

Stay home except for essential needs
March 27 - April 10



Inside:
Distance learning... See inside
Traditional crafts... See /1B
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the TIMBERJAY

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\$1⁰⁰



THE CORONAVIRUS

MAROONED: Eagles Nest couple fights illness while stuck on cruise ship off Florida coast

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL- Two residents of Eagles Nest Township are among the approximately 400 passengers who remain marooned aboard a cruise ship that no port appears willing to let dock. Valerie Myntti and Frank Sherman

are aboard Holland America's Zaandam, where four people onboard have died and at least two passengers have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.

The couple flew to Buenos Aires, Argentina, in late February. After some sightseeing, they boarded the Zaandam on March 7. It was meant to be a month-long

cruise around South America to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., with more than a dozen calls at ports in South and Central America.

The Zaandam is now headed to southeastern Florida, but it may not be able to dock. Fort Lauderdale Mayor Dean Trantalis said he doesn't want the ship at Port Everglades without stringent

quarantine procedures. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis told Fox News on Monday that his state can't handle more potential COVID-19 cases.

Broward County, in Florida, is voting on whether or not to allow the ship to dock. The ships

See...CRUISE pg. 7



Valerie Myntti

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



Above: Sue Schurke, owner of Wintergreen Northern Apparel, models a medical gown the clothing company is making for a Grand Marais Hospital.

Right: Ely-area volunteers are sewing hundreds of protective masks for general use.

photos by K. Vandervort



COVID-19

Response to coronavirus driven by modeling

Scenario-based plan buys state time to deal with pandemic peak

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

STATEWIDE - The numbers are stark and sobering:

"If we just let this thing run its course and did nothing, upwards of 74,000 Minnesotans could be killed by this." - Gov. Tim Walz, March 25

"So you're talking about 2.2 million deaths, 2.2 million people from this." - President Donald Trump, March 29

Both men were describing what could happen during the current COVID-19 pandemic without preventive steps. But where did they get their estimates?

The answer is, from sophisticated computer-driven mathematical models developed by epidemiologists, medical specialists who draw on diverse sources of data

See...STATE pg. 7



ECONOMIC REALITY

High demand for emergency business loans as economy tumbles

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL - The phones are ringing almost all the time at the Entrepreneur Fund in Eveleth these days.

The nonprofit provides business development services and lending to commercial ventures in the region and they're one of two organizations in northeastern Minnesota that are

connecting businesses stressed by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to emergency loans.

Both the Entrepreneur Fund and the Northland Foundation are the point of access for emergency funds made available through the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, or DEED.

With hundreds of area businesses either shuttered or working a skeleton crew during



the current statewide shelter-at-home order issued by Gov. Tim Walz, many businesses in the

region have seen their revenues plunge in the past two weeks as most of their customers have hunkered down at home in an effort to slow the spread of the deadly coronavirus. The emergency loans, which include both state and federal funds, are one way that the government can help small businesses survive one of the most challenging economic disruptions in American history.

The \$2.2 trillion federal

stimulus signed into law last week will also be making approximately \$350 billion in loans available to small businesses, either through community-based banks or through the Small Business Administration, or SBA.

"We have not heard yet how they plan to roll that out," said Greg Buckley, president of the

See...ECONOMY pg. 8



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



Cancellations

LVCC Midsummer to be postponed

TOWER- The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center Board of Directors have announced that the annual Midsummer fundraiser will be postponed from June 20 to a later date this summer.

The plans for this year's celebration featuring Norway have been made, the script written for the cabaret, songs selected, featured singers in place, and a delicious menu planned. Look for an announcement with the new date soon.

Tower Memorial Day service canceled

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Civic Club has made the decision to cancel the annual Memorial Day Service at the Tower Civic Center this year. "Our entire nation is deeply concerned over the coronavirus," said civic club president Linda Haugen. The decision was made, she said, on account of all the mandates that have been handed down from local and state governments, especially for social distancing. Haugen said they hope area residents will continue the tradition of honoring military family members, but privately this year.

Deer Hunters meeting canceled

REGIONAL- Due to the current virus precautions, the April 8 meeting of the MDHA Sturgeon River Chapter has been canceled.

Embarrass Pancake Breakfasts canceled for April and May

EMBARRASS- Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, first Saturday Pancake Breakfasts at the Timber Hall in Embarrass are canceled for April and May.

Ruby's Pantry canceled in Cook

COOK- Due to the coronavirus, the Cook Ruby's Pantry food distribution for April is canceled. If there is someone who is in need of food, call Amy Viita at 218-666-2220 to see what can be worked out.

Vermilion Dream Quilters cancels meeting

TOWER- The Vermilion Dream Quilters have canceled their April 9 meeting.

Tower-Soudan Civic Club cancels April meeting

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Civic Club meeting scheduled for April 15 has been canceled.

VFW Loyalty Days postponed

COOK- With the possibility of exposure to COVID-19, and the safety and health of the membership of the members of VFW District 8 of primary concern, it has been decided to postpone VFW District 8 Loyalty Days Convention in Cook indefinitely. If members have made lodging reservations for the convention, it is recommended that they be canceled as soon as possible.


We will be following the guidelines and recommendations by the governor and other agencies. When conditions become favorable, all district posts and auxiliaries will be notified as to the date and location of the convention. If VFW posts, auxiliaries or members have any questions or suggestions, we would encourage you to contact us.

Until that time, we ask not just our members but everyone to heed the new warnings and guidelines as they become available, use the suggested best practices when you find it necessary to be out and about, and to keep in contact with the more vulnerable members of your family, neighbors, and of course your post and auxiliary members.

Rick Stoehr, VFW District 8 Commander
Julie Stoehr, VFW District 8 Aux. President


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GOVERNMENT

St. Louis County buildings closed

REGIONAL- Beginning Monday, March 30, all St. Louis County Courthouses and Government Services Centers will be closed to the public through Friday, April 10, consistent with the governor's executive order. The courts will continue to hold certain hearings as needed, but participants in those hearings will be provided instructions by the court on how to access the courthouse.

Citizens can continue to access county services by phone, email and online. Additionally, secure drop boxes have been placed outside the main entrance of each county building for customers to leave paperwork and payments for any transactions. Receipts and final documents from the county will be sent via mail.

"We are encouraged by the number of phone calls and emails we are getting, and by how relatively little foot traffic we saw this past week in our buildings," said County Administrator Kevin Gray. "People are taking seriously the need to stay home to prevent spread of COVID-19. At the same time our staff has done a remarkable job of finding new ways to continue providing county services in a way that is safe for everyone."

The county continues to update its website, stlouiscountymn.gov, with special instructions and contact information to make it as easy as possible for people to continue to conduct transactions and receive services.

Household hazardous waste drop-off sites closed; other solid waste operations continue

REGIONAL- St. Louis County Environmental Services has closed its household hazardous waste drop-off sites in Virginia and Hibbing until further notice. The county landfill, transfer stations, and solid waste drop-off sites all remain open.

Citizens are asked to keep any household hazardous waste items - such as paint, household cleaners, rechargeable batteries, and fluorescent bulbs, among other things - until the sites re-open, so that the items can be disposed of safely. For people needing to make an emergency drop off of household hazardous waste, staff will try to accommodate as schedules permit. People should call 218-741-8831 to make an appointment.

Closure of the two HHW sites allows for better staffing at the county's solid waste sites during this COVID-19 situation. The governor's executive order calling for Minnesotans to stay home except for essential needs from March 27-April 10 doesn't affect solid waste sites and people are allowed to drive to drop off trash and recycling.

Because the COVID-19 situation is continually changing, residents are encouraged to call the Environmental Service Hotline at 218-749-9703 before driving to any of the county's drop-off sites. The hotline message will be updated daily to alert the public if any other sites have to close.

St. Louis County Environmental Services provides a comprehensive management system for garbage and recycling for all of the county outside the boundaries of the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District. Learn more at stlouiscountymn.gov/environmentalservices.

St. Louis County Recorder's Office in Duluth offers drive-up service

REGIONAL- The St. Louis County Recorder's Office will offer limited drive-up service from its office at the Courthouse in Duluth beginning Monday, March 30. The service is available by appointment only, between 9 and 10:30 a.m., Monday through Friday. It is for people with an immediate need for a vital record, including marriage licenses, birth and death certificates, and real estate records.

To set up a drive-up appointment, people should first contact the Recorder's Office between the hours of 8 a.m. and noon to confirm they have completed the necessary paperwork for the record they need. For birth, death and marriage records, call 218-726-2559 or email birth-deathmarriage@stlouiscountymn.gov. For real estate records, call 218-726-2677 or email slcrecorder@stlouiscountymn.gov. All forms needed to request a public record can be found online at stlouiscountymn.gov/recorder.

The drive-up location will be off the 2nd Street side of the St. Louis County Courthouse in Duluth.

DPS-DVS offices statewide closing for two weeks; driver's license extensions on the way

REGIONAL- The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Driver and Vehicle Services division (DPS-DVS) is closing all exam stations statewide beginning Friday, March 27 at the close of business to follow Governor Tim Walz's executive order for Minnesotans to stay home and slow the spread of COVID-19. Offices will stay closed through Friday, April 10, when the executive order is set to expire.

Independently owned and operated deputy registrar and driver's license agent offices that provide driver and vehicle services will also be closed during this time. Many offices have already closed due to COVID-19 concerns.

Minnesotans will not have access to a number of services, including renewing their driver's licenses or ID cards, during this time.

Driver's licenses and ID cards

Once it reaches his desk, Gov. Walz is expected to sign a bill passed by Minnesota legislature that includes an extension for Minnesotans whose driver's licenses or ID cards expire during this time.

The bill extends the expiration date for any valid driver's license, instruction permit, provisional license, operator's permit, limited license, and farm work license that would expire during the peacetime emergency. The expiration dates for these licenses will be extended for two months after the month the peacetime emergency ends. DPS-DVS will provide an update once the bill is signed.

REAL ID

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is extending the REAL ID full enforcement deadline to Oct. 1, 2021. The deadline was originally set for Oct. 1, 2020, but is being delayed by one year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This gives Minnesotans more time to apply for a REAL ID or enhanced driver's license or ID card.

Vehicle registration

Minnesotans will still be able to renew vehicle

registrations online and by mail during the peacetime emergency. As such, there are no extensions for expired or expiring vehicle registrations.

Renew vehicle registration for a car, pickup under one ton or SUV online at drive.mn.gov.

US Bank charges a separate service fee of 2.49 percent for all credit card transactions. ACH (electronic check) payments have a separate service fee of \$1.50. DPS-DVS does not determine or collect these service fees for online registration renewals.

Mail your vehicle registration by sending the bottom half of your renewal notice with your check or money order made payable to DVS Renewal to: DVS Renewal, PO Box 64587, St. Paul, MN 55164-0587. Minnesotans have until the last day of the expiration month to renew their vehicle registration. They must display their registration stickers by the tenth day of the following month.

For example, Minnesotans whose vehicle registration expires in April have until April 30 to renew their registration and until May 10 to display the new stickers on their license plates.

DVS will continue to receive and process mailed renewals, deposit checks, and mail license plates and stickers to customers.

Road tests

Anyone who has a class D, commercial

driver's license (CDL), or motorcycle road test appointment scheduled during this time will receive a cancellation notice by email or text message. DPS-DVS is committed to making sure anyone affected by these road test cancellations is able to obtain a new appointment as soon as possible. Once normal operations resume, DPS-DVS will call, email or text those affected to offer the first available day and time for their road test.

Submitted applications


Some DVS staff will continue teleworking and processing previously submitted driver's license and ID card applications, including REAL ID and enhanced driver's license and ID card applications.

DPS-DVS Public Information Center staff will also be answering phone calls during normal Monday-Friday business hours, but staff will be very limited from March 30 through April 10, so it may be difficult to get through.

Other services


The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development will continue to process and print refund checks during this time.

DPS-DVS will continue to mail monthly registration renewal notices to Minnesotans.



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SCHOOL CLOSURES

Distance learning underway in Ely schools

Teachers, students, and parents try to make the best of a tough situation

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Classrooms were empty and hallways were quiet this week at the Washington and Memorial school buildings, and they will remain that way for the rest of April as students in ISD 696, and across the state, participate in “distance learning.”

The state Department of

Education mandated the initiative through an abundance of caution over the expanding coronavirus pandemic sweeping the state, the nation and the world.

The new teaching model will be in place at least through May 4. At this point many question if students will return at all this school year.

Superintendent Erik Erie praised ISD 696 teachers

and staff for embracing the changes and taking the steps to transition to the temporary procedures. “We set up the technology and are proceeding with what I think is a great plan to teach our students,” he said. “We are taking all this one step at a time and are aware that things could change quickly.”

He noted that districtwide assessment testing this spring has been put on hold. “The

entire state education system will receive a waiver from this federal program this year because of the coronavirus,” he said.

“This has been pretty chaotic,” said K-5 Principal Anne Oelke this week. “It is hard to plan for five weeks of instruction in about six days. We improvised and developed

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



Elementary students in Ely have posted signs expressing that they are missing their teachers and fellow students. K. Vandervort

MINING

Supreme Court will hear DNR, PolyMet appeal

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The state’s Supreme Court has agreed to hear appeals from both the Department of Natural Resources and PolyMet Mining challenging a lower court decision that revoked three key permits for PolyMet’s proposed NorthMet copper-nickel mine near Hoyt Lakes.

The Minnesota Court of Appeals, in January, determined that the DNR should have conducted a contested case hearing before an administrative law judge prior to issuing the contested permits. The court noted that environmental groups and the DNR’s own consultants, in some cases, had raised serious concerns about elements of two dam safety permits as well as the overall permit to mine issued to PolyMet by the DNR.

Both the DNR and PolyMet had asked the Supreme Court to take another look at the case, and the court has now agreed in an order issued on Wednesday, March 25, by Chief Justice Lorie Gildea.

Environmental groups and the Fond du Lac Band, which had filed the original case, say they’re prepared to defend the appellate ruling.

The order also grants motions by several individuals and entities to present “friend of the court” briefs. That includes the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and Mining Minnesota, both of which plan to submit briefs on behalf of PolyMet. Three individuals, including former Minnesota Gov. Arne Carlson, will be allowed to submit their own briefs on behalf of environmental and tribal critics of the PolyMet project. The timeline for the appeal could be lengthy. Cases brought before the state’s Supreme Court frequently take a year or more to reach a ruling.



Ivy Russell and her sister Lily (seated at left) and their mother Kassy Bjorgo take advantage of some recent late afternoon warmth to play with chalk on the Main Street sidewalk in Tower. J. Summit

COVID-19

St. Louis County infections on the rise

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL- With the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in St. Louis County continuing to grow, St. Louis County Public Health Director Amy Westbrook said health officials are seeing cases in both urban and rural parts of the county. The exact location of these patients is not released to the public, Westbrook said, which is

Minnesota Department of Health policy to protect patient privacy.

“We continue to assume there are more cases here than what is confirmed due to limited testing,” she said on Sunday during a call to area media. The county has also seen the first instance of a person having serious enough symptoms to require hospitalization, a woman in her early 60s.

“We wish her all the

best for a full recovery,” Westbrook said.

In a majority of cases, COVID-19 causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever, cough, and shortness of breath. For some, especially older adults and people with underlying health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. “We do know that anybody is susceptible,” she said. “Don’t assume you will see the illness only in those of high risk.”

The newest cases in St. Louis County include both men and women, and they are all in the 20s or 30s. Westbrook said at this point all of the cases in St. Louis County are linked to outside travel, rather than community transmission.

Other infections may still be undetected, however, since the county is still experiencing a shortage of testing kits.

For now, said Westbrook,

See **COUNTY...** pg. 5

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NOTICE

If you have signs or symptoms relating to COVID-19, please utilize one of the triage procedures listed below before presenting to our emergency room. They will inform you if you need to present to the emergency room.

The Cook Hospital has partnered with these facilities below to offer COVID-19 Telephone and Online Triage Services for our patients.

Fairview Range Phone Triage
Nurse triage line: 218-362-6682
Staffed hours: 7:30 am – 5 pm

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OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

How will America change?

The impact of the COVID-19 virus will have long-term effects. Will we learn from them?

For the past two weeks, Americans have been largely focused on the public health emergency that is increasingly gripping the entire world. As we learn about things like social distancing, face closures of local businesses, the shutdown of our schools, and massive unemployment on a scale we’ve rarely seen before in American history, it’s easy to lose sight of the larger story here.

And that’s that America will never be the same again. We don’t say that to be dramatic, but because it’s true in the aftermath of every major crisis, and this will undoubtedly go down in history as one of the most deeply trying events this country has ever faced, at least thus far. What we still don’t know is how America will be changed.

That’s true in part because we’re only now beginning to grasp the challenges posed by the COVID-19 virus. Most public health experts tell us we are still at the very beginning of this pandemic and that many millions of Americans will likely be infected over the next several months and that hundreds of thousands may die as a result. America, in part because our public health system was so derelict and our initial federal response so flat-footed, may end up being among the hardest hit countries in the world.

We’re already seeing the breakdown of the entire health-care system in New York, where the number of new cases and deaths continues to spiral daily. It’s a fate that is likely to befall many other states before this is over.

Consider this: Barely one month ago, on Feb. 29, the U.S. reported its first death linked to the current pandemic. On March 25, the number of deaths exceeded 1,000. Three days later, on March 28, the number of deaths topped 2,000. Two days after that, as of Monday, March 30, U.S. deaths had topped 3,000. By the very next day, deaths topped 4,000. There is no reason to believe that the current trajectory of cases and deaths will level off

anytime soon. Anyone who still believes this is a hoax or a “liberal media” conspiracy is quite literally out of their mind. This is a catastrophe and its effects will eventually reach every corner of America.

If there is a silver lining in this horror, it comes in the opportunity to learn from our mistakes.

Will this pandemic remind us that our individual actions can affect our collective future? Will we learn to act like a nation again, rather than a disparate collection of angry individuals concerned only about ourselves? Will we recognize that this country erred when we dismantled our public health infrastructure in favor of a system increasingly focused on private profits over human health? Will we understand that people who are actually knowledgeable on a subject may sometimes have sound advice to offer? The definition of an “expert” is someone who has “a comprehensive and authoritative knowledge of or skill in a particular area.” Yet at some point “expert” became a dirty word in America, particularly among the political right. We should all be thankful that there are still a few public health experts in America to help guide our political leaders during the current crisis, both in Washington and closer to home.

While we could emerge stronger as a nation as a result of this crisis, there are risks as well. If we allow special interests to use this crisis to line their pockets, as has happened too often in the past, Americans will lose, and it will further undermine our faith in our political leadership. If we allow our electoral processes to be undermined or hijacked in the face of our own indifference, we will emerge a less democratic and more authoritarian nation. If we turn to fear and xenophobia, we will emerge a less moral nation.

We know that the America that lies beyond this crisis will be a different one. It’s up to all of us to decide what kind of America it will be.



Letters from Readers

Where’s the God who values love over fear?

In his letter last week, Father Nelson suggested that God may have visited the coronavirus on us as his way of punishing us for our “sins and unfaithfulness.” This unfortunate, fear-based approach to Christianity has been repurposed by humans time and again to both keep us in line and condemn whichever minority is currently out of favor – think gays, the poor, unwed mothers and pretty much all folks of other nationalities and religions. Also, one would think that if God’s way was vengeance against those who have sinned, humans would have gone extinct long ago because we have all sinned, and will continue to, despite our best efforts.

For an alternative to the fear model, we need look no further than the Son of God, Jesus. If God is so punitive in nature, like father-like son would dictate that Jesus follow the same playbook. Far from it, of course. As any student of the Bible knows, Jesus was a living exemplar of love. He didn’t judge sinners, let alone suggest that God punish them; he loved them. As those modern-day prophets, the Beatles, pretty much summed it up: All You Need is Love.

Steve Wilson
Tower

Thanks to those who serve on Tower EMS

I would like to start by thanking all of the men and women from Tower and local communities who are members of the Tower Fire Dept and Ambulance service. For far too long we have been hearing about the turmoil and highly emotional issues surrounding these services. Most of the issues have been around the questions of finances and administration of these services. I think it is time that we give some recognition to the people who are providing a great service to our community. While many of us sit and quibble

over all of the details of these services, these men and woman, day in and day out, are out there protecting and helping our communities. When the tone goes off at 3 a.m. for your neighbor or family member they are responding, during dinner with their families they are responding, on weekends while the rest of us are with our families they are leaving theirs to respond. They are not afforded the luxury of the “Stay at Home” order to protect them and their families from COVID-19.

Whether they are paid on call or the many volunteers, we need to give them the recognition and thanks they deserve for doing the job they do every day 24/7. It’s time to turn the page from the negative and look at the great things they are doing. At the end of the day what I am trying to say is that if you have enough time to sit and complain, or cause more turmoil in these services, you have time to be part of the solution and spend your time helping these services become even better. Next time you see one of these members on the street thank them for the job they do for all of us!

David Setterberg
Tower

Could it be God is punishing us for electing Trump?

I’ve just finished reading the letter from Father Nelson and one can agree with the thought, but the cause is incorrect. God could be punishing us for the election of Trump as president. I won’t even go into the usual reasons that many seem to have, but when members of his own administration call him an idiot and moron (Mad Dog Mattis and Rex Tillerson) one must take notice. The good doctor who corrects the ego-driven Trump on his TV campaign spots could be next on the list.

Dan Kearney
Sun City West, Ariz.
and Side Lake

So where’s that healthy mining town?

The March 27, 2020, *Timberjay* reported that the “Breitung Board approves resolution in support of all mining.” My dad was on a township board for many years so I know that the position involves more aggravation than glory, but I believe the Breitung Board is wasting energy by looking to mining for economic development.

The IRRRB was created in 1941 which means the state of Minnesota has been struggling with failures of the mining economy since the year before I was born. The Taconite Amendment was passed in 1964. But in the 1980s the mining economy returned to its normal cycle of shutdowns and bankruptcies.

After LTV-Erie went bankrupt Pat and I were in Virginia visiting with a 74-year-old widow. Her husband had died the same year Erie went bankrupt so instead of them getting more than a \$2,000/month pension she ended up with \$200/month. She was going back to work at a quick stop so she could afford a few little extras. The mining promoters choose not to advertise all the employees who lost pensions and healthcare in our numerous mining bankruptcies.

Perhaps the Breitung Board could get together with the Mayor of Ely and respond to my previous request to come up with a list of thriving mining communities in the United States. There are hundreds of mines in the U.S. so they should be able to come up with a list of a dozen or so.

What they’re more likely to find is impoverished widows, degraded water, regulatory agencies captured by the industry, and local leaders marinated in mining industry propaganda.

The sad fact is that our existing taconite and proposed copper industries are based on low grade deposits. Our ore bodies are not rich, just big. There’s a difference. Don’t ever expect a happy ending from mining promotion in Minnesota.

Bob Tammen
Soudan



People are finding their own paths in a time of isolation

I have been very curious about what people are doing with their time during this period of voluntary isolation, wondering if they are relieved from the incessant busyness that seems to characterize modern life, how they might respond. With reflection and calm or anxious withdrawal from the



BETTY
FIRTH

comforts of eating out, shopping, and getting together with friends?

I wonder how single people are doing with the extensive solitude and how people in self-quarantine with partners, parents, or children are faring with the volume of “quality” time they’re experi-

encing. Will we be seeing a spate of divorces or a baby boom in the next year? Some rational thought might be the best birth control if people give consideration to the possibility of being trapped in a household where one of those people is flooded with out-of-control hormones.

I’ve asked people to share what they’re doing with their days.

“We’ve been getting out every day, talking with friends on Zoom, spring cleaning, and

cooking. So far, it’s been OK.”

“I’ve been busy sewing masks requested by our local hospital and also making medical gowns for a dear nurse friend on the front lines in the Twin Cities nursing homes. I’ve also spent a lot of time on the phone supporting others who now have increased anxiety and depression.

“Focusing on staying healthy, fit, and happy, appreciating that I have enough food, a place to live where we can

get outside, and that I live with someone I really like.”

“I just took a class, The Art of Perseverance, by Jen Hofman, the creator of the Americans of Conscience Checklist, and it was quite good. The weekly checklist gives a bunch of options for taking action, and we could all work on that during this social distancing time.”

“I love listening to The Hidden Brain. <https://www.seeisolation.com>

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Letters from Readers

Will economic democracy be our next paradigm shift?

Flat earth to sphere. Geocentric to solar centric universe. Spontaneous generation to germ theory of disease and creationism to evolution are examples of paradigm shift. Theory of relativity, plate tectonics and genetics are more recent results of paradigm shifts. A paradigm shift is a change from one mental model of reality to another, based on experience and evidence, fact and reason.

With the advance of history and the development of scientific inquiry, old models die and new ones emerge as our understanding of reality changes.

An ancient paradigm in economic relationships was one of master and slave lasting into the 19th century in the U.S. During the Middle Age, feudalism organized economic life around a lord and serf relationship.

Capitalism's employer-employee relationship gradually arose in the 1700s in local

markets, expanded into regional, then national and finally global corporate capitalism. At each step the relationship of employer to employee grew more impersonal and distant as employer privilege and power treated workers increasingly as commodity.

Freemarkets! Taxcuts! Grow the economy! Deregulation! Stimulus packages! Training programs! Trade agreements! Politicians, CEO's, think tanks and economic gurus have teased, tinkered and tweaked the economy claiming to make it more humane, but inequality only grew more extreme. Corporate capitalism works for the rich and is a hollow promise for the rest. Retailing alone has been reduced to Amazon, Walmart and Costco.

Separating economics from social and community need is a top-down flimflam fraud. As capitalist corporate-state failure meets the coronavirus, a new paradigm comes into view. The problem is not the government! Who runs it is the problem and corporate capitalism has run its

course. Will economic democracy and environmental justice emerge as the next shift? Will bottom-up organizing, collaborating and cooperating worker-owners be that paradigm?

Harold Honkola Tower

Thanks to librarians for their efforts

Recently many of us took advantage of our beloved public library's generosity in letting us call in requests for books. Pick up at the curb worked well.

Now that the library has closed to even curbside pick-up, we want to express our gratitude for the work the librarians did to make library items accessible. My friend who lives in assisted living has been able to enjoy books on tape. My grandchildren overseas benefited from my being able to read a book to them on Skype. And I have my own stash of library books that will keep me satisfied for a few weeks.

These services have been like an island of calm and

comfort in our current sea of uncertainty.

Thank you, Rachel, Jessie and Tricia!

Emily Brown Ely

We need good health care for all

It's a good thing we Jews didn't believe Christ was the Savior, because if we had, then we all might be sitting at home during this COVID-19 pandemic praying for God to take care of it for us. Not many years ago, now-Vice President Mike Pence asked his state to pray to help solve AIDS. That didn't help much. Science did help—adding to knowledge, changing behavior, and inventing medications.

COVID-19 is only one in a series of many illnesses that are on the increase. We can change our healthcare system now. Good healthcare for all can deal with this and the next epidemic and make a strong country. Sick people don't make a strong country.

We can change our rela-

tionships with our natural ecosystems now, and know that healthy ecosystems make healthy people, and that biodiversity is a blessing.

We can change our understanding of money and know that people are more important than money. Time and again far too many of our "leaders" have proven they would rather make a dollar than save a life. We have to trust in leaders knowing that they are not trying to tell us what to believe just for their own sakes.

I'm glad Mr. Sanders hasn't conceded the party nomination. Mr. Sanders would you please, pick a white, black, brown, yellow, or red female VP that you trust, and announce it before the nomination? On inauguration have someone flip a silver dollar from 1918 or 1844 to determine who will be president or vice president for the year, or just agree to alternate each year in an equal partnership.

Doug Lande Isabella

ISOLATION...Continued from page 4

npr.org/series/423302056/hidden-brain. I also heard a wonderful episode of Philosophy Talk last weekend on avoiding a midlife crisis. <https://www.philosophytalk.org/shows/midlife-and-meaning>

From a friend who is moving to Ely: "It's a good time for introspection. Am I living the life I want to? What do I need to change to get there? Not being afraid to reset one's life by moving, for example, to get where one wants to be. I am glad that I'm not postponing feeding my soul by waiting around for my kid to hang with me or for the stars to align before I begin pursuing my own passions."

The daughter of a friend started "a collective, constructive, and hopefully uplifting exchange" through an email chain letter called Poem Exchange. "Please send a poem to the first person in the list. It should be a favorite text/verse/meditation that has affected you in difficult times. Or not. Don't agonize over it.

And send it on to 20-some friends."

Another friend has been working her way through piles of paper that were stacked up for filing and finding she can throw most of them away. Some avid skiers I know have been thoroughly enjoying the spring skiing, going for miles every day, not wanting to miss a day when each could be the last.

One creative woman is learning Brazilian Portuguese. "I'm using three primary online resources: Duolingo, a free app that is a game-based way to learn language basics; a YouTube channel called Speaking Brazilian; and Carioca Connection, a free, weekly podcast. Videos, downloads, and worksheets help with grammar, pronunciation, and practicing skills."

"I've had practice in the quarantine lifestyle. When I first moved to Ely in the dead of winter, I had nothing to do and nowhere to go since I wasn't working and hadn't made friends yet. I'm pretty good at figuring out

how to entertain myself for days on end, mixing bits of productivity and laziness throughout the day."

"I limit the amount of news I take in and am just trying to appreciate the privilege of a cozy home with the essentials I need."

I also am quite good at savoring solitude and appreciating my home, with plenty of projects always awaiting me. I've been making a wall hanging using brilliant fabrics with wild designs, mostly greens and oranges and yellows, and just working on the rich colors makes me feel sunny. I've been working at home, writing grants for work, and appreciating the focus of doing something worthwhile, although tired of all the screen time. I've participated in Zoom meetings with some Quaker friends, the Folk School board, and members of the Folk School Alliance around the country.

Some of those long distance friends shared these bits:

"We built an obstacle course through the house

out of pillows, boxes, tables and chairs for our three-year old. Her grandmother and grandfather come stand in the yard to watch her play through the window."

"I'm working on a two-year old pile of mending. I've been thinking how homes used to be places of production and creativity, but now we rely on the outside for entertainment."

"I'm randomly calling people just to see how they're doing."

"We can't lose track of our Democratic candidates in the midst of this. Astoundingly, the President's approval ratings are rising."

"The hardest thing is, I can't go out and do anything to help. And I'm angry that our country wasn't better prepared. There's no excuse for it. In 2018, Trump disbanded the National Security Council unit focused on pandemic preparedness. The military knows how to gear up in emergencies. Although it's nice people are sewing masks, we

should have been able to quickly get in production of huge quantities."

"We're used to being activists, but now we have to practice radical absence, getting out of the way of the health workers."

Lynn Unger, a San Francisco minister and poet was concerned that social distancing would lead to emotional distancing, but realized that moving away from other people isn't disconnection but rather acting out of a sense of community and compassion. And she thought what we need is more poetry, so she wrote:

Pandemic by Lynn Unger 3/11/20

What if you thought of it as the Jews consider the Sabbath—the most sacred of times? Cease from travel. Cease from buying and selling. Give up, just for now, on trying to make the world different than it is.

Sing. Pray. Touch only those to whom you commit your life. Center down.

And when your body has become still, reach out with your heart.

Know that we are connected in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.

(You could hardly deny it now.)

Know that our lives are in one another's hands.

(Surely, that has come clear.)

Do not reach out your hands.

Reach out your heart. Reach out your words.

Reach out all the tendrils of compassion that move, invisibly, where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love—for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, so long as we all shall live.

SCHOOLS...Continued from page 3

this plan to take us through the month of April."

Teachers and staff will then be required to reposition their learning plans for students to return to the classroom, hopefully, on Monday, May 4. "We will have to wait to see if that actually happens or if we will continue through the end of May," Oelke said.

Instead of gathering in their classrooms, students and parents or guardians, along with their teachers, will log on to the internet each school day to gather learning checklists and various worksheets for each subject.

"Just a very small number of parents did not pick up their materials and I am following up with them," she said.

She outlined how the distance-learning plan will work.

Teachers will be

making daily interactions with students on designated school days this month. "These interactions will look like daily emails to our parents and will include daily checklists for parents or guardians to work through with their students," Oelke said.

Required attendance will be recorded by each response to the daily email from the classroom. "This is how we will be collecting student attendance through distance learning," she said. Warm up exercises are followed by activities for each subject, such as language arts, writing, math, reading and exercise.

Oelke said the difference in the ages of students presents unique problems for learning technology. "You can't just put a five-year-old on a device to do education for themselves.

Our focus was really on helping our parents or guardians set up a learning environment at their home and give them everything they could possibly need to facilitate that," she said.

The first week of distance learning at Washington Elementary was purposefully made slow for families and students to allow everyone to ease into the new way of learning.

Oelke stressed that the school is still there for the families and students. "We want them to call their teachers with any issue concerning this new learning process. We want to answer questions and concerns right away so that families do not become frustrated or overwhelmed. We do not want tears or stress," she said.

Grades 6-12 principal Megan Anderson said the

transition for students and teachers to the Google Classroom format, which most students are familiar with already, has gone "quite smoothly" while just a couple of teachers were quickly brought up to speed on the process.

"Students are presented with everything from videos and instructions to specific assignments, and they can take tests and quizzes through Google Classroom as well," Anderson said. "I'm really proud of our staff in stepping up the way they have. This situation has forced everyone out of their comfort zone and they have done amazingly well."

A few high school teachers are using other means, including the internet video site YouTube. "Our phy-ed teachers have set up regular routines and exercise videos to

make sure students stay active," she said. "And our band teacher (Sarah Mason) is having some fun with different technology resources."

Anderson stressed that teachers are communicating with all their students on a regular basis. "Some of our teachers said they are impressed with the amount of communication they are having with students," she said.

The extension of the school closure, that started March 18, forced the postponement of the annual senior class trip to Washington, D.C. late last month. The Junior/Senior Prom at Memorial High School, scheduled for April 18, and the Junior/Senior Banquet, slated for May 6, were postponed, according to Anderson.

Graduation ceremonies are still on as scheduled, but administrators are considering other ways of

recognizing seniors should commencement be postponed or even canceled.

"For our seniors in particular, this is their last year in high school and I would love to help them celebrate their graduation. If that means having a ceremony in August, maybe we can do that," Anderson said.

All school sports and other extracurricular activities remain on hold until the school closure declaration is lifted.

Meals continue to be provided by the Ely school district through the school closure period this month. Breakfast and lunch will be provided on previously scheduled school days, free of charge, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. To order meals, call 218-365-1735. Pick up meals near the front doors of the Memorial High School. Delivery can be arranged if needed.

COUNTY...Continued from page 3

isolation is key for anyone experiencing signs of COVID-19 illness. "Physicians are recommending that people who present with clinical symptoms stay at home," she said, noting that at this point, these patients are not being tested because

of the shortage.

Neither the county nor state health department are tracking the number of such possible COVID-19 cases. "It is really hard to track those individuals," said Westbrook.

Such tracking would come into play if the

county starts to see community spread.

"Community transmission is when we can't identify how a person was exposed," she said. "St. Louis County will release information if community transmission is discovered."

The county would also inform a business if one of their employees does test positive, so that co-workers could be notified. But then it would be up to the business whether or not to make that information public, she said.

Anyone with clin-

ical questions about the COVID-19 virus, such as identifying symptoms or whether testing is needed, can call Essential Health at 1-833-494-0836, or St. Luke's at 218-249-4200. Non-clinical questions, such as preventative steps to take or

anything travel-related, can be directed to the St. Louis County Public Health information line at 218-625-3600 or the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-3920.

Week of April 6

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
AAA 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.

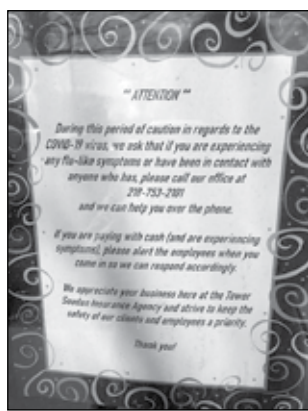
What’s happening in Tower?



Cecelia Majerle kept busy with her dolls while out for a walk on Main Street with her mother.



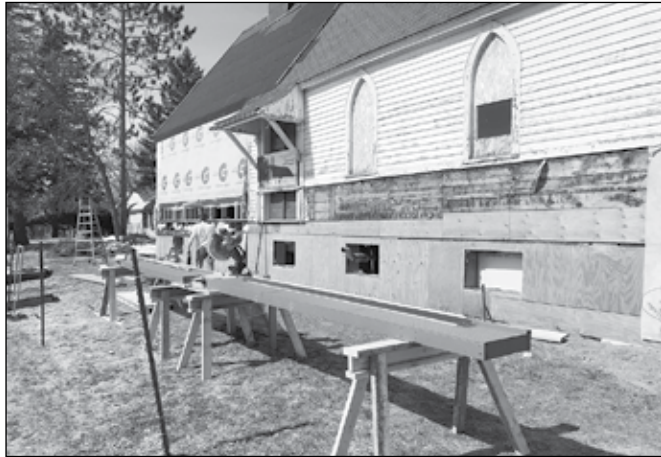
Right: Window service at Sulu’s is keeping the town caffeinated. Left: Tower Auto Parts has closed its door permanently, but is offering drop-off service by calling 218-741-7140.



Grocery, liquor, gas, and convenience stores are all open. Lumber/hardware stores are open. Restaurants are offering carry-out. Retail is closed. Banking and insurance are open, with restrictions.

The Timberjay is open with reduced staff and more limited hours.

photos by J. Summit



New siding is going up at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center building.

Main Street has been very quiet, but the recent warmer weather means more folks are venturing out to the post office and grocery store and doing their best to keep at least six feet apart.



Friends organized birthday parades for area residents Linda Kronholm and Terry Vagle, as they both celebrated their birthdays this past week. This line-up of cars was ready to proceed one at a time to greet Linda, blowing their car horns or singing to her from her driveway. submitted

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.




Keeping students learning while at home....

Tower-Soudan Elementary is sending out food deliveries twice a week to any families who requested them for children ages 18 and under. If families have not signed up yet, they can sign up anytime by filling in a survey on the school’s facebook page, or calling Ilona at the school office, 218-753-4040.

“I never imagined teaching like this,” said second-grade teacher Charissa Dahl. “The bottom line is we just miss them so much. I can’t wait until it’s over and we can all be in school together again!”

Vermilion Country School is also doing twice weekly food deliveries to students.

Left: First-grade teacher Jo Holen visits with her student Harley over the computer. submitted photo



the *TIMBERJAY*

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

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BREITUNG POLICE DEPARTMENT
**February Police Report**

Breitung Police Chief Dan Nylund

Calls: 77
Citations/formal charges: 4
Monthly mileage: 932 (Tahoe: 644, Explorer: 288)
Squads: Current end

of the month mileage for the Gold 2012 Chevy Tahoe (Tower) is 93,441. Current end of the month mileage for the 2017 Ford Explorer is 26,726. Additional shifts: No

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

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
BETTER WASTE SOLUTIONS

Area Solid Waste Facility site hours

Northwoods Transfer Station 9384 Hwy 21 N., Ely/Babbitt Winter Hours Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am–3pm Tue: 9:30am–3pm Wed: 11am–5pm	Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd., Cook Hours Mon: 10am–6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am–3:30pm
County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77, Greenwood Twp Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon–5pm	Soudan Canister Site 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan Hours Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun 8am–5pm
Embarrass Canister Site 7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass Hours Sat: 12:30–4:30pm Thu: 10am–5pm	Aurora Transfer Station 5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora Hours Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am–4pm Tue, Wed: 10am–4pm Sat: 8am–noon
Household Hazardous Waste Facility 5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Tues and Sat: 8am–1pm	Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon–Fri: 8am–4:30pm Sat: 8am–3:30pm

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

St. Louis County Environmental Services Department
1-800-450-9278
Office hours 8-4:30 Monday through Friday
www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle



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.

Seniors age 60 and older who have registered for the program and their partners qualify for special pricing of \$4 per meal, but all ages are welcome at the regular rate of \$5.75. There are no income guidelines.

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.

Week of April 6

Monday-Meatballs
Tuesday- Pulled Pork Sandwich
Wednesday-Turkey Dinner
Thursday- Fish Sandwich, Chips
Friday- Good Friday, no lunch served

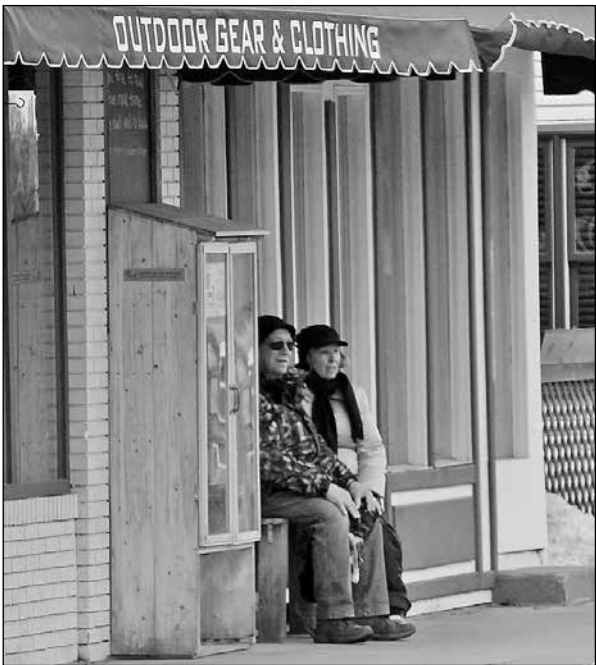
Libraries

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 residents couldn't resist venturing outside last weekend as warming temperatures made a big dent in the snowpiles. photos by K. Vandervort

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



finding things to do
enjoying lone company
keeping safe and sound

OUR COMMUNITY

THE CORONAVIRUS

Ely hospital continues to prep for COVID-19

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - The Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital continues to prepare to care for patients from Ely and their surrounding service area in response to the coronavirus pandemic. There were no reported cases of COVID-19 in the area as of Monday.

“A multi-disciplinary team including staff from EBCH, Essentia Health – Ely Clinic, Ely Area Ambulance Service, and Ely Police Department are meeting daily to monitor this rapidly changing and developing situation and plan accordingly, based on Minnesota Department of Health and CDC recommendations,” said EBCH marketing and communications team leader Jodi Martin.

She said the Ely facility has ventilators in place, used to care for the most severely-stricken COVID-19 patients. “We are prepared with supplies and our ability to test patients. It is essential to know that currently, there are no home testing kits available, and we will not be offering any sort of drive-up testing,” Martin said.

Recommendations for testing are changing rapidly, but all testing is at the discretion of the provider, she added.

EBCH is a licensed 21-bed Critical Access Hospital. “Currently, nothing will change with the number of licensed

beds we have available,” Martin said. “Patients requiring a ventilator will be stabilized and transported to a higher level of care.”

EBCH is a member of the Northeast Minnesota Healthcare Preparedness Coalition, and cooperates with other facilities to share information and best practice, according to Martin.

As hospitals and health care providers report shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE), Governor Walz signed Executive Order 20-16 on Monday directing all non-hospital entities to conduct an inventory of their PPE, ventilators, respirators, and anesthesia machines, report the result to the state, and either donate such equipment to a local coordinating entity or preserve it.

Last weekend, Gov. Walz directed the National Guard to transport PPE from storage at Camp Ripley to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

Gov Walz clarified that the postponement of all elective surgeries and procedures applies to veterinary surgeries and procedures to conserve protective equipment.

Surgeries and procedures that prevent loss of life, permanent dysfunction of an organ or extremity, or risk of metastasis or progression of staging for non-COVID-19 patients are not postponed under this order.

Additionally, in the context of veterinary medicine, threats to public health, the owner, or the animal may also be considered.

In their ongoing effort to keep patients and staff safe, EBCH has limited visitors to their campus.

➤ Restrictions include but are not limited to: Inpatients, Emergency Department, and visitors transporting patients to outpatient appointments.

➤ Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis for end-of-life needs, minor children, vulnerable adults, and traumas.

➤ Visitors will be asked to sign-in, wear visitor identification, and complete a short screening form if needed.

➤ The Business Office door will be closed to the public until further notice. Please pay bills online or by mail.

➤ The EBCH Wellness Center will be closed until further notice.

“In our ongoing effort to communicate effectively, EBCH will post updates on our Facebook page, website (www.ebch.org), and as needed on WELY,” Martin said. “We have also added a link on our website to the CDC’s live feed, where they are providing ongoing information. Please keep in mind that information associated with COVID-19 is fluid, and we are doing our best to provide accurate, timely information.”

She also highlighted the following precau-

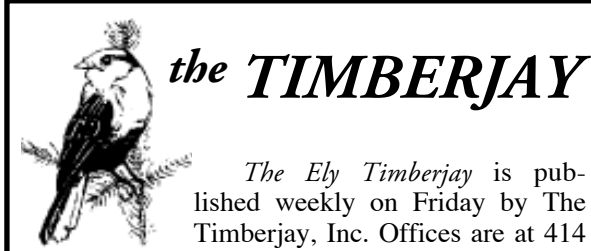
tions. “Most importantly, the best way to protect yourself and others is to wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds,” Martin said. “Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Stay home if you are sick. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and discard immediately. Continue to practice social distancing by respecting personal space and keeping a distance of six feet between yourself and others and avoid large gatherings with groups of ten or more.”

For specific questions, call 218-365-3271, where EBCH receptionists are available during regular business hours.

Other closings

➤ The Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely is closed to all visitors at this time. According to a Facebook post, “The health of our residents and staff is of the utmost importance to us and we would like to reduce the spread of any illnesses in our community.”

➤ Carefree Living is restricting visitation and canceling all planned events and outings. Only those persons who are considered essential visitors (i.e., healthcare professionals, caseworkers, social workers, delivery persons) will be allowed in the buildings.



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Staff Writer	Stephanie Ukkola
Office Manager	M. M. White
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Ely library suspends curbside services

ELY - Due to the MN Governor’s Emergency Executive order concerning precautions for the coronavirus, the Ely Public Library will not be offering curbside service or taking phone calls through next week

“We plan to resume curbside service, Beat the Bug Bags, and phone call service on Monday April 13,” said Library Director Rachel Heinrich. “We do not have a scheduled date when the building itself will reopen to the public.”

Library staff are cleaning both the inside of the building as well as items as they are returned for the safety of the staff and patrons, she added.

“When curbside service resumes, it will be no-contact,” Heinrich said. “More details will be released on the specifics closer to that date. Online e-circulation of books, audios, and magazines is working normally.

No items will be due until the library building reopens to the public.

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Restaurants adapt to take-out-only service

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

C O O K / O R R - Restaurants have been severely impacted by Gov. Tim Walz's emergency order for bars, restaurants, and other public places to close their doors to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, but some local eateries have been working hard to adapt to the new take-out-only environment.

Montana Café owner Megan Brodeen has kept on serving her regular menu, but on social media she has been featuring a couple of heat-at-home items people have been stocking up on – pasties and chicken pot pies.

"Some people have asked 'How did you think of this?'" Brodeen said. "They thought that it was because of the virus going around. But we've been doing pasties for about a year and a half and we recently added chicken pot pies to our take-and-bake menu about six months ago."

On Friday, Brodeen was whipping up about 100 pasties and 100 pot pies to put in the freezer.

"They're completely frozen so you take them home and bake them yourself," she said. "They're precooked, they're 100 percent fully done. You just have to warm them up."

The transition to take-out-only hasn't been difficult to manage, Brodeen said.

"I think we're doing fine," she said. "Before we had this happen, we did a lot of take-out anyway, so it didn't seem to be too big of a challenge for us."

While all her regular menu items have been in demand, the pasties have been among the more popular items.

"People love them," Brodeen said. "It's kind of an older recipe that I've tweaked to fit a larger volume. We have a 100-percent ground beef pasty. I know other places do variations, but we like to keep it simple. Some people come in and get

a couple. I've had people come in from Hibbing and other areas and by in bulk. They'll buy 10 or 12 and take them home and freeze them."

However, like most restaurants, Brodeen has had to reduce her staff.

"I've had to cut my staff probably by 80 percent," she said. "I've got quite a few high schoolers as waitresses and one full-time day waitress that I can't afford to keep on right now, so I've laid them off. I have one other cook besides myself and I've had to lay him off about 60 percent."

Brodeen worries about how the restrictions on dine-in service could affect her business if they don't end soon.

"We've also heard that it might affect the summer business, and I know a lot of other businesses around here rely on that, too," she said.

For now, however, Brodeen said she appreciates the support she's been getting from the community.

"I feel like a lot of people want to stand behind us and still support us," she said. "Every time somebody comes in they'll say, 'We're glad you're still open, keep working as much as you can and we'll be here for you.' That's just kind of the small town we're from. People will be there for you."

T. Pattenn's Café

Take-out orders aren't anything new for T. Pattenn's Café owner Tara Pattenn, but her regular customers have been the sort who enjoy dining in and socializing.

"They don't have that option now," Pattenn said. "It definitely is a challenge."

Pattenn continues to offer her full menu but has augmented it with daily specials that have proven to be best-sellers. Sometimes they're based on customer requests. At other times?

"It's what I feel when I wake up in the morning," Pattenn chuckled. "I do know my custom-

ers, so I know what they like. That kind of helps. My customers are my family."

Pattenn uses social media to let people know what the day's special is, and always tries to include a picture so folks see what they're getting.

"I post a picture because people eat with their eyes," she said.

Customers aren't allowed inside the building, with the sole exception being if someone needs to use the ATM inside in order to get cash to pay for their food. Pattenn disinfects the ATM before and after every use.

"The fewer people that touch our door handle, the better for everybody," Pattenn said.

A sign outside the café advertises a special offer just for truckers and law enforcement officers: meals for free.

"Without them on the road, we don't have food," Pattenn said about truckers. "I've been seeing posts that they're having a rough time getting food at places because they can't go through drive-throughs and can't walk up to drive-throughs to order. They're all very appreciative. We need them on the road."

It's a gesture that's spawned a community-wide response.

"The community has stepped up and sent in donations to keep it going," Pattenn said. "We have received donations for it because they want to see that these officers and truckers are fed."

While the café remains open for business, Pattenn also has had to lay off employees, and doing so was doubly painful.

"I have no staff," she lamented. "Myself and my boyfriend are doing all the work. All of my staff got laid off. Considering most of my staff is family – my son, my grandson, my nieces, my nephews – it's extremely hard."

Pattenn said she hasn't wasted much time thinking about the café's future. Her greatest con-

cern is everyone's health.

"We're taking it one day at a time – it'll be what it is," she said. "We just want everybody to listen to what they're saying and stay home as much as possible and stay safe. When our doors are reopened, we want to see all these faces come in and sit down for a cup of coffee and have a meal. Without staying home and staying safe, there are going to be people that aren't able to."

Crescent Bar & Grill

The Crescent Bar & Grill may be a bit isolated out in the countryside north of Cook, but like everyone else they're right in the thick of figuring out how to operate as a take-out establishment.

"It's been a very tiny, minute percent of the business," owner Tavis Riederer said. "To be forced to do only that was kind of troubling. It's been a lot of nervousness and anxiety of what we were going to do, how many people were going to sign on to this."

The first order of business was the hardest, as Riederer had to lay off most of his employees.

"We have a super-skeleton crew," he said.

Riederer decided to cut his menu down, shifting toward his top sellers and also looking at how he could better manage his food inventory, particularly perishable items.

"We removed all our entrees and big-ticket items because I don't think anyone wants to eat a gourmet meal in a take-out box," Riederer said. "We wanted to keep our orders very minimal because we're taking a risk."

However, Riederer added a new wrinkle he hopes will appeal to many – homestyle dinners for four, featuring favorites like meatloaf and shrimp.

"It's those good old comfort items," Riederer said, "items that are hearty and things everyone likes."



Hot pasties fresh from the oven cool on the front counter at the Montana Café before heading to the freezer for take-and-bake sales.

photo by M. Brodeen

By popular request, he also reintroduced a signature sandwich, the Piledriver. Riederer said he is open to any community input on what they'd like to see. He's also looking at ways to give back, possibly by cooking meals for health care workers and others "on the front lines," he said.

"It's a tough time right now, a lot of uncertainty for all of us," he said. "For our local community to do some take-out and to support these businesses that are being crippled is much appreciated and shows how great we are as Iron Rangers. I can't thank people enough for that."

For a restaurant and bar that stayed busy late into the night, the lack of customers and staff is an eerie feeling.

"That Tuesday when we closed it was a very somber feeling because

you didn't know how long this was going to be in effect," Riederer said. "Some of our staff it kind of hit them hard. Restaurant is a nonstop moving industry, and for these people who don't have that now they've come to appreciate their customers even more."

It's also been tough on Riederer.

"I miss talking to a lot of these people," he said. "Now I kind of do my bookwork at home and hang out with the dogs. It's not as exciting. We can't wait to see our customers come back. We light up when we see them in the parking lot."

Riederer said he's been looking toward summer and making plans for different scenarios.

"The summer season is a concern, and you have to have a contingency plan," he said. "Hopefully we don't have to go



the *TIMBERJAY*

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Ambulance wrecks; attendant injured

HIBBING- A Cook ambulance returning from a transfer run early Sunday morning was involved in an accident that resulted in an attendant being transported to a Hibbing medical facility with non-life-threatening injuries.

According to a Minnesota Highway Patrol incident report, Christopher Gianlorenzi, 27, of Virginia, was driving the

2013 Ford ambulance eastbound at 3 a.m. on County Rd. 18 as it approached the junction with Hwy. 73, approximately 14 miles south of Hibbing. Ice and snow on the road caused the ambulance to skid off the road into the northbound ditch of Hwy. 73.

Ambulance attendant Karen Schultz, 54, of Cook, was a passenger in the ambulance and

sustained unspecified non-life-threatening injuries. She was taken by Floodwood Ambulance to University Medical Center – Hibbing. Gianlorenzi was not injured.

Both individuals were wearing seat belts.

Cook Ambulance Director Tina Rothleutner said the ambulance was returning from a transfer to Fargo. An insurance adjuster had not yet in-

spected the damage, but Rothleutner said, "It looks like a total loss."

The Cook City Council had already approved the purchase of an ambulance to replace this one at its March meeting.



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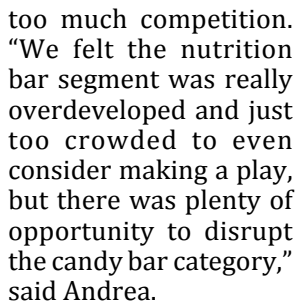
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Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th



Ely granola company introduces high fiber candy bar

Granola bars seemed like a logical extension, but there was



"Our trademark style of marketing calls out the high-fiber benefits of the products we

The way the Stroms see it, people still want to enjoy a tasty candy bar, but they also want clean ingredients, functional

Brainstorm Bakery didn't specify a launch date for the new product, mentioning they will likely need to raise capital to build out

StaytunedtoCrapola
for updates. Please visit
www.crapola.us.

A group of friends in the Ely area have been working to create political pressure to come to a solution for the passengers who are trapped

"I think what Val's

Valerie told MPR News that their third

At the start of the cruise, there were more than 1,200 passengers and nearly 600 staff aboard the ship. But over this past weekend, two-thirds of the guests were transferred to a Holland America sister ship, the Rotterdam. The company said this was meant to lighten the crew's workload, not to separate the healthy from the sick.

“We nap throughout the day. We watch cooking shows. We journal. We do all kinds of stuff. Our emotions run the gamut from being hopeful and still excited down to despair and wonderment at this situation,” said Valerie.

Neither is feeling 100 percent. Valerie said she’s

But Myntti hopes there's a solution that both protects the health of those on shore and gets much needed help to those stuck aboard the *Zaandam*.

Matt Sepic, of Minnesota Public Radio, contributed to this report.

“When we did this, our first iteration of the model, which was just two weeks ago, is to say, ‘What would happen to them if they became exposed to the virus, if they become infected,’” Kulasingham said Tuesday. “How many of them would recover and not really have any symptoms? How many of them would be symptomatic and go to the hospital, and basically what would happen in the hospital, how many would end up in the ICU, how many would end

"That will buy us enough time that working

Unlike viruses, Kulasingam has dealt with in the past, the new

“One of the unknowns for us when we started this process and that we’re hoping to get a better handle on is that we don’t know already what portion of the Minnesota population has been infected,” Kulasingam said. “We have a limited number of

are they walking by that person? When you start to put in these kind of scenarios, they're really asking people to move away and to not interact."

Kulasingam said the U of M is working with MDH on a study to fill that gap in which people will be interviewed about their interaction patterns on regular days and when

"The more data that comes out the better we will be at being able to narrow down our uncertainty," she said. "The thing I would love people to know is that we're doing our very best, and just to bear with us and to know that we're all in this together."

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EDUCATION

Vermilion Country School puts distance learning plan in place

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- With teachers set up to use Google Classroom, software to manage classroom assignments and materials, and Google Meet for video-conferencing, Vermilion Country School teachers set out for their first week of distance learning on Monday.

“Each teacher is coming up with the best way for them to conduct each class,” said VCS Administrator Frank Zobitz. Some teachers will be teaching live over Google Meet, and others will be posting assignments and materials in Google Classroom, he said. Live lessons were being recorded, so they



A Vermilion Country School student helps unload the foodbank truck at the Tower Food Shelf. With students now at home, the food shelf needs more volunteers. Timberjay file photo

could be reviewed at a later time if needed.

This week is the final week of the third quarter, so teachers are mostly focused on making sure their students are up-to-date with their assign-

ments and completing any missing work.

Classes, for now, are being held on their regular schedule, but the actual classroom expectations are being adjusted.

“Some assignments

are no longer possible,” Zobitz noted. “And we will remain flexible and adjust to the situation. This is a huge learning curve that our students and teachers will be navigating together. We want to give stu-

dents their regular routine and then we will go from there.”

The school is doing home deliveries on Mondays and Thursdays, dropping off food for students who have requested it, along with school materials and books.

“We’ve sent home laptops for students that need them,” said Zobitz.

Deliveries also include supplies for students who will be taking art in the fourth quarter, and woodworking materials for those who are taking shop class.

The school’s three paraprofessionals will be checking in with every student each day. They will be keeping their eyes out for students who are

struggling in any way, Zobitz said, and then can work with other school staff and professionals to find solutions to problems.

This will allow teachers to concentrate on their lesson plans and teaching, Zobitz said.

“Our teacher morale is awesome,” Zobitz said. “But we know that they are going to feel overwhelmed.”

Zobitz said the school’s strategy is to keep it simple, support each other, and to make sure the students still feel connected. “We miss all of our students,” he said, “and we are concerned for our students’ health and well-being, as well as their families.”

ELY...Continued from page 1

stay safe.

So now, the company is ramping up to begin manufacturing reusable protective gowns for North Shore Health Hospital and Care Center in Grand Marais. That’s in addition to their work with community volunteers to mass-produce protective face masks.

The specialized hospital gowns, worn by doctors and other medical personnel, are made from a special CDC-approved material that can be disinfected and sterilized for reuse. Wintergreen owner Sue Schurke received a sample gown just last Friday and

spent the weekend creating a computerized sewing pattern for the specialized clothing so the pieces can be easily cut on their robotic cutting table. “I took the gown apart and created the pattern in exact measurements so we can mass produce these much needed gowns as quickly

as possible,” Schurke said.

The Grand Marais facility has now contracted with Wintergreen to cut and sew 100 of the gowns. “We get the fabric this week and will get to work as soon as we can,” Schurke said. She expects to continue producing the gowns in the weeks and months ahead.

The fabric looks and feels like heavy plastic rip-stop nylon. Each gown consists of eight pieces of material along with cuffs and collars. “This is all medically approved, and I understand the gowns can be sterilized for multiple use,” she said.

While disposable gowns, made in China, are currently available, the supply chain is in danger of drying up as the world responds to the COVID-19 pandemic. “Medical supplies of all kinds are getting harder to obtain because of this pandemic,” she said.

Schurke said she sent a letter to Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz offering Wintergreen’s sewing services. “I didn’t hear anything from the state, and we started to put together the production of protective face masks,” she said.

Through a phone call last week from a pharmacist at Grand Marais, whose husband is a doctor at the North Shore Hospital, Schurke drove to Finland on Saturday to meet with her and was given a medical gown as a sample to develop a pattern. “As it happened, I gave her one of the protective masks we designed. She was so impressed with it, we were asked to make more,” she said. “But that’s another story.”

By Sunday, Schurke had the medical gown pattern loaded onto the computerized cutting board. “We are waiting on the fabric,” she said Monday afternoon. “We

will start with a sample cut and make adjustments as needed and then get to work.”

She noted that she is hoping to minimize the amount of fabric used for each gown. “We want to get the most gowns out of each bolt of fabric. “We used to make paper patterns for our winter clothing projects, but now we have this automated cutting system that works so much better,” she said.

Wintergreen Northern Wear closed their retail store and manufacturing business last month out of an abundance of caution due to the pandemic. Like so many workers around Ely, their employees were laid off.

“First of all, we all want to do our part and help the response to this situation,” Schurke said. “If we don’t stay in business, we can’t help. This is great that we will be paid by the hospital to do this gown

project.”

Protective masks

Wintergreen is also joining a community-wide effort in making protective face masks.

“These masks are not designed to prevent inhalation of COVID-19,” Schurke noted. They are meant to cover a cough or sneeze and reduce the spread of bodily fluids that might be expelled. They are designed using CDC guidelines.

“We are donating the use of our cutting machine and buying the fabric to make these protective masks,” Schurke said. Wintergreen employees Daina Antanaitis and LaVerne Ellis worked last weekend to machine cut the fabric, fine tune the design and assemble kits.

“We’ve had a number of talented sewers from the community take kits home to sew,” Schurke said. “We are blown away by the community support for this

project and the willingness of people to help. We are very proud to be a part of Ely. It is in times like these where the strength and grit of the people of small town America truly shines.”

She counted as many as a dozen names of volunteer mask makers on a contact list. “Autumn Cole has another group of people who are quilters, and they are making about 300 masks right now. Polly Anderson is making another hundred masks. There are so many people out there who are stepping up to help.”

Wintergreen is waiting to receive a shipment of 200 yards of fabric and 10,000 yards of cotton twill tape to assemble more kits.

“There is a real need for these masks. I heard some say that this could last a year, maybe into next June. We may be just at the beginning of what we need,” Schurke said.

ECONOMY...Continued from page 1

Tower branch of Frandsen Bank and Trust. “We’re still waiting to hear about the role that community banks will play. Hopefully we’ll find out soon.”

Nonprofit lenders are in much the same boat. “We’re just collecting information, now,” said Steve Peterson, senior loan manager with the

Entrepreneur Fund. “They haven’t given us the rules, yet,” he said.

As of Tuesday, Peterson said he has many dozens of businesses seeking aid already on his list. That’s likely to grow as more business owners begin to feel the effects of the shelter-at-home order along with enforced closures of bars, restaurants, and other public establishments.

While the state-funded grant program is

geared towards businesses that have been directly impacted by mandated closures, the federal funds are expected to be more widely distributed. Some of the federal funds are already available through the Small Business Administration’s Disaster Loan program. All businesses in Minnesota are potentially eligible and the application can be done entirely online. Go to www.sba.gov/disaster to begin an application.

Businesses can apply for up to \$2 million in disaster funding through the SBA. The loans may be used to pay outstanding bills or payroll but are not intended to replace lost sales or profits, or for use in business expansions. Interest rates range from 3.75 percent for businesses and 2.75 percent for nonprofits.

Businesses can also apply for an up to \$10,000 advance on a disaster loan even as they’re working

on the full application for greater funds. The form to apply for the advance is part of the application for the disaster loan. If approved, the advance funds can be used for payroll and other operating expenses and the funds are forgivable.

Those applying through the SBA website will need to be patient. Due to high demand, the agency’s website has been slowed considerably. Consider applying early in the morning or late at night when usage is generally lower.

Businesses can also apply for a state-funded program, known as Small Business Emergency Loans, which offers interest-free loans ranging from \$2,500-\$35,000, and will be determined based on the business’s economic injury and its financial need. The loans can be repaid over five years and the first six months of payments can be deferred. Partial loan forgiveness is also possible with these loans. For now, it appears that these funds are primarily intended to go to businesses in the personal service and hospitality industries, which have been hard hit by the recent shutdown orders. Contact the Entrepreneur Fund (218-744-4191) or the Northland Foundation (218-723-4040) for assistance in applying for these funds.

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NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

Tech issues snarl distance learning debut

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- Everything in their control was set Friday for teachers, staff, students and parents of North Woods School to begin implementing distance learning as part of the state’s plan to contain the new coronavirus.

What wasn’t in their control, however, were the online learning platforms that are integral to ISD 2142’s plan, and it didn’t take long for issues to crop up Monday.

Three of the four learning platforms—Schoolology, Bloomz,

Most operations going according to plan, says superintendent

and SeeSaw—reported problems related to system access and content delivery as Minnesota students joined in with thousands more from around the country, all trying to use the same resources at the same time.

“We heard from several staff members that they were finding issues with those sites due to the fact that almost every kid in the state was trying to log in at the same time,” North Woods Principal John Vukmanich said.

Schoolology posted a message at 9:27 a.m. informing users

of “degraded service” and “intermittent load errors” that negatively affected messaging, document conversions, and content accessibility. While the issue was reportedly corrected within an hour, additional error updates were posted late into the afternoon as the system worked to “catch up on earlier delays.”

Errors started popping up on SeeSaw around 10:30 a.m., affecting students in elementary grades, but they were resolved an hour later. No specific information about errors was available

on the Bloomz website.

While students and parents likely experienced temporary difficulties, Vukmanich said he didn’t get any phone calls from frustrated parents, and that was by design. In the district’s plan, which emphasizes maintaining relationships with students and families, teachers are the primary contacts for parents as they help children use online resources.

“Every parent was sent a letter from their school with the contact information for each teacher,” Superintendent Reggie

Engebritson said. “If parents have questions, they can reach out to their child’s teacher for assistance. Teachers know they may need to be available in the evening hours for parents who are working during the day.”

Since the issues were with the online providers, they weren’t isolated to North Woods. Engebritson said staff were ready with alternatives to suggest.

“We told students and parents to be patient, that we knew there were a lot of people around the state trying to get into programs; if they couldn’t get on

See SCHOOL...page 2B



From left, Brian Whiteman Jr., Panda Whiteman, Charmaine Jourdain, and Carleigh Whiteman work together on a cradleboard for future use by their family. Not pictured is Brianna Whiteman.

OJIBWE TRADITIONS

Crafting cradleboards

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

NETTLAKE- The men were the first to arrive on the final day of a recent three-day cradleboard workshop at Nett Lake School, and in light of Ojibwe tradition it was wholly appropriate.

“The woodworking was actually done by the men,” said workshop leader Wayne Valliere, a Lac Du Flambeau Ojibwe from Wisconsin. “The expectant father and grandfather went out and did this heavier work.”

Nicholas deShaw came from St. Paul to learn how to make a cradleboard.

“I’m here because my wife and I are expecting our first baby in April,” he said. “I’m trying to learn these traditions to pass on to him and try to raise him as best I can in our Anishinaabe traditions.”

Darren Landgren is digital communications director for KBFT, the Bois Forte Tribal Community Radio station which sponsored the workshop. He was making a cradleboard for the station’s resource library.

“We want to capture as much history and knowledge as we can to preserve it so that if people have an interest they can come learn about it here,” Landgren said.

Landgren and deShaw exchanged thoughts about who was traditionally responsible for making a cradleboard.

“This is traditionally a men’s craft, but there are a lot of women here, too,” deShaw said.

“I thought it was a women’s craft,” Landgren replied.

“What I’ve heard is that the father

Workshop is mix of craft, tradition, and teaching

would make this,” deShaw said. “In modern times it’s kind of whoever can do it.”

Valliere said cradleboard-making is typically a joint venture, with the father responsible for woodworking and the mother responsible for making the lining, ties, beading, and traditional moss-filled pillow.

“There are different customs from Ojibwe group to Ojibwe group,” Valliere said. “In Minnesota, they would not even start the cradleboard until after the baby was born. The mortality rate was so high amongst native people that the cradleboard could be an awful reminder to mom and dad of what could have been and could be very emotionally damaging. That’s why they waited.”

In Wisconsin, boards are started when a mother learns she is expecting.

“The Ojibwe people in Wisconsin believe we are sending these vibes to the Great Spirit to assure that the baby is born,” Valliere said. “That is our custom. Which one is right? They’re both right. It’s what our grandparents did.”

To view a cradleboard as simply a means to carry a child is to miss most of its purpose and meaning, Valliere said.

“It’s tradition, it’s culture,” he said. “There are a lot of teachings, and it’s ceremonial as well.”

For instance, a cradleboard is a primary teaching and bonding tool for the Ojibwe.

“Our babies are put in it when mom’s working,” Valliere said. “That baby is put



Cradleboard workshop leader Wayne Valliere fastens a handle to a cradleboard base. photos by D. Colburn

in a place where they can see everything that is going on. They hear everything, they see everything, and they learn from a very, very early age, and they’re secure.”

Landgren said he learned that specific traditional features of a cradleboard facilitated this closeness and observation outdoors.

See CRADLEBOARD...page 2B

HEALTHCARE

Scenic Rivers to offer telehealth visits



REGIONAL- Scenic Rivers Health Services are now offering telehealth visits to patients during the current COVID-19 pandemic. While the area Scenic Rivers clinics are continuing to see patients on a limited basis if necessary, they are now using telehealth visits as a way to protect both patients and caregivers. Reception staff will help explain this process when patients call in for an appointment. Telehealth visits are not always indicated, but clinic staff will determine the best way to see patients on a case-by-case basis, they said.

Clinic staff said the goal is for patients to stay home if they can and call in if assistance is needed. Patients should feel free to reach out to the clinic to schedule a telehealth visit. If there are questions regarding COVID-19, Scenic Rivers has a nurse triage line available. Patients can have their questions answered and healthcare assessed. These nurses are available Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. by calling 218-361-3219 or calling the clinic number directly. Scenic Rivers website can be accessed for ongoing and up to date information about services at <https://www.scenicrivershealth.org/>.

Scenic Rivers Dental Clinics are providing emergency dental appointments only at this time. Patients can call clinics directly to schedule an appointment and discuss services available.

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TOWER ELECTION

County plans no action on election complaint

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — St. Louis County’s election supervisor Phil Chapman said he’s leaving it up to a Tower resident and the Federal Aviation Administration, or FAA, to determine whether the resident can use his hangar at the Tower Airport as his legal residence for voting.

Chapman was responding to a complaint filed with the St. Louis County Attorney’s Office by Vermilion Lake Township resident Carol Pratt, who accused Tower Airport Manager John Burgess of voter fraud for using his hangar, which is located within the city limits, as his legal residence. The county

attorney’s office referred the matter to Chapman, since under Minn. Stat. 201.016, it’s up to the county auditor to determine whether any individual may have voted in the wrong precinct.

Chapman wrote Burgess a letter informing him of the complaint from Pratt but said he’ll leave it up to Burgess and the FAA to determine whether he can claim his hangar as his legal residence.

“We don’t know if he can or not,” said Chapman. “That’s not our responsibility.”

Other than alerting Burgess to the complaint, county officials plan no further action and aren’t making a determination of whether Burgess improperly voted in Tower. If he had, there would be no penalty for an initial

violation. Instead, the county auditor would send a notice of infraction to the individual involved. If the person commits a second violation, after receiving a warning letter, they would be guilty of a petty misdemeanor under Minnesota law.

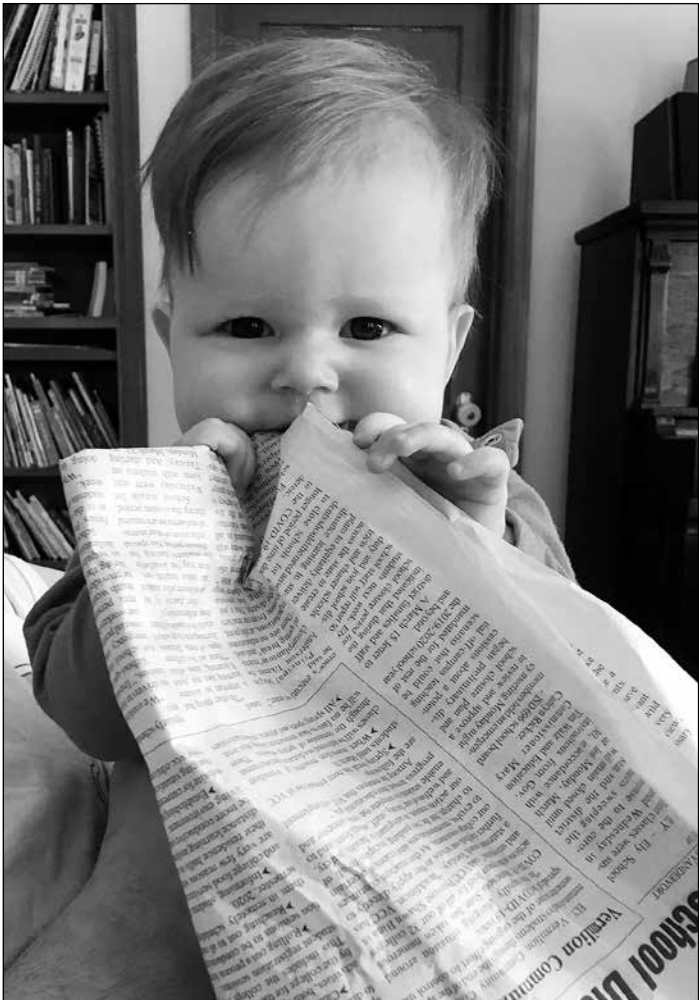
Pratt, who is the mother of former Tower Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith, alleged in her complaint, which was notarized by Keith, that Burgess resides at a residence in Greenwood Township. County records show the property in question is owned by someone other than Burgess and there is no record of Burgess voting in Greenwood. Burgess co-owns his parents’ former residence in Tower with siblings, but his state-issued driver’s license lists his airport hangar,

where he maintains quarters, as his legal residence. According to Chapman, Burgess doesn’t claim any homestead exemption on any property in St. Louis County, although it would not be possible for him to homestead a hangar, since it’s considered commercial property.

Citizens in the U.S. are not required to homestead property in order to have a right to vote.

The complaint against Burgess appears to be part of campaign to discredit individuals who the Pratts feel were responsible in some way for their daughter’s downfall. Burgess had been critical of Linda Keith while she was still clerk-treasurer and his comments at a council meeting last year provoked an altercation between Burgess

and Keith’s longtime political ally Steve Altenburg. Pratt’s complaint was the subject of a recent report in the *Tower News*, written by Altenburg, which falsely suggested that Burgess committed felonies by voting in Tower. Altenburg was recently fired from his employment with the city of Tower following the completion of a 41-page investigative report detailing a long list of allegations against Altenburg during his tenure as ambulance director and fire chief. Altenburg’s threatening altercation with Burgess was among the issues cited in the report.



News you can chew!

Seven-month-old Dot Swanson, daughter of Timberjay staff writer Stephanie Ukkola, tried taking a bite of the news. Dot is working on some new teeth!
photo by S. Ukkola

Sucker sale canceled

PIKE RIVER — The annual sucker sale sponsored by the Vermilion Lake Association will not be held at the fish hatchery here as in past years. The sale is being canceled to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

No further information was available on this decision as of presstime.

Stay home except for essential needs
March 27 - April 10

STAY HOME MN

STAY HOME STOP THE SPREAD SAVE LIVES

m MINNESOTA #StayHomeMN mn.gov/stayhomemn

SCHOOL...Continued from page 1B

they could do something else, like read a book, go for a walk, do something with the family,” Engebritson said.

Students who don’t have internet access are receiving education at home by way of educational packets with activities and homework put together by their teachers. Monday was the day teams of bus drivers, paraprofessionals, teachers, secretaries, and kitchen staff came together to orchestrate delivery of both packets and meal

packs containing breakfasts and lunches.

“We basically turned our commons area into our logistics center,” Vukmanich said. “We started working on that model last Monday. It went off really, really well, pretty close to the plan we had in place. I was very impressed with how everyone worked together in something they’ve never done before.”

North Woods also has one classroom providing child care for children of healthcare

workers and emergency responders. A paraprofessional supervising the room provided support to students as they used classroom computers to access their learning modules, Vukmanich said.

The school is also collaborating with Nett Lake School in certain areas, since many North Woods students live in and around Nett Lake.

“They actually transport kids to us using one of their buses,” Vukmanich said. “He was taking materials back to

Nett Lake for our North Woods students who are there.”

The Bois Forte Band has created internet hotspots that are accessible to students outside of the tribal government building, the health care building, the school, and the tribal courthouse, Vukmanich said.

Engebritson said she was pleased overall with the transition to distance learning, and emphasized the need to maintain good relationships with students and parents to make the model

successful.

“Staff have been very positive, and I think we have said it enough times that the focus is on the relationship with the child and the family and with each other,” she said. “If we stay connected to our kids and our families and to each other, we can’t do this wrong. It’s about who we are teaching before we think about what we are teaching.”

CRADLEBOARD...Continued from page 1B

“The spikes at the end like that are so it can be stuck in the ground,” he said. “The hole is significant because you can hang it from a tree branch if you’re out in the woods. I knew it was to carry a baby, but I didn’t know all the different functionalities of it.”

Panda Whiteman, originally from Ontario but now living in Nett Lake, came to the workshop with her children, Carleigh, 9; Brianna, 15; Brian Jr., 18, and Charmain Jourdain, 25.

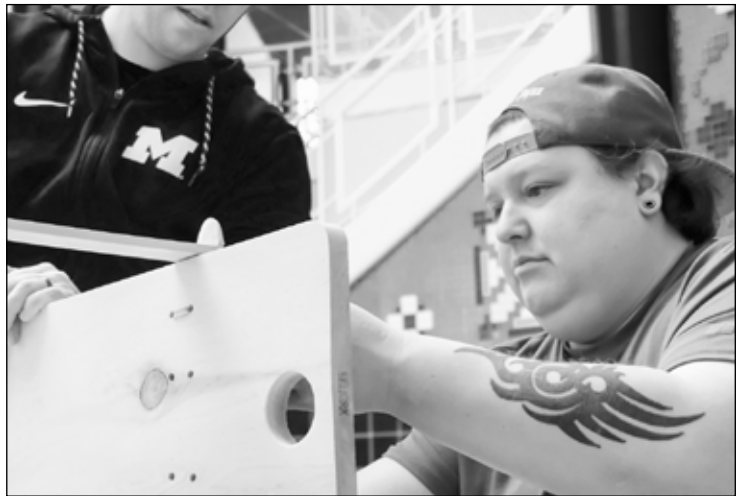
“We just wanted something for them when they have their own children, and for them to make it together,” Whiteman said. “I had all my kids in them when they were younger. There are teachings that go along with it. While we’re doing this here I’m able to share those with them.”

“We already had a few laughs yesterday over what we were doing when we were putting it together. I’m hoping they can share that with their kids.”

It was also a family affair for elder Karen Drift, who encouraged her granddaughters to attend.

“You come up there and learn how to make a cradleboard because we elders aren’t going to be here all the time, I told them,” Drift said.

Drift said she attends events like the cradleboard workshop to pass along Ojibwe language and traditions to attendees. On this



Nicholas deShaw steadies a cradleboard for Darren Landgren as he attaches a handle with lashes.

day of the workshop she brought 30 pieces of fry bread, a wild rice dish, and a dessert of wild rice, blueberries, and strawberries.

“That’s what we’re supposed to do, we’re supposed to feed the people,” she said. “We don’t really do that anymore.”

Throughout the workshop, Drift shared stories of her experiences with cradleboards. One example illustrated how cradleboards are intended to allow babies to learn by observation.

“My aunt used to bring her baby when we used to paddle down Lost River to pick blueberries,” she said. “She brought her baby cradleboard and she’d prop it up by a tree, sit down and pick blueberries, and when she got done with that patch she’d move him to another tree.”

Telling her stories in her

native tongue is especially important to Drift.

“I grew up in a home where, ever since I was born I had fluent speakers all around me,” she said. “As I grew older I saw us losing language and the things we used to do when I was a girl. I try to be at these outings so I can talk Indian to the people who are here.”

Drift’s contributions were one of the highlights for Whiteman.

“It’s nice coming to events like this because you get to hear people like Karen speak and she tells a lot of the old stories from a long time ago,” Whiteman said. “It was nice listening to her.”

“I love this activity. I’m happy they did this. There’s a lot of teaching in it.”

Obituaries and Death Notices

Kathryn K. Pitkanen

Kathryn “Kathy” Kay Esala Pitkanen, 70, formerly of Pike-Sandy and Ely, passed away on Thursday, March 19, 2020, at Woodwinds Hospital in Woodbury, due to complications of a chronic illness. A memorial service will take place at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church at a later date.

She is survived by her children, Leah (Darryl) Pernat of Snohomish, Wash., Kurt Pitkanen of Ely and Keith (Rachel) Pitkanen of Cottage Grove; grandchildren, Logan Pernat, Pasia, Kylie and Claire Pitkanen; siblings, Barbara Heino of Treasure Island, Fla., Peter Esala of Lake Vermilion, Gary Esala of Virginia, Dianne French of Lake Vermilion, Tom Esala of Australia and Cindy (Dan) Maki of Pike-Sandy; sisters-in-law, Sandy (David)

Theelke of Hastings, Linda (Doug) Nelson of Breezy Point and Mary Pitkanen of Aurora; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mary S. Debevec

Mary S. Sullivan Debevec, 77, of Eveleth, died on Friday, March 27, 2020, at Waterview Pines in Virginia. Private services will be held. Memorials may be directed to Eveleth’s Fourth of July Committee. Arrangements are entrusted to Cron-Sheehy Funeral Home of Eveleth.

She is survived by her sons, David (Teresa) of Tower; Anthony (Andrea) of Stillwater; granddaughter, Frances; sister-in-law, Diane (Marvin) Kiffmeyer; nieces and nephews; cousin, Jacque Arquette; and numerous close friends and

neighbors.

Marlene E. Saarela

Marlene Elizabeth Pucel Saarela, 82, of Farmington, originally of Ely, passed away on Monday, March 23, 2020. A celebration of life will be held in Biwabik at a later date. Arrangements are with White Funeral Homes in Farmington.

She is survived by her best friend, loving companion and husband, Dan; dearly loved children and grandchildren, Tim and wife Laura, children Neal and Erin (Brian Sebring); Greg and wife Karen, children Maddie, Ryan and Reid; Susan and husband Bob Lubovich, children Taylor (Dustin Filan), Alec (fiancé Courtney Gray) and Jordan; Kerry and husband Paul Beton, children Rachel and Jake; great-granddaughter, Brooklynn Saarela; brother, Richard Pucel; sisters-in-law, Janice Pucel, Lorene Pucel

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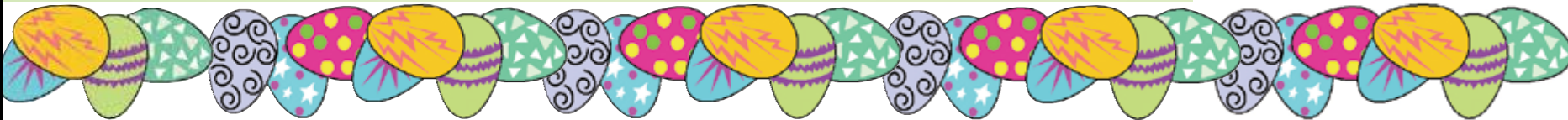


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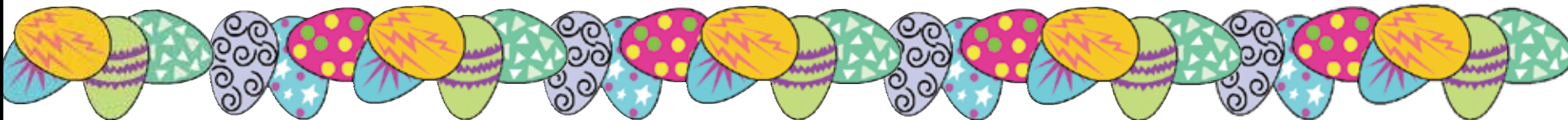
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Outdoors

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ASSESSING WATER QUALITY

Volunteers needed for water testing on Vermilion



If you'd like to volunteer to take Secchi disk readings on Lake Vermilion, contact Wayne Suoja at 218-753-2162.

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Lake Vermilion needs you, or at least your help in monitoring lake water quality. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is looking for volunteers to serve as part of their Citizen Lake Monitoring Program, and they need volunteers specifically on Lake Vermilion. Volunteers use what's known as a Secchi disk to determine the clarity of lake water. From a boat or canoe, volunteers lower the black and white disk into the water to record

water clarity. That reading can tell scientists a lot about a lake's water quality. It provides a measure of the amount of suspended material in the water, including algae. Secchi disk readings, when done consistently over a long period of time, provide a valuable means of detecting trends in water quality. Generally, the sooner water quality problems are detected, the easier and less expensive it is to restore the lake to its previous state. Volunteers typically take Secchi disk readings during daylight hours when the weather is calm. For con-

sistency, taking readings from generally the same location is helpful. Taking readings at the same time of year during the open water season also helps to make any data gathered more useful in detecting long-term trends in water quality. Volunteers to the program will be provided with instructions on how to take a Secchi disk reading. Anyone interested in taking part as a lake monitoring volunteer should contact Wayne Suoja at 218-753-2162 or the MPCA at 651-757-2874. You can find out more at www.pca.state.mn.us/cmp.



WILDLIFE

On a moose hunt...

Where there are moose, there is usually plenty of distinctive sign

A moose hunt made a good excuse for a ski with a friend down a forest management road a few miles west of the house this past weekend. It was a hunt in the purest sense of the word, but not with a gun.

Instead, I wanted to check out an area where I had encountered plentiful moose sign last summer and fall. Given that moose have grown more scarce in the area in recent years, I make note when I do run into evidence of moose activity. I hadn't been back there since the snow arrived in early November and the hard-crusted snow that we had last week made it a great time to get around in the woods.

The area we were exploring was a mix of habitats, some recent clear-cuts, some younger and middle-aged woods as well. It was mostly aspen, along with some pockets of spruce and balsam fir which is where I had seen most of the moose sign last year.

It didn't take long to discover that the moose were still in the vicinity. We first found an old set of tracks in the same area as last year. In deep snow, my first impression of moose tracks is that they look like human tracks, albeit from a very long-legged human. But after following a set of old tracks, we soon discovered more recent tracks and those eventually led to even more recent tracks, including some where the big split hooves of at least two and probably three different moose were visible.

Above: A moose cow and calf in the Pagami Creek burn. photo courtesy M. Schrage

Right: Moose tracks and droppings, with a glove for perspective.

Lower right: Moose aren't subtle when they browse.

photos by M. HelMBERGER

Further down an ever-narrowing logging road, we found where the moose had been actively feeding within the last day or so. The evidence of moose browsing is always impressive. Shrubs and small trees up to a couple inches in diameter can be found just snapped off as the moose key in on the freshest and highest buds they can reach. The height at which moose can browse is also surprising. We were standing on nearly two feet of crusted snow, which gave me a reach of nearly ten feet off the ground, yet I could find branches browsed even above my reach. It's clear that long legs, a relatively long neck and an extraordinarily long head, give the moose a reach that extends far beyond that of any other herbivore in North America. The moose in this case were browsing primarily on young aspen along with shrubs like willow and mountain maple, often and appropriately referred to as "moose maple" in our area. Eventually, we started to

See **MOOSE...**pg. 5B



SCAMS

DNR alerts the public to fraudulent 'phishing' attempt

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — There are clearly a lot of people trying to take advantage of the current concern over the COVID-19 pandemic, but it would be hard to find anyone who stooped as low as the scammers who sent out a Fisheries Closure Notice last week, ostensibly from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. It certainly qualifies as what's often called "phishing."

The notice read as follows: "Due to the recent Corona Virus outbreak, effective immediately, all bodies of water in the state of Minnesota will be closed to angling. You do, however, have the opportunity to request that your favorite fishing hole be exempt from this closure. To have your specific fishing spot reviewed for exemption, please reply with the following information:

Name of Fishing Spot:
GPS Coordinates of Fishing Spot:

Once the above information is received, a department team will be conducting an in-depth study to determine if the aforementioned spot/spots meet the CDC criteria for exemption. You will then be notified of any decision within 4-6 weeks.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter, and we look forward to fishing your best spots soon!!"

We don't know if anyone has fallen victim to this scam or not, but you have to at least give the perpetrators a thumbs up for ingenuity... and a sense of humor!

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WEATHER MONITORING



State Climatologist Pete Boulay poses with a rainfall gauge. His office is seeking new volunteers for their statewide network of precipitation observers. submitted

State climatologist seeks new precipitation monitors

REGIONAL— The State Climatology Office is looking for volunteer rainfall monitors for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS). The network includes more than 20,000 volunteers nationwide who measure precipitation in their backyards using a standard four-inch rain gauge.

These rainfall monitoring activities are performed by individuals at home who submit their reports online. Volunteers should follow Minnesota Department of Health guidelines for social distancing in connection with this volunteer opportunity.

Climatologist and state CoCoRaHS coordinator Pete Boulay said the data from backyard rain gauges are helpful and important in many ways.

“The information provided by volunteers helps to verify high rain totals after big events, monitor drought and flooding,

make our precipitation maps more accurate, and provides needed guidance on Minnesota’s changing climate,” Boulay said. “We need more volunteers to help fill gaps where people aren’t observing and reporting precipitation values.”

Volunteers are particularly needed outside the immediate Twin Cities metro area. Volunteers receive training on how to observe weather trends and how to submit their precipitation and weather event reports. All training material is available online. They must purchase or provide a standard four-inch rain gauge (available at discount through CoCoRaHS), and have internet access to submit reports.

To sign up or for more information, visit CoCoRaHS.org or contact Pete Boulay at peter.boulay@state.mn.us.

MOOSE...Continued from page 4B



A giant moose bed extends several feet across with a depression nearly two feet in depth in the snow. photo by M. Helmberger

find recent moose pellets, or droppings, which my friend, who is a relatively new resident, found impressively compact and efficient.

As we skied further, we soon found a recent moose bed in the snow, which was enormous by the scale of a typical deer bed. The both of us could have easily laid down in the giant impression in the snow with room to spare. Understanding the reach of a browsing moose and then seeing the size of their bed reminds you very quickly that these really are enormous animals. There are actually four subspecies of moose in North America and the subspecies found here in the North Country is known as the northwestern moose. It’s the subspecies that inhabits the western two-thirds of Canada and it’s the second largest of the subspecies found in North America, behind only the Alaskan moose. An Alaskan bull can weigh up to 1,300 pounds while a bull here

in northern Minnesota can tip the scales at about 1,000 pounds. The two other subspecies are considerably smaller, with adult bulls weighing 600-800 pounds.

It’s interesting to note that the moose we tracked recently are considered outside Minnesota’s primary moose range, which has contracted to the east across the Arrowhead in recent years. Right now, the primary moose range, as determined by the DNR, starts just east of Tower, where deer densities begin to fall off. Outside the primary range, moose are typically found in more isolated pockets, like this group of animals I’ve been tracking. The good news is that the moose population has stabilized in northeastern Minnesota after about a decade of decline. I’d like to think that these animals are part of a tentative recovery in areas outside the primary range. Hopefully, that means that we’ll have moose to “hunt” around here for a long time to come.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
40 17					43 23					49 29					49 32					55 37				
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.
03/23	33	24	0.09	1.8"	03/23	33	23	0.14	2.0"	03/23	32	22	0.18	3.5"	03/23	43	27	0.09	1.5"	03/23	32	22	0.15	1.2"
03/24	42	15	0.00		03/24	42	11	0.00		03/24	42	17	0.00		03/24	45	25	0.00		03/24	43	11	0.00	
03/25	44	22	0.00		03/25	45	11	0.00		03/25	46	16	0.03		03/25	39	25	0.00		03/25	46	16	0.00	
03/26	36	23	0.00		03/26	36	19	0.00		03/26	36	19	0.00		03/26	45	12	0.00		03/26	34	14	0.00	
03/27	43	18	0.00		03/27	44	15	0.00		03/27	44	19	0.00		03/27	50	21	0.00		03/27	44	15	0.00	
03/28	50	25	0.00		03/28	50	14	0.00		03/28	50	20	0.00		03/28	52	21	0.00		03/28	49	19	0.00	
03/29	49	32	0.13	1.4"	03/29	48	20	0.18	1.5"	03/29	49	27	0.00		03/29	54	34	0.00		03/29	49	27	0.00	
Total			1.56	92.3"	YTD Total			1.94	63.8"	YTD Total			2.27	74.0"	YTD Total			NA	NA	YTD Total			1.63	63.2"

EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

Wolf Center offering free online programming

ELY- Free online educational programming about wolves is being offered by the International Wolf Center in Ely during a closure due to precautions over the COVID-19 virus.

These programs come as more students from across the United States find themselves at home instead of the classroom in the ongoing fight to slow the spread of COVID-19. Programs offered include free webinars and morning preschool story times on Facebook Live.

“We know there’s great demand for opportunities to learn from home,” said the Wolf Center’s Executive Director, Grant Spickelmier. “We’re excited we can step up to help. It’s because of our support from members and donors across the world that we’re able to offer these programs at no charge.”

The Wolf Center’s Ely interpretive facility will remain closed to the public until at least May 1 in accordance with recommendations from the state’s governor. “The Wolf Center will continue to monitor the situation and will post updates to its website at wolf.org,” Spickelmier said.

STEM Tuesday WolfLinks

Another new initiative at the center is a free STEM Tuesday



WolfLink program in partnership with the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration.

The online webinars are free for all students in grades K-6, with the first set to air at 9 a.m., central time, on April 7, with a second one airing at 11:45 a.m. on April 14.

To register for these free STEM webinars, watch the center’s website at wolf.org.

Friday pack update webinar

After a successful launch last week, the International Wolf Center will be offering another free Wolf Care webinar this Friday at 9 a.m. central and every Friday this spring. To view this week’s webinar, use this

link: <https://zoom.us/j/833049973>.

A free download of Zoom software may be required.

These webinars feature updates on the center’s pack of ambassador wolves.

Wolf story time

For our youngest pack members, the center’s education staff will be holding a weekly preschool storytime featuring an appropriate wolf book. These broadcasts will be held on Mondays at 10 a.m. central. These will be shown on the center’s Facebook page through Facebook Live. That page can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/InternationalWolfCenter/>.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL & EQUALIZATION TOWN OF EMBARRASS

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

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Embarrass Township will meet on Thursday, April 9, 2020, 5 p.m. - 6 p.m., at Embarrass Town Hall, 7503 Levander Road. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

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

With the COVID-19 pandemic we ask that you call the clerk's office 218-984-2084 and schedule your time to keep the public gathering at a minimum.

Jennifer Boese, Embarrass Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 3, 2020

NOTICE MORCOM TOWNSHIP

The Morcom Township Board meeting for April has been canceled due to COVID-19. Meetings are set to resume May 7, 2020.

Sasha Lehto, Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 3, 2020

KUGLER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF MEETING

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 14 at 6 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall. Proper social distancing will be enforced.

Julie Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 3, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF EMBARRASS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the April 8, 2020, Embarrass Township Board Meeting has been postponed until May 13, 2020. That date is subject to change depending upon when the "Stay at Home" ban is lifted. The township board is implementing these precautions to protect the safety and health of all.

Per request from St. Louis County the LBAE meeting will be held on April 9, 2020, from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. If you are planning to attend, please call the clerk's office 218-984-2084 or email embarrass-township@frontiernet.net to schedule your time. We ask that you take this time to follow the guidelines of the President, Governor, CDC, and the Health Department.

Jennifer Boese, Embarrass Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 3, 2020

LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL & EQUALIZATION LEIDING TOWNSHIP

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

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization for Leiding Township shall meet on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. at the Leiding Town Hall.

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

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

Marie Milan, Leiding Township Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 3, 2020

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NOTICE – LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL & EQUALIZATION MORCOM TOWNSHIP

Due to the ongoing COVID19 pandemic, related State of Minnesota stay at home orders and Federal guidelines on avoiding contact, Morcom Township is requesting that taxpayers who wish to question or appeal their property tax classifications or valuations do so in writing.

If the property information is not correct, you disagree with the values, or have questions about the valuation notice you have received or will be receiving, please contact assessor Ron Bushbaum at 218-471-7277 first. Often issues can be resolved at this level.

If you are going to make an appeal in writing, mail your written appeal to Sasha Lehto, Township Clerk at 12059 Hwy 22, Cook MN 55723. Be sure to include the basis of your appeal along with the Property ID number, tax description as found on your Valuation Notice. If the property has an address include that also.

Written appeals need to be sent as soon as possible so that the Township Clerk can get the information to the assessor before the deadline of April 14.

The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization is set for Tuesday, April 14 at 10 a.m. at the Bear River School.

There will be someone at the town hall on April 14 to attempt a teleconference if necessary. This will be difficult as there is no usable cell phone coverage and no internet available at the town hall. We ask that everyone make their appeals in writing.

Sasha Lehto, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 3, 2020

EMPLOYMENT

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

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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

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www.edwardsoilandpropane.com 4/10

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

Answers

S	I	E	N	N	A	P	E	D	A	N	T	A	D	M	I	R	A	L
I	N	L	I	E	U	E	N	A	M	O	R	D	I	O	C	E	S	E
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T	R	E	S	S	E	D		S	T	E	N	O	S		T	E	A	S



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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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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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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

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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.

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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).



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Super Crossword

THE THIN, THE FLAT,
AND THE ROUND

ACROSS

- 1 Reddish-brown pigment
7 Nitpicky know-it-all
13 Fleet leader
20 Instead (of)
21 Win over
22 Bishop's district
23 User's storage component
25 Gives approval
26 Rock's Brian
27 "My true love — see" ("Oh! Susanna" lyric)
28 Without, to Jean-Luc
30 Shrubby expanses
31 Disorder
33 NBAer — Gasol
34 Occasion to say "King me"
36 Pasty luau food
38 Baseball card stat
40 — flight (go by jet)
41 Zing
42 Ship-deck diversion
48 Sauce giant
50 Brew source

- 51 Hotsy- —
52 Crown
54 Diver's gear
59 "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" heroine
61 Prefix with dose or ton
62 Less lenient
64 "Entertaining Mr. Sloane" dramatist
65 Participant in the sport
68 Yellow transport
69 Draw — on (take careful aim at)
71 — Brothers ("It's Your Thing" group)
72 Hanoi's home, briefly
73 It enables a motorist to stop
76 Bog bird
78 Naive
79 Brazilian soccer star
80 Tending to wear away
82 "Hm, let — ..."

- 83 Former NBA star Ming
84 Spiro who served with Nixon
86 False tale
87 K-P hookup
91 45's place
94 "Mickey" singer Basil
98 Gives help
100 In the style of
101 "Try — might ..."
102 It includes the sacrum
106 Nellie of social reform
108 Film-rating org.
112 Paris' mother
113 Author Jaffe
114 He defeated Romney
116 Put- — (deceptions)
117 Like space debris
119 Commonality of seven answers in this puzzle
122 Turn loose
123 Gathering, as bees
124 Lie
125 Fair- — (blond)
126 Dictation-taking pros

- 127 Mad Hatter's party pieces
DOWN
1 Words to an attack dog
2 — ear and out the other
3 "St. — Fire"
4 Small swig
5 Nine, in Nice
6 Avation aid
7 Agitates
8 Within: Prefix
9 Women's patriotic gp.
10 Mennonite subgroup
11 Bursting stars
12 GI's ditch
13 "The Piano" pianist
14 Kitchen cloth
15 Hurdler
16 Frigid stretch
17 With 65-Down, video store charge
18 Allergic affliction
19 Decrease
24 Special span
29 Hershey candy bar
32 Tanning lotion stat
34 Spy org.
35 Cleanup org.
37 Quite a lot

- 39 Tarzan's son
42 French battle site of '44
43 Clairol's area
44 Newly rich people
45 Ordinal suffix
46 GPS options: Abbr.
47 Wound from a mutt
49 With 65-Down, charge to log on
53 Bel — cheese
55 Witches
56 In a careless manner
57 Animated film featuring Seinfeld's voice
58 JFK landing: Abbr.
60 Fumble
61 Around June or July
62 Sault — Marie
63 Your, once
65 See 17- or 49-Down
66 Grating
67 Elegant tree
69 Smallish batteries
70 Bibliophile's love: Abbr.
73 It takes vids

- 74 Film holder
75 Wild plum
76 Wolf cries
77 — -do-well
80 Goal
81 Lender's expectation
84 Co. that owns
85 Potpourris
88 Discomfort
89 Cage of film, informally
90 Smell
92 Fire
93 Goal
94 Simple top
95 First act
96 Kidman of Hollywood
97 Accustoms
99 Sluggish tree-dwellers
103 PLO head
104 Missed, as a bull's-eye
105 Writer
107 Loo, briefly
109 Mile markers
110 Body part below a shin
111 Useful thing
114 "This is bad!"
115 "Zip- — -Doo-Dah"
118 Knight of TV
120 Yang go-with
121 "That — lie!"

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

		-		x			10
x			÷		+		
	x			+			10
-			+		÷		
	+		÷				6
5		9			4		

1 2 3 4 5 7 7 8 9

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

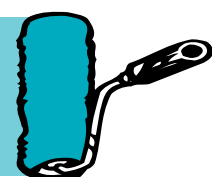
8	6	4	3	7	1	5	2	9
3	1	9	5	2	6	4	8	7
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1	3	8	6	9	2	7	4	5
7	9	5	1	3	4	8	6	2
6	4	2	7	8	5	9	1	3
5	7	1	4	6	3	2	9	8
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9	8	3	2	1	7	6	5	4

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	÷		+		-
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	+		÷		x
01	9	x	2	-	6

Go Figure!



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Orr-\$80,000 80 wooded acres, perfect for hunting. **MLS#138259**

Big Falls-\$26,000 Level wooded 40 acres with electric at the road. **MLS#135688**

Ericsborg-\$46,500 Wooded, south-facing 7 acre lot (Parcel E) on the Rat Root River. **MLS#139058**

Elbow Lake-\$159,000 530 ft of shoreline on 3.83 acres with towering pines. **MLS#136256**

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"As measured by residential transaction sides."

BIC REALTY

**OFFICE CLOSED TEMPORARILY
DUE TO COVID-19**

Due to the public health concerns of COVID-19 and the Governor's stay at home order, our office will be closed thru approximately April 10, 2020. However our Realtors are working from home and are here to assist you whether you have questions on buying or selling property. We are also doing showings and appointments within the COVID-19 MDH social distancing guidelines.

For further updates on our hours, please visit our website, www.bicrealty.com and/or follow us on Facebook.

Our Realtors can be reached as follows during this time:
info@bicrealty.com
www.bicrealty.com
Office Phone: 218-666-5352 (voice message will list agent's phone numbers)

We wish everyone well during this time and please stay safe!

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