyites by shoveling walks and mowing a lawn or two. We can all do that, especially for close neighbors.

Our parents and our grandparents lived through the Depression. Most of us have heard the stories. My dad

delivered milk from the family farm before school by horse and wagon and sometimes never got paid. This crisis is our opportunity to show the world and our God what humanity can aspire to given the chance. Let's all of us who can, take that opportunity and make the most of it. Living in Ely, isolated at the end of three roads, we can be an example of a community that plays it smart, stays safe and helps each other through whatever is to come.

**Steve Piragis
Ely**

A township clerk who is "Minnesota Nice"

I am writing to the *Timberjay* to express my gratitude for Greenwood Township and Sue Drobac.

I am a university professor who while on spring break in the northland with my daughters (ice fishing, skiing, snowmobiling), got a call from my university (Louisville, Ky.) that all face to face courses were suspended due to the COVID-19 outbreak. I was instructed to start offering my courses online immediately. I was in a bit of a pickle and needed access to a high-speed internet connection and a place to hold class as soon as possible.

After calling a few neighbors in the area, I found out that Greenwood Township offers "free" public high-speed internet for the community. I contacted Sue Drobac at the Greenwood Township office and informed her of my situation. She graciously set me up and offered me a place to hold my class. Due to Sue and Greenwood Township, I successfully held my first online orthopedics course at the Greenwood Township Hall.

I am an optimist by nature and see the COVID-19 outbreak as a disrupter that will spur innovation in the delivery of education. COVID-19 has required us to seek out alternative methods of delivering content safely and effectively. Having access to high-speed internet in our homes and our community is a

must. I see this as an opportunity to advocate for high-speed internet service in Greenwood Township and all surrounding communities. I urge everyone to promote this idea and make it a reality soon. Educators like myself (and other individuals, businesses, and professionals) need high-speed internet access to carry out daily functions. Another perk is that high-speed internet would also allow me to reside in northern Minnesota more frequently and perform my work duties (which sounds like a great idea to me!).

Again, a big thank you to Greenwood Township for offering this free service, and thanks to Sue Drobac for being "Minnesota Nice."

**Dr. David Boyce
Louisville, Ky.
and Greenwood Twp.**

Toilet paper hoarders will regret their excess

In these troubling days it's good to have some humor. Your editorial on who took all that toilet paper made me laugh. I didn't know about the splinter free toilet paper advertised in the 30's though....The subject of toilet paper hoarding is somewhat funny but enough is enough people! Where are you storing all of that toilet paper for crying out loud? When this is all over with, there should be some interesting ads in local classifieds for surplus toilet paper and possibly other essentials that have been hoarded!

Or quite possibly, interesting YouTube videos on the making of toilet paper furniture because you have run out of space in your basement and have to start using your living room to store all of that toilet paper! Stop buying all of the toilet paper please! No one needs that much toilet paper.

**Brian LaFrenier
Embarrass**

Where the North Country Sounds Off!



Forget coronavirus for a moment, let's talk trash

"We're interrupting regular programming to bring you breaking news on... garbage! Steve Pellinen, from St. Louis County's Department of Environmental Services, delivered the latest information on how we're handling a quickly growing "solid waste stream" that if left unchecked could



KATHLEEN MCQUILLAN

threaten the environment, and even our way of life! Our regularly scheduled broadcast of Gunsmoke, Dr. Phil and Judge Judy will resume after this important news update."

On March 4, Pellinen was invited to the Crescent Supper Club by Cook's Northern Progressives group, to

present in-depth information on recycling regulations and processing operations at the Virginia sanitary landfill. He detailed the do's and don'ts of individual household recycling hoping to educate attendees on how to sort and appropriately dispose of various kinds of waste. The audience came prepared with questions and some brought common examples of household waste that stumped even the most avid recyclers.

Pellinen artfully explained

why our best intended behaviors to recycle "anything and everything just to keep it out of the landfill" is in fact, counterproductive! With graphic descriptions Steve brought to life the manual sorting process that occurs in most recycling centers, including ours on the Iron Range. Workers are stationed at conveyor belts hand-sorting reject materials from mounds of recyclables. He explained how certain "unacceptable" types of plastic can contaminate batches

of suitable ones, rendering entire batches of "would be use-ables" into "trash" destined for the landfill. The point was well made. Properly sort your recyclables before you deposit them in the bin!

Markets are a key factor in our waste disposal and recycling system. It costs money to process and transport waste materials. Demand exists for only certain categories of waste.

See TRASH...pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Coronavirus prompts poetry from readers

Stay at home, shelter in place, kiss your dog, don't touch your face!

Kiss your friends from six feet away, mind what we say, it's better this way

A grocery run? Well, that's just fine, checkout clerks, THEY don't mind!

Keep your hands inside your coat, guard yourself within a moat of uncertainty, angst, distrust and fear, waiting 'til the end draws near

A week? A month? A year or more? Who knows, really, what's in store? Only one thing certain, just one thing clear. I miss the GEL*. I need a beer.

Duane Behrens

Ely
* Grand Ely Lodge

Our collective obsession with toilet paper, faces the issue of a respiratory illness, from the wrong end.

We've always had idiocy, at the level of our shins, but now it's up to our chins.

Thank you, Rove, Putin, Koch, McConnell, Bannon, and Murdoch.

On issues obstetrical, we get hysterical, at levels historical.

Our leader's thumbstiddle, while our planet burns, only because he doesn't know, how to play a fiddle.

Dave Porter
Minneapolis

A method to the madness of the TP shortage?

Occam's Razor (aka the law of parsimony) provides "the simplest solution is most likely the right one." This rule helps to answer your question "Who the heck took all the toilet paper?" a bit more efficiently than your entertaining editorial. In simple terms, the TP shortage is a government strategy to facilitate compliance with the second rule of COVID-19 prevention, "Don't touch your face."

Don Brown
Tower

Lack of leadership is hurting the U.S.

We are in the middle of the confluence of two major rivers of global threats: a killing virus epidemic and a developing major recession. In addition, there is the menacing advancement of worldwide climate change. All a hoax? Not likely.

We need competent leadership. The United States used to provide world guidance, but the current administration has pursued an isolationist policy. We have withdrawn from interaction with foreign countries on global issues that impact or will impact our own viability. For example, we withdrew from the Paris Climate Accord that represented efforts of 195 nations to come to grips with the

perils of climate change. We withdrew from the six-nation Iranian nuclear agreement. We instigated tariff wars, reduced our involvement with NATO activities and failed to exercise an active role in UN issues.

The quality of our foreign leadership is reflected in our State Department and our foreign representatives. Often, appointments have been based on political considerations rather than foreign expertise. Our Foreign Service in the past has been an outstanding component of our government. It has attracted people with high intelligence tested by rigorous examinations and skilled in knowledge of foreign languages, cultures and history of countries in which they serve as representatives of the United States.

Lack of leadership is manifested in the current coronavirus epidemic. The administration has issued misleading information and shown an inability to focus on real, basic solutions, but has generated unfounded overly optimistic information.

What if, whatever the administration does to ameliorate these problems, it is not enough?

Gerry Snyder
Ely

Is God punishing us for our sins?

There is a recent post on social media going around. I'm not sure where it started, but it says, "God said, 'you want to

worship athletes? I will shut down the stadiums. You want to worship musicians? I will shut down Civic Centers. You want to worship actors? I will shut down theaters. You want to worship money? I will shut down the economy and collapse the stock market. You don't want to go to church and worship Me? I will make it where you can't go to church."

Is God punishing us? We can't say that this is his divine judgment. We can't say if he is directly punishing us. He hasn't revealed that to us. But we also can't say that he is not punishing us. It's clear from Scripture that, at times, God directly responded to people's sin and unfaithfulness with plagues, natural disasters, and other phenomena in order to get them to repent. We need to be humble enough to acknowledge that it could be his punishment and whether or not it is divine judgment on all of us, we do need to take it as a message to repent and turn towards God.

Religion is a natural virtue. You don't need faith to be religious. You just need to be human. Religion is the virtue by which we acknowledge that we are creatures and we have a creator. And because of that truth, we owe our creator. We have duties towards our creator. To be a just or good man, to be a just or good woman, we owe God worship and to follow the commands he has written on our hearts. We know what is right and wrong. It is time to return

to God in reparation for sin. It is time to pray and fast and do acts of penance for God's protection and mercy upon us and our community.

This pandemic has many of us fearful. We realize that we aren't in control. It has many of us reflecting on our life, death, and our relationship with our creator. If we repent and are right with God and commit ourselves to living the life he offers us, we have nothing to fear. God will take care of us. "...But not a hair on your head will be lost. By standing firm you will gain life" (Lk 21:18).

Many reading this have been living contrary to God's commands. Many have not darkened the doorway of the church in years. Be not afraid. It is not yet too late. Have courage. Come to Jesus. His Divine Mercy is always available. Please come talk to me or give me a call or email. May God spare us and our community. "Repent and believe in the gospel, for the Kingdom of God is at hand!" (Mk 1:15)

Father Nick Nelson
Pastor of St. Mary's, Cook, St. Martin's, Tower, and Holy Cross, Orr.

TRASH...Continued from page 4

The markets determine how economically feasible it is to cull various types of waste. China was once a major buyer of American recyclables but recently became less willing to take it. Although it's a big issue, the loss of the Chinese market is not our biggest waste problem.

The world's population has more than doubled in the past 50 years. Combine that with the expansion of a global capitalist economy, one that depends on ever-increasing production and consumption of material goods, and you get a mind-boggling volume of waste that's tripled over the same time period. Mountains of garbage now exist on the borders of every major city.

But according to an article, "The End of Trash", appearing in the March issue of National Geographic, there is hope. It examines disposal strategies based on a new system of production that's being adopted in some European countries. They're working toward the goal of completely

transitioning to "circular economies" by 2050. Ingenious engineers and entrepreneurs are developing production cycles that mimic nature where "repurposing" is built in to the lifespan of everything manufactured and nothing goes to waste!

Pellinen did an excellent job of raising our awareness about what we're doing locally and how well (or not) we're doing it. According to Steve, we've done a great job with glass, most of which is 100 percent recyclable. With a few exceptions like window glass, lightbulbs and ceramics, recycling centers are able to take just about everything we can bring them. The market is big because we've discovered a lot of uses for recycled glass. For example, "Glass 5 Gravel" is used on roads connecting the Virginia sanitary landfill's multiple structures.

As for cardboard and paper, the future's also bright. There are adequate markets to receive product from both of these waste streams. But for it to work, we must heed a "No

List". It includes pizza boxes and other paper and cardboard packages that contain any food residue. No waxed boxes found in many frozen food and milk cartons. No plastic coated paper plates. No egg cartons as they are made from 100% already recycled material that renders them unable to sustain another "round of recycling" — but they are compostable! More good news — tin, steel and aluminum are all recyclable.

Plastics are a whole different story. Their sheer volume is due primarily to our over-dependence on polymers in the manufacturing of almost everything, what some describe as an addiction. Globally, we throw away annually billions of plastic eating utensils and an estimated one million beverage bottles every day! Close to three trillion cigarette butts (yes, they're made of plastics) are strewn across the planet where they remain forever, washing into streams and polluting our oceans — a few small examples among countless others of this stubbornly

persistent problem, and it's growing!

Many plastic items are labeled for type by a triangle symbol with a number inside it, but many are not. Pellinen explained that our sanitary district can only accept items labeled #1 and #2 because there are industries that need these materials for production of their goods. #3's are not recyclable because they contain polyvinyl chlorides (PVC's). These items (i.e. cling wrap, shampoo bottles, toothbrushes, etc) are known as "single use plastics" and end up in the landfill. #3's pose one of the biggest challenges in the waste stream but substitute packaging is being developed. Until then we should conserve our use, reuse, or seek alternatives to reduce their volume as much as possible. #4's are those pesky shopping bags. Recycle bins do exist at some locations, but bringing our own reusable bags is the best solution.

Only a few landfills take #5's, used in containers for margarine, cottage cheese and similar products. Our local solid

waste system lacks the special facilities and sufficient volumes needed to make recycling #5 plastics economically feasible. For now, we're asked to treat these like garbage to be buried in a landfill.

Anything made of styrofoam is a #6 and not recyclable. So avoid using foam "packing peanuts" and restaurant "doggy boxes". Substitute newspaper for filler and for those take-home leftovers, ask for an extra napkin or better yet, bring your own reusable container whenever you dine out. A few more items on the "No list"... no plastic coat hangers, discarded toys, or other items missing the numbered triangle symbol. And please, no used motor oil containers!

Here was Steve's closing reminder, "Whenever in doubt, throw it out." Keep out of the mix those items that have to be eventually culled and do it before you dispose of your recyclables. Conscientious sorting is good for the environment and that's the goal!

The global population

is now at 7.2 billion and with capitalist systems on the rise, scientists state that this extraordinary pressure on the planet threatens the quality of our air, water, and soil and may be moving us toward a tipping point that could threaten our very existence.

Pellinen brought the reality of our local waste stream into sharp focus. He left us the message that we can make a difference, but only if we become more conscientious in our own behaviors. Since listening, I've been paying closer attention to the stuff I purchase and where I toss it when I'm done with it. I've tried to imagine that world where nothing goes to waste! Sounds farfetched, I know. But I read once, "Something's only impossible if you think it is!"

Sure, a lot of things feel beyond my control (especially at times like these) but Steve's talk convinced me that my trash isn't one of them. As for now, I think I'll just skip Dr. Phil.

RULING...Continued from page 3

ed air permit if it chose to expand its operations above the 32,000 tpd level, the court made note that this is typically easier once a facility is operational. "Of course, once a project is operating, expansion proposals may be viewed more favorably by regulators. If that is the true course being charted by PolyMet, then there is merit to [appellants'] argument that the synthetic-minor permit is a sham."

Appellants reacted to their court victory in a statement issued this week.

"The Court of Appeals decision today makes it even more clear—the process that granted permits for the PolyMet mine proposal is broken," said Kathryn Hoffman, Chief Executive Officer of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, which was one of the lead plaintiffs in the case. "It's clear that the permits that were issued to PolyMet did not protect human health and the environment, and it's time for our agencies to acknowledge and address that."

PolyMet spokesperson Bruce Richardson expressed the company's disappointment in the ruling and said the company is considering its legal options. "We believe the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in its permit appropriately accounted for the potential effects of the NorthMet project," Richardson said. "We stand ready to provide the additional information the agency might need to update its decision on the air permit. We demonstrated through the

extensive environmental review and permitting process that we can meet or exceed Minnesota's strict standards for non-ferrous mines. This mine will provide much needed jobs to a region of the state known for its expertise in safe mining. We are continuing to move forward."

In addition to the four permits already rejected by the Minnesota Court of Appeals, several other permits issued under the federal Clean Water Act remain under appeal. The water pollution permit,

also known as a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, has been suspended, and hearings on this permit were held in Ramsey County District Court in February. Also, the Section 404 wetlands destruction permit issued by the Army Corps of Engineers has been appealed and is currently in federal district court.

Meanwhile, the EPA's Office of Inspector General is investigating the EPA's handling of PolyMet's NPDES after agency whis-

tleblowers revealed that professional staff at the agency were pressured not to submit written comments that were critical of the permit.

"The losses keep piling up for PolyMet and the state agencies that are supposed to protect our citizens and our environment," said Marc Fink, a Duluth-based senior attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity, and a co-appellant in the case.

SCHOOLS...Continued from page 3

if and when an order is given to provide for off-campus learning for the final weeks of the school year, or longer.

The Ely area's cable provider, Midco, has

stepped up to help families in need of Internet access during the district's transition to distance learning.

As part of that response, they are introducing a new package,

called Midco Internet Basics, for low-income households with K-12 and/or college students who don't have Internet access.

The program includes:

► An Education

Assistance Credit that makes the service free through June 15, 2020.

► Speeds up to 25 megabytes per second (mbps) download and three mbps upload.

► Standard or wireless modem included.

Qualified households can begin enrolling. Call 1-833-338-4638 and use reference special code, MIBEDU20, to receive

the Education Assistance Credit.

Midco officials asked that only critical households and those in need of an internet connection take advantage of the program.

COMMENTARY

There he goes again: Altenburg runs off the rails

TOWER- All you can really do is laugh. How else does a community respond to an obvious fool and a reckless newspaper?

Too often we've seen Steve Altenburg respond to criticism



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

by lashing out with claims that are not only false but that, in some cases, defy the concept of linear time that guides most of modern society.

A case in point is Altenburg's latest screed printed by publisher Gary Albertson, in the *Tower News*, which accuses Tower Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua of snubbing Carol Pratt as an election judge during the March 3 presidential primary because Pratt (who is Linda Keith's mother) submitted a complaint to St. Louis County on Feb. 20, alleging that Tower's volunteer Airport Manager John Burgess illegally voted in Tower.

According to Altenburg, in other words, Ranua snubbed Pratt as an election judge when the council approved those hirings on Jan. 27 for a complaint that county election officials themselves did not receive until nearly a month later.

It's bizarre, I know. In Mr.

Altenburg's alternative universe, people can apparently be subject to retaliatory actions at any point in time for things they haven't even done yet. No wonder he always seems so agitated.

But that's just the appetizer in Mr. Altenburg's bizarre-world "news story."

According to Altenburg, the complaint involved multiple felonies against Burgess.

But the statute in question, which is cited in the complaint, does not involve a felony. In fact, if—and that's a big if—the county auditor's office determined that someone voted in the wrong precinct, they would be sent a notice of infraction, with no penalty. If a person voted in the wrong precinct again, after receiving the notice, it would constitute a petty misdemeanor on par with a traffic ticket.

What's more, Mr. Chapman, who oversees the elections, confirmed that John Burgess never even voted in the March 3 primary. Which means that had Mr. Burgess voted in the wrong precinct, it would have been in *prior* city elections, which were overseen by Pratt's daughter, fired clerk-treasurer Linda Keith. And Pratt, herself, served as an election judge during those elections. So, where exactly were her concerns then, when Burgess was supposedly voting fraudulently? The last time he voted was in 2018, after all. Pratt waited more than 16

months to file her complaint?

In truth, there's little reason to believe that it is in any way inappropriate for John Burgess to vote in Tower. He has a right to vote somewhere and Burgess co-owns a house in Tower with his siblings and he serves as airport manager here, spending most of his time at the airport, where he maintains living quarters in his hangar as do managers at many other local airports. His driver's license lists his address as 5824 Hoodoo Point Rd., which is within the city limits. If the state of Minnesota has determined that's his home address, that's all that election officials in Tower need to know. Chapman confirmed that municipal election judges have zero responsibility to determine whether the address listed on someone's state-issued photo ID or driver's license is appropriate or not. And all voters are required to sign an oath stating that they reside in the precinct where they vote.

There's no secret behind Altenburg's and Pratt's targeting of Burgess, who was among a number of individuals who were interviewed for the recent city investigation into Altenburg's unprofessional actions. Burgess had cited threats that Altenburg had made toward him after Burgess had stood up to Linda Keith at a council meeting when she was still clerk-treasurer. Defamation is simply Altenburg's favored form of payback against anyone he feels has wronged him

or Linda Keith. For years, Altenburg and Keith were the tag team that actually ran the city of Tower, although they ran it mostly into the ground. These days, the Pratts, Altenburg, and *Tower News* commentator Tony Sikora work as their own kind of tag team. The Pratts, in an apparent desire to hit back over the prosecution of their daughter, have been filing bogus complaints against everyone they feel has wronged them, and then Sikora or Altenburg write stories about their complaints as if they are news, rather than nuisance. Carol Pratt even sent a complaint about me to KAXE radio in Grand Rapids, since I've had a radio show there every Friday for the past 25 years. It left the folks there scratching their heads in amusement. Maybe it will be Altenburg's next exposé.

Ranua is now a target as well since she provided her own testimony to the investigator about the disruption and dysfunction that Altenburg consistently brought to city government in Tower.

And, of course, Altenburg and Pratt decided to bring council member Sheldon Majerle along for the ride, since Majerle joined the rest of the city council in voting to remove Altenburg earlier this month. Pratt, based on Altenburg's story, alleged that Majerle oversaw the voter list in order to ensure that Burgess could vote illegally. Majerle is an election judge but he says

he hasn't overseen the voter list in years. Most recently, he was the judge who handed out the "I Voted" stickers when people dropped off their ballots. It takes a pretty addled mind to find a conspiracy in that.

As for declining to hire Pratt, she shouldn't have been an election judge in the first place. It's poor practice for a head election judge to hire family members to work the polls as Linda Keith had done for years.

What's more, according to Majerle, it was Pratt who mistakenly handed out the wrong ballots back in 2018, an error that cost 25 Tower residents, including Burgess, their right to vote. In the end, the city employed fewer election judges this time around since they expected, and saw, substantially diminished turnout. So clearly someone was going to stay home. While there is no evidence that Pratt was actually snubbed, the truth is that few cities would have asked her back if, in fact, it was her screw-up that marred the 2018 primary.

Not that little things like facts or fairness can get between Steve Altenburg and a good dose of defamation. At the *Tower News*, they've apparently given up on reporting actual news. They've just opted to send in the clowns...

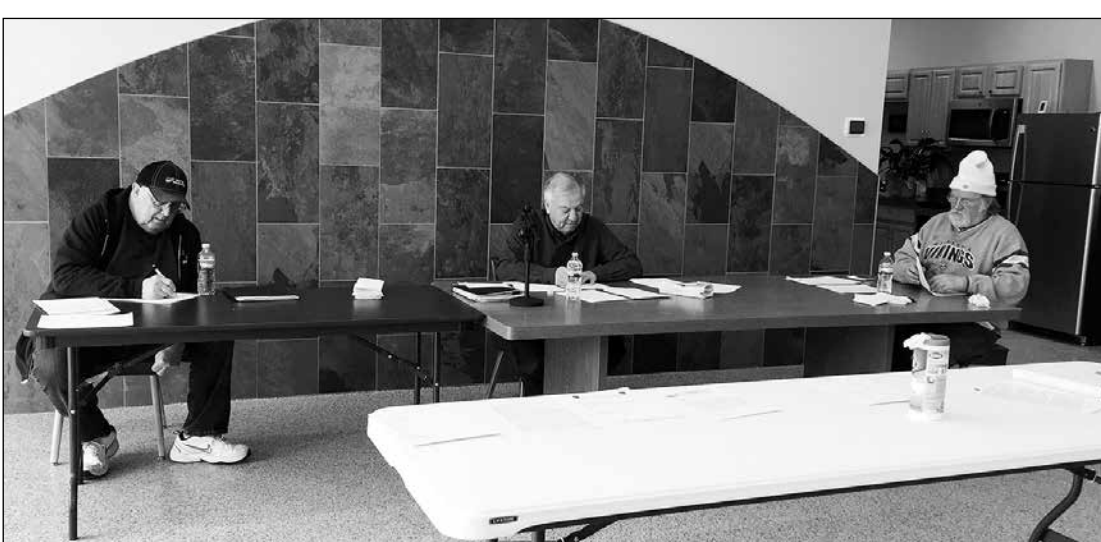
BREITUNG

Breitung Board approves resolution in support of all mining

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

SUDAN- Without any fuss, the Breitung Township Board unanimously passed a resolution of agreement and support for all mining in northern Minnesota at their meeting held Tuesday, March 24. The resolution came after Supervisor Greg Dostert said that at the DFL caucuses in February the Breitung caucus group passed a resolution stating they did not support PolyMet mining by a three-to-one vote. Dostert said he felt that the representation at the caucus did not accurately reflect the majority view of most Breitung residents and so brought the resolution to the council.

In accordance with state and CDC recommendations on COVID-19, the meeting was held with supervisors, clerk, treasurer, and attendees all sitting six feet from one another. Chairman Tim Tomsich



From left: Town board members Chuck Tekautz, Tim Tomsich, and Greg Dostert. photo by S. Ukkola

said that if the social distancing recommendations continue to next month, the board would consider holding their next meeting over the phone, a tele-meeting, where one supervisor would be at the town hall and other supervisors, journalists, and residents could call in

to the meeting. The clerk and treasurer's office is closed until further notice, and open by appointment only.

In other business, the board:

- ▶ Will pay a portion of a software subscription for the Tower Cemetery Association

for 2020, and their portion from 2019, which was never billed to them. The cost is \$251 for last year and \$273 for this year. The software provides online access to cemetery records.

- ▶ Thanked clerk Polly McDonald for her service to the township and welcomed

Dianna Sundahl aboard as the new clerk.

- ▶ Chose the *Tower News* to be the official paper of Breitung Township for its lower bid rate of \$0.65 per column inch, compared to the *Timberjay's* \$0.89 cost for legal ads. The two papers were nearly the same for display ad pricing, within one cent. The *Ely Echo* also sent a letter asking for consideration to make them the official paper, however, did not submit a bid.

- ▶ Raised the office cleaner's wage from \$12 to \$13 per hour and the recreation maintenance worker's wage from \$13 to \$14 per hour.
- ▶ Designated Tomsich to represent the township on the wastewater board and as McKinley Park liaison, replacing supervisor Chuck Tekautz.

- ▶ Changed the regular meeting time to the fourth Tuesday of the month at noon. The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 28 at noon.

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

Cook Hospital & Care Center restricting visitors

COOK- The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has directed all facilities nationwide to restrict visitation of all visitors and non-essential health care personnel, except for certain compassionate care situations, such as end-of-life.

Based upon this CMS directive, we are restricting visitors to our building. Effective immediately, only health care personnel, and visits for end-of-life or hospice care will be allowed.

We've also needed to change

our dining routines and are cleaning and sanitizing all tables and chairs and high touch areas more often. As much as possible residents are kept six feet apart at meals. Due to not enough staff to assist with meals we are unable to stop communal dining at this time for the residents' safety. And, all group activities have been postponed indefinitely. We understand that socialization is a big part of our residents' lives here. However, we are asking that residents consider staying in

their rooms as much as possible and when in common areas, try to be at least six feet apart from others.

You are a key partner in helping us to protect our community from this virus. We understand that communication with loved ones is incredibly important. We want you to stay connected with each other and will ensure that you can communicate in other ways such as the telephone, video chat, e-mail, or social media.

Communication is key. We

will continue to update you on any news or changes in our operations.

Families and community members are encouraged to monitor the cook hospital website at www.cookhospital.org for updates as we continue to receive them.

For any questions, please contact Julie Lesemann, COO/Assistant Administrator, at 666-6210.

Vermilion Senior Living restricting visitors

TOWER- Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Vermilion Senior Living is no longer allowing visitors. Exceptions will be made for patient/resident family members under special cir-

cumstances. Please call Emily Sipola at 218-753-7788 with any questions.

The COVID-19 outbreak is a rapidly-evolving situation and Vermilion Senior Living is

taking steps to help control the spread, and care for those who will be affected. We are working closely with the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention for the latest information, on a day-to-day basis.

Read us online at www.timberjay.com

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Community Easter Egg Hunt canceled

TOWER- The Community Easter Egg Hunt, originally scheduled for Saturday, April 11, has been canceled. Chocolate and candy will be given to the schools to give out with meals they are providing; some candy may go to the Tower Food Shelf.



New siding being painted for Lake Vermilion Cultural Center

TOWER- Volunteer painters Donna Zorman, Sue Ellis and Linda Kronholm keep a safe distance as they paint siding for the Hwy. 169 face of the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center. Large racks allow the paint to dry and be ready for installation when the weather gets a bit warmer. Volunteer painting will resume at a later date. submitted photo



Vermilion Country School's Senior Dining to provide carry-out service

TOWER- Vermilion Country School and AEOA sponsor a senior dining site at the charter school in Tower. While school is closed due to COVID-19, the kitchen staff will be providing carry-out meals. The menu will be adjusted, so please call to find out what meals are available.

Seniors age 60 and older who have reg-

istered 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.

Call the school at 218-300-1447 (direct line to kitchen) or 218-753-1246 (ext. 2 for the office) for information, or call AEOA at 1-800-662-5711 ext. 7323 for the one-time registration process.

TOPS canceling meetings

TOWER- All area TOPS (Take Off

Pounds Sensibly) meetings are canceled, until further notice.

Bookmobile service canceled until further notice

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Library System's Bookmobile service is canceled until further notice. Due dates for library materials from the bookmobile will be extended automatically.

Week of March 30

Monday

TOPS - Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tower, at 9 a.m. CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

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 April 21.

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

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.

Tower Food Shelf

TOWER- The Tower Food Shelf is not able to increase its hours at this time, but anyone needing an emergency visit can contact Food Shelf Coordinator Marge McPeak at 218-753-3503.

Free digital educational resources from Arrowhead Library System

REGIONAL- As schools across Minnesota close, Arrowhead Library System wants you to know about the FREE digital resources available to you 24/7 without leaving the comfort and safety of your home, including ebooks, audiobooks, digital magazines, and more. These resources include:

- Brainfuse – Help-Now, offering one-on-one homework help, skills building, writing lab, subject testing, and language support
- Brainfuse – Job-Now, offering live interactive online help

combined with online resources to guide users through the necessary tasks to get a job

➤ MackinVIA PreK-Grade 12 School ebook Collection, offering over 2,000 titles available for downloading; content selected for school-age youth

➤ OverDrive/Library App, offering ebooks and audiobooks that can be downloaded onto devices for quick reading and listening

➤ Novelist, a Readers' Advisory database

➤ Chilton, an auto repair database

➤ RBDigital, a col-

lection of downloadable full-color, interactive digital magazines

To see the full list of databases available to you, please visit the ALS Research Databases page to get started at <http://www.alslib.info/services/research-databases/>.

There are also many great resources that are available to ALL Minnesota residents for free thanks to Minitex, an information and resource sharing program of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and the University of Minnesota Libraries.

➤ EBooks Minnesota: online ebook collection that covers a wide variety of subjects for readers of all ages, and features content from our state's independent publishers, including some of our best literature and nonfiction. <https://ebooks.mn.org>

➤ eLibraryMN/ Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM): Search ELM for magazine, newspaper, and journal articles, ebooks, and information from reference sources— available to Minnesota residents at no charge. <https://elibrarymn.org>

➤ Minnesota Reflections: Search Minnesota Reflections to find photos, documents, and maps related to Minnesota history. <https://reflections.mndigital.org/>

➤ MN Writes MN Reads: Design and export your own ebook, share your ebook with readers across the state, and discover new, local, and rising star authors. www.mnwritesmnreads.org.

Visit the Arrowhead Library at <https://www.alslib.info/>.

CHURCH NEWS

Immanuel Lutheran streaming services on Facebook

TOWER- Immanuel Lutheran is streaming services via Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/ImmanuelTower). Services are being streamed at 10 a.m. on Sunday and 6 p.m. on Wednesdays, but can be viewed after the live stream. Worship is also recorded and then available on the YouTube Channel (Liz Cheney) and then posted on the church website at www.towerlutheran.com in the "Blog" tab (which is found on the drop down menu under the last tab MORE). We also are emailing the YouTube link out to the members that we have email addresses for. We are in the early planning stages for a Drive-In Worship for Easter with Trinity Lutheran in Cook. We will wait and see what happens if the Governor calls for a "shelter in place" mandate.

Pastor Liz will be in the of-

fice on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings as long as she is able to leave her house. She is able to lead and record worship from her home if needed. "This is difficult because not all members here at Immanuel have internet," Cheney said. "I plan to make phone calls daily and use the postal service to send out letters and information to those not able to access the information or stay connected via the internet."

All meetings, quilting, confirmation, Sunday school, and other planned activities have been canceled for now. In the next couple of weeks Cheney hopes to bring a weekly devotional to members via FB Live and YouTube as well.

"This is all new territory," she said, "and even though I thought of myself as being somewhat technologically savvy, I am struggling



with all this online stuff right now. I know that I am not alone and we will get through this, but it is not easy right now especially with an older congregation."

St. James worship canceled

TOWER- Sunday worship services are canceled until further notice at St. James Presbyterian Church of Tower. Messages and Prayer will be posted on Facebook; search for the church's page, St. James Presbyterian Church.

Update from St. Martin's

REGIONAL- All Masses have been canceled at St. Martin's in Tower, St. Mary's in Cook, and Holy Cross in Orr through Monday, April 20. A video of the Sunday Mass will be

available on the churches' website at www.stmmhc.com and also on their Facebook page. Masses have been canceled in order to further contain the spread of COVID-19. Gatherings of more than ten people have been canceled. If necessary, this date may be extended. However, should the situation improve more quickly, these measures would be lifted on April 20.

Confessions and opportunity for limited Spiritual Direction will still be available:

St. Mary's on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon

Holy Cross on Thursdays and Saturdays from 5 to 7 p.m.

St. Martin's on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to noon.

Please contact Father Nick if you would like to meet outside of these times.

Church doors will

be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for those who would like to come in and pray. Parishioners can stay informed through the website and also make online contributions during this time. Should you have any questions, please call your local parish office.

Transfer station

Soudan Canister

Expanded hours year-round

Monday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Wed. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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

For info: 1-800-450-9278


Hwy. 77 Canister

Winter hours now in effect

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

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

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



the TIMBERJAY

The Tower-Soudan Timberjay and Cook-Orr Timberjay are published weekly on Friday by The Timberjay, Inc. Offices are at 414 Main St., Box 636, Tower, MN 55790 [218-753-2950], and PO Box 718, Ely, MN 55731 [218-365-3114]. Fax number is 218-753-2916. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Visit our website at www.timberjay.com.

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Publisher General Manager Cook-Orr Editor Ely Editor Staff Writer Office Manager Graphics/Ad Sales Ad Sales/Sports Ad Sales	Marshall Helmberger Jodi Summit David Colburn Keith Vandervort Stephanie Ukkola M. M. White Scarlet Lynn Stone Jay Greeney Bill Stone
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Official Newspaper:
 City of Orr, City of Tower, Townships of Bearville, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, Crane Lake, ISD 707.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, Lake Vermilion Resort Association, Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce, Ely Chamber of Commerce, Orr Chamber of Commerce.

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 Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details at www.timberjay.com.

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

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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.
ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED - Study materials and pre-test available. Tower by appointment. Call 365-3359, 827-3232, or 1-800-662-5711.

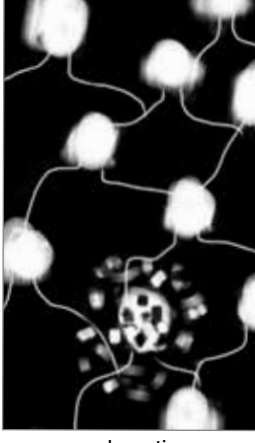
Ely AA groups to meet by phone

ELY - Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Ely Wednesday and Saturday AA Groups will not meet in person. A conference call meeting has been set up. At 7:30 p.m. on either night, call 978-990-5000, and enter the access code, 965850#. Once the meeting has started, use *6 to mute and unmute your phone. If any other group would like to set up phone meetings, please call 218-290-2681.

Tuesday Group

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

Breathing Out
by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



germ crawl continues red dots marking tv maps maintain six feet

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



the TIMBERJAY

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General Manager	Jodi Summit
Ely Editor	Keith Vandervort
Cook-Orr Editor	David Colburn
Staff Writer	Stephanie Ukkola
Office Manager	M. M. White
Graphics	Scarlet Lynn Stone
Ad Sales	Jay Greeney William Stone

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ELY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Experience Ely Expo proposed

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Chamber goes remote

ELY - The Ely Chamber of Commerce office is going remote. Their door kiosk is stocked with business and visitor guides, area information, and trail maps. Chamber staff will be answering emails at fun@ely.org. Their business directory at elychamber.org continues to be updated daily. For those who need business or worker resources, please visit ely.org/covid19 for links to a variety of services and online information. There is also visitor information available at ely.org. For more information, call 218-365-6123.

ELY - The Chamber of Commerce here announced a new event this week, the Experience Ely Expo, that will run concurrently with the Blueberry/Art and Harvest Moon festivals.

As an answer to the chamber's "nonprofit decision," Executive Director Eve Sebesta said the effort provides the opportunity for twenty nonprofits to participate at each expo as a way to be included in the annual events that draw thousands of visitors to Ely. "This a culmination of feedback we received," she said.

"After we announced the removal of the nonprofit category from the festivals in early November, we offered to work with several groups to create a separate event specifically for nonprofits," Sebesta said. "When the groups declined the opportunity, we began working on the expo concept in January. The expo concept was completed in early March."

Chamber officials held a focus group last week with four nonprofit organizations to discuss the expo concept. "We received some important feedback from the nonprofits, which is incorporated into the final draft," she said. "We sincerely appreciated the thoughts and ideas of those groups that helped us see challenges with the application process."

Additional questions for the Chamber's Events and Promotions Committee will be addressed at their next meeting, according to Sebesta. "Those participating in the focus group felt this was a positive direction and supported the Chamber moving forward with the event," she said.

Each expo's focus is to highlight nonprofits that

promote recreation, sports, arts and crafts, attractions, first responders, service organizations and associated events. "We designed the expo to provide exposure for many of the things we, as a community, enjoy and love that might entice festival-goers to return to our area," she said.

There will be no political or advocacy agendas associated with the expo. The Experience Ely Expo will require active participation from nonprofits. Expo applications will be reviewed by a jury of their peers. That includes one judge from each of the five participant categories and two judges from the Chamber's Events and Promotions Committee. Jury members will use a scoring sheet to review each expo application. Nonprofits will also support the expo during setup and breakdown of each event, and one participating nonprofit will serve as the expo ambassador that provides information throughout the expo. "Due to our limited staff, we need support from the nonprofits to make the expos operate smoothly," she said.

According to Sebesta, a concern for the Chamber was when nonprofits were part of the festivals they were unable to introduce and rotate through new events and organizations. "Once a nonprofit was in a festival, the only way they rotated out was if they missed the registra-

tion deadline or decided not to attend," she said. "Consequently, it was an extreme rarity that a new nonprofit could participate. With the new expo scoring system, one-time events will receive preference over annual events." Likewise, nonprofits that have not participated in a festival will also receive preference over returning nonprofits. "A great example of this is the upcoming ATV Minnesota State Convention to be held in our area in September," Sebesta noted. "If the ATV event organizers choose to apply for an expo, they will receive a higher scoring due to the frequency of the event in our area."

Another challenge met by the Chamber with the new expo is the development of guidelines that are designed for nonprofits. "When nonprofits were part of the festivals, there were no guidelines or policies specific to them," she said. "Festival policies were created to meet the needs of art and craft vendors. There were really two different groups in the festivals, art/craft vendors and nonprofits."

The new Ely Experience Expo will actually focusing on what the nonprofits are doing in the community. "As a part of the festivals, nonprofits were interspersed with art/craft vendors with no specific recognition and they tended to blended in," Sebesta said. "With the

new expos, the purpose is to recognize organizations and events people are excited to support."

The type of merchandise and fundraising activities nonprofits can offer is also addressed by the new format. "Nonprofits can sell any type of merchandise, whether produced by their organization or purchased elsewhere," she said. "They can do drawings and raffles (provided they follow local and state laws). There are no restrictions, which opens up many more opportunities."

The expos will be located in the southern portion of Whiteside Park. "The Chamber has completely remapped the lower portion, and there were some difficult concessions made," Sebesta said.

There are currently 273 booths planned for the 2020 Blueberry/Art Festival which is a loss of 30 booths. "We have lost the area for our children's activities," she said. "Tim's Toys provided some great activities including the bungee jump, water balls and other fun activities. As a family-friendly event, the children's activities offered a great source of entertainment for the youth attending."

The Chamber is currently looking at other alternatives to fill the void that will utilize the very limited area.

"We appreciate the feedback from the nonprofits, businesses and general public on including nonprofits in Whiteside Park," Sebesta said. "As we reviewed the focus of each group, arts and crafts and nonprofits, we saw a very different direction we needed to go in order to develop an event that truly celebrates area nonprofits. We look forward to launching the expos in 2020."


AROUND TOWN

Dr. Katie Evans joins EBCH staff

ELY - Katie Evans, DPM, recently joined the medical staff at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital.

Evans earned a Doctor of podiatric medicine from The Des Moines University Osteopathic Medical Center, College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery, in Iowa. She completed podiatric surgical residency at St. Mary's Hospital in Passaic, New Jersey.

Dr. Evans provides podiatry services to EBCH and will provide a full range of foot and ankle care to men, women and families. Her podiatry services include diabetic and non-diabetic foot care, plantar fasciitis, sprains and fractures, ingrown toenails and warts. EBCH is partnering with Dr. Evans and Range Foot & Ankle.



Dr. Katie Evans

Ely library offers pickup services

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.

Library Director Rachel Heinrich and staff will answer calls from the public on weekdays during the duration of the closure from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m.

The library's phone number is 218-365-5140. The library's website is elylibrary.org.

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.

The library's online e-circulation of books, audios, and magazines is working normally.

Loan periods have been extended region-wide to account for those libraries THAT are closed to the public.

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

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 for curbside pickup services.

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.

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.

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.

Bags will have 10 book titles included, and one may also request that staff add two movie titles as well. 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.

Chamber seeks award nominations

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.

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.

Subscribe to the Timberjay 218-753-2950

THE CORONAVIRUS

Ely bartender starts 'Go Fund Me' page

ELY – A bartender at the Kwazy Wabbit Saloon in Ely initiated a “Go Fund Me” page earlier this week to solicit funds for fellow bartenders affected by job loss due to the coronavirus. “As you all know, everyone has been temporarily laid off at the Kwazy Wabbit due to the COVID-19 outbreak,” said Amy Anderson. “This is a huge hit to us bartenders. The unemployment we qualify for is very minimal, and won’t cover most of our expenses during this

period.” She said she was never a “big fan” of the GoFundMe craze. “I have never in my life asked for much of anything from anyone,” Anderson said. “However, I know this is going to be going on for much longer than the initial two weeks, and our team can’t make it long, with the little we have at the moment.” She asked for people to consider donating to the bartending crew. “The donations received will

be allocated to each bartender, averaged by hours worked per week, or as needed to an employee that may need a little more for the time being,” Anderson said. “We appreciate everything you guys have always done for us, and hopefully we will be seeing all of you very soon. We miss all of our customers, and cannot wait until things get back to normal around here,” she said. Anderson also pledged to help others in

the same industry. “We can do our best to help you, with what we get from our donors. We all know what we’re going through. It’s not easy. It’s not fun. It wasn’t expected. But we’re all going to make it, by all of us being here for each other,” she said. Within the first 24 hours, Anderson raised \$370 of a \$1,000 goal. Go to www.gofundme.com/f/kwazy-wabbit-bartender-fund for more information.

Zup’s Market worker: ‘We’re doing our best’

ELY - A Facebook post last week from Dave Archer II, Zup’s frozen foods and health and beauty department manager, highlighted the efforts made during the coronavirus pandemic. “I’d like to take the time to thank everyone in Ely and the surrounding area for doing their shopping at Zup’s in Ely,” he said. “In these uncertain and anxious times, its greatly appreciated and anyone who shops there, recently or at any point, I want to personally thank you.” “Secondly, we are going to be doing our best, at the location in Ely, and I’m very much assuming the other four locations, Tower, Silver Bay, Babbitt and the smaller co-op store in Cook, to get you every product you need or are used to getting.”

“There are several items seemingly being purchased, not just around here, but nationwide, and the trickle down affect doesn’t leave Zup’s immune to these shortages.” “Right now, those items are hand sanitizers, disinfectant wipes, antibacterial hand soap, rice, powdered milk, potatoes, rubbing alcohol, hydrogen peroxide and some certain cough and cold medicines,” he said. Starting this week, some of Zup’s quantities may get cut, according to Archer. “I’d imagine Northland Market is probably in the same boat with their warehouse as well.” “We are trying our absolute best to keep all the shelves full and stocked, but also realize that there are going to be a lot of items that we

won’t have for the foreseeable future and there is no real time frame for them to come back into stock. Remember, a lot of the big box chain stores are out of the things we currently have and, hopefully (fingers crossed), will continue to have.” He added, “So, for the time being, if there isn’t something on the shelf, it’s not because someone is hoarding things or we have it stashed away in the back room, it’s because the manufacturer or the warehouse doesn’t have it in stock at all. The department managers, who do the ordering, are constantly ordering the items that are out, hoping we will get at least one case in, and eventually, get the shelf fully restocked.” Archer also men-

tioned recent Facebook posts about Zup’s not having delivery to homes in town. “We don’t have the roster that would currently allow us to have several workers pick and fulfill orders and deliver them,” he said. “I’m sure there is something in the works, but as the workforce at the store is currently constructed, we don’t have the people power to effectively manage this. Could this change soon? Absolutely, as we are always trying to give folks in the community services they need, especially during these difficult and precarious times.” “So, bear with us and show patience. We are all in this battle together and we will all get through this together,” Archer said.

News in Brief

Watch what you flush down the toilet

ELY – It appears that the coronavirus has created a shortage of toilet paper and some toilet users are experiencing problems. In a Facebook post, Brandau Plumbing and Heating said, “Due to the shortages of toilet paper as a result of COVID-19, we have heard of the increased use and flushing of non-flushable materials such as baby wipes, napkins and paper towels down the toilet.” “Flushing anything other than toilet paper can create expensive problems for homeowners. Flushing wipes (even those labeled flushable) and other non-toilet paper materials causes clogs, backups, equipment and pipe breakages, and in bad cases, can even force raw sewage back into your home. We welcome your business as a result of a clogged toilet due to flushing paper items other than toilet paper. But this can be prevented.”

J&L Hardware offers local delivery

ELY - J&L Hardware, Ben Franklin Crafts and Rental offers local delivery services while precautions are made due to the coronavirus. “We would like to extend our local delivery to five miles from the store, said a Facebook post. “If you are further out let us know and we can see if WE can work it in. We also offer curbside service. Hours remain the same. Please call 218-365-6724 for more information.”

Boathouse Brewpub closed for now

ELY – The Boathouse Brewpub and Restaurant was open last weekend and offered curbside pickup services, but decided on Monday to shut down and start a remodeling project that could last about a week. Stay tuned for an announcement on when they will reopen. The Boathouse may consider delivery services in the future. Call them at 218-365-4301 for more information.

Front Porch offers pick-up service

ELY - The Front Porch Coffee & Tea Co. is offering pick-up service only, as a precaution during the coronavirus pandemic. They remain open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call 218-365-2326 for more information.

Yesterday’s news, this week

from the archives of

THE ELY MINER

Courtesy of the Ely-Winton Historical Society

March 26, 1920

Stop tonnage tax legislation

Directors of the Minnesota Fair Tax Association decided to open an office in St. Paul for their president, R.W. Hitchcock, to carry on a campaign of education warning the southern part of the state of the danger of a tonnage tax measure to the state’s iron industries. The decision to invade the southern part of the state is in accord with the association’s announced purpose not to wait until a tonnage tax bill is introduced in the legislature before beginning to fight it, but to seek to induce the entire state to take a position against it. April 27 was designated by the directors of the fair tax association as the day on which a campaign for “members and dollars” will be launched in Duluth and the range towns. The membership campaign will be conducted by representatives of the association in each city, town and village.

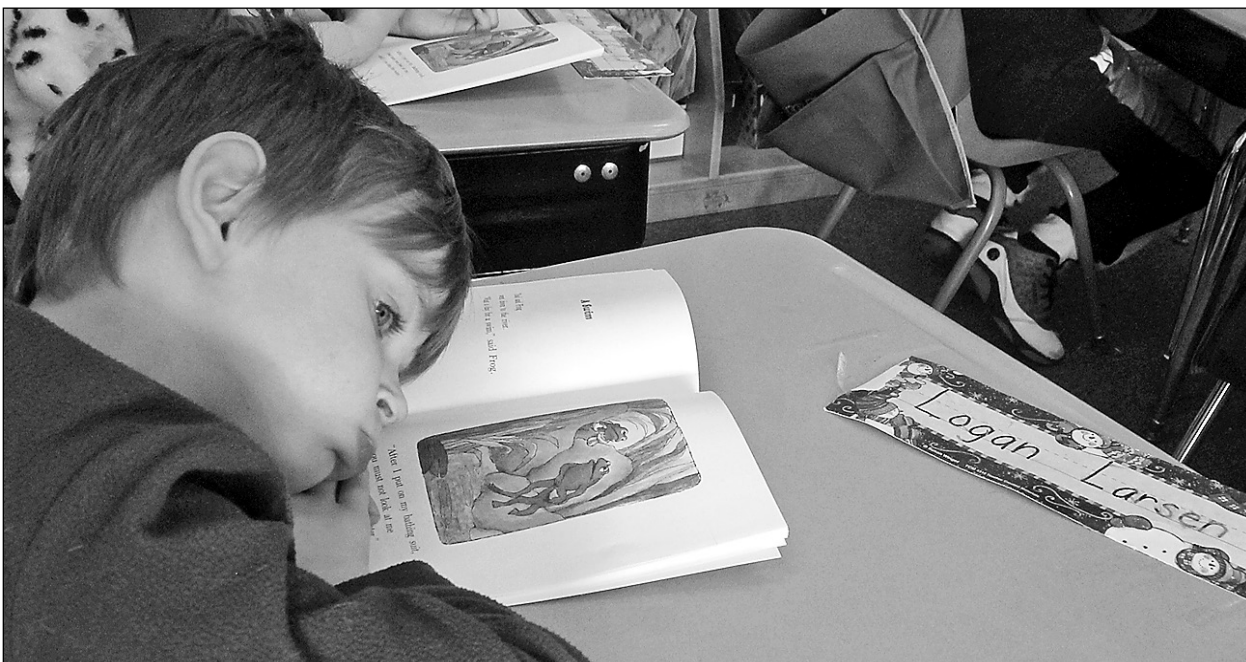
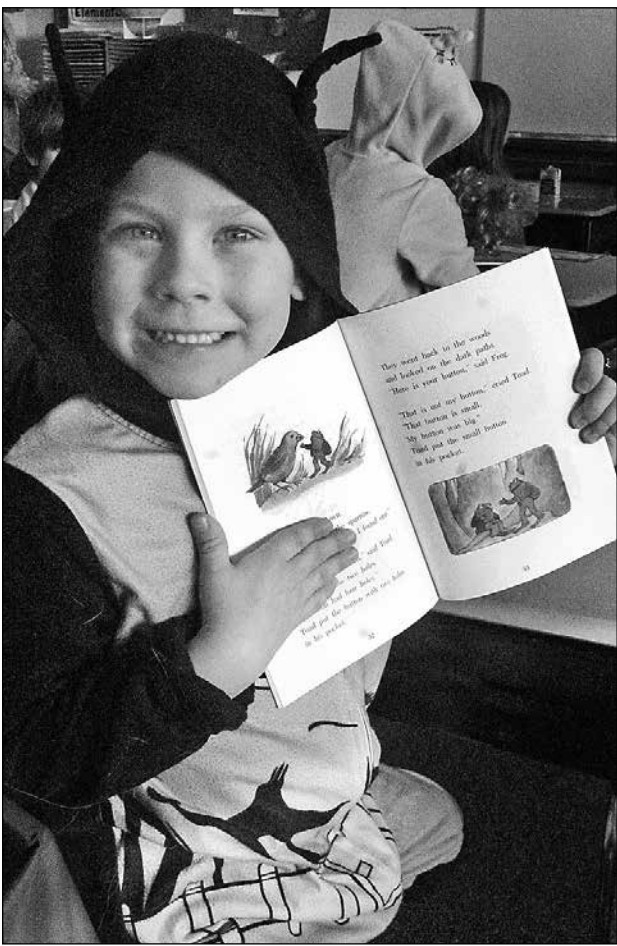
Easter Monday Ball

Arrangements for a Leap Year Dance have been about arranged for a party to be held at Washington Auditorium on the evening of April 5. The music will be furnished by Hanson’s Orchestra, and the admission is placed at \$1.10, including war tax, with door rights reserved.

Caprol here Saturday

Frank Caprol, manger of the Eveleth baseball team, will be here Saturday and Sunday looking for material for the fast Eveleth team. Bring your own glove.

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



It seems like a long time since kids were in school. “Pajama Day” was celebrated at Washington Elementary School in early March. Kindergarten students in Mrs. Ruth Lah’s classroom also enjoyed story time and snacks. Finn Keller, top left, wore his Batman PJs. Sophia Ferrante, top right, reads along with the teacher. Logan Larsen, above, concentrates on listening to the story. photos by K. Vandervort

Ely United Methodist Church

305 E Camp Street • 218-365-3355

Pastor Craig Haberman

Sunday Bible Study – 8:45 AM

Sunday Worship Service – 10:00 AM

Children’s Sunday School – 10:15 AM

Website: www.elyumc.org

Email address: minister@elyumc.org

COVID-19 • Current Restrictions & Services

All Sunday morning services, meetings and gatherings are suspended through the end of March and possibly beyond. Sermons are posted on-line on our website under “About Us” Volunteers are available should people in our community need help of any kind – delivering food, transporting, etc... Just Call.

Speed reigns supreme at Crane Lake Challenge

CRANE LAKE- It was a warm, beautiful day in Crane Lake, with temperatures reaching 50 degrees on March 7 for the annual Crane Lake Challenge snowmobile speed races.

Chris Baynes took the top speed title and a \$1,000 prize with a run of 169 mph in the four-stroke pro stock division. This year's Challenge had 120 rac-

RESULTS (in mph), listed as first, second, and third:

S2 (341cc-500cc): Shelby Bray, 100.7; Mike Swenson, 96.7; Johnny Lundon, 92.0.
 S3 (501cc-600cc): Patty Olson, 106.4; Ali Staniger, 89.7; Mike Pintar, 89.0.
 S4 (601cc-700cc): Patty Olson, 111.3; Russ Montensen, 106.3; Austin Cappo, 87.3.
 S5 (701cc-800cc): Shelby Bray, 113.7; Aurora Wier, 98.1; Brian Barker, 97.0.
 S6 (>800cc): Aurora Wier, 104.9; Melody Ward, 102.3; Jaris Johnson, 94.7.
 4SPS: Chris Barnes, 169.0.
 4SST: Jesse Doberstein, 113.8; Drew Miller, 99.5; Aurora Wier, 99.0.
 4SOL: Jason Howle, 167.5; Dave Borchert, 149.0; Jacob Lemon, 121.2.
 EXH: Travis Pulford, 105.5.
 WC: James Shea, 123.2; Travis Pulford, 116.6; Nate Swanson, 83.2.
 LM1: Otto (modified one cylinder nitris pig), 44.7
 KID340: Arik Bibeau, 68.7; Ben Masheemer, 66.2; Cassidy Mohawk, 65.0.
 LR: Don Pulford, 88.7; Shane Pulford, 85.7.
 LRO: Paul Karcash, 122.6.
 4SIS: Travis Junkermeir, 144.0; Doyle Swift, 138.0.
 4SNT: Bill Nieters, 95.1; Fred Brunfelt, 94.0; Tim Ferraro, 84.8.
 NT1 (>=500cc): Harvey Otremba, 91.9; Ben Masheimer, 72.5.
 NT2 (<500cc): Scott Whereley, 99.7; Jesse Doberstein, 98.1; Chad Seegop, 91.5.
 KID120S: Kyle Obister, 25.9; Adam Twite, 21.7; Kaylynn Ross, 20.4.
 KID120M: Kaylynn Ross, 25.0; Cameron Wier, 16.2.
 4ST: Mike Langer, 117.8; Chuck Salmi, 106.2.
 VS1 (>=340cc): Cassidy Mohawk, 78.8; Greg Shrender, 70.5; Ben Masheimer, 66.3.
 VS2 (341cc-500cc): Paige Tomlin, 91.5; Hman Racing, 73.1.
 VS3 (501cc-600cc): Mike Bergerson, 88.2; Jordan Tilander, 76.0.
 VS4 (601cc-700cc): David Bergerson, 84.0; Robert Northrop, 68.6.

ers competing in 45 classes, with about 800 spectators cheering them on.

Organizers extended thanks to the community of Crane Lake who helped prepare the ice and mark the trails and parking lots, Curt Mohawk and his family and team, and Straight Line Speed Association.

OM1 (>=500cc): Gage Graham, 114.5.
 OM2 (501cc-600cc): Otto, 114.4; Jack Yost, 84.6.
 OM3 (601cc-700cc): Jacob Lemon, 132.0; Eric Sundquist Jr., 111.1.
 OM4 (701cc-800cc): Cole Glenna, 112.9.
 OM5 (801cc-1100cc): Jake McCann, 154.1.
 OM6 (open fuel): Jack McCann, 156.4; Mike Graham, 153.9; Gage Graham, 140.4.
 PS1 (>=500cc): Gage Graham, 113.5; Jeremy Sutliff, 86.6; Hman Racing, 77.2.
 PS2 (501cc-600cc): Matthew Gustafson, 82.8; Cameron Wier, 79.4.
 PS3 (601cc-700cc): Mark Kirckof, 125.4; Brad Trangstud, 122.1.
 PS4 (701cc-800cc): Rod Spindler, 128.9; John Jacklitch III, 126.8; Paul Hinenkamp, 124.9.
 PS5 (801cc-1000cc): Tia Van Guilder, 129.3; Pete McCann, 128.1; Kyle Mohawk, 98.4.
 PS6 (>1000cc): Cole Glenna, 122.0.
 Fan(Studded): Hayli Martinson, 81.7.
 IS1 (<=340cc): Janna Grussendorf, 99.3.
 IS2 (341cc-500cc): Devin Spindler, 110.6; Patty Olson, 108.1; Joe Kittel, 100.9.
 IS3 (501cc-600cc): Sue Trangsrud, 118.7; Mark Jensen, 114.1; Kris Doberstein, 112.6.
 IS4 (601cc-700cc): John Jacklitch III, 119.6; Al Doberstein, 116.2; Don Pulford, 99.0.
 IS5 (701cc-800cc): Harvey O, 126.5; Jay Henson, 124.4; John Jacklitch III, 123.7.
 IS6 (>800cc): Melody Ward, 136.9; Dustin Christopherson, 113.1; Jesse Ridlon, 104.8.
 MP3 (501cc-600cc): Jon Yellowega, 101.0; Rick Niemi, 91.6.
 MP4 (601cc-700cc): Christina Mortenson, 99.9; Melody Ward, 99.2; Jared Ober-ton, 98.6.
 MP5 (701cc-800cc): Harvey O, 115.6; Peter Winkik, 110.8; Kerry Sersha, 107.4.
 MP6(>800cc): Dewey Mortenson, 111.8; Jerry Sutliff, 111.6.



Chris Baynes poses with the trophy and \$1,000 check he collected for blazing down the ice straightaway at 169 mph.

submitted photos

Melgeorge's snowmobile race results released

Results from the Melgeorge's Antique and Classic Snowmobile Race held March 14 at Elephant Lake are listed in order, first, second:

Antique Rear Engine, 8-hp & under: Terry Smith, Mora, 1964 Polaris K80; Jeff Udele, Mound, 1964 Polaris Sno Traveler.

Antique two-cycle 9-hp & under: Wayne Schaulderhoff, Detroit Lakes, 1966 Fox Trac RT-10; Dee Carlson, Culver, 1966 Polaris Colt.

Antique two-cycle over 10-hp: Curtis Granquest, Iron River, 1965 SkiDoo; Robert Iranca, Chisholm, 1967 Skidoo Super Olympic.

Antique 4 cycle 9-hp and under: Terry Smith, Mora, 1965 Arctic Cat D 100.

Classic 250-300 stock air-cooled: Casey Fenske, Ely, 1971 Arctic Cat Lynx; Zach Danelski, Sturgeon Lake, 1969 Scorpion Stinger.

Classic 250-300 modified air-cooled: Derik Workman, Britt, Arctic Cat El-Tigre 1972; Jen Brunner, Cook, 1974 Polaris Colt 250SS.

Classic 340-400 stock air-cooled: Jaret Sandberg, Cook, 1973 Polaris Colt 340SS; Scott Danelski, Sturgeon Lake, 1970 Scorpion Stinger.

Classic 340-400 modified air-cooled: Dale Brunner, Cook, 1973 Polaris TX400; Nick Novak, Mazeppa, 1972 Bolens Sprint.

Classic 440-500 stock air-cooled: Corey Moore, Onalaska, Wis., 1975 Suzuki Fury; Jesse Brunner, Cook, Polaris TX 500.

Classic 440-500 modified air-cooled: Jesse Brunner, Cook, 1977 Arctic Cat El Tigre 5000; Jerrett Bundy, Cook, 1976 Polaris TX.

Classic 440-500 modified liquid-cooled: Randy Arnold, International Falls, 1978 Arctic Cat El-Tigre.

Classic 500 and up stock air-cooled: Jacob Holman, Orr, 1976 Arctic Cat Pantera.

Classic 550 and up modified air-cooled: Ryan Long, Orr, 1973 Polaris TX500.

Vintage 340-400 stock: Jim Lafavor, Hibbing, 1980 Yamaha 340 El-Tigre; Gale Reiner, Ash River, 1979 Arctic Cat Jag 340.

Vintage 340-400 modified: Drew Alberts, Virginia, 1979 Polaris TX-C; Brody Baldwin, Chisholm, 1979 TXL.

Vintage 440-500 stock: Dylan Haldt, International Falls, 1980 Yamaha Exciter; Wayne Schlauderhoff, Detroit Lakes, 1980 SkiDoo Everest.

Vintage 440-500 modified: Cary Moore, Onalaska, Wisc., 1979 Yamaha SRX.

Kitty Cat: Larry Holm, Detroit Lakes, Arctic Cat 120; Michaela Brunner, Cook, Yamaha SnoScoot.

Beauty of Show: Scott Danelski, Sturgeon Lake, 1978 Scorpion Bullwhip.

Beast of Show: Terry Smith, Mora, 1963 Polaris.

Best Dressed: Jeff and Jill Udell, Mound.

Elmer Smith Award (best unrestored): Amber Tinlander, International Falls, 1980 Yamaha Exciter.

Best Cutter: Wall Holm, Detroit Lakes, 1970 Skiroule SE-300.

People Choice/ Fan Favorites: Nick Novak, Mazeppa, 1972 Bolens Sprint; Lee Carlson, Culver, 1971 Polaris TX; Jeff Udele, Mound, 1964 Polaris Sno Traveler.



Worship in church or at home born of faith

Social distancing sends Trinity Lutheran services online

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- On a normal winter Sunday morning, Pastor Erika Foss would typically expect to be looking into the eyes of about 80 people as she conducted worship services at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook.

This past Sunday was anything but typical. Instead of many eyes, Foss and a small worship team that assembled in the sanctuary looked into a single eye, the lens of a smartphone camera, as Trinity Lutheran joined congregations nationwide in adapting to the constraints of social distancing amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Foss said "absolutely nothing" in her education or past experience had prepared her to take services online, although the church knew it was a direction they should be exploring. The church was

recently given a video system, she said, but no one has been trained on it yet. So on Sunday, they kept it relatively simple.

"We just did it on a phone on Facebook Live," Foss said.

Even so, the broadcast had one small hitch: The video was turned sideways.

"The camera was at the wrong direction for a while," Foss said. "We got that fixed and we'll have that ready for next week."

Absent from the service, obviously, were offerings and Communion, and also some of the traditional liturgy involving congregational singing. But those tuned in were still thankful for the opportunity to come together virtually as a church family.

"People were very gracious," Foss said. "They're just happy to have a worship presence and have the chance to

worship together."

Since not all church members have access to Facebook, the church is planning to set up a YouTube channel for alternative access, Foss said. Letters are also being sent to members that include materials for worshipping at home.

Foss's weekly routine of pastoral care visits also has changed because of the coronavirus. She was busy Tuesday making phone calls and sending texts to church members to check in on them and see if they needed anything.

"We're not allowed in hospitals or nursing homes, and for the safety of my people I'm not doing home visits," she said. "If they absolutely, positively needed something, we could probably work something out."

With the Centers for Disease Control recommended limitations on group activities extend-

ing well into April, most churches have canceled in-person Easter observances. However, Foss said she is working with Pastor Liz Cheney of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower to plan an Easter drive-in worship service with equipment borrowed from a church in Eveleth.

"This is nothing new for lake country churches," Foss said. "They're still testing the equipment, and it depends on the state and any decision about shelter-in-place. More information will be coming."

Whatever may come, Foss said her congregation's faith will see them through.

"God is with us no matter what," she said. "We can worship God in many different ways. We have a strong faith to lead us through times like this when things are out of the ordinary."



A computer screen capture of Pastor Erika Foss conducting Sunday services as broadcast with a cellphone camera and Facebook Live. photo courtesy of Trinity Lutheran Church

Cook Hospital and Care Center restricts visitation

COOK- Cook Hospital and Care Center implemented strict visitor restrictions Monday at the direction of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Only essential health care personnel and visitors for end-of-life and hospice care are allowed to enter the building, according to a hospital press release.

Group activities in the care center have been postponed indefinitely. Dining routines have been altered to keep residents six feet apart and increase cleaning and sanitizing of tables, chairs, and high-touch areas. However, the hospital is not able to stop communal dining at this time as there are not enough staff to assist with meals and also ensure safety of the residents.

"We understand that socialization is a big part of our residents' lives here," the hospital said in the press release. "However, we are asking that residents consider staying in their rooms as much as possible and when in common areas try to be at least six feet apart from others."

The hospital will do all it can to ensure that family and friends can communicate with loved ones via telephone, video chat, email, and social media.

Families and community members are encouraged to monitor the cook hospital website at www.cookhospital.org for updates. For any questions, please contact Julie Lesemann, COO/Assistant Administrator, at 218-666-6210.

NWFA closes gallery, cancels events

COOK- The Northwoods Friends of the Arts gallery in Cook will be closed through April and numerous activities have been canceled in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The NWFA board announced the gallery closure Monday, effective through the end of April. The group had originally hoped to keep the gallery open because there was enough space to provide for social distancing with limited visitation, but reconsidered as additional measures to halt the spread of the virus have been encouraged by state health officials.

Open Studio Art on Saturdays and Woodcarvers Group on Thursdays have been canceled, as has the Winter Writers Group meeting scheduled for April 11. If circumstances allow, the Summer Writers Group will begin June 9.

A slate of "Curious and Creative" classes planned by Alberta Whitnack has been canceled and will be rescheduled.

The photo contest "Take Your Best Shot" that was in progress also has been canceled. Any submitted photos and entry fees will be returned at a future date.

NWFA's fundrais-

ing event "A Canvas and You" will still take place, although under a new timeline which will be announced toward the end of April or early in May. Updates will be posted on the NWFA website, nwfamn.org, and through area media.

Read It HERE

National park stops winter trail maintenance

REGIONAL- Maintenance of all snowmobile and ski trails in Voyageurs National Park, along with the Kabetogama Lake Ice Road, has been discontinued due to deteriorating ice and snow conditions. Removal of park trail markers and hazard signs will begin in the near future.

Park staff urge visitors to use caution and travel at their own risk when using ice surfaces within Voyageurs.

The park remains open to visitors, but facilities such as the Rainy Lake Visitor Center and park headquarters are closed indefinitely. Following federal guidance regarding the COVID-19 outbreak only mission essential functions will be maintained within the park. Park employees who are able will continue to work remotely over the next two weeks and may be available via email or phone.

Basketball players receive coaches academic awards

FIELD TWP.- Three North Woods Grizzlies basketball players have received all-state academic honors from their respective state coaching associations.

Seniors Coley Olson and Sasha Strong were selected for recognition by the girls coaching association. It was the second consecutive year North Woods placed two girls on the all-state academic team, which recognized 134 Class A athletes for their scholarly achievements.

Senior Trevor Morrison was tabbed for the honor by the boys coaching association.

Thank you for an Astounding North Woods College and Career Fair!

Thank you to the following businesses that were instrumental in the planning and implementation of the fair: *Cook Hospital, Fortune Bay Resort Casino, Leanne Hoffman of Bois Forte Education Department I-LEAD Program, Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training, North Star Credit Union, Tim Johnson of State Farm Insurance*

Thank you to the following agencies for their participation and contributions:

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| FDLCTC | Bois Forte Behavioral Health | Superior National Forest |
| MCAD | L&M Radiator | Cook Volunteer Fire Dept. |
| Ameriprise Financial | RMHC | MN State Patrol |
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| MN Dept. of Transportation | Laborers Local 1097 | Delta Airlines |
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Alexandria Technical & Community College, Boys & Girls Club of Bois Forte-Vermilion and Nett Lake Branches, Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park, Locals 11 & 589 Plumbers & Steamfitters Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee

To everyone else ~ Thank you once again for connecting our school and community!



the TIMBERJAY

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COVID-19

Ely Community Health Center: The coronavirus 101

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

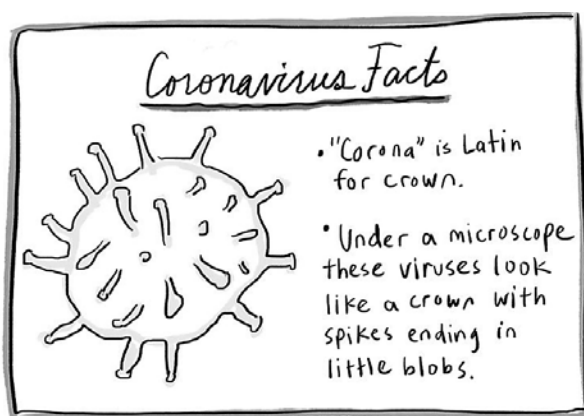
ELY – A presentation on the coronavirus planned for this week by the Ely Community Health Center at Tuesday Group was cancelled, ironically, because of the quickly spreading pandemic.

In fact, Tuesday Group gatherings, as well as many other events around the community, have been put on hold for the next several weeks or even longer out of an abundance of caution to slow the spread of the disease in the community.

Jon Erickson, executive director of the Community Health Center, provided his presentation to the *Timberjay* to help inform readers on this global crisis.

“I am sure most everyone has read something about the current coronavirus and how quickly this virus has been expanding throughout the world, including the United States,” Erickson said. As of early this week, there were no reported local cases of the coronavirus. “It is never too late to start our preparations should an outbreak of COVID-19 occur in the Arrowhead Region,” he said.

The Ely Community Health Center has created



an email newsletter to provide the residents of Ely and the surrounding areas with timely and frequent updates on the status of the outbreak. Sign up for this newsletter at bit.ly/ECHCSignUp.

The term “corona” is Latin for crown because “under a microscope these viruses look like a crown with spikes ending in little blobs,” Erickson said. “This coronavirus is a newly-discovered virus. It causes a disease called COVID-19.”

Last week, the World Health Organization branded COVID-19 as a pandemic rather than an epidemic. “The word epidemic isn’t necessarily always associated with a disease, virus, or other infection. When used as a noun, it means ‘a temporary prevalence of a disease’ or ‘a rapid spread or increase in the occur-

rence of something,’” he said.

“A pandemic is essentially an epidemic that has spread even further outside of its epicenter, but as a term, it’s more specific to a biological event,” Erickson said. “When used as a noun, the word specifically means a pandemic disease, whereas, when used as an adjective, it broadens a bit to either, prevalent throughout an entire country, continent, or the whole world; epidemic over a large area or simply “general [and] universal.”

He added, “If something is spreading like wildfire, it’s an epidemic. If something has already spread like wildfire and is currently massive in its reach and impact, it’s a pandemic.”

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in people

and many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats, and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can infect people and then spread between people such as with MERS-CoV, SARS-CoV, and now with this new virus (named SARS-CoV-2), renamed COVID-19, according to Erickson. “The SARS-CoV-2 virus is like MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV. All three of these viruses have their origins in bats,” he said.

COVID-19 is a lower respiratory infection that results in fever, cough and shortness of breath. “Symptoms may appear two-to-14 days after exposure,” Erickson said. “New evidence suggests that it can be up to 31 days after exposure, so we just don’t know.”

Many media reports say the symptoms are like the flu, but COVID-19 really does not result in head congestion or sneezing, he said. “The virus that causes COVID-19 seems to be spreading easily and sustainably in the community (called community spread) in some affected geographic areas.”

How COVID-19 spreads

➤ Person-to-person spread- The virus is thought to spread mainly

from person-to-person, between people who are in close contact with one another (within about six feet), through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

➤ Can someone spread the virus without being sick? People are thought to be most contagious when they are the sickest. Some spread might be possible before people show symptoms.

➤ Spread from contact with contaminated surfaces or objects- It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

Protection

➤ Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 to 30 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.

➤ You do not need hand sanitizer. Soap and water are your best friends.

➤ Avoid touching

your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

➤ Disinfect all “high touch” surfaces you use in your house daily – this includes your mobile phone and tablets (such as touch screens).

➤ Disinfect any exposed fruits and vegetables that come from the grocery store or farmers market.

➤ Maintain a six-foot space with anyone demonstrating symptoms.

➤ Avoid sharing personal household items.

Stop touching your face

“Whether a nervous habit or just responding to an itch, we need to work on breaking this habit to slow the spread of infection,” Erickson said.

Here are some things you can do:

➤ Keep a box of tissues handy.

➤ Use a tissue to adjust your glasses or scratch the itch.

➤ If you do sneeze use the tissue but use it only once and throw it away.

➤ Identify triggers. Compulsive behaviors can be changed with practice. Keep your hands busy. Eliminate fidgeting.

➤ Chill out. If your hands are clean, touching your face isn’t catastrophic.

COUNTY SCHOOLS

Confidence, anxiety compete as ISD 2142 faces uncharted path

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL - Anxiety over the educational implications of the state’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic hasn’t dampened confidence among those in ISD 2142 that they will be ready to shift gears to educating students remotely beginning next week.

Superintendent Reggie Engebritson told school board members on Tuesday that while the district was still awaiting word from Gov. Tim Walz about how the remainder of the school year will be conducted, the district’s plan for distance education will be ready by Friday.

The board got a small sample of what’s to come for staff and students because four of the seven members weren’t

in physical attendance at the meeting, but instead logged in through Google Hangouts or phoned in to participate. Upcoming meetings of the board will be conducted exclusively via teleconferencing until the coronavirus threat has passed.

Engebritson said that she has been meeting with building staff every other day using Zoom, an online videoconferencing application. While some teachers are working from home, all are involved in developing lessons and materials that can address the needs of students, some of whom have internet access and some who don’t.

“The essence of our approach is to not overwhelm people,” Engebritson said, “so that if I’m a parent who’s working during the day and I come home and have

three kids, that they don’t have four hours of homework they have to do.”

Schools have been offering childcare for students 12 and under whose parents are health-care workers, emergency responders, and others as directed by the governor. Children are grouped into a classroom, Engebritson said. Some staff have expressed concerns for their own health.

“We’ve got staff saying, ‘I don’t want to come in. I don’t want to watch kids of health-care workers because they’re taking care of sick people,’” Engebritson said. “Real concerns. Real fear.”

Board member Chet Larson asked if anyone in the district has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

“We have some people with symptoms, but there haven’t been

enough tests, so if they have symptoms we’re telling them to stay at home.”

Engebritson said she believes that even if more restrictions on socialization are imposed instruction will continue.

“I have a call every day at 4:30 p.m. with the commissioner (of education),” she said. “Yesterday she said that even if we go to shelter-in-place we’re still going to be doing distance learning. I don’t see the governor saying shut down the schools.”

Board chairman Dan Manick asked about seniors completing graduation requirements.

“We worry about the kids when they’re in the building, how they’re doing,” he said. “Will they be prepared?”

Engebritson emphasized that keeping stu-

dents connected with teachers while ensuring their distance education has sufficient rigor will be key. Given the individual differences in instruction that will arise through the distance education model, the district is looking at switching to a pass/no-credit option rather than assigning letter grades for fourth-quarter classes.

“How do you define an ‘A’ if I’m at home with no internet and paper and pencil versus somebody who has internet?” she said. “We’re supposed to provide an equitable education and we’re going to do that to the best of our ability.”

Board member Chris Koivisto responded that some students were concerned about what would happen to their grade point averages.

“There is some ner-

vousness about pass/fail,” he said. “They’ve worked hard to earn the grades they’ve gotten. That’s causing some angst.”

Engebritson also noted the challenge presented by distance education in working with students who have been performing poorly.

“If a kid was failing in the third quarter, what do we do fourth quarter to get them to the finish line?” she said. “There’s a lot of angst out there. How do we relieve some of that and make it successful? Luckily we’re looking at just one quarter and it’s not October and we’re thinking about all year.”

Koivisto echoed the comments of other board members when he said, “I couldn’t be more impressed with all the teachers. Everybody should take time to thank them.”

STATE...Continued from page 1

will contract the disease in what Walz described as the virus’s “first burn” through the population. “Most of us will experience this over the next 18 months,” he said.

Of those infected Minnesotans, about 85 percent will experience relatively mild symptoms that won’t require hospitalization. Of the 360,000 Minnesotans who may require hospitalization as a result of their infection, about a third— or approximately 119,000— are expected to require the services of an intensive care unit, or ICU. Currently, said Walz, Minnesota has 235 ICU beds statewide.

And health officials have learned, from countries like Italy and Spain, that when hospitals can’t provide the ICU service that patients require, deaths skyrocket. “That’s what’s happening in Italy,”

said Walz. “They have no more ICU capacity, which is why so many are dying.”

According to Walz, the shelter-in-place order is designed to give the state more time to prepare for the effects of the pandemic. Without a shelter-in-place order, he said the state would likely reach its peak infection rate in nine weeks and peak ICU demand in just six weeks. He said sheltering-in-place and continuing social distancing is expected to lengthen the timeline to peak infection to 14 weeks, with peak ICU demand expected at 11 weeks. By then, state officials hope to have had time to convert major facilities, like sports stadiums and arenas, into massive temporary hospitals to treat the anticipated explosion in the COVID-19 caseload.

In addition to his shelter-in-place order,

Walz extended the current closure order on restaurants, bars, and other public accommodations through May 1 and ordered schools to continue distance learning through May 4.

Walz acknowledged that his order, which many other governors around the country have issued in recent days, will significantly impact the state’s economy. “We’re trying to strike a proper balance so we’re not killing the economy while we work to slow the infection rate,” he said. That’s why he’s limiting his order to two weeks, according to Walz. He said health department modeling suggested that a longer order would not provide sufficient public health effects to justify the economic costs.

The governor’s order doesn’t strictly require Minnesotans to remain in

their homes at all times. The public will still be able to leave their homes for certain activities, including:

➤ Health and safety activities, such as obtaining emergency services or medical supplies.

➤ Outdoor activities, such as walking, hiking, running, biking, or fishing, although the governor recommends people maintain social distance while doing such activities.

➤ Obtaining essential supplies and services, such as groceries, gasoline, or carry-out.

➤ Essential and interstate travel, such as returning home from outside the state.

➤ Caring for others, such as family members, friends, or pets in another household.

➤ Displacement, such as moving between emergency shelters if you are

homeless.

➤ Relocating to ensure safety, such as to a different location as a result of domestic violence, or sanitation.

➤ Tribal activities, such as activities by band members within the boundaries of their reservations.

Workers in a number of critical sectors during this time are also exempt from the stay-at-home order. That includes businesses in the following sectors:

➤ Healthcare and public health.

➤ Law enforcement, public safety, and first responders.

➤ Emergency shelter operators.

➤ Childcare facilities.

➤ Food and agriculture.

➤ News media.

➤ Energy and utilities.

➤ Water and waste-

water.

➤ Critical manufacturing.

While announcing an unprecedented order, Walz tried to sound a positive note, pointing out that Minnesota had already made significant progress in slowing the spread of the disease. “I could not be prouder of the way that Minnестans have stepped up at this time. We’ve pitched in together to make the changes necessary to save lives.”

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ELY...Continued from page 1

for the meeting.

IRRR Commissioner Mark Phillips recommended the allocation through the state agency's Iron Range School Consolidation and Cooperatively Operated School Account, which came from a request developed by ISD 696 officials in consultation with the Costin Group, the district's lobbying firm, Architectural Resources Inc., the district's architect, and agency staff.

ISD 696 Superintendent Erik Ely discussed the successful grant proposal this week with the *Timberjay*. "I credit our principals, Megan Anderson and Anne Oelke, who two weeks prior made a trip to St. Paul to meet with the Iron Range delegation and some of the IRRR board members to personally tell each legislator about our project and distributed our project outline," he said.

Ely also attended the

School Superintendents Day at the capital and met with five of the nine IRRR board legislators to address the proposal and make the case for Ely schools. Ely had expected to bring a contingent of more than two dozen stakeholders including school administrators, teachers, school board members, parents and students to St. Paul last Wednesday to further make the case for the funds, but because of precautions over the coronavirus pandemic they made their case via a conference call instead.

Ely said that both Bakk and Tomassoni reaffirmed that the funds were contingent on the Ely School District passing the referendum. With the coronavirus closing businesses and schools, scheduling a taxpayer referendum election as early as August could be a concern. Sen. Bakk said he thought the environment

was not as positive now to ask voters for more taxes.

The resolution requires that Ely voters pass a referendum by the end of the year to access the IRRR funding. "We have a Dec. 31 deadline on getting our (bonding) referendum approved," Ely said.

The district's timeline calls for the facility renovation plan to be submitted to the Minnesota Department of Education for approval by May 10. The school board would need to authorize conducting the voter referendum by May 11 in order to have voters cast ballots on the measure on Tuesday, Aug. 11.

If successful, project bidding could begin on Oct. 1 and a groundbreaking could be held on March 1, 2021.

"The August vote is an ideal timeline because that gives us time to go through the bidding process in

October, which is the ideal time for building construction firms," Ely said.

Ely noted that a property tax impact projection showed that a \$10 million bond would result in a property tax increase of about \$5 per month, or \$60 per year (for 20 years), on a \$100,000 residential property in the district.

The balance of the \$20 million project will come from the district's general fund, a state school safety grant and long-term maintenance bonding.

In making the case to the IRRR board, Ely stressed that the project will create a new building between the Washington and Memorial buildings that would be added to house advanced technology classrooms, industrial arts, a new kitchen, classrooms, community space, and an elementary gym.

The plan also outlined several key points including:

► It would cost more to renovate the 1909 Industrial Arts Building than demolish it and build a new connection.

► The overall campus footprint will be reduced by 7,600 square feet, saving long-term operating and maintenance costs.

► The preschool program will be relocated to either the Memorial or Washington buildings.

► Technology upgrades will allow staff to use hand-held devices rather than just textbooks.

► Safety and security will be improved with a new comprehensive entrance/exit and community access plan.

In addition, the proposal includes an area for "maker space" programming, new industrial arts/technology-based classrooms, a new modern media center and relocation and expansion of the fine arts programs.

The project budget

calls for nearly \$8 million for the new addition, about \$5 million for renovations to the existing Washington and Memorial buildings, and \$7 million in infrastructure work including demolition and site work, HVAC upgrades, and lead contaminant and water piping replacement.

Ely also highlighted the economic development component to the project, as well, noting that a 20-month construction period would create many construction jobs and require as much as 95,000 hours of labor.

"While we will be looking at the local economy (in light of any COVID-19 pandemic effects), what better way to spur our local economy than to have \$20 million worth of construction going on in this community next year?" Ely said.

REBORN...Continued from page 1

peaked around 1920, with 332, then steadily fell throughout the years. In 1936, the congregation consisted of only 22 families.

The building was acquired in 2004 by a new non-profit, Friends of B'nai Abraham, a group based in the Twin Cities which included family members of former congregation members and founders. At that time, architects were concerned that the deteriorating roof would cause the building to collapse.

"We are proud of our accomplishment to restore the B'nai Abraham building," said Marjorie Ostrov, who along with her husband Charles was part of the push to restore the building. Charles's family ran Ostrov's Supermarket, which was located two blocks from B'nai Abraham.

Ostrov said the group, which has lost a number of key board members over the last 15 years, could no longer continue to manage the building.

"It had become much more difficult to manage from 200 miles away," she said, noting that their board members are all based in the Twin Cities, and most

are in their 80s or older.

"Our purpose was to restore the building for the community," she said, "and now that we have accomplished that goal, Northern Lights is the right organization to use the building for programs and activities for those in the Virginia-area community."

Over the last few years, Friends of B'nai Abraham struggled to find a local organization to take over the building. Both the Virginia Area Historical Society and the city of Virginia decided they were unable to take on the commitment. Harry Lamma, from the Virginia Area Historical Society, had also been instrumental in the restoration project, said Ostrov, and had been helping to manage the building.

"It's been his project as well," she said. "We are hoping he will continue to be involved."

Giving up the building has been an emotional process for the group.

"It's bittersweet," she said, "but it had to happen."

Northern Lights Music Festival

"We have been pre-

senting smaller concerts at B'nai Abraham for at least 10 years," said Zuponic. "They knew of our affection for the place."

Zuponic said she received an email from Marjorie Ostrov, asking if the organization was interested in the building. The answer was a resounding yes.

"The building is a perfect facility for many of the things we do," said Zuponic. "We can fill it with our own events, as well as events put on by other community groups."

Ostrov said that Zuponic is uniquely suited to take charge of the restored synagogue building.

"It feels like it is in good hands," she said. "She understands the importance of preserving the Jewish heritage of the building."

Zuponic, who was born and raised in Aurora, but now teaches music at Rowan University in New Jersey, said her group has always had an interest in historic preservation, and has previously worked on building awareness of the uniqueness of the Range's existing school auditoriums, and working to preserve them.

She noted that the size, construction, and acoustics of the older auditoriums in Aurora, Chisholm, Hibbing and Ely make them exceptional venues for musical performance. Now they can add B'nai Abraham to the list as a perfect venue for smaller concerts with audiences of up to 100. Zuponic is herself Jewish, so is excited to be able to highlight that part of Iron Range history as preserved in the B'nai building.

"These old music halls have all wood construction," she said. "You can't do that nowadays."

"We are trying to keep these places alive and functioning as they were originally intended," she said. "When we were offered this building, I thought of all the marvelous things we can do in there."

Ostrov said their group has some funding remaining and will use that to complete some smaller projects still needed in the building. They will also be working with the new building team to answer any questions that may arise.

"We want to share all our knowledge about the building and the renova-

tion project," Ostrov said.

The building had been listed as one of the 10 most endangered historic buildings in Minnesota, back in 2002. Renovations, costing almost half a million dollars from both grants and privately-raised funds, have turned the building into a venue for both cultural and educational programming. Zuponic said the building will not be expensive for her group to maintain, and they hope to keep it open from April to October. The building is now listed on the National Historic Register.

Friends of B'nai Abraham has also hosted a Sabbath service in the building, usually once each summer, and these types of events can continue under the new ownership.

Zuponic said they plan to continue to highlight the history of the building and of the Jewish heritage on the Range.

Summer plans

Northern Lights Music Festival has an expanded schedule of events planned this July. "God willing, we will have a season this year," said Zuponic. The festival includes a music

camp for as many as 26 students, who sleep in the renovated old Aurora Hospital, which is now owned by NLMF, as well as weeks of concerts and performances, including events aimed at younger listeners.

Two full-scale operas are planned. A modern-day version of Puccini's "Tosca," set in Venezuela, will be performed in both Ely and Chisholm. This performance will include a children's choir of students from the North Woods and Nett Lake schools, directed by North Woods teacher and NLMF board member Ryan Bajan. The production will feature opera artists from the Metropolitan Opera and a full orchestra. The production is too large to perform in Aurora, so a second opera, a more modern piece by Menotti, "The Medium," will be performed in Aurora, and then again in Ely.

"The Ely market has grown in many ways," Zuponic said. "We have a lot of fans up there."

ONLINE...Continued from page 1

David Morrison Jr., Lance Kingbird, and Brandon Benner, they eagerly agreed, Wagner said.

"They wanted to help any way they could," he said. "They're thinking about the people and their families. We know how powerful our culture is and our traditions, and this is a positive way to overcome these obstacles. It doesn't matter if you're native or not. We're not just singing for protection of native people, we're singing for all the people."

Wagner noted that sharing the songs was meant to do more than address the physical aspects of the virus and the illness it causes.

"There are many levels of sickness going on with this, with people cooped up inside," he said. "It's taxing on their mental and spiritual health, as well as their physical health. We wanted to do what we do to help the healing that people need."

The quintet's 30-minute performance included four songs - a

traditional song associated with a respected tribal elder, an Ojibwe healing song, a protection song for people and communities, and an eagle song to honor both the spirits and people who are helping others.

The choice to perform four songs was intentional.

"Everything in our culture is in four," Wagner said. "It's a sacred number. There are the four seasons. There are four directions. These four songs are very sacred songs in the Nett Lake community. They're like prayers."

Wagner was uncertain how the broadcast of the performance would be received, as sharing of these songs is not recommended, he said.

"In this time of social distancing I felt it was necessary," Wagner said. "I didn't receive any negative feedback. I think people appreciated what we did."

One of Wagner's friends from New Orleans, Kenny Bellau, not only tuned in to the Facebook broadcast but shared the live stream with his friends.

"I watched the whole way through because it was something I'd never seen before," Bellau said. "I feel if strangers are going to pray for me or for the rest of the country, in whatever way they do, I think it would be respectful for me to at least listen. If someone wants to pray for you, or as these Ojibwe men did, sing, you should never find that as an offense, but you should respect this act of concern for your well-being."

Bellau said he has been interested in Native American cultures but hasn't had much access to any living in New Orleans. He finds a bit of common ground in the challenges New Orleans culture has faced in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and what native cultures have experienced.

"Chaz's culture is my and your culture, too," Bellau said. "Like New Orleans, everyone should respect it and do their part to protect it. I'm thankful Bois Forte did this. I hope they do this again."

COVID-19: RESOURCES & SERVICES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

MEDICAL

Most people with COVID-19 can safely recover at home without medical care. If you are experiencing symptoms, call ahead before visiting your healthcare provider. You can be screened for Coronavirus free of charge online through Essentia Health.

Essentia Health COVID-19 Hotline:
1-833-494-0836

Coronavirus-related Essentia E-visits are free
www.essentiahealth.org

If you are experiencing chest pain, extreme shortness of breath, and/or confusion/difficulty staying awake, go directly to the emergency room (if someone can drive you), calling first if you are able, or dial 9-1-1.

Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital
218-365-3271

Scenic Rivers Health Service - Tower
218-753-2405

Coronavirus Updates and Information
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov

Minnesota Department of Health
www.health.state.mn.us


St. Louis County
www.stlouiscountymn.gov

CONNECTION TO RESOURCES

Pathways to Wellness
Connect to a Care Facilitator for Ely, Babbitt, Tower area for help with these and other resource needs.
218-365-7929

2-1-1
Connection to resources, services, and assistance
Call 211 or visit www.211.org

Senior LinkAge Line
Connection to resources for older Minnesotans.
1-800-333-2433

 *Everyone deserves to live their best possible life. Pathways to Wellness helps people navigate and connect to a community of support services and care no matter their circumstances.*
To connect with a Care Facilitator call
218-365-7929.

MENTAL HEALTH/CRISIS SERVICES

Thrive Range
Online mental health, suicide, and substance abuse help
www.thriverange.org

Let's Talk MN Line
Iron Range Mental Health Support Line
and Crisis Hotline: 218-288-2100 or Text MN to 741741
www.letstalkmn.com

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
1-800-273-8255

Advocates for Family Peace
Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-909-8336

FOOD

Ely Area Food Shelf
218-365-8527 or www.elyareafoodshelf.org

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Food Programs

Apply online at applymn.dhs.mn.gov or call St. Louis County Ely Office at 218-365-8220

HOUSING

United Way 211 Homeless Resource Entry Point
Call 211 or 1-800-543-7709 or Text HOMELESS to 85511

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA) Energy Assistance Program
Call 218-749-2912 or 800-662-5711
www.aeo.org/housing/energy-assistance

UNEMPLOYMENT

Minnesota Unemployment Benefits
Apply online at www.uimn.org/applicants

INSURANCE

MNSure
Due to Covid-19, enrollment is open now through April 21st for anyone who is uninsured.
Apply at www.mnsure.org.

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COVID-19

Pandemic creates challenges for 2020 census effort

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Once a decade, the U.S. Census has traditionally taken center stage as the federal government focuses its resources on this constitutionally-mandated effort to better understand who and how many of us live within U.S. borders. But what happens when the census effort runs into an almost unprecedented event like the response to the coronavirus, or COVID-19, outbreak?



The ultimate answer to that question likely won't be known for months. In the meantime, census officials are scrambling to adjust to a world that has changed remarkably in just the past two weeks and left most Americans

focused on the uncertainty surrounding the outbreak and the economic fallout of the response.

For now, census officials are focusing on the positive. Maureen Schriner, the spokesperson for the federal census in Minnesota, noted that millions of American households have already responded to the census. As of Wednesday, the Census Bureau was reporting that 23.6 percent of American households had responded to the census so far. Minnesota's response rate

was significantly higher, at 29.3 percent.

Here in the North Country, response so far varies dramatically by community. A total of 40.9 percent of Babbitt residents had responded as of Monday, while just 9.5 percent of Tower residents had done so. In Ely, 28.7 percent of residents had responded to the census, while 27.4 percent of residents in Cook had done so. Twenty-four percent of Orr residents had responded as of Monday.

Response rates from most rural townships in the region were considerably lower. Across St. Louis County, 27.7 percent of residents had responded, while only 19.8 percent of Lake County residents had done the same.

Tracking down the roughly three-quarters of Americans who have yet to respond may not be as easy as it might have been just a couple weeks ago. For example, colleges and universities are now

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YEAR-ROUND AGRICULTURE

Winter green

Deep winter greenhouse stays lush through the coldest part of the year

FINLAND— Nearly two feet of snow may still cover the ground here, but the growing season is well underway inside the deep winter greenhouse built in 2016 as a test site for the University of Minnesota.

It's the many shades of green that first catch your eye as you walk inside the modest greenhouse that sits on a slight southerly slope just a block from what passes as downtown in this tiny community located about five miles inland from Lake Superior. Up against the glazed south wall, Swiss chard stands more than a foot high, where it's managed to continue growing even in the short days of mid-winter. Nearby are hundreds of young heads of lettuce, looking lush against the backdrop of white outside.

A wide variety of mixed greens are growing in hanging troughs built of rain gutter.

It's a testament to the theory that where there's a will, there's a way, even when it comes to growing fresh produce through a

Above: Stefan Meyer operates this experimental deep winter greenhouse near Finland.

Right: The greenhouse from the outside.

Lower right: A wide variety of lettuce and chard was growing in the greenhouse earlier this month.

photo by M. HelMBERGER

long northern Minnesota winter.

That's the idea behind a number of such greenhouses built around the state in recent years as a way to help U of M engineers and small-scale farmers better understand how to maintain a year-round growing season in Minnesota. The greenhouses, built in association with active farms, are still experimental, and university engineers regularly gather data and from them to assess how well they're working. Based on what they're

“The underground heat sink, which Meyer calls his “battery” will last about three days without being recharged by the sun.

See GREEN...pg. 2B



REAL ID

For rural residents, applying for new license can be a challenge

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Obtaining a REAL ID driver's license or identification card is challenging enough for most people. But for the many North Country residents who live in remote locations, where the Post Office doesn't deliver mail, it can be nearly impossible.

That's what Michael Dreaeves, of rural Tower, has discovered as he's sought to obtain the REAL ID card that all Minnesotans will eventually need in order to fly on a U.S. airline or enter a federal facility. Minnesota was the last state to come into compliance with the federal REAL ID requirements, so residents here won't have as much time as residents of other states to apply for the new identification prior to the looming deadline.

There are three basic things you'll need to prove in order to obtain a REAL ID license. You'll need:

- A document, like a birth certificate or a current passport, to prove your identity, your date of birth, and your legal presence in the U.S.
- A document, like a W-2 or an actual un laminated Social Security card, proving your Social Security number.
- And two different documents proving your current residency, one of which can be an unexpired driver's license.

It's that last one that's proven to be the sticking point for some residents of the North Country. “You need a document that has your physical address,” said Ruth Schley at the Cook License Bureau. That may seem relatively straightforward, but as Dreaeves recently discovered it can be a surprisingly difficult task for people like him. Dreaeves, who lives far up the Mud Creek Road, has a fire number, but it doesn't appear on any of the documents that license and motor vehicle staff are allowed to accept when processing REAL ID applications.

Dreaeves can't use a utility bill because he's off-the-grid, which means he doesn't receive an electric bill. He paid cash for his property, which means he doesn't have a mortgage with his physical address. He has a tax statement, but like most every other document that might satisfy it, lists his post office box in town rather than his physical address. It's the same with his income tax statement.

Dreaeves isn't the only one who's having trouble. “Some people

See REAL ID...pg. 2B

ADVENTURES

Freemans again on the move: Part Two

Editor's Note: This is the second and final part of a story that ran in our March 20 edition recounting a 14-month sailing adventure by local residents Dave and Amy Freeman. The couple, at a recent Tuesday Group gathering, recounted how they navigated their 27-foot sailboat from Two Harbors to the Bahamas and eventually headed back north to Nova Scotia. We left off with the couple leaving New York City, headed onto the open ocean.

The Freemans left New York in early October 2018, and made their way to Delaware Bay, about 140 miles south, a journey that took about 36 hours to complete. "We were a little apprehensive," David said, "because this was our first time on the open ocean. It was a bit of a challenge. We left about 3 a.m. and it was still dark, and also windy and wavy." Amy endured a bout of seasickness and spent most of that leg curled up and sleeping, "and throwing up occasionally," David added. Some 30 miles from land, a small sparrow, a stow-away of sorts, spent many hours with the Freemans on Discovery.

Traversing Chesapeake Bay and down the Atlantic Intercoastal Waterway kept the adventurers out of the big water of the open ocean. "We stayed in more protected waters," Amy said, "such as rivers, canals, bays and the Dismal Swamp Canal." (Located along the eastern edge of Virginia and North Carolina, this is the oldest continually operating man-made canal in the United States, opened in 1805.)

"The Dismal Swamp Canal reminded us of the Erie Canal, except we could leave our mast up," she said. "It was pretty shallow in places and tree branches hung over the canal in other spots so we had to zig-zag our way."



Amy at the rudder of their boat Discovery while sailing in the Caribbean. submitted photo

By the first of November, historically the end of hurricane season, the Freemans reached North Carolina and a series of barrier islands. "Some of these islands have wild horses and we did quite a bit of hiking and kayaking as we waited for a weather window, or a period of ideal weather, to continue," David said.

"Surprisingly, it seemed like there was always not enough wind or too much wind, or the wind was blowing in the wrong direction. We spent a lot of time just waiting for the wind to be right," he said. "We would often wait three to five days for the proper conditions to sail for 24 or 48 hours to get further along our route."

The couple had no problem finding fun things to do. "They explored Charleston, S.C., and did lots of hiking. "Other people remarked that it was so cold, but really conditions were like sailing in mid-July on Lake Superior. It was 65 degrees and sunny. It didn't get much better than that," David said.

As they made their way along the Florida coast, they needed to deal with dozens of bridges along the InterCoastal Waterway. "We were forced to

stop and wait for each bridge to open, often times on the hour or half hour, so it was quite a chore to time our progress," he said.

Fort Lauderdale was their jumping off point to cross the Gulf Stream and head for the Bahamas. "The Gulf Stream is fairly strong and the current heads northward," Amy said. "As we headed east, the current pushed us north." Discovery sailed east at about five miles per hour across the Gulf Stream, likened to a river that is 30 miles wide with a current of about three miles per hour.

The Freemans anticipated having to wait in Fort Lauderdale for a week or two for the optimum weather window to head to the Bahamas, but within days, the weather was conducive to sailing. "We scurried to several grocery stores and marinas to get everything we needed for the journey," Amy said.

After about 28 hours of sailing, they reached the Bahama Banks, a shallow coral reef on the western edge of the island chain, and checked in at Grand Key, in the western and northernmost corner of the islands with a population of about 400. "We didn't know it at that time, but not many people go there, so it

was a nice introduction to the Bahamas," David said.

Food is very expensive in the Bahamas and the inhabitants don't make much money. "They harvest a lot of food from the ocean and eat a lot of conches, that are like large snails," David said. "We had fried conch and boiled conch and grilled conch, and they just pile up the shells into little islands."

"It is kind of sad at the same time, said Amy, "because the conch population is getting way down from over-harvesting."

The clear, shallow water afforded the couple many opportunities for snorkeling. They met a couple that had been visiting the Bahamas for several decades and were shown a good spot for spearing lobster. "We enjoyed a great lobster dinner," David said. "These lobster are different than Maine lobster. These didn't have the big claws, but they tasted just the same."

By early December, the Freemans realized that they hadn't started on their planned book. "We needed to buckle down and get to it," David said. "After all, that's why we were there."

In Hope Town, they spent several weeks establishing a routine and started writing. "In the marina, we were surrounded by all of these other boats, and it kind of felt like we were in an RV park," he said. They also had use of a nice resort with a pool, and they took advantage of that as they started to put pen to paper.

When they were on the water and traveling from place to place, they enjoyed baking bread and used a solar oven. "Point the reflectors at the sun and it heated up to 425 degrees and made excellent bread," Amy said.

They also grew sprouts on their boat. "To buy produce was really expensive," Amy noted. "If we wanted salad stuff we grew our own on a regular basis. We obtained coconuts and pine-

apples along the way."

Fresh water was one of their biggest concerns. The Discovery was equipped to carry about 75 gallons of drinking water. "That would last us about a month if we were really careful," David said. "We had to pay between 15 cents and 40 cents per gallon for the water that mostly came from desalination plants, that is really energy-intensive to make. We tried to get by on one gallon of water per person, per day, for drinking, cooking and washing."

By the end of April, the typical migration time out of the Bahamas, the Freemans made their way north before the start of another hurricane season. "We wanted to sail to Maine and Nova Scotia and thought we could make the trip faster," David said. Nine days after leaving the islands they made their way to North Carolina.

Their story continues after they passed New York City and headed for Maine. "We heard there were tons of lobster traps along the coast of Maine, but didn't fully appreciate what that meant until we got there," David said. "They are everywhere, and it felt like being in a slalom course trying to dodge all the buoys."

In Nova Scotia, they spent many days in thick fog in July and August. "We had plenty of beautiful days and the people were really friendly, and the towns had lots of history," David said.

They hauled their boat out of the water for the winter months, and plan to go back to Nova Scotia this spring. They would like to explore Newfoundland and Labrador by sailboat and kayak. "We plan to spend this May through October up there exploring this beautiful part of the world."

As for their book, they completed their first draft and are now in the editing phase of the third draft. "Stay tuned," Amy said.

REAL ID...Continued from page 1B

have gone in five times," said Schley, who noted that she's had similar problems herself.

Meanwhile, a growing backlog of REAL ID applications at the Minnesota Department of Public Safety means the effective deadline to apply for the new license could come

as early as mid-summer. The department's Driver and Vehicle Services division is currently more than two months behind in processing REAL ID applications, and that backlog is expected to grow. To date, only about 15 percent of Minnesotans have received a REAL ID

or an Enhanced Driver's License, which is REAL ID-compliant.

John Harrington, the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, said last month that his department is getting 19,000 applications a week, just over half of which are for REAL

ID-compliant licenses. At that pace, he said the state will not be able to issue new licenses to all who might need or want one. "We are processing an enormous number of applications even as we speak. But we need to double or triple that volume if we are to make our deadline."

So, if you're hoping to fly commercially later this year, but don't yet have a REAL ID, the best advice is act soon or you could well be left grounded.

Update: Minnesotans, it turns out, will have some extra time to meet the REAL ID deadline. President Trump announced earlier

this week that the Oct. 1 deadline to obtain a REAL ID in order to fly in the U.S. or enter a federal building will be extended amid the coronavirus crisis, but he did not provide a new deadline date.

Minnpost contributed reporting for this story.

GREEN...Continued from page 1B

learning they're continuously making modifications to the design to make them more efficient and less costly to build.

The greenhouse in Finland, which is the 2.0 version, is the furthest north of any of the greenhouses and its relative success suggests that the design may eventually have commercial potential. Details and drawings on a new 3.0 version of the greenhouse are expected to be available soon, according to Stefan Meyer, who operates the greenhouse in association with Finland-based Round River Farms. Meyer grew up in the ag sector in southwestern Minnesota and worked on an urban farm in the Twin Cities before arriving in Finland. He's studied permaculture and eco-agriculture for years, so he's long been interested in alternatives to the industrial form of

agriculture that's taken root in much of the nation's mid-section. Designing methods to maximize agricultural output from small sites is part of the mission of Round River Farm, founded by David and Lise Abazs, so the winter greenhouse experiment was a natural fit.

The theory behind the deep winter greenhouse is a simple one, which makes it distinctive from traditional greenhouses, notes Meyer. The glazing is located only on the south side, while the remaining walls and roof are well-insulated. That allows the greenhouse to gather most of the available sunlight to generate heat, while drastically slowing heat loss.

At the same time, heat storage is critical to the greenhouse's efficient operation. Underneath the greenhouse floor is a three-to-four-foot thick layer of crushed rock. On

sunny days, a suction fan pulls warm air from near the ceiling and conducts it through large diameter, flexible black plastic drain tile into the crushed rock. Overnight and on cloudy days, the warmth that's built up in the crushed rock is ducted out into the greenhouse, providing a kind of "off-peak" heat supply. According to Meyer, the underground heat sink, which he calls his "battery" will last about three days without being recharged by the sun. Here in northern Minnesota, where sunshine in November and December is often in short supply, that requires a back-up heat source, run on electricity, to ensure that extended cloudy stretches don't cause the plants inside the greenhouse to freeze.

Whether the produce grown during winter justifies the expense and carbon footprint of that electricity

is a question that remains unanswered. But Meyer does manage to pack a lot of growing space in this relatively small greenhouse. Besides the large growing bed, Meyer has about 40 sections of rain gutter hanging from the ceiling. With a couple inches of dirt in the gutters, they provide an efficient way to grow large amounts of greens. Even in the depths of winter, Meyer says he harvests about six-to-ten large bags of lettuce and Asian greens, along with three bags of chard. It's all bought and sold by neighbors through the local Organic Consumers Association.

The greenhouse is certainly scalable to a much larger operation, which could provide winter produce to a much larger population. As it is, Meyer estimates he spends just eight hours a week working in the greenhouse,

so a single person could easily run a much larger operation than is possible with the relatively small prototype.

Bringing down the cost

Whether a deep winter greenhouse makes sense for other growers probably depends on the success of future versions. Meyer notes that the engineers who designed the earlier versions may have "over-built" them to some extent, which pushed construction costs much higher than might be financially-viable for many small growers. Construction costs have varied a lot, ranging from \$22,000-\$68,000, depending on a number of factors, which can be prohibitive when you consider the cost per square foot of growing space. The university's extension service has developed some cost-saving ideas to help reduce that price

tag. Growers who have the ability to do much of the work themselves can also bring the cost down considerably.

While the deep winter greenhouse is one worthwhile option for growers, the extension service notes that growers should fully assess their objectives before investing in building their own. Other season extenders, like double-layered high tunnels, can extend the growing season considerably, although they likely won't keep plants alive during the depths of a northern Minnesota winter.

For more on designing and building your own deep winter greenhouse, Google: "deep winter greenhouse, University of Minnesota." You'll find plenty of information and plans available to help with your own project.

CENSUS...Continued from page 1B

shutting down across the country, including here in northeastern Minnesota, and many college students are returning home until classes resume. So, where do students in such a situation really reside? "It's where they live most of the

time," said Schriener. Yet if students are now back home with parents and may not be returning to their schools before fall, how does that advice apply?

That's just one of the challenges facing census workers right now. Last

week, the census opted to suspend its field operations nationwide as part of the effort to slow the spread of the new coronavirus. That shutdown of in-person outreach is scheduled to continue through April 1, at least for now.

Census officials say that it's never been easier to fill out your census form online. In fact, for those with internet experience who are filling out the standard short form, the process should take no more than five minutes to

complete. While that may be the solution for many Americans, it may not be the answer for households with elderly or those with limited English skills. That's where personal outreach is often important to ensure a response.

For now, Schriener said the census is focused on getting the word out to a diverse audience, with promotional campaigns in various media in 12 different languages. "We're in the motivational stage," said Schriener.

Locals join in making facemasks for COVID-19 response

There's the old saying: "March came in like a lion and went out like a lamb." March 2020 did not come in much like a lamb, but it most definitely will go out like a roaring lion.



SCARLET LYNN STONE

Gaining momentum with no symptoms announcing its arrival, having devastated both

China and Italy, the COVID-19 pandemic has become the main topic in the news media. I am a fairly habitual viewer of MSNBC's nighttime line-up including Rachel Maddow, Brian Williams and Lawrence O'Donnell and also catch CNN here and there during an average day just to see what's happening.

Until March, we Americans have been wrapped up with concerns over where this country's future was headed in the most tumultuous presidential term I have ever witnessed in my 61 years. Now adding to it is the invasion of a pandemic, the stock market scraping the bottom, and the ongoing battles with the political parties, too.

Over the past couple of weeks, I started hearing more and more about shortages of basic personal protection gear for health care workers in hospitals

and clinics while they try to handle the influx of sick and dying COVID-19 victims. Our president has been telling the American people that there are shiploads of masks and protective gear (PPEs) on the way, and ventilators, too, but these supplies have never arrived.

In one news interview this past weekend a nurse from a New York hospital said a shipment allotted for her hospital would cover only one shift. Reports like this are popping up all over the news.

It's hard to see such shortfalls in our system, it's heartbreaking to see what has unfolded on the front lines. Health care workers are being forced to reuse facemasks or create new masks from basic office supplies. I thought, "How can getting face masks be such an ordeal?" It would have been easy to turn off the news and tune out this pandemic. Instead I confronted my feelings of helplessness and I started asking myself, "What can I do to help?"

I went online and discovered a nationwide effort of individuals like myself, people in church groups, quilt-making guilds, and

craft groups who have rallied to the cause of making facemasks. Having been a lifelong seamstress, both professional and leisure, I jumped at the opportunity.

I opened up on Facebook and soon many others in Ely and Tower-Soudan were joining in to help. Some assisted with looking for safety-compliant patterns, others donated fabric and elastic, and others have been sewing. There are various patterns acceptable for different businesses, and state and nationwide donation sites for the masks.

Some patterns are rectangle shape with pleats that open to cover the face. Other patterns are more cup-shaped with a seam down the face to create a tighter fit. All someone needs to do is an online search for donating facemasks and they will find all sorts of information.

Types of acceptable materials include: 100-percent unused cotton fabric (no metallic); flannel is often suggested to use against the face as it provides a soft surface for the skin. 1/8" or 1/4" elastic is suggested for the ear straps but sewing on fabric ties has also been used.

If you don't know if your stash of fabric scraps or yardage is 100-percent cotton, there is a burn test you can use. Take a small swatch of the fabric and



This is an example of a homemade facemask made using instructions from the website of Deaconess Hospital of Evansville, Ind. at www.deaconess.com/How-to-make-a-Face-Mask. photo by S. Stone

hold it over a metal pan or fire-proof surface and light it on fire. If it burns clean with clear smoke while leaving powdery ash it is cotton. A blended fabric will burn with black smoke, edges curling and leaving a goopy ash.

Homemade masks are a way to supplement the inventory of personal protective equipment and are being used because it's a time of crisis; it is a last resort. Other options of acceptable crisis-management masks have included using bandanas and scarves. Ideally, homemade masks should be used in com-

bination with a face shield that covers the entire front of the face, but in a wartime-like effort such as we are currently experiencing, millions of these masks are needed. Even though the masks are not FDA-approved, they mainly are used to stop the wearer from transmitting the virus via droplets, spray or splashes. Masks are also placed on sick people to limit the spread of infectious respiratory secretions.

St. Louis County limiting staffing and hours at county buildings

REGIONAL- The St. Louis County Board, on Monday, announced plans to continue providing essential services while cutting staffing to essential services as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The county closed all their buildings to the public on Tuesday, to give staff time to plan how they'll protect the public and their employees. Essential county buildings opened on a limited basis as of Wednesday, March 25.

"The goal is to continue essential and critical or mandated services supporting the public and those in need, while further limiting staff presence and

citizen interaction in and outside of county buildings," according to a county press statement.

Essential and critical workers will stagger work schedules, weekly, between on-site and off-site (or paid leave time). Non-essential workers will either work off-site, or use their paid leave. The staffing model is designed to anticipate further restrictions that may be imposed on a statewide level. People are strongly encouraged to conduct any business with the county by phone, email or online. Contact information and special instructions for each department or service can be found online at

stlouiscountymn.gov.

New hours and public access points at county buildings

If people feel they must visit a county building, here are updates on access times:

► St. Louis County Courthouses in Duluth, Hibbing and Virginia: These buildings currently are open for limited court hearings only. Beginning Wednesday, select county offices will be open to the public from 9-10:30 a.m., or by appointment only. For transactions outside of these hours, each office will

have a drop box for people to leave any paperwork or payments. Court operations will be limited to necessary hearings only. Courthouse windows will be closed, and all filings should be done electronically. The law libraries in each courthouse are closed until further notice.

► Government Services Centers in Duluth, Virginia and Ely, and the Hibbing Annex building: Drop boxes are available for people to leave paperwork and payments at any time for any of the departments in these buildings.

► Public Health and Human Services reception areas will be

open to serve public assistance clients on the following days and times:

Duluth - Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9-10:30 a.m.

Virginia - Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-10:30 a.m.

Hibbing and Ely - Wednesday, 9-10:30 a.m.

► All Public Works facilities remain closed to the public.

► Environmental Services facilities, including the landfill, transfer stations and solid waste drop off sites remain open at this time.

Tap water is safe to drink

In response to concerns about the safety of drinking water during the COVID-19 pandemic, local drinking water officials have offered the following answers to questions that the public might have.

Is drinking tap water safe?

EPA recommends that Americans continue to use and drink tap water as usual. The World Health Organization (WHO) has stated that the "presence of the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking-water supplies and based on current evidence the risk to water supplies is low." Homeowners who receive their water from a public water utility may contact their provider to learn more about treatments being used. Treatments could include filtration and disinfectants such as chlorine that remove or kill pathogens before they reach the tap. Homeowners with private wells who are concerned about pathogens such as viruses in drinking water may consider approaches that remove bacteria, viruses, and other pathogens, including certified home treatment devices.

Do I need to boil my drinking water?

Boiling your water is not required as a precaution against COVID-19.

Is tap water safe to use for hand washing?

EPA recommends that Americans continue to use and drink tap water as usual. According to the

CDC, washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds helps prevent the spread of COVID-19.

What should I do if I'm concerned about my drinking water?

WHO has stated that the "presence of the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking-water supplies and based on current evidence the risk to water supplies is low."

Homeowners who receive their water from a public water utility may contact their provider to learn more about treatments being used. Treatments could include filtration and disinfectants such as chlorine that remove or kill pathogens before they reach the tap.

Homeowners with private wells who are concerned about pathogens such as viruses in drinking water may consider approaches that remove bacteria, viruses, and other pathogens, including certified home treatment devices.

Do I need to buy bottled water or store drinking water?

EPA recommends that citizens continue to use and drink tap water as usual. At this time, there are no indications that COVID-19 is in the drink-

ing water supply or will affect the reliable supply of water.

Can I get COVID-19 from waste-water or sewage?

WHO has indicated that "there is no evidence to date that COVID-19 virus has been transmitted via sewage systems, with or without wastewater treatment."

Do wastewater treatment plants treat COVID-19?

Yes, wastewater treatment plants treat viruses and other pathogens. COVID-19 is a type of virus that is particularly susceptible to disinfection. Standard treatment and disinfectant processes at wastewater treatment plants are expected to be effective.

Will my septic system treat COVID-19?

While decentralized wastewater treatment (i.e., septic tanks) do not disinfect, EPA expects a properly managed septic system to treat COVID-19 the same way it safely manages other viruses often in wastewater. Additionally, when properly installed, a septic system is located at a distance and location designed to avoid impacting a water supply well.

Local artist featured in quilting magazine



ELY- The April/May issue of Quilting Arts Magazine includes an article regarding a Reader Challenge called Stitch by Stitch. The challenge was introduced in the October/November issue,

asking subscribers to quilt a trio of small four-inch stitched squares incorporating various techniques and fibers - mini fabric meditations. The submissions of nineteen quilters were selected by the mag-

azine to be shown in the article, It All Starts with a Stitch. Local Ely fabric artist Cecilia Rolando was included in the group.

Rolando has attempted to be included in the magazine in the past, and was delighted to have one of her five trio submissions for this challenge selected. Other quilters included are from several U.S. states as well as Canada and the United Kingdom. Quilting Arts Magazine is published six times a year by Golden Peak Media of Fort Collins, Colo.

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Outdoors

Our lives in the
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RESEARCH

NRRI researchers studying road salt alternatives

Potassium acetate may be an option to reduce the harmful effects of sodium chloride

by JUNE BRENNEMAN
Natural Resources Research Institute

REGIONAL— When old man winter wallops the Northland, keeping roads safe for drivers is a top priority for road maintenance crews. The challenge is using enough salt and sand to keep cars out of ditches, while minimizing its environmental impact.

Road salt – sodium chloride – is the most common tool in the road de-icing toolbox. But

along with its limitations, like not working when temps drop below 15 degrees F, it is also a harsh and permanent chemical when it reaches freshwater resources. The salt gets into streams and lakes and keeps building up over time, harming both plants and animals.

One current project, funded by the Minnesota DNR, is researching when and where salt is getting into streams along the north shore of Lake Superior. A second project is funded by MnDOT to understand

Right: Researchers from NRRI gather a water sample from a North Shore stream.

photo by B. Groehler

environmental impacts and the comparative cost of potassium acetate applied as a salt alternative.

Salty streams?

Collecting data on chloride contamination in north shore streams when they're still iced

See **SALT...**pg. 5B



THE LOST LAKE SWAMP

The crust is calling...

When the snow is hard, there's nothing like skiing in the swamp

This time of year, for me, it's all about the crust.

I know it's a time when most people are sick of winter and just want the snow to go away. I'm one of the lonely few hoping for the cold to linger just one or two more weekends so I can take advantage of the best ski conditions of the year.

If you're a skate skier, like me, this is what you live for, and I have the best possible playground right in my backyard. From our ridge, looking west across the Lost Lake Swamps lies mile after mile of some of the best skate skiing imaginable— at least when the conditions are right.

It's actually been quite a few years since I've written about skiing the swamp. That's because the past few late winters haven't been as cooperative when it comes to the crust. It's always a fine line, dependent on the depth of the snowpack and the vagaries of late winter weather. You need warm weather to melt the snow, but not enough warmth that you lose too much snow. You need cold nights to set the crust up hard, but a little

Above: Fellow swamp explorer Victoria Ranua is all smiles during a recent ski of several miles across the Lost Lake Swamp.

Right: And our dog Loki loves the swamp, too.

morning sunshine to soften the surface just enough to give your skis a little bite. Believe me,

I've given this some thought over the years. I watch the forecast and the extended forecasts and plan my time off accordingly.

In most years, you can reliably get as much as a month of good crust skiing on the lakes. However, the best crust skiing, by far, is out in the swamp—and there the window is shorter. In many years, the window never quite arrives. For the best swamp skiing, you need an abundant snowpack like we have this year. Our short, but impressive, early March warm spell set the stage, melting the snow enough that it ensured a strong crust once the cold weather returned. And until this week it stayed cold, ensuring day after day of good skiing. Even the return of milder



temperatures this week hasn't been a problem, since it's been cold enough at night to set the crust for another morning of good skiing.

For me, of course, the real excitement has been the chance to explore all corners of the swamp again. Most of the year, traveling in the swamp is either

a slow slog across boot-sucking sphagnum or breaking trail on snowshoes through deep snow. But when the conditions are just right, Mother Nature builds a veritable sidewalk to every nook and cranny of the Lost Lake Swamp. It's an invitation I just can't resist.

See **SKIING...**pg. 5B



RECREATION

Grant to help fund ancient cedar woods hiking trail

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— A long-sought trail through an extensive grove of old growth upland white cedar located here has received partial funding thanks to Lake Country Power's Operation Round-Up. The Tower Economic Development Authority and the Howard Wagoner Trails Club coordinated their funding request for \$2,000 last month. The Operation Round-Up board announced March 13 that they would fund the request in full.

TEDA and the trails club will be applying for funds from another potential source in the coming days in hopes of beginning construction on what will be known as the Ancient Cedar Forest Trail, this summer. Most of the funds will go to pay for construction of about 400 feet of boardwalk through an area of wetland at the start of the trail. Virtually all of the remainder of the 1.5-mile trail will be located on dry ground and will weave through an extensive area of white cedar dating back to approximately 1880. The trail will also extend to a high rock ridge on the south edge of Tower, which provides scenic views of the city of Tower as well as Lake Vermilion and the surrounding forest.

The trail will be easily accessible from just off the Mesabi Trail, and will provide an exceptional deep woods hiking experience for both visitors and local residents. Requested funds will also pay for directional and interpretive signage at the trailhead and along the route.

"We're extremely thankful for the donation

See **GRANT...**pg. 5B



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

SOCIAL DISTANCING



I've quit guiding for now

Guiding is over for me, though the trout season doesn't end until March 31, and crappies will be biting under the ice well into April. Why? I don't want to encourage back-and-forth distance travel to and from Ely, so I'm doing my small part to curtail it. There's been a fair amount of pushback locally against people coming up to seasonal cabins to avoid COVID-19. I don't personally have a problem with that, because they

are coming up to shelter in place. And I expect the governor will issue a shelter-in-place order pretty quick. Meanwhile, a solo trip from my house to Burntside this morning yielded two suppers in two hours. I'm going to take advantage of social isolation out on the ice as much as possible. Be well, everyone, and I hope to see you in my guide boat this summer!

Steve Foss, Ely

GRANT...Continued from page 4B

from Lake County Power and Operation Round-Up," said Mary Shedd, president of the trails club. "We'll be combining these funds with other donations as well as volunteer labor and other in-kind contributions to create a trail that highlights this unique

forest area." Students from the Vermilion Country School are expected to be partners in the trail construction effort as part of their environmental education and community service curriculum.

SALT...Continued from page 4B

over is a challenge for NRRRI researcher Max Brubaker. He brings a spike and mallet to chisel out access, when necessary. Or breaks through the ice with his rubber boots. The good news is that this data is best gathered on sunny, melty days.

significant positive impact by reducing sodium chloride pollution. It's also an organic food for microbes and biodegraders in natural systems.

At each of five sites on Kingsbury, Tischer and Amity creeks in the Duluth area, Brubaker fills two bottles with water samples that go back to the lab for general water quality testing. Then he tests the stream's conductivity level to get a sense of the chloride content, as well as stream temperature, pH and more. Within 10 minutes Brubaker and a student assistant are off to the next site. The same routine is followed on Skunk Creek in Two Harbors in partnership with Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District. The data compares chloride concentrations in areas where the stream flows in wooded environments to more urban settings - upstream to downstream - all the way to Lake Superior.

But there's still a lot we don't know. What happens to potassium acetate as it enters stormwater systems and flows into streams and lakes? What's the impact of the chemical on dissolved oxygen, which is important to plant and animal life? What is the overall cost-benefit of using potassium acetate instead of sodium chloride?

UMD graduate student Katie Cassidy, majoring in Water Resources Science, is heading up the field work for this study. Throughout the winter, MnDOT applied potassium acetate on three stretches of Duluth roadways and Cassidy is collecting water samples from the stormwater catchment basins near the applications.

The water is pumped up from the stormwater drains by an automated sampler, then collected and brought back to the NRRRI lab for a suite of water chemistry analyses and to look for interactions with the potassium acetate. Cassidy also throws a bucket off the craggy shore of Lake Superior to pull up a water sample near where the stormwater drains. She examines concentrations and loads of road pollutants that are washing into the lake from the road.

"In colder climates like Duluth, we really need to look at deicers that work in colder temps," said Cassidy. "And if potassium acetate is easier on the environment, the extra cost might be worth it."

Understanding the source and concentrations will allow state agencies to develop effective control strategies in the most cost-effective way. This project is funded through 2021.

Hold the salt

A well-known ice melter, potassium acetate, is an attractive alternative for a number of reasons. It doesn't corrode steel and concrete, it is biodegradable in the environment and it deices as low as minus-10 degrees F. And while it's a more expensive product, it can potentially have a

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday		Saturday		Sunday		Monday		Tuesday	
46	26	47	26	47	24	50	26	47	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.
03/16	32 6 0.04 1.5"	03/16	33 2 0.06 1.0"	03/16	33 7 0.08 1.5"	03/16	34 16 0.11 2.0"	03/16	33 5 0.10 1.0"
03/17	33 13 0.01	03/17	33 13 0.01	03/17	34 9 0.01 0.2"	03/17	34 10 0.00	03/17	31 2 0.00
03/18	35 12 0.00	03/18	35 7 0.00	03/18	34 8 0.00	03/18	32 10 0.00	03/18	35 15 0.00
03/19	36 23 0.14 2.1"	03/19	35 22 0.14 1.4"	03/19	33 21 0.13 2.0"	03/19	30 21 0.16 1.5"	03/19	38 2 0.04 2.2"
03/20	36 11 0.02 0.2"	03/20	34 10 0.02 0.4"	03/20	33 11 0.02 0.3"	03/20	23 1 0.00	03/20	34 10 0.00
03/21	26 -13 0.00	03/21	25 -17 0.00	03/21	22 -12 0.00	03/21	34 -15 0.00	03/21	24 -18 0.00
03/22	33 -4 0.01 0.1"	03/22	33 -18 0.01 0.1"	03/22	33 -14 0.01 0.2"	03/22	30 19 0.00	03/22	33 -18 0.00
Total	1.34 89.1"	YTD Total	1.62 60.3"	YTD Total	2.06 70.5"	YTD Total	NA NA	YTD Total	1.48 62.0"

SKIING...Continued from page 4B

While my treks across the swamp are usually solitary affairs, this year I've had company from a friend who recently moved to the area and appreciates the mystery and stark beauty of a swamp as much as I do. So now, I'm introducing her to my favorite swamp hangouts - from Chaga Island, where I gather my medicinal fungi, to Little Lost

Lake, to giant beaver lodges, to deep green cedar groves.

When the conditions are right, the miles disappear almost effortlessly, with the swamp's stunted vegetation creating an entertaining and easily-navigated obstacle course. On these late winter days, with morning sun chasing away the chill against a backdrop of blue sky

and scattered cirrus, it's close to heaven. And, because it's way, way out in the swamp, it's the perfect kind of social distancing.

How long it all lasts depends on the weather. For now, I'm happy to take it day-by-day, knowing that our portal to the swamp will eventually melt away. Which is why I need to wrap this up. The crust is calling.

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Obituaries and Death Notices

Rudolph F. Semeja

Rudolph F. Semeja, 88, formerly of Ely, died on Friday, March 6, 2020, at Morningside of Chesterfield in Springfield, Mo. A celebration of life will be planned for a later date in Ely.

He is survived by his daughter, Jean (Don) Porthan of Springfield, Mo.; son, John (Donna) of Coon Rapids; daughter-in-law, Rebecca (Mark) of Waconia; grandchildren, Chad (Stephanie), Karl, Erik (Amy), Greg (JoAnna), Courtney and Nick; and great-grandchildren, Christian, Keira, Dylan, Lucia and Amelia.

Leo R. Hiveley

Leo R. Hiveley, 96, of Cook, passed away on Thursday, March 19, 2020, at the Cook Hospital and Care Center. A memorial service will be held in the summer. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his son, Bruce (Cathi) Hiveley of Cook; daughter, Carol (Gary) David of Bigfork; grandchildren, Bruce (Tari) Hiveley, Bryan Hiveley, Jed David, Matthew David, Chad David, Christopher David and Rochelle Winters; 16 great-grandchildren; and a great-great-granddaughter.

LaVerne Kuzma

LaVerne "Grandma Tootsie" Starkman Kuzma, 87, of Ely, passed away peacefully with her loving family by her side on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at Carefree Living. The family would like to extend their heartfelt appreciation to the caregivers of Ely Carefree Living and East Range Hospice for the wonderful care given to her. The family suggests donations to Northwoods Partners, 300 W Conan St., Ely, MN 55731. A service will be held at a later date. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Landmark Funeral Home of Virginia.

Survivors include her children, Nancy (Alan) Andreae of Ely, Richard (Barb) Kuzma of Eagan and Tracy (Pat) Cherne of Rosemount; grandchildren, Benjamin (Erin) Novak, Leah (Mike) Baroun, Kristin Youngren, Jon (Erica) Andreae, Mandy (Andy) Wineberg, Jill (Derek) Brown, Jordan (Krista) Kuzma, Matt (Dawn) Cherne, Tony Cherne and Steve (Karmon) Cherne; 17 great-grandchildren; and sisters-in-law, Christine "Teeny" Klein and Donna Kuzma.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Environmental Review – Public Notice

The City of Tower and Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board are requesting public comments on the potential environmental impact of the construction of a new water treatment plant addition, demolition of existing unused well houses, installation of a new well pitless adapter and raw water piping, removal of old water tower foundation, sanitary sewer extension, and replacement of existing water main.

The City and Board are proposing to construct an addition on to the existing water treatment plant to improve treatment of the current well water that is potentially pumping from groundwater under the direct influence of surface water. The water treatment plant, abandoned water tower foundation, and three abandoned well houses are located at 5418 Junction Road, Tower, MN 55790. Two additional well houses to be demolished are located approximately 1,200 feet southwest of the water treatment plant. The replacement water main will be constructed from the water treatment plant to North 2nd Street beneath Junction Road, from TH 169 to Norway Street beneath 2nd Street North, and approximately 340 feet along 3rd Street North from 2nd Street North to the northwest. The water main will primarily be constructed using trenchless technology (horizontal directional drilling) to mitigate surface and environmental impacts, with the exception that open cut methods will be used for installation of fire hydrants and connections to existing water main and water services. The sanitary sewer extension will be constructed along Junction Road from the water treatment plant to TH 169 using horizontal directional drilling.

The City intends to finance the project with a low interest loan from the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (PFA) through the Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRP). An Environmental Review must be conducted in accordance with Section 106 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to receive this loan.

Comments must be received by 4:00 p.m. on April 30, 2020. They are to be submitted to Terri S. Joki-Martin, City of Tower Deputy Clerk, 602 Main Street, Tower, MN 55790.

Published in the Timberjay, March 27, 2020

EMPLOYMENT

Always There Staffing, Inc.

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We are in need of dependable employees to work as AIS (aquatic invasive species) Watercraft Inspectors on Burntside Lake in Ely, and on Lake Vermilion. All training and equipment will be provided. 20-40 hours/week • \$12.50/hr for training and \$13.50/hr for hours worked.

Visit our website at www.alwaystherestaffing.com for more information and to apply, or stop in to our office in Hibbing at 3131 1st Ave. Call: 218-440-1022. 4/10

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 willness 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 4/10

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



HELP WANTED

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

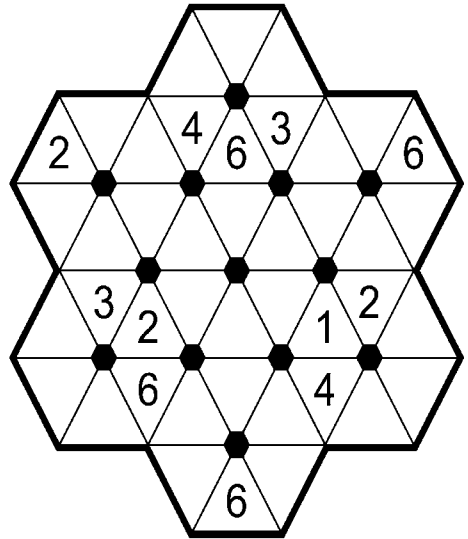
- ❖ Parts & Service Manager
- ❖ Rigger
- ❖ Service Tech
- ❖ Gas/Dock/Yard Person

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

SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

- ◆ Easy
- ◆◆ Medium
- ◆◆◆ Difficult

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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 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
Phone: 218-757-3102

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

Super Crossword

Answers

E	P	I	T	A	P	H	A	E	S	O	P	I	C	H	O	S	E	D	
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D	E	C	O	Y	S	O	L	D	E	R	S	S	L	A	N	D	E	R	

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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.

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365-3132

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

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

COMMERCIAL SPACE/RENT

STOREFRONT- Large windows, great location in Aurora, 20x25. \$400/mo, includes utilities. Call 320-703-8424. 3/27pd

LICENSE BUREAU

COOK AREA LICENSE BUREAU- We are temporarily closed. Questions, please contact us via facebook.

FOUND

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

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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

Ely AA GROUPS TO MEET BY PHONE- Starting immediately, the Ely Wednesday and Saturday AA Groups will not meet in person. A conference call meeting has been set up. At 7:30 on either night, call 978-990-5000, and enter the access code, 965850#. Once the meeting has started, use *6 to mute and unmute your phone. If any other group would like to set up phone meetings, please call Anna Nimity at 218-290-2681 for assistance.

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

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

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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.

FUNERAL SERVICES

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Hibbing 263-3276
"Friends Helping Friends"

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

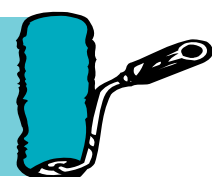
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- ACROSS**
- 1 It may begin "Here lies ..."
 - 8 Like fables with morals
 - 15 Sprayed like a firefighter
 - 20 Composer Saint-Saëns
 - 21 Maui tourist town
 - 22 Wash away
 - 23 Like overly harsh punishment
 - 25 Consolidate
 - 26 Suffix with prophet
 - 27 Calc prereq
 - 28 Hosiery hitch
 - 30 Transmission option
 - 31 Coil of yarn
 - 33 1985 hit for Sheila E.
 - 37 Female graduates
 - 40 Middle: Abbr.
 - 41 Cello bow
 - 42 Monkey of kid-lit
 - 46 Upholstered footstool
 - 50 Country singer Travis
 - 51 Inits. on a navy vessel
 - 52 Neighbor of Ger.
 - 54 Apple pie mode
 - 55 Just makes, with "out"
 - 56 1965 Marvin Gaye hit
 - 63 Dial-up alternative, for short
 - 64 Fall away
 - 65 Cube
 - 66 Feeble
 - 67 Noncircular paths around bodies
 - 72 Homeland, affectionately
 - 75 Big name in dog food
 - 76 108-card game
 - 77 Toque or fez
 - 80 1967 hit for the Doors
 - 85 Infrequent
 - 86 "Star Trek" rank: Abbr.
 - 87 Pilfer from
 - 88 Singer Yoko
 - 89 Leaks slowly
 - 90 To no extent
 - 94 Mismatched collection
 - 99 Knife of old infomercials
 - 101 — Kippur
 - 102 Stream of electrons
 - 103 Witches in "Macbeth"
 - 107 Cantaloupe or honeydew
 - 108 Body gel additive
 - 109 "There's — haven't heard!"
 - 110 — prayer for
 - 111 Univ. Web site suffix
 - 114 Beach hills
 - 116 "77 Sunset Strip" actor, familiarly
 - 123 Use an umbrella, say
 - 124 Posts again
 - 125 Hunter's lure
 - 126 Fusible alloys
 - 127 Bad-mouth
- DOWN**
- 1 "Lo!" to Livy
 - 2 Golf norms
 - 3 Don of radio
 - 4 Deadlock
 - 5 100%
 - 6 Tableland
 - 7 Units of inductance
 - 8 Chug- (guzzle)
 - 9 Suffix with Caesar
 - 10 Mu — pork
 - 11 Western treaty inits.
 - 12 Pope before Gregory XIII
 - 13 More nonsensical
 - 14 Prison, informally
 - 15 — and haw
 - 16 Pizza herb
 - 17 More irritated
 - 18 Rocker
 - 19 Plow pioneer
 - 24 Noisy clamor
 - 29 Basic idea
 - 31 Actor Jimmy
 - 32 Granny, e.g.
 - 33 At — of (priced at)
 - 34 Item in a P.O. box
 - 35 Part of NATO: Abbr.
 - 36 Acne spot
 - 37 Performed on stage
 - 38 Lies in wait
 - 39 Apocryphal archangel
 - 43 With 115-Down, nervous and apprehensive
 - 44 Part of i.e.
 - 45 "... wife could — lean"
 - 47 Injure badly
 - 48 Jai —
 - 49 DEA agent
 - 53 "Shape — ship out!"
 - 56 Alphabet opener
 - 57 "May — of service?"
 - 58 Burglar's job
 - 59 Missile's path
 - 60 "Deathtrap" star Michael
 - 61 "For — us a child is born"
 - 62 Guitarist Paul
 - 64 "Green" sci.
 - 67 Sci-fi power
 - 68 Robert De —
 - 69 1990s exercise fad
 - 70 Bldg. units
 - 71 Virus, e.g.
 - 72 Not closed
 - 73 Jay of NBC
 - 74 Biblical verb
 - 77 Belittling frat brother
 - 78 Circus venue
 - 79 Touchy
 - 81 Bohemianism
 - 82 Meanders
 - 83 Question's opp.
 - 84 Turndowns
 - 85 Like Brutus
 - 89 Prince — von
 - 91 Go along with
 - 92 Christie's cry
 - 93 — many words
 - 95 Coloring stuff
 - 96 Camera —
 - 97 Ones toeing the line
 - 98 Tag anew
 - 100 In the habit of
 - 103 Crossed a ford
 - 104 Get by
 - 105 Like a charged atom
 - 106 Cyclical, at the beach
 - 107 — tai (drink)
 - 110 "The — the limit!"
 - 111 Markey of Tarzan films
 - 112 Nixing mark
 - 113 Stalin's land
 - 115 See 43-Down
 - 117 English dramatist
 - 118 Lyrical verse
 - 119 Bruin
 - 120 Peru's Sumac
 - 121 Campaigned

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LAKE VERMILION Frazer Bay 2.75 acre lot w/ 220 ft lakeshore. Driveway to proposed building site, drilled well, electricity, privy/storage bldg, dock and survey. #138635 **\$382,500**

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Marion Lake, Orr-\$125,000 Remote cabin on 2.36 acres with 240 ft of shoreline. **MLS#137130**

Kabetogama-\$274,900 3 BR, 1 BA year-round lake home on Kabetogama, part of Rocky Point CIC. **MLS#139046**

Lake Vermilion-\$137,500 3.2 acres on Lake Vermilion with 204 ft of shoreline. **MLS#136286**

Gheen-\$395,000 3 BR log home on 40 acres adjoining public lands. **MLS#137120**

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