

**No spring burning permitted...**  
See /4B

See /4B



**Inside:**

**A drive-in Easter experience...See /2**

**No new wolf pups at IWC...See /3**

**BWCA temporarily closed... See /5B**

# the **TIMBERJAY**



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\$1<sup>00</sup>

## TACONITE MINING

# Northshore idles ore production

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**  
Managing Editor

Layoffs stem from COVID-19 pandemic, could last all summer

**BABBITT**— Nearly 500 Iron Range mineworkers are on now on layoff as a result of a slowdown in the steel market stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. announced on Monday that it would idle two of its iron

ore operations, including the Northshore Mine located near Babbitt. The layoffs were effective this week at Northshore and will take effect later this month at the Tilden Mine in Michigan.

For now, the company is projecting that the Northshore mine could restart production



in August, although that would be subject to change depending

on market conditions. Much of the iron ore produced by the Northshore Mine is used in U.S. automotive production, which has been almost entirely shut down in recent weeks as a result of the current pandemic.

The Northshore Mine includes a mine site and pre-

liminary processing facility near Babbitt, with finish processing and shipping conducted at Silver Bay. Combined, the two sites employ about 570 workers. About 100 workers are expected to remain on the job during the

See...**IDLE** pg. 8

## COVID-19

### Is the worst behind us?

Model uncertainty yields differing results

by **DAVID COLBURN**  
Cook/Orr Editor

**REGIONAL**— Details of the Minnesota COVID-19 model used to inform decision-making about a range of coronavirus mitigation strategies contain a thread common to all such models being bandied about in the media these days: uncertainty.

“I will remind you there is lots of uncertainty in inputs,” MDH health economist Stefan Gildemeister said Friday during a video-conference with members of the statewide press. “Every assumption, every data point, every research piece that underlies this has some uncertainty associated with it, and that affects the outcomes on the back end.”

Decision-makers, media, and citizens all want to know when COVID-19 infections will peak, when stay-at-home orders can end, and business and life can start returning to normal. Which prompts many of us to latch onto specific dates and specific numbers that appear in various models. But that’s not what epidemiological models are designed to do, according to state health

See...**MODEL** pg. 7

## SEASONAL CELEBRATION



Above, Jackson, Charlotte and Sawyer Hegman greet their grandfather at Carefree Living in Ely last Friday. photo by K. Vandervort

At top, Silas, Seija and Sadie Snyder, of Soudan, look for Easter eggs in their backyard. photo by S. Ukkola



During the Cook Easter parade. Dan Manick’s grandsons rode their bikes to visit the Easter bunny. photo by B. Smith

## EVENTS

### LOST SUMMER

Blueberry/Art Festival, other events on shelf

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**  
Ely Editor

**ELY** – Ely’s largest tourist event, the annual Blueberry/Art Festival, planned for July 24-26, has been canceled, one of many events in the area shelved for the summer as residents and visitors continue to shelter in place out of an abundance of caution over the COVID-19 pandemic sweeping the globe.

The Ely Chamber of Commerce notified their members and the Ely business community late last week that all of their events are canceled through the month of August due to caution over the coronavirus.



The Blueberry/Art Festival traditionally draws thousands of visitors to the area.

According a weekly business newsletter sent by email last Friday afternoon, and first reported by the *Timberjay*, Chamber Executive Director Eva Sebesta’s notice said, “We’ve watched the Minnesota Department of Health news carefully for predictions of the COVID-19 peak. The Stay-at-Home orders have helped slow the spread of the virus, however, the predicted peak begins in late May and runs through late July. With this news in mind, we are compelled, for the sake of public health and safety, to cancel all Chamber events through August.”

“While the event cancellation announcement may appear premature, other communities are following suit and canceling events

See...**ELY** pg. 8

## CITY OF TOWER

# Hoodoo Point Campground will partially open May 1

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**  
Managing Editor

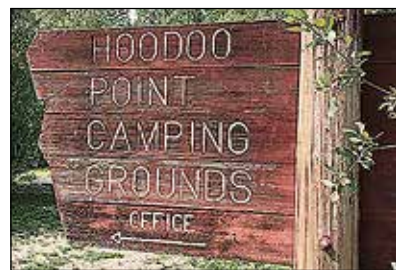
**TOWER**— Hoodoo Point Campground will be open for business for seasonal RV campers beginning May 1 based on city council action here on Monday. At the same time, the

council tabled a decision until later this month on whether to open the city-owned facility to monthly RV users. The council is hoping by that time to know whether Gov. Tim Walz will extend his stay-at-home order to combat the COVID-19 pandemic past May 4.

The lengthy discussion was just part of a three-and-a-half-hour-long meeting that was hampered throughout by technical glitches with the GoToMeeting online platform that was carrying the remote meeting. It wasn’t the first time the council had met remotely

during the current pandemic, but the technical issues were greater this time than during earlier attempts. At one point, Mayor Orlyn Kringstad lost his connection to the meeting, requiring Acting Mayor Rachel

See...**TOWER** pg. 7



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

**Contact The Timberjay**

218-753-2950  
editor@timberjay.com



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

## Community notices

### Vermilion Dream Quilters canceled May 7

REGIONAL- Due to the Governor's stay-at-home extension, the Vermilion Dream Quilters will not meet on May 7 as originally planned. Further updates will follow as events take place.

### Ruby's Pantry for April 25 canceled

BABBITT- Ruby's Pantry, scheduled to be held April 25 at the Babbitt location, has been canceled due to COVID-19. We apologize for any inconvenience.

### Sons of Norway cancels all events through August

REGIONAL- Sons of Norway Haarfager Lodge 40 is canceling all events until September including Syttende Mail banquet, Memorial Service in June and our annual picnic. Meetings will resume in September if permitted.

### Free online mental health peer support groups for individuals and families

REGIONAL- NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) sponsors a variety of online peer support groups for adults and young adults living with a mental illness, their families, friends, spouses/partners, as well as parents of children and teens. Led by trained peer facilitators, the support groups help individuals and families learn coping skills and find strength through sharing their experiences.

When joining an online group, please add only your first name. Also, the groups are specifically for those individuals suggested by the group's title. For example, Family Support Group is only for family members and NAMI Connection is only for those who live with a mental illness and are over 18 years old, etc. Find a complete listing of group meetings and how to join in by going to namimn.org and clicking on "Support Groups" or go straight to <https://namimn.org/support/nami-minnesota-support-groups/>.

## Drive-in Easter service attracts a crowd

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

FIELD TWP - Immanuel Lutheran of Tower and Trinity Lutheran in Cook celebrated Easter Sunday with a joint drive-in service at the North Woods School parking lot. Almost 100 vehicles attended. Attendees stayed in their cars with the windows rolled up. Pastor Liz Cheney and Pastor Erika Foss led the service.

"The Drive-In Worship was a wonderful way to be together in the safest and most responsible way as we continue in Minnesota's Stay at Home order," said Cheney. "Everyone was contained to their vehicles and worshiped with those with them [in their car], and yet we were all together."

Cheney said the feeling at the service was "a strange together yet apart" experience, and that those who attended enjoyed the opportunity to worship together on Easter morning.

"It felt as "normal" as



Pastors Erika Foss (left) and Liz Cheney (right) led a drive-in Easter Service at the North Woods School parking lot on Easter Sunday. Attendees all stayed in their cars, with windows closed.

photo courtesy of Erika Foss.

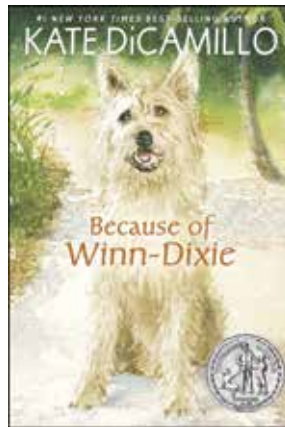
we can get it right now," she said. The service was also live streamed on both of the churches' Facebook pages.

"As a pastor who has been leading worship

alone and in an empty sanctuary for the last few weeks, it was so great to be able to partner with our sister church Trinity in Cook and work with Pastor Foss," said Cheney.

The two churches may schedule another drive-in service for Pentecost on May 31, if worship is not back to normal by then.

## Libraries across Minnesota hosting online book club



REGIONAL- The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library, and the Minnesota Center for the Book, announce the launch of One Book - One Minnesota, a new statewide book club that will invite Minnesotans of all

ages to read a common title and come together virtually to enjoy, reflect, and discuss. Presented in partnership with State Library Services, a division of the Minnesota Department of Education, the program aims to bring Minnesotans together during a challenging time and highlight the role of libraries as community connectors. The inaugural title for the program is "Because of Winn-Dixie", by Minnesota author Kate DiCamillo (Candlewick Press).

All Minnesotans will be invited to participate in a statewide virtual discussion with the author in May.

The first One Book

choice, "Because of Winn-Dixie", is currently celebrating its 20th anniversary of publication. Program coordinators selected the book for its broad appeal. It is geared for youth and is commonly part of the fourth-grade curriculum in schools around the state, but it's accessible across age groups.

Kate DiCamillo expressed her excitement in her recent introduction video. "I'm so thrilled that my book, "Because of Winn-Dixie", is the very first book for One Book - One Minnesota. Stories connect us, and I'm so happy to be connected with all of you through story."

"Because of Winn-Dixie" will be available

on multiple platforms. Readers can access the digital book for free on Ebooks Minnesota for eight weeks. Hard copies of the book will be available through Red Balloon Bookshop and other independent stores across the state, as well as public libraries as social distancing allows. The public will be encouraged to visit their local library's website for information on the book and virtual discussions. Links to resources for libraries and schools can be found at [theonebook.org/onebook](http://theonebook.org/onebook), or check the website for your local library.

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## Preserving COVID-19 experiences and photos for the future

### St. Louis County Historical Society seeks input from residents

REGIONAL- As the COVID-19 pandemic rages, the St. Louis County Historical Society is committed to saving today's history for tomorrow's generations.

"A year from now, are we going to remember what it felt like to be afraid of touching door handles or grocery store carts?" asked Charley Langowski, the SLCHS curator. "We must save the stories of how our lives changed and how we adapted. Future generations will want to know."

The historical society is encouraging people to think about how COVID-19 has directly affected their lives and what artifacts will help tell their story. Possible artifacts include diaries, mask patterns, recipes for home-

made hand sanitizers, distance-learning lesson plans, social distancing signs, quarantine crafts and more.

Since those items are still in use, the SLCHS is not accepting artifact donations at this time. However, Langowski urged people to start thinking about the types of items they would want to show their family members 50 or 100 years from now.

"Any donation we accept (in the future) must include provenance - why it was important, how it was used, and what part of life it reflected," Langowski said. "That can only be defined by thinking about our lives and the ways they have changed."

The following questions will help people determine which artifacts can help tell their personal story:

- How has this pandemic affected you and your family?
- Are you social distancing? If not, why not?
- What movies, books or music are you enjoying? Are you binge-watching TV series?
- Are you cooking

more? Have you discovered any new recipes? Are you baking sourdough bread?

➤ How have business closings affected you?

➤ Are you working from home now? Or are you searching for a job?

➤ How are your children dealing with distance learning, high stress levels and general uncertainties?

➤ Do you have a front-line or essential worker in your family? How has that affected your family?

People are sharing their COVID-19 stories and photos on social media. Those posts can be shared with the SLCHS in three ways: Tag the society by adding @thehistorypeople; Email Langowski at [charlene@thehistorypeople.org](mailto:charlene@thehistorypeople.org); Mail items to St. Louis County Historical Society, 506 W Michigan St. #9, Duluth, MN 55802.

To learn about SLCHS, visit [www.thehistorypeople.org](http://www.thehistorypeople.org) and [facebook.com/stlouiscountyhistorical-society](https://www.facebook.com/stlouiscountyhistorical-society).

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WOLF AMBASSADORS

# Wolf Center won't add new pups as planned

Ely facility will delay addition of pups until 2021 in response to COVID-19 outbreak

ELY – The International Wolf Center will defer bringing in two wolf pups until 2021 due to significant concerns for staff and volunteer health during the COVID-19 outbreak.

“This was a difficult decision and I’m sure it will be disappointing for many of you,” said Executive Director Grant Spickelmier. “The process of bringing in wolf pups and socializing them is intensive and involves several staff and volunteers providing 24-hour care and monitoring over several weeks in May and June, right when the peak of COVID-19 cases is anticipated to occur in Minnesota.”

After review of staffing, facilities, and what Wolf Center

staff currently knows about the coronavirus and its ability to spread, Spickelmier said it was determined that the potential health risks to center staff and volunteers were too high to justify moving forward this year.

According to Spickelmier, the pups had been scheduled to come from the Wildlife Science Center, an education and research organization in Forest Lake.

“The pups will now remain at their facility and be incorporated into their wolf program,” he said. “The Wolf Center plans to provide financial support to the Wildlife Science Center to help with pup care and hopes to obtain pups from them in 2021.”

Typically, adding pups on

**Right: Pups at the Wolf Center have always been a draw for visitors, for obvious reasons.**  
submitted

a four-year cycle to the Wolf Center’s pack of ambassador wolves helps maintain pack dynamics.

“Since two pups will not be brought in this year as planned, Wolf Center staff are developing a new management plan to support the Ambassador Pack until pups can be added in 2021,” he said.

The Ambassador Pack of wolves is just one way that the Wolf Center teaches the world about wolves. During this pandemic, free online programming is being offered to students and adults throughout



the world. More information on that programming can be found at wolf.org.

The Ely center tentatively plans to reopen on Friday, May 8,

but that will depend on the latest recommendations from the state, Spickelmier said. The center is scheduled to open seven days a week starting May 18.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

# Apply now for rebates, credits on Frontier service

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

Minnesota customers urged to apply before July 20 deadline

REGIONAL – Current and former customers of Frontier Communications may be eligible for rebates or bill credits for certain past service quality and reliability problems, according to the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

Commerce officials are urging those who might be eligible to act fast, however, because the settlement claim period lasts 90 days, beginning on April 13 and ending July 20, 2020.

“Thousands of Minnesotans across the state may be entitled to rebates or bill credits from this settlement,” said Commerce Commissioner Steve Kelley. “Current and former Frontier customers should review the settlement categories soon to

see if they qualify. The window to make claims is open now through July.”

Applications for refund or bill credit have been mailed to Frontier customers and are also available online at <https://frontier.com/forms/minnesota-bill-credit>.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ordered the rebates and bill credits, consistent with negotiated terms reached between the Minnesota Department of Commerce and Frontier, following a lengthy investigation into a wide range of service complaints from customers across Minnesota. A *Timberjay* investigation in late 2017 sparked the state probe into Frontier’s deficient service

quality.

Customers of Frontier and Citizens Telecommunications of MN, LLC, collectively referred to as Frontier, should have received notice from Frontier in bill inserts and direct mail starting this past week.

“It is important to note that both current and past Frontier customers may be eligible,” added Kelley.

The complaints, investigation and settlement resulted in the following categories for which a former or current Frontier customer may claim a refund or bill credit.

- ▶ Telephone was out-of-service and not restored within 24 hours.
- ▶ Incorrect billing for

service related to vacation rate.

- ▶ Late fees charged for phone service despite bill being paid on or before due date.

- ▶ Frontier did not cancel telephone service upon request, resulting in additional charges.

- ▶ Charged to receive a paper bill for telephone service.

- ▶ Charged for three-way calling without subscribing to the service.

- ▶ Wrongly charged for directory assistance or 411 calls.

- ▶ Charged an early termination fee on or after January 1, 2016, without having signed an agreement.

- ▶ Inappropriately charged fees to reconnect telephone service.

- ▶ Telephone disconnected

without proper notice.

- ▶ Refusal to install local telephone service.

- ▶ Inability to use the telephone due to static, cross talk, or other notice.

- ▶ Installation delay of more than three business days for primary local service line.

- ▶ Same trouble on the same line within 30 days.


- ▶ Frontier missed a repair appointment for telephone service.

- ▶ Customer service representation claimed no trouble report exists from an earlier call regarding the same phone issue.

The Commerce Department continues to investigate Frontier and is likely to order additional credits in the future.

**NO EXTENSIONS NEEDED**

Both Federal and MN governments have extended the income tax deadline to July 15, 2020. No extensions necessary.

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

<b>Fairview Range Phone Triage</b> Nurse triage line: 218-362-6682 Staffed hours: 7:30 am – 5 pm	<b>MHealth Fairview:</b> <a href="https://oncare.org/">https://oncare.org/</a>	<b>St Luke's:</b> <a href="https://slhduluth.zipnosis.com/">https://slhduluth.zipnosis.com/</a>
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# OPINION

“CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW...  
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OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;”

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

## Editorial

### Minnesota leads

A clear and effective response to COVID-19 has helped keep the state safe

We suspect few Minnesotans jumped for joy at Gov. Walz’s decision last week to extend his stay-at-home order through May 4. Efforts to slow the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic are inconvenient, are costing jobs, and are having a significant impact to the state’s economy.

But it’s hard to argue with success, and that’s what we’ve experienced so far in Minnesota, where the rate of new infection from the COVID-19 virus is the lowest among the 50 states.

While Minnesotans can all take credit for demonstrating the kind of prudence that’s helped to keep the virus under control here, we also need to credit sound leadership from Gov. Tim Walz as well as from the public health experts at the Department of Health and the University of Minnesota. They took effective action early and, by doing so, demonstrated that the COVID-19 virus, as contagious and dangerous as it is, can be kept within a degree of control.

The timeline of the disease here in Minnesota helps to demonstrate that.

March 7: First confirmed case in the state.

March 13: Walz declares state of emergency.

March 18: Walz closes state’s schools and restaurants and bars.

March 27: Walz issues stay-at-home order.

Essentially, in less than two and a half weeks from the time the state saw its first confirmed case of the COVID-19 virus, state officials had all but essential workers in the state confined to their homes.

While many other states took these steps, and in some cases before Minnesota, virtually none did so before the disease had already begun to spread widely in their states. By taking prompt action, and by communicating with Minnesotans clearly and with the required urgency, Gov. Walz has made an effective case and call to action during his regular briefings. Minnesotans have clearly understood the governor’s message and the vast majority are

complying with his order.

At the same time, state officials have moved quickly to bring funding to health care providers and emergency medical services around Minnesota. As we report this week, numerous hospitals, clinics, and ambulance services right in our area have benefitted from this emergency funding to ensure they’ll have the resources necessary to serve the potential surge in caseloads anticipated as a result of the pandemic. State officials aren’t waiting for the federal government to get its act together. Instead, they are tapping the state’s reserve funds to make this funding available, recognizing that local health care providers can’t take it all on themselves.

The state is also providing well-timed assistance for small businesses hard hit by closures and the stay-at-home order. Those funds, provided through the Department of Employment and Economic Development, are just the right size for many of the smallest businesses in the state, i.e. the ones that will have the toughest time recovering from the economic impact of closures or economic slowdowns. They’re available through local nonprofit lenders like the Entrepreneur Fund and the Northland Foundation and they’re helping hundreds of businesses right in our area. While there are federal programs as well, most small businesses are going to find it far easier and faster to work through the state process. Media reports are already pointing to an avalanche of applications to the federal programs that could easily delay access to funds for many businesses for months.

It all adds up to a coordinated response that is addressing the needs of the public’s health, our health care service sector, and Minnesota businesses. At a time when folks like to complain about government, Minnesota is showing that at least here, in the North Star State, we still know how to “get ‘er done.”



## Letters from Readers

### Howling at the moon brought us together

I howled at the full moon earlier this month and was answered by about ten people in my neighborhood. This “Howl from Home” experience was created by Adam Bisbee of the International Wolf Center. People went outside at 9:35 p.m. and howled, waiting to hear others respond. What a thrill to hear lots of people on the east end of Ely also howling.

Howling was for me a release of anxiety, worry, and fear. I felt an immediate sense of relief. Knowing that my neighbors were in this together with me filled my heart. These kinds of community efforts are just what we need in this difficult time.

**Carol Orban  
Ely**

### Local clinics are here for you

Your local clinics want you to know that they are here to meet your health care needs despite the need to social distance during the coronavirus pandemic. Your health care needs do not wait for pandemics to end and neither does your health care team. Essentia Health, Scenic Rivers and the Ely Free Clinic are all scheduling appointments as usual with the option of phone and video visits from the comfort of your own home available for many visits including chronic care such as checking up on your diabetes, heart disease, depression, asthma, COPD and other chronic health care needs, well child visits and annual exams to review preventative needs. Remote visits can also assess a variety of new illnesses and concerns and are also being offered by all area mental health providers.

The Essentia Health team can help you with any technology needs you might have to get you meeting with a clinic provider. Just schedule the appointment using your usual method, either through MyHealth or by calling

365-7900. They’re here for you.

Scenic Rivers in Tower and Cook continues to offer medical appointments, behavioral health appointments, and emergency dental care at this time, with many appointments from the comfort of your own home. Please call 218-753-2405 for questions or to schedule.

The Ely Free Clinic is open for phone or on-line visits for all basic medical evaluations, consultations, and refilling prescriptions. They are also processing health insurance applications during the open renewal period with MNSure through April 21 and continuing beyond then for MA and MinnesotaCare. Contact the Free Clinic at 218-248-5776.

**Heidi Favet, CHW  
Care Team Leader  
Essentia Health Ely**

### Be wary of extension on Community Center

The owners of the Community Center are seeking an extension of nine years to bring their plan to fruition. I recommend that the city council not grant the extension. I have doubts about their ability to finance reconstruction and maintenance of the building.

More importantly, I think the historic repurposing of the building by the community can better serve Ely.

The K America Foundation is a tax-exempt organization that does not and will not ever pay property taxes to Ely.

The Community Center is an extraordinarily valuable building in an excellent location. If properly repurposed, it could continue its role as an icon to our community. Moreover, it can significantly add to Ely’s tax base on a sustainable basis, perhaps for forty years or more. The additional tax revenue would enable the city council to lower Ely residents’ taxes and/or permit the council to create or improve amenities for Ely citizens.

It is estimated that if the building were repurposed for apartments or condominiums and retained the full range of historical Art Deco artifacts, it might cost about four million

dollars. Coupled with the value of the existing building and land, the total value is likely to make an attractive project worthy of private financing at a time when interest rates are historically low.

The Twin Cities has developers who have restored old structures to meet modern day uses. They could provide a turn-key repurposing construction of the Community Center.

Alternatively, the Ely area has talented people and institutions with the expertise to design, build, market and finance the revival of the Community Center.

**Gerry Snyder  
Ely**

### You let Trump off too easy

Last week, one of your online commenters wrote that your editorial on President Trump’s poor response to COVID-19 was too long. It could have been longer in my opinion, but it seems the first commenter on this editorial wasn’t satisfied with the facts presented. Probably because they didn’t come from Fox News, which we all know is the only factual news on the planet.....

One fact the commenter stated is true. Trump is bad. When faced with his own comments as to what he has said he denies and he deflects, calls reporters terrible persons for asking a question, tells them they are sensationalizing the news and on and on. In the history of this President he has stated what he will do and what he has done and at the same time blames the last administration for the shape that the country is in. He hasn’t done all that he promised. I could go on about that but the commenter doesn’t like long stories.... First of all, if he knew the national stockpile of PPE was low then why didn’t he do something about it? If it’s “OUR” stockpile, then why is he not giving it up to the hospitals when they say they are in need? He seems to be holding on to that stockpile like a child who wants all the toys in the sandbox.....

**Brian LaFrenier  
Embarrass**

## An Easter we won’t soon forget...

It was an Easter Sunday like no other I can recall. Another morning with cold gray skies but a forecast predicting “a nice day in the Northland”. When the sun gets high enough to warm things up even a little, the pleasure is indescribable! Everything feels more manageable, despite COVID-19 and almost total isolation.



**KATHLEEN  
MCQUILLAN**

Have you noticed the featured stories about what we’re doing to keep busy when we’re really limited with what we can do? One fellow this morning in a radio interview talked about dyeing his hair. I wondered what color? And a woman described walking her cat.

“Yes”, she repeated, “my cat!” I must say, now three weeks into

the stay-at-home order, I’ve yet to go off the deep end.

One day recently, a message came from the universe, “Start sorting through all those family photos. The ones you’ve stuffed in sacks for years, after you got too busy or bored with making photo albums.” The stacks of sacks had gotten a little daunting for me — until this moment of inspiration, or should I say desperation? Whatever. I grabbed a bag and dug in.

The really old ones were easy. It appeared that Mom had done some serious culling

before she died. I did find a few “doubles” and some that were meaningful to her but far too blurry for me to appreciate. I then dove into the bag labeled “Kathy’s Childhood”, mostly black and white, chock full of memories. With Easter just a few days away, I took special interest in “Easter Sundays Past”. There we were, my grade school self and siblings, in cute little outfits, poised obediently for the camera before being herded into the car for Mass. My sister and I wore white cotton gloves, straw bonnets with little fake flowers

tucked in the hatbands and patent leather “t-straps”. My brother was in his crisp white shirt, a tie and dress shoes. We each had an Easter basket but they were empty. I remember we’d hunted for eggs that morning but the Easter Bunny hadn’t come. I wonder how my mom had forced those stiff smiles we wore.

I was raised in a traditional Irish-Catholic family where the emphasis was more about Good Friday than Easter. Maybe out of my early adulthood spirit of

See **EASTER...pg. 5**

## Letters from Readers

### Governors have the authority to restart economy

Recent events have included claims by the President that he has absolute power to determine how and when to restart our economy. The response from some including Gov. Andrew Cuomo from New York was emphatic and clear, that such an idea runs counter to states' rights.

Historical precedent from the time of the founding of the United States at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 would certainly support Gov. Cuomo's rejection. Having recently lived under oppressive laws from England without a voice and having experimented with the Articles of Confederation which did not work well, the founding fathers had a lot of experience to inform them when developing the Constitution.

What then is the Constitution? The Constitution is a document written in terms general or abstract enough to retain a core set of values yet allow changing interpretations as called for by the times. By binding the hands of future generations, it intends to prevent a majority from granting tyrannical powers to the government in a time of crises. It also prevents a majority from easily taking away the rights of minorities. And it prevents those in office from holding on to power by increasing their terms in office.

The Constitution has three

purposes. First it creates a national government consisting of a legislative, an executive, and a judicial branch, with a system of checks and balances among the three branches. Second, it divides power between the federal government and the states. And third, it protects various individual liberties of American citizens. What seems most relevant to who owns the economic restart was how the Constitution divides the power between states and the federal government, the concept of states' rights.

The language is a bit complicated but can be summarized in two parts. The first part is from the Bill of Rights' 10th Amendment which basically says that all rights and powers not specifically reserved to Congress are reserved by either the states or by the people. The second part of the dependency comes from one of the Articles of the Constitution stating that all laws enacted by the state governments must comply with the Constitution and that federal laws take precedence over state laws.

While there may be laws that will be found by the lawyers to apply, we never have had a situation such as our current pandemic where we purposely shut down the economy. Responding to the need to restrict people from gathering to slow the spread of the virus to protect the health system from collapse and to save lives, our President stated each state should make their own decisions if, how, and when to shut down

their respective state's economy by issuing stay at home orders or other directives as determined on a state by state basis.

If the President thought it appropriate to tell the governors to make their own decisions and take their own actions to shut down their own economies, would it not be expected that each governor now would be expected to remove/reverse those actions to restart their economy? Consistent with States' Rights, it would be easy to conclude that the states would also have the right, and expectation, to restart their economies however each state chooses.

**Keith Steva  
Cook**

### We are well-advised to listen to our top public health experts

As a native Elyite, public health and academic pulmonologist fighting many crises, I would like to pass on my experiences with the current leaders fighting COVID-19.

In 1983 I was fortunate to be a Senior Investigator at the National Institutes of Health in the Pulmonary Branch studying macrophage growth factors. My job was to elucidate how silica, coal or asbestos caused lung fibrosis. For six years I brought over 500 miners and asbestos workers to NIH for research studies.

While making Rounds I met Dr. Anthony Fauci who was the incoming Director of

the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. He was already recognized as the leader in fighting a new immune deficiency that soon was discovered to be caused by a retrovirus, and worked on diagnostics and treatments for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). He was friendly, enthusiastic, and extraordinarily informed. He developed zidovudine, the first anti-retroviral treatment. I consulted on several of his patients and performed bronchoscopies for his treatment protocols.

In 1989 I moved to direct Pulmonary/Critical Care at NYU/Bellevue where I met my first pandemic of HIV/TB when New York City had 20 times the national average of tuberculosis cases. TB spread among the immunocompromised AIDS patients and we had to implement treatments to prevent multi drug resistance and slow the epidemic. The federal government and CDC helped us build over 100 negative-pressure rooms in Bellevue with ultraviolet lighting in the ceiling and HEPA filters. These rooms are now filled with COVID-19 patients. We all wore N95 respirators religiously.

CDC supported case finding and contact tracing and we started the first public hospital directly observed therapy program. Along with David Ho MD at the Aaron Diamond Research Center we found that TB stimulated cytokine release. The HIV virus took advantage of these cytokines and replicat-

ed rapidly in the lungs. Much the same is occurring with the coronavirus although respiratory epithelial cells are also involved in the viral pneumonia and respiratory failure. David Ho MD was on the cover of TIME magazine in the 1990s after publishing the multiplication rate of HIV. He now extrapolates that experience to attack rate curves for coronavirus providing the data to support a national shelter in place and stay at home order.

Following HIV/TB came the 9/11 World Trade Center collapse and tens of thousands adversely affected by the dust: we developed a World Trade Center Environmental Health Center for respiratory care and research at Bellevue. Next came Hurricane Sandy that flooded both Bellevue and NYU Tisch Hospital and left us without facilities for six months. And then came Ebola where the affected New York doctor was hospitalized in Bellevue on our TB isolation ward.

Expertise in health and environmental crises is crucial for our federal government to develop policies that save lives. The NIH and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are important scientific resources for fighting not only coronavirus but global warming as well. From my first-hand experience with these scientific leaders, I can attest that they have the knowledge and experience to lead and we are well advised to listen to them.

**William Rom MD, MPH  
Ely and New York, NY**

### THEIR WAY

## The question that got Rudy Perpich up out of his chair

Editor's Note: "Their Way" is a regular column that captures the personal style of the many public officials, personalities and other people and events covered by Bill Hanna during his more than 31 years as reporter and editor for the *Mesabi Daily News*.

"Just who the hell is this guy, this Iron Ranger?"

That's what some of our readership at *The Sentinel* newspaper in Fairmont, Minn., asked when Rudy Perpich assumed the governorship in 1977.

"He's really different, even odd," readers would usually add — sometimes with quite more colorful adjectives. Hey, southern Minnesota was very heavy Republican territory four decades ago, even more so than today.

I, too, was intrigued by this rough-and-tumble politician, whose style sharply clashed with that of

his predecessor, Wendell Anderson.

Anderson's personality was like a tranquil sky at sunset after an intense summer storm; Perpich was the thunder-bumper.

Anderson was like a Cosmopolitan martini (stirred not shaken); Perpich a beer and a bump.

The dentist from Hibbing had drilled into Minnesota's political conscience when Walter Mondale was tapped by Jimmy Carter as his vice presidential running mate in 1976. Carter and Mondale won; Anderson

then stepped down as governor with Perpich ascending to the governorship; Anderson was then appointed to Mondale's U.S. Senate seat.

Phew!

Perpich had little name recognition beyond the Range as lieutenant governor. But as governor

he became known statewide immediately. And he was a fascinating addition to the political scene.

Perpich was a roll-up-your-sleeves and get-at-it governor. He didn't probe a problem, he attacked it.

When there was a power line dispute in southwestern Minnesota, Perpich left St. Paul's government bubble to talk with the people directly affected. And he did so without telling media or even his staff.

Can you imagine owning and living on a farm homestead, hearing a knock on the front door and opening it to find Minnesota's governor standing there? "Hi, I'm Governor Perpich. Just wondering about your thoughts on this power line issue."

He was the Solitary Governor seeking answers.

I proposed a special page on the new governor. My editor and mentor Jack Weaver, who also believed that state government was local news, said go for it.

Staff photographer Bob Schroeder, a pro's pro who had a wonderful jour-

nalistic eye and respected those of us who crafted words for a living, was up for the 250-mile round trip. It gave him a chance to retell his Korean War stories and me an opportunity to once again listen with interest as if they were being heard for the first time.

I had been to the State Capitol building several times before. It's an incredibly wondrous living, breathing historic structure.

Just like Rod Stewart sang, "Every picture tells a story ... story," every nook and cranny of the State Capitol tells stories upon stories — and not all of them rated "G," which only adds to the building's luster and lore.

But there was something quite special about this State Capitol trip. I was excited about an interview with the state's 34th governor — the first Roman Catholic and first Iron Ranger to hold that prominent position.

Once ushered into the governor's office, Perpich and photographer Schroeder immediately hit

it off. He seemed a bit more wary of the reporter.

But the governor and I, too, soon developed a good rapport. Until ... that question. The one that was oh-so-poorly phrased, but received a response I still hold as a cherished memory.

"Governor, some people say you shoot from the hip ...," began the question that would never be completed.

Gov. Perpich raised up his big frame at the same time the volume of his already powerful voice was turned up a few decibels.

"What do you mean I shoot from the hip?" the governor bellowed at me.

Talk about shooting the messenger.

The governor's desk was, thankfully, heavy and big — too heavy to tip over on me and so big it provided me with a welcome boundary between the governor and a young reporter.

I admit to being a bit startled. Little did I know at the time, however, it would be a good primer for the more than 30 years of political journalism on the

Range that were waiting.

The interview finished, Bob and I left the governor's office. To his credit, Bob held back his laughter until we were outside the Capitol.

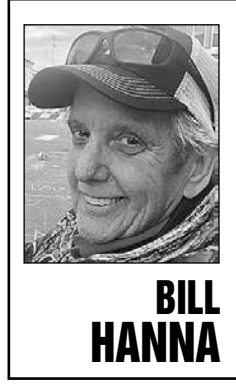
"I wish I had taken a photo of you when the governor responded to your 'shoot from the hip' question," Schroder said while laughing like a hyena.

Schroder basically said I was like a deer caught in headlights and the governor had made me road kill.

"But you hung in there, kid," the photographer said.

The photographer couldn't wait to get back into the newspaper plant to pass on the story of the young reporter and governor and to laugh anew.

The reporter couldn't wait to find a stool at a local watering hole to have a beer and a bump in honor of and tribute to the new governor and an interview question that unintentionally really stirred the pot.



**BILL  
HANNA**

## EASTER...Continued from page 4

rebellion, I vowed to make every holiday special when I had kids. And so I tried!

A tradition that developed in my young family was the annual "Coloring of the Eggs"! My best friend, Steph, would show up with all the necessary tools of the artist's trade to create the most extraordinary eggs imaginable. An artist I am not, but "Auntie Steph", having no children of her own, indulged mine in extremes of color and design. My sons loved it! Their bag of childhood photos included many years of them proudly displaying their Easter baskets brimming with wildly colored hardboiled eggs! One photo vividly

captured the memorable Easter of 1996. There were Corey, Nick and Steph, each with Easter baskets in hand, standing in front of a six-foot snowbank! Spring came late that year.

Easter 2020 will be another unforgettable year. When worship services were televised, Skyped or Zoomed. When we couldn't gather to celebrate holidays or other special occasions in the effort to dodge "the Virus". With familiar traditions cancelled, new ways of honoring would be devised. This year, instead of preparing for a family feast, I got a sudden urge to make Easter cards for other people's youngsters

who I carry close to my heart — grand-nieces and nephews, my grandson and his younger siblings sprinkled across the midwest. Out came my markers, a pad of construction paper and a bunch of doodads perfect for adding pizzazz. I cut and glued images of bunnies and chicks retrieved from recycled greeting cards until I had to halt my creative impulses and make sure I got everything mailed in time!

Easter morning began with coffee and the newspaper, nothing too out of the ordinary. Then I started thinking of family, especially my sons. It was much too early to call them so I began readying for my

day. The phone rang. It was Steph! Bless her heart! She too was reminiscing about Easter's past. We laughed over antics, including the Funniest Egg Contests, before we shifted gears to the present. She told me about this week's mind-bending crossword puzzle where the clue read, "A five-letter word associated with Easter". She'd mullied it over for the longest time, her brain insisting it had to be "bunny" but she couldn't work that in. And just as she concluded that the puzzle maker must have made a mistake, it suddenly came to her! "Kath, you will never guess." She gave me a second to

ponder, then burst out, "The word was Jesus!" For many readers, that might elicit a "Dah!"

I then told her my "bunny" story. A wild rabbit, for weeks, had been paying me daily visits. I named her "Dinah", like the pet rabbit Stephanie had given Corey for his seventh birthday. "Ohhh," she said. "That's sweet." "But there's more," I interrupted. "I found Dinah impaled on the fence yesterday where she'd tried to get into the garden! I was so upset when I found her." "Oh!" Steph responded in shocked sympathy. "That's too bad!" "But, there's more," I continued. "Today, I spotted her iden-

tical twin at my front door! He just showed up out of nowhere!" "Oh, Kath!" she exclaimed. "You could call him Jesus!" Please, forgive me if I'm seeming irreverent but I couldn't hold back my laughter. On this particular Easter morning, humor was a healing balm.

Easter is a special holiday, with its story hailing hope, of rising from suffering and coming out triumphant on the other side. It's not to be lost on us as we move through these difficult times, longing to roll back this rock and see a miracle. Let's hope it's the vaccine for COVID-19!

Week of April 20

**Monday**  
TOPS - Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tower, at 9 a.m. Canceled until further notice.

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

**Tuesday**  
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is April 21.

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

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

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

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

# Who are you going to call?

## Many taking advantage of curbside and home delivery options at Zup's

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Grocery shopping right now can feel very stressful. On the one hand, it's the one place you can go out to and actually see some friendly faces, but on the other hand, there are the worries of being exposed to the coronavirus.

Now Zup's in Tower is offering options for area residents, including home delivery and carry-out service.

The Breitung Police Department is offering delivery for homebound residents on Tuesdays. And Zup's staff is offering curbside pickup on Wednesdays for anyone not wanting to do their own shopping.

Breitung Police Chief Dan Nylund said the deliveries are "going

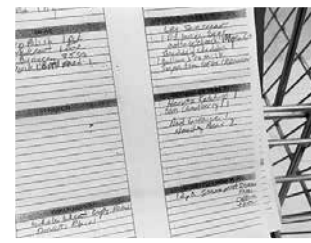
great." He has been doing an average of four deliveries a week. Zup's staff fills the order, and then Nylund drops off the groceries on the household's doorstep, calling right before he arrives.

If you stop by Zup's Grocery in Tower on a Wednesday, the store is busy. But instead of customers roaming up and down the aisles with carts, it is store staff, lists in hand, filling up carts for curbside delivery.

The new program, which started a few weeks ago, has been highly popular with customers, according to store manager Jon Ojala.

"People call in their orders on Tuesday or Wednesday morning," he said, "and pay using a credit or debit card."

Orders are filled, and then boxed up and placed



in the walk-in cooler until picked up. Customers just give a call when they are in the parking lot, and Zup's staff bring out their order.

Customers, mostly seniors, seem to really appreciate the service.

And it's not just gro-

ceries. Shopping lists have included bird seed and cracked corn for deer, said Ojala. Store staff are happy to be able to provide the service, and help keep their neighbors safe, he said.

Zup's shelves have

remained pretty well stocked, including fresh fruit and vegetables. Toilet paper is still in high demand, but new shipments are coming in regularly, Ojala said.

**Zup's staff, including Jim (Chimpy) Tuominen, pictured above, assemble curbside delivery orders.**  
photos by J. Summit

## New procedures in place at Tower Food Shelf on Tuesday, April 21; egg cartons needed

TOWER- Families using the Tower Area Food Shelf will not be able to "shop" inside this month, due to new regulations put in place due to COVID-19. Food shelf volunteers will be preparing boxes for each family, based on family size, which will be handed out outdoors. Food shelf clients will fill out a simplified form this month, at a table that will set up outdoors, in the Timberjay back parking area.

Please bring empty egg cartons. There are eggs to give out, but not any egg cartons!

Any new families needing to use the food shelf this month will just need to give their name, and number in the household. No income verification will be needed this month, to make sure the food distribution is done as efficiently as possible. The food shelf is open the third Tuesday of each month from 2:30 - 5:30 p.m.



The Vermilion Country School students who normally help unload the food bank truck were unavailable, so a crew of older volunteers, in masks and gloves, helped unload the delivery truck last week.

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by GINA EMPEY  
Timberjay contributor

Thank goodness our long chilly winter is over.

It has been a rough start to this year and it is more important than ever to find ways to laugh and embrace the positive things in your life. Sometimes the smallest things can make the biggest difference.

A gratitude journal can really help at this time. There are so many

## Tick Talk

things that we take for granted and it helps to be thankful. Going for walks in the fresh air to get some sunshine and exercise can really help brighten our days and help our immune system do its job.

Please protect yourself, especially if you already have an autoimmune condition. Lyme disease and the other tick-borne illnesses can give symptoms similar to autoimmune disorders, so

please be sure to protect yourself and your pets.

There is some exciting news. Many patients who have been previously treated for Lyme disease are having symptom relief from taking Disulfiram, commonly known as "Antabuse." It is an FDA-approved compound used to assist alcoholics in resisting alcohol consumption.

Scientists have recently discovered that Disulfiram is effective in the lab setting at killing the microbes that cause Lyme disease. I appreciate the people who have been in on the study to help all of us find treatment options.

There is a good video interview on Lyme disease with Dr.

Horowitz explaining his treatment options for his patient with Lyme disease and COVID-19 at the same time.

We appreciate all of the help from the community to get the word out about Babe Winkelman's presentation at Fortune Bay. It was canceled for now. We are hopeful to have him come when it is a better time.

We also have put our meetings at Kugler Town Hall on hold. Please contact us at [LvLyme@gmail.com](mailto:LvLyme@gmail.com) if you are in need of support at this time. We are considering doing Zoom meetings online if enough people are interested. Take care and please be safe!

## Senior Dining still available for carry-out

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. Please note, because of current health guidelines, the meals do not include the salad bar, but canned vegetables will be available.

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

**Reservations are requested a day in advance if possible.** 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 20**

- Monday- Cheese Enchilada
- Tuesday- Hamburger Gravy over Mashed Potatoes
- Wednesday- Chicken Chow Mein
- Thursday- Italian Meatball Sub
- Friday- Tater Tot Hot Dish.

## 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.

Call **753-2950** to subscribe to the **Timberjay!**

**Libraries**

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

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

**Support groups**

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

**Ely AA groups to meet by phone**  
ELY – Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Ely Wednesday and Saturday AA Groups will not meet in person. A conference call meeting has been set up. At 7:30 p.m. on either night, call 978-990-5000, and enter the access code, 965850#. Once the meeting has started, use \*6 to mute and unmute your phone.

**Lights on for support**  
ELY - Starting this week, Ely Memorial High School turned the lights on at its baseball and football fields and joined a campaign sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League that now includes approximately 250 high schools around the state. On Monday and Friday evenings, the lights at Veterans Memorial Field and Ely School Stadium will go on at 8:20 p.m., and stay on for approximately 20 minutes and 20 seconds.

**Breathing Out**  
by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



time takes these beauties silhouettes no longer stand years of shade and grace

**Ely Health Center implements Telehealth**

by JON ERICKSON  
Ely Community Health Center



ELY - Although the news regarding the COVID-19 virus outbreak seems to have slowed down, I am afraid it only feels that way, as we are adapting to this crisis with more calm and understanding. The Ely Community Health Center implemented a Telehealth-Only mode of operation through April 30. In addition, Essentia Clinic has implemented a Telehealth process for anyone with symptoms potentially related to COVID-19. For those concerned about symptoms related to the COVID-19 virus, three options are available, all of which are generally without cost if the symptoms are associated with the COVID-19 virus. Visit the EssentiaHealth.org website and use the e-visit functionality. This will connect you to a medical provider who can discuss your symptoms and determine the best course of action you should pursue to address your illness. Call the toll-free Essentia hotline at 833-494-0836. Call the Minnesota Department of Health at

651-201-3920. Should your need not be related to the COVID-19 virus, the Ely Community Health Center can accommodate Telehealth appointments either through video conferencing during our regularly scheduled clinic hours on Thursdays from 5:30-7 p.m. or we can schedule a phone conversation. Call 218-365-5678 for more information. Because of the limited availability of test kits through out the United States, the administering of COVID-19 tests requires a medical provider's referral before it can be administered. I have received numerous calls about what people should do if they feel they have COVID-19 symptoms. Here are our current suggestions as to what people should do: If you are starting to demonstrate the typical symptoms such as dry cough, shortness

of breath and a fever, it is best to contact Essentia Clinic either through the e-visit platform or the toll-free number 833-494-0836. You will then be able to talk to a medical provider who can help you decide on the best treatment; more than likely it will consist of rest and self isolation. If you are experiencing these symptoms, wearing a facemask when people come in to check on you is also important. If symptoms continue to worsen it is probably time to contact Essentia Clinic or the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital to set up an appointment to be evaluated by a medical provider. Please call before heading to either the clinic or the hospital so they can be prepared for your arrival. If you develop emergency warning signs for COVID-19, get medical attention immediately. Emergency warning signs include: trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, and bluish lips or face. If possible, contact the EBCH Emergency Room, 218-365-3271, before having someone

transport you to the hospital. Based on an executive order signed by Gov. Walz, if you do not have health insurance right now, you can get covered through MNsure. Apply by April 21. Coverage will start Wednesday, April 1. (If you enroll after April 1 and by 11:59 p.m. on April 21, your coverage will have a retroactive start date of April 1.) The critical issue at this time is that so many Minnesotans have reported income and employment changes that the backlog of MNsure processing is weeks behind where it needs to be. If you have lost your health insurance through a change in employment or if you did not previously have insurance, it is critical to get in the queue as early as possible. For help in applying for Medical Assistance, MinnesotaCare or MNsure we can also accommodate you at a mutually-agreed-upon appointment. To schedule an appointment for health insurance navigation, or for any other questions, send an email to director@elycommunityhealth.org or call us at 218-365-5678.

**Ely Area Food Shelf services remain available**

ELY – For the duration of Minnesota's "stay at home" order, the Ely Area Food Shelf and their services will remain available. Similar to grocery stores, the organization is considered an essential service. According to EFS Executive Director Cheryl Boyes, their distribution method will look different from the usual. "If you are in need of food please don't hesitate to call 218-235-8527," she said. "If you are newly laid off or unemployed we are here for you. If you are a senior or in the high-risk category and isolating we can make arrangements to deliver food to you in a non-contact method."

**Women Who Care aids Food Shelf**  
ELY - Despite the coronavirus pandemic causing the cancellation of the spring 100-plus Ely Women Who Care in-person event, the community giving circle is active and intent on supporting one of the many nonprofits that need their help now more than ever. Organizers selected the Ely Area Food Shelf to be their recipient. Already in demand, the food shelf is ramping up to support Ely. In their own words: "We expect the need for our services to grow rapidly, doubling or even tripling. We will most likely be expanding our services to twice monthly instead of once a month, doing more home deliveries, and emergency food distributions." To donate, make a check payable to the Ely Area Food Shelf and mail it to: 100+ Ely Women Who Care, PO Box 216, Ely, MN 55731 by April 19. Organizers will collect the checks and deliver them to the food shelf. Go to 100ElyWomenWhoCare.org for more details. To learn more about the Ely Area Food Shelf, see Elyareafoodshelf.org.

the means to purchase and stock the expensive recommended cleaning supplies, jumbo packs of bar soaps, toilet paper and boxes of tissues," Boyes said. "We are able to source good staple food items through Second Harvest." The Ely Area Food Shelf welcomes donations of bar soap, cleaning products like Lysol or Clorox wipes or sprays for sanitizing surfaces, and toilet paper or boxes of tissue. "If you have these types of items stockpiled perhaps you would be willing to share a few, or purchase them as they are available from our local merchants; they would appreciate the extra business as well," Boyes said. For more information, call 218-235-8527.

The food shelf continues to serve many Ely community members vulnerable to COVID-19. "Additionally our shop-

pers differ from many of us, as they may not have



**the TIMBERJAY**

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**OUR COMMUNITY**

**Ely grad commits to VCC baseball**  
ELY - A good day for the Vermilion Community College Ironmen was celebrated last week as they added another key Class of 2020 recruit. Dalton Schreffler, set to graduate from Ely Memorial High School this spring, plans to join the VCC baseball program next fall. Schreffler was an all-conference pitcher and shortstop for the Timberwolves last year, striking out 46 batters in 42 innings and recording back-to-back shutouts in two section playoff wins. For Ely's Legion team, he hit .336 and had several strong outings on the mound including a shutout against state powerhouse Pierz. Schreffler will join high school and Legion teammates Tyler Housey and Danny Crockett in giving the Ironmen some local flavor.



Dalton Schreffler will be playing for VCC next year. photo by K. Vandervort

# Foundation surprises hospital employees with gift cards

COOK- It's the time of year when W.C. Heiam Foundation board president Sally Ludlow and her fellow board members would normally be promoting the spring fundraiser for support of the foundation's work with Cook Hospital, but 2020 is anything but normal.

Ludlow said that it felt difficult to think about reaching out to individuals and businesses that were struggling under the restrictions put in place to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, but in email communications with other board members, a completely different plan emerged.

"We felt like giving

something to the employees of the hospital," Ludlow said, "because without taking care of them it doesn't matter how much money we raise."

So a foundation more accustomed to making donations large and small for hospital equipment and stipends turned its attention instead toward local businesses who could use a boost as well. \$5,400 of gift cards were purchased at The Crescent Grill, The Dam Supper Club, The Landing, The Montana Café, South Switch, Subway, T. Patten's Café, and Zup's, and delivered to the hospital last Friday by foundation secretary Tiffany Briggs. Each employee

received \$50 in gift cards.

While foundation members couldn't deliver the cards in person because of hospital visitor restrictions, Ludlow said hospital administrator Teresa Debevec made certain the cards were distributed to everyone.

"We didn't want to leave anybody out," Ludlow said. "It came out very well."

Other board members involved in orchestrating the surprise included Bruce Carson, Sally Oberstar, Barb Brenna, Eric Burckhardt, Teresa Debevec, Marge Herr, Adam Maki, Bill Michaelson, Toni Monsivais.



Sarah and Rebecca Koch, of Orr, practice safety precautions against COVID-19 with their dolls. The girls asked their mother, Emily, to make masks for their dolls too! They are taking the pandemic seriously, staying home and washing hands.

## Community drive-through dinner is April 23

COOK- Trinity Lutheran Church of Cook will offer its monthly community meal on Thursday, April 23 by

providing drive-through pick-up in the front parking lot of the church at 231 2nd St. E by American Bank.

This month's menu is pulled pork sandwiches and sides. The meal is free and open to the public.

# Orr council moves ahead on Orr General Store complaint

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- Meeting Monday at the community center to provide space for social distancing, Orr City Council members opted to pursue a blight action against the owner of the former Orr General Store.

The city has still not received a response from property owner Clint Diefenthaler after he was notified Feb. 20 by certified mail that he had 30 days to bring a dilapidated shed on his property up to code or demolish and remove it.

The letter, sent by city attorney Kelly Klun,

stated, "If these corrections are not completed within thirty days, the city will seek a hearing for summary enforcement and intends to move forward with demolition of the outbuilding. In addition, they have the right to seek criminal action. You will be liable for costs, damages, and attorney's fees."

Mayor Joel Astleford wanted to consider the costs of the available options.

"I'd really like to weigh the costs of the attorney's fees against the cost of us hiring somebody to tear it down," he said.

"In order to tear it

down we still have to have an attorney for summary judgment unless he agrees," city clerk Cheri Carter said. She explained that an attorney would need to do paperwork to obtain a court order or notify Diefenthaler of a hearing but noted that "whatever it costs for attorneys we can assess against the property."

Councilors voted unanimously to ask the city attorney to proceed to the next steps of the process.

In other business, Councilor Erika Cote brought up a feature article that appeared in the April 10 *Timberjay* about Jeremy Morris, who

has been charged with third-degree robbery and has an active felony warrant.

"I'm curious how this could be reported for our community with what this person has stolen from our community. I'm not very pleased with that," she said.

David Colburn, Cook-Orr Editor for the *Timberjay*, provided a detailed expansion as found in another article below, and offered an apology.

In other action, the council:

►Approved an application for emergency COVID-19 supplies that was submitted to the

Minnesota Department of Health in late March for \$6,450. The city was awarded \$5,050.

►Approved purchasing a UV-C Air and Surface Disinfection Lamp for \$3,995 for the ambulance service to use for disinfecting rigs. Ultraviolet-C light is more than 99.99 percent effective in eliminating bacteria and viruses, and significantly more effective than liquid cleaners and manual wiping, according to the manufacturer's specifications.

►Approved changes to lot descriptions in Erickson Addition for property owned by Joe Lakoskey and Irene Semon. The

council subsequently approved a building permit for a garage submitted by Lakoskey, provided placement of the garage complied with applicable setbacks.

►Accepted two donations to the ambulance service of \$200 each.

►Accepted a bid of \$1,575 from Dale Autio to wax the floors at the community center. The city will supply stripper and wax.

►Considered two bids for shingling the roof of the Tourist Information Center. The low bid from Jim Cushman for \$36,036 was accepted.

# The story behind a journalistic faux pax

## How someone with a felony warrant ended up featured in the *Timberjay*

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- It's a good thing I love eggs, because I sure ended up with a bunch of egg on my face last week.

The emails about my story on Jeremy Morris, stuck in San Diego, started coming in a couple of hours after last week's papers hit the newsstands on Thursday. Some writers were flabbergasted, others were insulted, and some were just downright mad. One was quite simple, and it gets to the heart of the issue:

"Did you know Jeremy Morris has a felony warrant out for his arrest?"

The honest answer: "No."

So how does someone working his way through the legal system facing a charge of allegedly burglarizing The Old Muni in Cook last year, and who has an active warrant for failure to appear in court, end up being portrayed as a sympathetic figure in north St. Louis County's pre-eminent newspaper?

Here's the story behind the story:

It was Saturday, Feb. 1, fresh off a three-day, 1,200-mile drive from my former home in Missoula, Mont., when I started work as the Cook-Orr editor for the *Timberjay*.

The first month on the job it was easy to hop in my truck and drive to Orr and Cook to cover events and meetings and begin to meet people. That became much harder when events started to

get canceled and people became homebound in response to the coronavirus.

Fortunately, there was Facebook. I created an account for work, David Colburn Timberjay, but I wasn't posting anything, just scoping out the territory looking for possible stories. Eventually, I started getting some friend requests.

A couple of weeks ago I received a friend request from Jeremy Morris.

I looked over his profile and noticed he was from Orr. Facebook said we had two mutual friends, both of whom I'd already met personally and are well regarded in town. I looked over the page for his business, and also checked out his website. All looked good, and I accepted his friend request.

On his business page, Morris had posted pictures of a house he'd painted, and in the comments on April 4 someone asked him how things were going in San Diego, and he responded that he was, "...ready to go home but don't look like I can right now."

A small-town northern Minnesota guy stuck in a southern California area with millions of people sounded like a good story, particularly since I once lived and worked in south Los Angeles.

So, I sent an email to Morris asking if he'd be interested in talking to me. He agreed, and we talked on the phone the next day. It was a good conversation, nothing

to suggest anything was amiss. He seemed like a regular guy, just like many other regular guys I've met over the years. He didn't hurt his credibility by telling me he'd worked for two well-known local businesses before starting his own company.

I wrote up the story, we published it, and that was that.

Or so I thought.

The first email came in at 3:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, the same day last week's paper was distributed to our vendors.

"Saddens me to think the lack of news has your newspaper printing an article that portrays a criminal as some poor fella stuck in California ... shame on you!"

The next was a bit more reserved.

"I enjoy most of your paper but a little more digging may have resulted in possibly skipping this one."

By that time, I was digging. All that came back from my multiple queries of the online district court records were two traffic violations from 10 years ago.

A general Google search finally turned up a 2019 article describing a February burglary and theft at The Old Muni and reported that Jeremy Dale Morris of Orr had been charged with third-degree burglary, along with two other suspects.

Next, I went to the web page for the sheriff's department and discovered the active warrant list, and about halfway through, was the listing

for Morris, a bench warrant issued Dec. 18 for failure to appear on a felony charge of burglary.

All letter writers took us to task for publishing the article.

Certainly, whatever the tone, all writers were well-justified in their concerns, even outrage, that the newspaper would publish a sympathetic feature story about someone accused of felony crime.

Some observations:

First and foremost, the "new guy" is genuinely sorry for giving cause to so many to feel angst over this.

People have questioned why I didn't do a background check on Jeremy Morris, and the answer is simple: I didn't see any reason to do so. Nothing was amiss in his profile. He was connected with respectable locals and businesses, and he appeared to have a good story.

For longtime locals "in the know," it's easy to say I should have known. For someone new to town who's still meeting people, it wasn't obvious at all. And for better or worse, small-town newspapers haven't ever routinely conducted background checks on feature story subjects. In this case, we got burned.

Secondly, several folks who wrote offered assistance along with criticism, which was welcome indeed. Most notable was RE/MAX Lake Country agent Jeff Miller, a former Minneapolis police sergeant who lives at Crane Lake, who provid-


ed objective and useful information about a number of things that will be useful moving forward, including about the community watch program.

Thirdly, after the mystifying and frustrating experience I had trying to track down official records, citizens should demand easier accessibility and more complete records from the justice system in Minnesota. From my editor's desk in Kansas I could access complete step-by-step criminal case records from initial arrest to case resolution, with many of the relevant records available as well. The county jail roster system was a searchable database, not merely a PDF of current inmates. The case of Jeremy Morris's alleged burglary at The Old Muni would have shown up readily in Kansas. In Minnesota's online district court system, it didn't show up at all.

Fourth, you'll note that I keep writing "alleged" in reference to that

crime. That's because the case hasn't been tried and there is no legal finding of fact. If he ever returns from California and stands trial, we'll report it. Meanwhile, as always, you're free to draw your own conclusions.

Finally, this incident reinforces the idea that community journalism is at its best when journalists know their communities inside and out. The best way to do that is to be present, something that's nearly impossible right now with the COVID-19 restrictions we're operating under. I'm thankful that most everyone I've corresponded or talked with about this has been understanding and forgiving. I look forward to taking Jeff Miller up on his offer to drop by his Orr office for coffee once we turn the corner on this virus, and to getting to know more of the people of Orr and Cook face-to-face. And hopefully finding some good stories along the way.



**the TIMBERJAY**

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**MODEL...**Continued from page 1

officials, particularly when data and knowledge about the virus and its impacts change daily.

"They are not about specific point-in-time estimates," Minnesota Department of Health Commissioner Jan Malcom said. "They are about directional changes."

While various scenarios cover a specific period of time, the main things researchers look for are shifts in trends as variables are manipulated. When those changes indicate a decrease in overall deaths or extending the time frame for peak hospitalizations, those trends can be factored in with other information policymakers use to make decisions.

Malcom emphasized that the Minnesota-specific model developed by University of Minnesota researchers and MDH is only one tool among many Gov. Tim Walz uses to make decisions about mitigation strategies.

"He's also being informed by national guidance from the CDC, in particular what we're learning from other states, a lot of additional epidemiological data from MDH, as well as direct dialogue with the health care system," Malcom said.

**Models differ significantly**

A model developed

by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington has garnered increased attention in recent weeks for its more optimistic predictions on the course of the pandemic, including its predictions that much of the country is already beyond peak demand for medical resources as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. That model predicts peak use of medical resources in Minnesota as early as April 28.

That contrasts sharply with Minnesota's model, which places the state's peak need for all medical resources as occurring in late June to mid-July.

Gildemeister said it's hard to compare the models because IHME uses different assumptions, data, and time frames than Minnesota's own health experts.

"We could spend an hour on why that model is different from Minnesota's model," he said. "They have made some incredibly optimistic assumptions, optimistic in regards to what mitigation is actually in place, optimistic with regards to the extent to which death data is accurate. I think the biggest difference between (models) is that they're predicting out only four months."

The Minnesota

model, by contrast, spans 30 weeks, not 16, and the scenarios have been projected well beyond that.

The original IHME model assumed a scenario in which extreme social distancing measures would remain in place across the country through August, a scenario not mirrored by daily news accounts of varied and changing strategies across states. IHME officials have said they are now assuming social distancing continues through the end of June, which still be optimistic given that President Donald Trump and others are pushing for lifting of restrictions in many states by May 1.

The most recent IHME model, according to their website, relies on death rate data from 17 areas in Asia and Europe. While Minnesota's model originally had similar data to work with, researchers have now been able to adjust those rates using Minnesota-specific data.

Armchair statisticians' calculations based on total numbers of deaths or tests administered fall far short of the sophisticated details and scope that computer-driven models employ, and tiny changes in a specific input variable can yield dramatic differences over time.

For example, in a world of data that is

evolving and changing rapidly, what number should the model use for the number of people who get infected by each person with COVID-19? Choosing two rather than four doesn't make too much of a difference in a few days, but over six months, a year, and 18 months the differences are in the thousands. Current research suggests a target used by the Minnesota model, 3.87, but researchers work with a level of uncertainty from 2.5 to 4.7 persons infected by any one individual.

Now add in such things as the amount of time the virus is latent in a person and the number of days a person can infect others, the number of days patients are in the hospital, the length of time a patient spends in an ICU, the increased death rate when ICU beds are at capacity and can't take patients who need them, and the increased death rates for people with one or more underlying health conditions, all of which carry some level of uncertainty and are subject to change, and the complexity of modeling potential COVID-19 outcomes becomes glaringly apparent.

Gildemeister said incorporating additional data, including that specific to Minnesota, has

led to differences from when the model was first developed. Some of those changes are that the virus spreads faster than initially believed, but hospital stays are fewer and shorter.

Most significantly, the number of predicted deaths in the state has dropped from an initial estimate of 50,000 to 20,000 to 22,000.

When one journalist suggested 22,000 seemed high compared to the lower-than-projected number of deaths in New York City, Commissioner Malcom responded.

"We're really not going to try to respond to point-in-time estimates," she said. "This is the peak of wave one for New York. I've heard other epidemiologists very concerned that New York will see waves much larger than what they've already seen in the coming months. We have to help people understand this is not a one-time event, it isn't that you hit the peak and everything goes back to normal. This is going to be with us in a really challenging way, in multiple ways, until there are treatments and a vaccine. That's just the hard reality we have to factor into this planning and these policy decisions."

Gildemeister noted that the situation in New

York was significantly different from conditions in Minnesota, and re-emphasized that models are part of what needs to be considered when trying to address mitigation.

"Our job is to provide data-driven evidence for decision makers," he said. "There are trade-offs with every decision. The burden of decision lies with people who have been elected or who have been appointed."

Malcom agreed, and noted that data from Minnesota hospitals modeling their own capacity paints a more bleak picture.

"This underscores why we would never use this model as the only driver of the decision," she said. "This is one of many data points. The other thing we're looking at very closely is what hospitals are telling us about their capacity, their confidence level in how quickly they can add capacity. Their own models, as the governor has said, are much more pessimistic than this one. The hospitals' models are suggesting that the time is really critical because they think peak ICU demand will be greater than these numbers."

**TOWER...**Continued from page 1

Beldo to run the meeting until Kringstad could get back online. In several other instances, loud electronic feedback prevented some from effectively participating in the meeting.

Randy and Julie Pratt, who manage the Hoodoo Point Campground, made the case from their Arizona residence that the campground could open to seasonal campers without greatly increasing the risks of spreading the COVID-19 virus. "Our sites are large, well-spaced, and have their own utilities, including water and sewer," said Randy. Under the plan outlined by Randy, the campground would keep the store and public bathroom facilities closed until state officials have deemed it safe to open them.

While the opening of the campground does pose some public health risks, Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua noted that the seasonal residents do have signed leases already in place, for which most have already paid. The leases do have an escape clause in the event of an emergency, she noted, but indicated it's not clear how that clause might be engaged.

While state park campgrounds are currently closed, Ranua noted that circumstances are different there since they don't involve leases. Randy noted that state park campgrounds aren't set up for seasonal campers, and that campers in the parks have to be able to use public facilities, which is not required with seasonal RV campers. He said seasonal RV campers at Hoodoo Point are set up to be independent and can easily maintain social distancing from other campers. Randy also noted that most seasonal campers come from the region, so there's less risk they'll be bringing the virus along with them from other parts of the country.

"Would there be some

communication or guidelines made available for the public?" asked Beldo.

"We will talk to each camper individually," said Randy. "And we will also post guidance on our website," noted Julie. Those guidelines would include limiting visitors to immediate family and not gathering in groups.

The council voted 4-1, with Councilor Sheldon Majerle voting no, to open the campground to seasonal RV campers.

After considerable additional discussion, the council tabled a decision on whether to allow monthly RV campers into the campground ahead of the lifting of any stay-at-home orders. Instead, the council agreed to take another look at the issue at a special meeting tentatively set for Monday, April 27.

At this point, the campground managers have not raised the possibility of opening the facility to tent campers. That's unlikely to happen until the campground can, at a minimum, open bathroom facilities.

Randy said the council will also need to decide whether and how to control the campground property during the May 10 fishing opener. The point is a popular location for shore anglers during the early season, which could pose a challenge for social distancing.

In other business, the council, after considerable discussion, unanimously approved accepting the recommendation from the Tower Area Ambulance Commission to contribute \$1.66 to the city's ambulance replacement account for every mile driven by a Tower ambulance on a non-emergency inter-hospital transfer.

Council member Dave Setterberg, who had taken up the issue, outlined his own proposal, which used the vehicle depreciation cost as the amount to con-

tribute. He pegged those costs at 52¢ per mile for the ambulance service's older rigs, and \$1.47 per mile for the new ambulance that's set to arrive later this year. Setterberg said the formula adopted by the member townships that make up the ambulance commission is a valid one, although he noted that it would tend to underfund the replacement account in years with more transfer miles and overfund on years with fewer miles. Even so, Setterberg indicated he was willing to go along with the commission's recommendation, at least for 2020.

But Josh Villebrun, interim ambulance co-director, argued for further negotiation. He said that hospital transfers would not be economically viable if the ambulance service had to contribute \$1.66 per mile to the ambulance replacement account. "Pretty soon we would be running out of money to pay the paid-on-call staff," he said, predicting that it would result in layoffs.

At the same time, Villebrun appeared to argue that the transfers are significant profit generators for the ambulance service, noting that the net collection on a transfer, at \$1,333 in 2019, was twice that of a 911 emergency call.

"Josh talked about the revenue side, but not a lot about the expense side," noted Kringstad, who said he's long advocated having a comprehensive business plan for the ambulance service.

Majerle noted that some of the calculations offered by township representatives on the ambulance commission have indicated that the transfers are not the profit-generators they had been assumed to be due to the high number of miles such transfers typically involve. And he complained about a "lack of common sense" in the past, which has left the ambulance service in

difficult circumstances. "We talk about whether we should run two ambulances or three. We don't have a place to put a third vehicle," said Majerle. "We don't even have a non-tight spot for two vehicles."

Majerle noted that prior directors had made the decision not to rebuild the former fire and ambulance garage after it burned in 2014 and that the city subsequently spent the \$140,000 insurance settlement on other things. "Common sense should have told you that the building should have been redone. You have equipment sitting outside rotting away," said Majerle.

Councilor Mary Shedd argued for accepting the \$1.66, at least for 2020, as a way to restore trust with the neighboring townships. "It's a good faith effort for now," she said. "Let's use it as our incentive to really go forth and get a business plan completed."

While the council backed the \$1.66 payment to the ambulance replacement account, council members were less certain about how to proceed with developing a business plan. Ranua brought back earlier quotes from two consulting organizations that ranged from \$23,000 from Ethical Leaders in Action to \$30,000 from SafePlace Solutions. The city could also develop a business plan in-house if it could find various stakeholders with the necessary expertise to do the job. While the in-house option would be the least-costly for the city, Ranua expressed concern that any plan developed in-house could be viewed as tainted by pre-conceived bias on the part of the individuals preparing it.

Beldo said she was also concerned that any plan be viewed as neutral and suggested that might best be achieved with an outside consultant. On the

other hand, she said, "I certainly see the concern about the price tag."

Ranua noted that the city's already-tight 2020 budget does not include the expense of hiring a consultant to prepare a plan.

Setterberg said he'd like to have more time to explore any potential grant funding as well as talk to cities that have had work done by either of the two consultants. Others on the council agreed and they tabled the issue until their April 27 meeting.

The council, after limited discussion, also agreed to table a decision on posting for a new ambulance director position until April 27. In the meantime, Setterberg and other city staff hope to meet to come to a better agreement on pay and other issues. While city officials had reached agreement on it earlier, Villebrun indicated he now disagreed with some of the pay rates involved.

In other business, the council:

► Approved a plan proposed by Kringstad to authorize a "Tidy-Up Tower-Soudan Day," which will be organized by individuals and civic groups in an effort to reduce the amount of blight in the community due to junk and other debris that has accumulated in a number of yards. "The recommendation is for people to gather debris and place it near the street near their driveways," said Kringstad. Then, either volunteers with pickups or city maintenance staff could pick up the material and cart it to recycling. "This would not be for household trash or garbage, but larger debris," he added.

The proposal would be similar to a city-wide clean-up day that had long been an annual event in Tower but has disappeared in recent years.

► Unanimously approved an agreement

that settles an outstanding dispute between the city, SEH, and Utility Systems of America, or USA, for sags and other errors stemming from the Hoodoo Point Campground sewer project. Under the deal, the city would pay USA \$30,000 out of the remaining \$36,134 in retainage on the project, with the remaining \$6,134 earmarked to pay for occasional flushing of the sewer line to blow out any solids that settle in dips in the line. The city will pay USA \$25,000 when the deal is signed by all parties and the remaining \$5,000 when the company fixes flawed connections to a manhole at the campground. SEH agrees to not charge the city for any of its staff time spent resolving the issue.

► Discussed issues raised in this month's fire chief's report. Chief Olson had reported that virtually all of the department's turnout gear had expired two years ago, and that OSHA is recommending that all qualified staff be equipped with new turnouts immediately. The council did approve the purchase of two sets of turnout gear for now, while city staff apply for funding through a state grant program that's affiliated with OSHA that could pay for more turnout gear.

The council also approved scheduling an inspection of the department's ladder truck. The truck's extending boom is supposed to be inspected annually, but it appears the last inspection expired in 2014.

Olson also noted that the department has scheduled expedited Firefighter I and II training beginning April 22 for the new fire department members.

► Approved a motion to pay \$251 in dues to the Tower Cemetery Association.

COVID-19

# Ely closes City Hall, limited services still offered

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY - City of Ely offices are closed to the public until further notice due to the state shelter-in-place order caused by the coronavirus.

The city of Ely is taking all necessary precautions to keep staff, residents, and the community safe and help manage the spread of COVID-19.

"We are working closely with state and local agencies to stay up-to date on best practices to keep our staff and community safe," said Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski. "We will continue to update our plans and provide more information as it becomes available via our website."

City staff will continue to work in all facilities in a limited capacity to provide essential city services. Residents are encouraged to connect with city staff through the city's website, [www.ely.mn.us](http://www.ely.mn.us); by phone, 218-365-3224; and by e-mail, [deputyclerk@ely.mn.us](mailto:deputyclerk@ely.mn.us).

For time-sensitive business that must be conducted in person, call 218-365-3224 to make an appointment. City staff will do their best to accommodate all requests.

The Ely Police Department will continue to be dispatched by 911. Fingerprinting and other in-person services have been suspended until further notice. Parking tickets may be paid online at [www.elycitation.com](http://www.elycitation.com).

## Ely Library expands online services

The Ely Public Library remains closed, including its curbside pick-up services, due to the coronavirus, according to Library Director Rachel Heinrich.

"The library is still accepting returned materials through our book drop, and we encourage patrons to make use of the online resources for e-books, downloadable audios, and e-magazines through our website, <http://www.elylibrary.org/online-catalog.html>," she said.

"In addition, our library staff is getting creative for our children's services and have added recorded story times and project ideas that we place on the library's Facebook page," she said.

Mail payments or drop off in the green payment box right inside the main doors at City Hall. Please call the non-emergency number, 218-365-3224, ext. 2, or email [elypd@ely.mn.us](mailto:elypd@ely.mn.us) for non-emergency issues or other related business.

All online services on the city website will remain available and all city departments encour-

age citizens to contact the office via phone and email. Please call 218-365-3224 ext. 1, or email [deputyclerk@ely.mn.us](mailto:deputyclerk@ely.mn.us) for passports, building rental, and all other inquiries.

For building permits and inspections, call Doug Whitney at 612-598-4993 or email [buildingofficial@ely.mn.us](mailto:buildingofficial@ely.mn.us).

City council meet-

ings will be held via Zoom.us. Look for information regarding future council meetings on the city website at [www.ely.mn.us](http://www.ely.mn.us). City Council meetings will be broadcast live on Midco Channels 11 and 98 and on the City of Ely Facebook page.

Payments for utility bills will be accepted by any of three options:

► On-line payments via our website at [www.ely.mn.us](http://www.ely.mn.us)—Pay Your Utility Bill Online. During this emergency the EUC will pay the convenience fee to encourage customers to sign up for Payment Service Network. Credit card fees will be the responsibility of the customer.

► Mail payment to 2210 E Sheridan St., Ste 1, Ely MN 55731.

► Utilize the drop box at the Joint Public Works Facility at 2210 E Sheridan St. or drop payment off at the drive-through at Boundary Waters Bank or Frandsen Bank. If you have any utility questions, please call 218-365-3224, ext. 4 or email [eucbilling@ely.mn.us](mailto:eucbilling@ely.mn.us).

## IDLE...Continued from page 1

shutdown.

According to company officials, Cleveland-Cliffs will rely on its existing stockpiles of iron ore to fulfill its current commercial agreements with customers.

"We have evaluated market conditions and the extraordinary disruptions in manufacturing and steel production in North

America due to the impact of the COVID-19 market shock," said Lourenco Goncalves, Chairman, President and CEO of Cleveland-Cliffs. "As our steel customers rationalize their operations' capacities, we made the decision to adjust our iron ore production during the first half of the year and not continue to build addi-

tional iron ore inventory until market conditions improve. Once the North American steel market improves, Cleveland-Cliffs will be able to quickly restart and ramp up production."

The announcement comes as another blow to the region's economy, which is already reeling from business closures in

other sectors due to the current stay-at-home order in effect in Minnesota. The closure of Northshore may not be the last one in the region. U.S. Steel, which operates Minntac, Keetac, and is a part-owner of Hibbing Taconite, posted a \$680 million loss in the fourth quarter of 2019, well before the economic impacts created by the

COVID-19 pandemic. U.S. Steel stock has fallen 87 percent over the past two years and reached a record low of \$4.90 per share on March 18 of this year. It was trading at \$6.34 per share as of this week. The company announced the layoff of 1,500 workers at a Michigan steel mill in December, but has not announced any job cuts,

at least for now, at its Minnesota mining operations.

While the slump in demand for steel products has been most pronounced in the automotive sector, industry analysts say the slump in demand stemming from the current pandemic is affecting virtually all sectors of the steel market.

## ELY...Continued from page 1

through August too," Sebesta said on Monday. "For lodging facilities that are impacted, they will have the opportunity to fill vacancies, which is much more difficult to do only two to six weeks out from an event."

Chamber officials continue to plan for the Harvest Moon Festival scheduled for Sept. 11-13, when "Minnesota will be a safer spot to have a large outdoor event," she added. The Chamber is planning to create a virtual Blueberry/Art Festival and will launch it in mid-June.

"The Chamber recognizes the economic impact its events have on the business community," Sebesta said. "For the Chamber, the Blueberry/Art Festival is the primary funding source for providing many other Chamber events as well as funding the Chamber's efforts to market the business community and provide donations and sponsorships to a number of nonprofit organizations."

Dave Sebesta, vice president of the Chamber's board of directors, defended the decision in a Facebook post.

"To all those who have suggested that the decision by the Chamber of Commerce to cancel the Blueberry/Art Festival was some sort of 'knee jerk' or 'asinine' reaction, let me just say, the Blueberry Art Festival, for all intents and purpose, is the financial life blood of the (Chamber)," he wrote.

"It funds the Chamber but also helps to fund new events. It is the single most important event the Chamber does. Personally, I would consider this the hardest business decision I've ever had to make."

David Sebesta described the decision process by the board.

"Our typical once-monthly 1.5-hour meeting consumed upwards of nine hours over three days to come to this decision," he wrote.

Also in his Facebook

post, David Sebesta revealed the recent loss of his stepfather and his companion to COVID-19.

"Many others have felt this heartache. To think that I, as a chamber board member, should be comfortable having tens of thousands of visitors from across the Midwest and beyond, including many 'hot spots,' congregated in Whiteside Park over a three-day weekend in July would be totally irresponsible."

He continued, "One can only imagine the impact an outbreak would be to our aging local population and our limited resources. We may not know all the solutions but we sure the hell know the risks! We get it. This is a devastating economic situation. We have not only continued to monitor concerns in the Ely area but also across the state and region. In light of much gathered information from

many reliable sources, the board reached this decision."

In addition to the Blueberry/Art Festival, many Ely Chamber of Commerce events, meetings, and educational programs are canceled or rescheduled for this fall. The Chamber has also canceled the City Wide Rummage, Business Crazy Day and Used Watercraft and Equipment Sale, Tuesday Nite Live, Business Appreciation Day, and Music in the Park.

The Chamber's Annual Board Meeting is rescheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 28, at the Grand Ely Lodge followed by the Celebrate Ely Business Networking Dinner.

### Other developments

Mayor Chuck Novak said no decision has yet been made concerning the city of Ely's Fourth of July

parade and celebration activities.

"We will take our lead from the Governor and the state's stay-at-home order," he said Tuesday. "We are walking carefully on this and will make any announcements when we have the information that we need."

Likewise, ISD 696 Superintendent Erik Erie said Tuesday that he continues to monitor developments on the how the rest of the 2019-20 school year will be conducted through the Minnesota Department of Education.

"We are making contingency plans to finish out the year with distance learning, if needed, and considering options for graduation and school athletic events," he said Tuesday.

Ely School Board members will convene remotely on Monday, April 27 for their regularly scheduled study session to

discuss the school facility building project.

"At their May 11 meeting, the board is looking at approving a bonding referendum for voters to consider in August," Erie said.

The Boundary Waters Blues Festival, slated for Labor Day weekend, has also been canceled, according to organizer Mike Jankovec. He made the announcement on the festival's website.

"Due to the coronavirus outbreak we are unable to produce the 2020 Boundary Waters Blues Fest, our 20th anniversary event. This has been a difficult decision, but I can't proceed with the booking process this far into the calendar year without being able to see the future and, potentially compromising the quality of the event. As things evolve, I will post updates about the future of this event."

Babbitt's annual com-

munity celebration, Peter Mitchell Fun Days, is also called off. According to a statement from the Peter Mitchell Fun Days Committee, "For the health and safety of the citizens of Babbitt and our volunteers and participants we have decided to cancel the 2020 Walleye Whamma and Peter Mitchell Fun Days."

The Ely Farmers Market, with some adjustments, is still on track this summer, according to organizers.

"The state of Minnesota has equated farmers markets to grocery stores as far as being essential businesses," according to the organization's Facebook page. "That being said, we may have to make some adjustments to layout and practices of the market to accommodate for social distancing and other guidelines as laid out by the governor."

218-666-6200  
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Cook, MN 55723  
[www.cookhospital.org](http://www.cookhospital.org)

## THANK YOU!



The Cook Hospital & Care Center would like to thank the following for their generous donations and support!

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## CHILD SAFETY

# COVID-19 fallout threatens vulnerable children

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

Multiple stressors combine to create potential for abuse or neglect

REGIONAL- Three-year-old Katie wasn't like her preschool classmates. Instead of the bubbly enthusiasm flowing from her peers as they played together, she sat quietly in a corner, all alone, her trembling hands fumbling as she tried putting a puzzle together. Any time an adult drew near or talked to her, she stopped working, dropped her head, and drew her body into a perfectly still and frightened little ball until the threatening attention went away.

"She's been like that ever

since she was abused," her teacher explained.

Katie and her two older brothers lived in a family that was barely making ends meet when her father suddenly lost his job. Unable to get work and with rent and bills past due a month and more, he was sullen, depressed, irritable, demanding, and dove into alcohol to numb himself from the world, the teacher said.

One day, when then two-year-old Katie was throwing a tantrum and would not stop, something in her father snapped. He bolted up from his chair,

roughly snatched Katie from the floor, and threw her across the room into a wall. She crumpled to the floor and lay still. Later, at the hospital, they discovered Katie had a fractured skull and a broken arm, but no life-threatening internal injuries, the teacher said.

"She curls up like that so that she doesn't do anything that could make someone want to hurt her again," the teacher said.

There hadn't been any history of abuse by the father before this, the teacher said. Child protective social workers

said it happened because the father was under stress much greater than he could cope with.

The story is true, although it happened in another state and the name is fictitious. But the circumstances are not unlike those now facing thousands of Minnesota families as their worlds have been turned upside down and inside out in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. With schools and businesses closed, thousands out of work and facing financial hardships, and families isolated by social distancing and stay-at-home

orders, circumstances couldn't be much worse for sparking a possible increase in child abuse and neglect.

"There's a lot of concern for how children and families will fare during this time," said Paula Stocke, division director for St. Louis County Children and Family Services in Virginia. "So the unknowns, even with temporary assistance, create increased stress, anxiety, and frustration."

See **NEGLECT..page 2B**

## SHELTER

# Ely motel working with St. Louis County to provide rooms for COVID-19 patient isolation

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – At least two motel rooms here are reserved for local residents who test positive for coronavirus and need a safe place to shelter away from family.

St. Louis County Public Health, partnering with Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA) and other agencies, is prepared to spend up to \$500,000 on hotel rooms at various locations around the county for people who need to quarantine because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

At least 90 rooms at four lodging establishments, one each in Duluth, Hibbing, Virginia, and Ely, would be used, according to officials.

"It's really out of an abundance of caution, and just from a planning perspective, we need to be ready," Linnea Mirsch, director of St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services told a Duluth media outlet. "It's really hard to know how many beds we will need, especially in northern parts of St. Louis County."

Sue Edgington, owner of Adventure Inn and also Ely-Bloomenson Hospital board chair, confirmed for the *Timberjay* that the Sheridan Street motel she owns with her husband Mark is participating in the program. They signed a 30-day agreement through May 15 to provide isolation lodging if needed to residents in Ely, Tower and Babbitt. As of early this week, the rooms were not occupied.

"We have two rooms ready, strategically located in a corner of our back building, which is perfect for isolation," Sue Edgington said on Saturday. "Our business and future guests can stay in our front building."

She said she regretted the way that news of their participation in the program spread like wildfire in and around Ely. Social media blew up last week with concerns that COVID-19 could be brought to the Ely community. The news broke late Wednesday as reported by a Duluth television station.



Adventure Inn owners Mark and Sue Edgington. photo by K. Vandervort

"The (Ely) mayor was very upset," Edgington said, "because the rumors sounded like I'm taking in COVID patients from Duluth or wherever, and that is not the case. From there it mushroomed."

Ely Mayor Chuck Novak pushed back on the unsubstantiated rumors.

"The rooms that are being contracted in Ely are for the purpose of being available in case someone here tests positive," he said. "They are not planning to send people from anywhere else to here at this point. The intent is if someone here tests positive, it would be a respite. Say a person at home with a family tests positive (for the coronavirus), and the rest of the family does not test positive, they need to get away from the rest of the family and this will make that possible."

Edgington noted a local newspaper that reported on the isolation program

declined to contact her for a comment.

"Instead, they focused on my Facebook page where I got blasted by a woman who freaked out and didn't know the whole story and started attacking me and the St. Louis County Health Department," she said. "Then I started getting emails, and it was just hell."

On Adventure Inn's Facebook page Edgington wrote, "We do not have anybody here. What we offered was two rooms for the month of April to provide isolation in case someone in Ely has no place to shelter. We have homeless and indigent people here and it is to protect the community from them spreading it. Please try to understand that this is to protect our community."

In a related Facebook post, she added "We are not making much money on this

See **MOTEL..page 2B**



## Tamara Moore new head Men's Basketball and Women's Softball Coach at Mesabi Range

VIRGINIA- Tamara Moore has accepted the position of Head Men's Basketball and Women's Softball coach at Mesabi Range College. Born and raised in Minneapolis, Moore was a standout high school basketball player at Minneapolis North High School. Moore accepted a full-ride scholarship to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she helped lead the Badgers to the 2000 WNIT Championship and was named the 2000 WNIT MVP.

Moore played in the WNBA for six seasons with teams including Miami Sol, Minnesota Lynx, New York Liberty, Phoenix Mercury, Los Angeles Sparks, and Houston Comets. She also played six seasons in Israel and France. Moore has coached high school basketball for seven seasons at schools in the Twin Cities area.

Moore is currently competing in the new Global Mixed Gender Summer League, playing in 23 Global Mixed Gender games with Washington Fusion, Atlanta Heirs, and Chicago Vikings. She is also currently the owner of a semi-pro men's team, TC Elite Basketball.

MRC Athletic Director, Brad Scott, stated, "I am extremely excited to work with Tamara here at Mesabi Range College. I am confident that she will be a great fit. Her experience and strong knowledge of the game are evident. Tamara has proven to be very successful at every level, and I am expecting that she will continue her success on the basketball court and on the softball field."

## HEALTH CARE

# Duluth hospitals ready to treat COVID-19 patients

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL- As of April 14, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has confirmed a total of five deaths in St. Louis County linked to COVID-19. St. Louis County released data on April 10 which counted two men in their mid to late 80s and a woman in her early 60s among the fatalities. The county is unable to release any additional details about these individuals or where they lived, as it is consid-

ered private data.

The total number of positive cases in St. Louis County is 42, as of April 14, up from 34 on April 10.

Physicians and administrators from the two major hospitals in Duluth said they are ready to treat COVID-19 patients after having the time to increase the number of intensive care unit beds available at both Essentia and St. Luke's. In addition, they said they have been working with clinics and smaller hospitals in other parts of the county to make sure all are ready for a possible

influx of patients testing positive for COVID-19.

"We want to be over-prepared and not underprepared," said infectious disease physician Rajesh Prabhu, during a press conference held on Thursday, April 9.

"There is no question that social distancing is helping," said Dr. Jon Pryor, president of Essentia Health's east market. "There is clear evidence it is reducing the number of hospital admissions and deaths."

But Pryor said the region still needs to be prepared.

"We are not over this yet. We have not hit our peak," he said.

Pryor urged everyone to treat anyone they run into as someone who might be infected with COVID-19.

"You can get it from people who don't even know that they have it," he said.

Dr. Andrew Thompson, infectious disease physician at St. Luke's, said staff at both hospitals are learning best practices in treating COVID-19 from their colleagues all over the world.

The gradual influx of COVID-19 patients, Thompson

said, allows them to learn how to keep both their patients and employees safe.

Both hospitals have canceled all elective surgeries to make sure medical equipment, including ventilators, are available for COVID-19 patients when needed. Both hospitals have placed orders for additional ventilators, which are expected to be delivered within a month.

"We are tripling our capacity," said Dr. Nicholas Van Deelen, chief medical officer at

See **HOSPITALS..page 2B**

## HOSPITALS...Continued from page 1B

St. Luke's.

The hospitals are still not sure when they will see a peak in COVID-19 patients seeking care.

"We don't know when the peak is going to be," said Pryor, "or when we will need these ventilators. We don't have as many as we want. We want to be prepared for the worst. Both Essentia and St. Luke's are striving to be overprepared."

Both hospitals said they have adequate supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) at this time, but their modeling shows that once a surge in cases hits they will go through these supplies rapidly. They both have been purchasing as much PPE as possible since last December. They said the help they have been receiving

from local companies who have stepped up to provide PPE has been invaluable. While COVID-19 testing is being done in Duluth and Virginia with test kits being sent to the Mayo Clinic for analysis, St. Luke's does have the ability to do a few rapid tests on site. They now have the ability to test any patients admitted with possible COVID-19 symptoms,

they said. The hospitals tested 52 patients in Duluth on April 8, with another eight tests done in Virginia. The patients tested in Duluth included patients from across the county.

Pryor said the hospitals are working in unison with their partner clinics throughout the county.

"They are as prepared as we are," Pryor said.

The best thing the public can do to help right now is to stay home, keep washing their hands, and be sure to practice social distancing if one needs to be out, said Van Deelen.

"We need more time," he said.

## NEGLECT...Continued from page 1B

Neglect occurs more frequently than abuse. It can be neglect of meeting a child's physical needs for food, shelter, and clothing, or emotional, often stemming from lack of attention when they're in distress, or simply failing to display the normal affection and interactions they have been used to.

Physical abuse involves injuries both minor and major inflicted on a child, whether purposeful or unintentional. One of the most prevalent factors causing a parent to abuse their child is not having the coping skills necessary to deal with extreme stress, which includes limited or no interaction with a social support network of extended family and friends.

State officials involved with child protective services confirmed the urgency of the situation in a written statement provided to the *Timberjay*.

"The COVID-19 pandemic, and the measures being taken to address it, are certainly creating stressful conditions for

many families," the statement said. "Social isolation, unemployment and other economic stressors, as well as the general strain posed by the physical risks associated with this pandemic are all risks generally associated with increased rates of maltreatment."

And while the incidence of abuse and neglect is likely to go up, the chance individual cases will be reported decreases because children now aren't in regular face-to-face contact with teachers and medical providers who are mandated to report suspected abuse and neglect. The written statement provided to the *Timberjay* confirmed that reports of maltreatment decreased by 30 percent in the first week children were out of school compared to the previous three weeks. Approximately 80 percent of maltreatment reports in 2019 were made by mandated reporters.

With education back in session via distance learning, Stocke said regular videocon-

ferencing that's taking place between teachers and students, as well as more frequent parental contacts, could help to fill the reporting gap.

Video check-ins and phone calls also have increased significantly between social workers and the families they work with through the reporting, support, and supervising system for those who have been reported for possible abuse or neglect, Stocke said. Eliminating drive time has actually increased opportunities for engagement with clients.

"With the shelter-in-place orders it's a really tricky balance," she said. "We're trying to do our part to mitigate the spread. We have limited PPE so we have to be strategic in how we're interviewing and relying on people's networks. More workers are in a mobile work arrangement, and we're partnering with law enforcement for more imminent situations."

An important part of their work is trying to keep parents and children engaged with each

other when a child has been taken out of a home and placed in a temporary living arrangement. Stocke described how one parent has recorded a video of herself reading a book that the child's foster parent shares with the child every night.

"We're trying to be very creative," Stocke said.

When reports of possible abuse or neglect are received in the Virginia or Duluth offices, those investigating are also allowed by statute to contact a family's extended support network, including family or neighbors, which helps not only with investigations but with finding crucial support.

Stocke said her staff also has been scrambling to keep up with what community support services have to offer families, given that they, too, are affected by the COVID-19 situation.

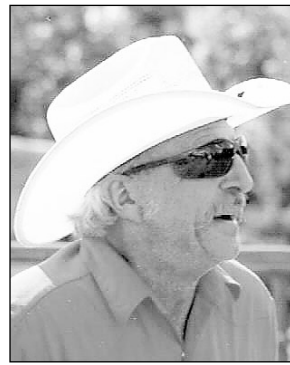
"A lot of the typical community resources we encourage people to connect with are suspending services," Stocke said. "For example, access at a food

pantry - are they in place or not, are their services different? We have a centralized place on the county internet site where social workers can go to find out. We're really doing our homework to see what's out there."

Stocke said she is grateful for state actions that have eased some of the stress for families, such as halting evictions and not penalizing people, but as the pandemic continues so will uncertainties and stress.

Those who suspect abuse or neglect in northern St. Louis County can report it by calling the Virginia office Initial Intervention Unit at 218-471-7128, or by going to the county website, [stlouiscountymn.gov](http://stlouiscountymn.gov), and clicking on the "Report Child Abuse" button found on the Children and Family Services Child Protection web page. In an emergency call 9-1-1 to reach local law enforcement.

## Obituaries and Death Notices



### Daniel C. Theel

Daniel Clifford Theel, 65, of Embarrass, died on Thursday, April 9, 2020, at his home. Burial and a celebration of life will be scheduled at a later date. Memorial donations are preferred to the Babbitt or Embarrass Ambulance and Fire Departments. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

He was born on Aug. 31, 1954, in Rochester. Danny spent his first years of schooling in Embarrass and graduated from Babbitt High School in 1972. He owned his first horse at nine years of age. He worked at home on the Theel Poultry Farm, worked for American

Bridge in Mt. Iron, worked as a welder for Welding Inc. in Gillette, Wyo., was an over the road trucker for both Kirvan of International Falls and Theel Trucking, was an EMT at Ely Hospital, and worked for North Shore Mining of Babbitt, retiring after 23 years there.

Danny was an active volunteer for the Babbitt Ambulance and Fire Department and volunteered many years with the St. Louis County Rescue Squad. He was the vice-chairman of the Embarrass Region Fair Board. He enjoyed his boat "Mixed Emotions" on Lake Vermilion, water skiing, and he was an avid SCUBA diver. He enjoyed snowmobiling, raising Hereford cattle and Paint horses. He was active in competitive ranch sorting and team penning. He thoroughly enjoyed farm auctions, handling farm machinery, and making hay. He loved his beloved horse Rockett for 20 years.

Danny was known greatly for his quick wit and was full of a lot of

jokes, humorous sayings and quotes. He was always willing to give a helping hand to others. He was an ordained minister, and Danny had been sober for 39 years.

Danny is survived by his parents, Dale and Wanda Theel; wife of 18 years, Toni; brothers, Bob (Tami) Theel and Dean (Jeanie) Theel; sisters, Sharon (Paul) Foster, Julie (Rueben) Robinson and Annette (Steve) Nicholas; four children, Nancy (Aaron) Lamppa, Dale Theel, Jeff (Trista) Struna and Codi Forsman and Dean Raati; six grandchildren, Alex (Anna) Bee, Brady Struna, Sadie Theel, Ally Miller, Davis Theel and Ashtyn Struna; three great-grandchildren, Avery, Aldyn and Mia; numerous aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, a great-great-nephew; and many great friends.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents; and nephews, Geoffrey Foster and Jody Theel.

### William L. Ellison

William 'Bill' L. Ellison, 89, of Superior, Wis., died on Thursday, April 2, 2020, at Essentia Health in Virginia. A drive-by visitation was held at the entrance of Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Superior on Monday, April 6. Due to COVID-19 and the Governor's mandates, all attending the visitation remained in their vehicles and were greeted by Bill's family as they drove through the portico and paused to pay

their respects. Burial was in Sunrise Cemetery in Duluth. Family arrangements were with Downs Funeral Home of Superior.

Bill was born in Duluth on Oct. 5, 1930, the son of Frances (Carlson) and John Harold Ellison. He married Shirley Sohlstrom on Jan. 20, 1950, and they celebrated 70 years of marriage. He had worked for many years at Minnesota Power and then for SWL&P. Following retirement, he enjoyed working at Superior Chrysler.

Bill was a member of Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Masonic Lodge, AAD Shrine and the Elks Lodge. He took great pride in volunteering and was always volunteering in the local communities. He enjoyed his Golf Group, socializing at the Elks, and all the Shrine events, including the parades. He loved traveling to Trout Lake and looked forward every year to the camping and fishing trips.

Bill is survived by his wife, Shirley of Superior; children, Brenda (Karel) Winkelaar of Tower, Linda (Robert) DiCasmirro of Soudan and Tim Ellison of Chisolm; grandchildren, Jesse Gornick, Cade (Andrea) Gornick, Nathan (Sabrina) DiCasmirro, Nicole (Josh) Carlson, Erin Miller, Brandie Ellison and Deanna Ellison; and great-grandchildren, Otto, Charize, Cazimiro, Gianna, Avianna, Jesslyn, Nevea and Damien.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Diane Juten; and grandson, Cody Miller.

### Gloria M. Lott

Gloria Mary Bertogliat Lott, 88, formerly of Babbitt, passed away on Saturday, April 11, 2020, at Essentia Health in Duluth due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of COVID-19, a private graveside service and burial will be held, with a Memorial Mass celebrated at a later date. Arrangements are

with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her brother, Julian (Sharon) Bertogliat of Esko; children, John (Mary Jo) Lott of Duluth, Linda (Ron) Asleson of Embarrass, Beth (Steve) Godwin of Embarrass, Craig (Tammy) Lott of Soldotna, Alaska, and Kevin (Laura) Lott of Duluth; 12 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and many beloved in-laws, nieces and nephews.

### Jim A. LaValley

Jim Allen LaValley, 65, of Vermilion Lake Township, died on Wednesday, April 8, 2020, in the loving, around-the-clock care of his family. A private family service will be held, with a celebration of life at a later date at the family farm. Memorials are the preferred way to honor Jim's memory. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Mary; children, Jared LaValley of Aurora, Tara LaValley of Babbitt and Jessie (Matt) Konz of Vermilion Lake Township; siblings, Donald LaValley of Staples, Jeanne Miller of Staples and Mona LaValley of Fergus Falls; stepfather, Melvin Hotakainen; and extended family and friends.

### Sylvia K. Troseth

Sylvia Katherine Potter Troseth, 92, a lifelong Iron Ranger, passed away on Saturday, April 4, 2020, at Carefree Living in Orr. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her children, David (Linda) Troseth of Angora and Ted Troseth of Texas; grandchildren, Darren (Kerrie) Troseth, Melanie

(Avi) Shalom, Ted Troseth, Nicholas Troseth and Rio Bontems; great-grandchildren, Aliyah and Oriah Shalom and Alec Easty; son-in-law, Dennis Brown; brother, Joe Potter; and numerous nieces and nephews.

### Kevin J. Kutsi

Kevin J. Kutsi, 56, of Ely and formerly of Hoyt Lakes, passed away on Wednesday, April 8, 2020, at St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth. His family would like to thank and bless his care workers and doctors for their many years of service. A family service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are with Ziemer-Moeglein-Shatava Funeral Home in Gilbert.

He is survived by his sister, Judy (Dennis) Koponen of Babbitt; niece-dog, Aunna-Liisa; and numerous uncles, aunts and cousins who were very special to him.

### Carol L. Indihar

Carol Lee Moren Indihar, 80, of Gilbert, passed away on Wednesday, April 1, 2020, at Waterview Pines Nursing Home in Virginia. A private family service was held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Gilbert. A community visitation was held at the Ziemer-Moeglein-Shatava Funeral Home on Wednesday, April 15, with social distancing of six feet and no more than ten guests at a time permitted. Burial was in the Gilbert Cemetery. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

She is survived by three children, Michael (Bergetta) Indihar, Susan Tessier and Connie Nystrom; daughter-in-law, Rita Indihar; grandchildren, Roth, Ryan and Rachel Indihar, Stephanie Sverci, Christopher Tessier, Brandon and Brian Trast, Larissa Johnson and Nicholas Nystrom; 11 great-grandchildren; and siblings, Joseph (Jim) Moren and Marge Rozinka.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

# Expedited firefighter training classes set for Tower

TOWER— A bevy of new firefighters here will have the opportunity to take part in an expedited training program designed to help them achieve certification in a matter of a few weeks, rather than the months or years that it typically requires.

Tower's new fire chief Paige Olson has arranged the training

through Central Lakes College, which provides much of the traditional classroom training through online webinars. The college will also be bringing specially designed "skills trailers" to Tower later this spring so firefighters can learn through hands-on experience as well. Those trailers help instructors

simulate burning buildings, burning propane tanks, and operating with self-contained breathing apparatus in confined spaces.

The training opportunity will also be open to firefighters or prospective firefighters from neighboring departments to take part to hone their skills or

complete their own basic training. All volunteer firefighters in Minnesota are required to complete what's known as Firefighter I and Firefighter II training to ensure that they have the skills to operate safely and effectively when responding to fires.

The training will not only be expedited, but also free of charge

for the city. The Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education will pay the tuition for the training once firefighters complete the coursework. For more information about the training opportunity, contact Paige Olson at paigehinkel41@gmail.com.

## MOTEL...from page 1B

at all. This is to provide a service to protect our community in case it is needed. We have a large population in our area that might need to be isolated."

Edgington revealed that she would be reimbursed \$50 per night if her rooms are utilized for the isolation program. The services would be provided only to those who have a positive lab-confirmed case of COVID-19, and have no place to safely isolate, according to St. Louis County officials.

St. Louis County District 4 Commissioner Paul McDonald praised the efforts of the local business.

"This is locals helping locals," he said. "(The county) is not going to bring people from somewhere else up here. This program is to help out Ely."

He indicated that federal dollars are allocated for the program.

"County taxpayers are funding the operation for the immediate future, but we are seeking federal reimbursements that would likely be approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. We

may be getting some state dollars to help with this, too," McDonald added.

Edgington said she does not plan to extend her agreement past mid-May, "not unless there is a strong need and there is no tourism business."

She said she is participating in the program as a way of giving back to the Ely community.

"We had amazing community support when our son got cancer and died," Edgington said. "We owe this community a lot."

Edgington said they often provide space at the motel for others in need.

"We have been a go-to for women who are escaping from (an unsafe) domestic situation," she said. "We take in homeless that churches in our community send over. We have temporarily taken in people who have a mental illness and are waiting to get placed into a more permanent living arrangement. We have done this for years and this is just one more thing that we do to help out our community," she said.

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### In Memorium • Kurt Goodwin

You left this world on April 17, 2019. We miss your presence, your jokes, laughter, wisdom, smile, twinkle in your eye, unconditional love, prayer list, and leadership. As much as we don't like not having you

here, we know you are not suffering, you are with the Lord, and we will see you again. We love you, know you are thought of daily, and are deeply missed by your family and friends.

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and - this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV



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- 1,491 FOH DISCOUNT

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# Outdoors

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## PRESCRIBED FIRE

# Forest Service suspends spring burning plans



## Decision intended to protect firefighters from COVID-19

REGIONAL— The Superior National Forest is suspending their spring prescribed fire activities in response to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. “The safety of the public and all wildland fire responders is always the number one priority for all wildland fire agencies,” stated Suzanne Hirsch, spokesperson for Superior.

The potential for fall

prescribed burns will be determined at a future date allowing Forest Service officials to evaluate the public health situation throughout the summer.

Potential smoke impacts to the public are considered in all prescribed fire and wildfire management. “As always, we work in coordination with local and state health organizations and make any necessary changes should the need arise,”

said Hirsch. “This decision to suspend prescribed burning will prevent any potential effects from smoke that might further worsen conditions for those who are at risk in our communities. In addition, we are working to reduce exposure for our firefighters, whose first priority will be the suppression of wildfires.”

While COVID-19 circumstances are rapidly evolving, and federal

guidance continues to adapt with the situation, Hirsch said wildland fire agencies, with state and local partners, are planning to respond to fire activity when it occurs. “Wildland fire personnel are trained to quickly adapt during evolving situations and will be prepared for wildland fire suppression activities during the COVID-19 outbreak,” she said.

## FIRE

# Burning restrictions now in place across the region

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— If you were planning to conduct some early spring burning, you’ll need to shelve those plans until further notice. That’s according to the Department of Natural Resources, which is sharply limiting the ability of landowners in the region to burn this spring, even where snow still lingers.

The decision comes as state agencies are seeking to remain consistent with Gov. Tim Walz’s executive orders related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The order implements burning restrictions across all but the far southwestern corner of the state until further notice. That includes all of the Arrowhead counties, regardless of remaining snowcover.

The state will not activate burning permits in these areas until restrictions are lifted. Small recreational fires or campfires are still allowed. The DNR will grant variance permits only for agricultural field and construction site preparation and limited prescribed burning. Call your local DNR Forestry Office if you are seeking a variance.

With this year’s spring wildfire season coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic and emergency response, the DNR and state agencies are working to reduce additional risks and stressors on an already taxed emergency response network. Burning restrictions limit the number of emergency responses, which keeps first responders focused on critical public services.

Many wildland firefighters are also emergency responders for local fire departments, ambulances, and other emergency response activities.

The DNR is putting these cautionary measures in place for the health and safety of all Minnesotans. Private landowners can do their part to support COVID-19 response efforts by following burning restrictions and being safe with fire.



## RUMINATIONS

# Life comes together

## Signs abound that we’re all part of a biophilic community

by Peter M. Leschak

On a mid-March morning still featuring six-foot snowbanks, I ambled down our driveway a little ways to pee on a patch of ice. It’s an early spring melting ritual, a modest contribution in support of the season. Maples overarch that spot, and I heard, then saw, a red-breasted nuthatch bobbing at the tip of a lower limb, calling and proclaiming.

“Good morning, nuthatch,” I replied, then refocused on my satisfying ice-thawing pursuit.

The nuthatch dropped onto my head. I could feel it flitting around on my knit cap, working toward my forehead. I closed my eyes in case it re-positioned – wings fluttering – to my nose. For five or six seconds the bird danced up there before returning to the maple. At that moment I wished the nuthatch had a nickname I knew, an intimate and familiar handle I could’ve exclaimed in gratitude.

Did the bird know me? Eighteen months before, I’d rescued a red-breasted nuthatch that was trapped and panicked inside the Side Lake Post Office. Was it him or her? Not likely, of

course. But had word spread on a nuthatch network? A pleasant wish. I did feel privileged to briefly serve as a perch, though I did check to see if the bird had merely pooped on my head. No, but I would’ve laughed.

As we navigate life, such connections with animals are potent markers. Two days later, a retired colleague told me a remarkable story. He once owned a cabin on the shore of Lake Superior, and the lot included an old, tumbledown shack that had been slowly collapsing for generations. One day he noticed ravens entering the dilapidated structure and not coming out. Curious, he crept up to it and peered inside. There was a dead wolf on the floor and several ravens were strutting around it, uttering soft vocalizations.

They weren’t pecking at the wolf, just encircling it. What forcefully struck him, he said, was that it looked like a ceremony...like a wake. When the ravens left they did not return, and the body was undisturbed.

Cooperation between wolves and ravens is well-known, and my colleague



Top: A raven sits on a white pine snag.

Above: A wolf and ravens gather near a deer kill.  
file photos/S. Foss

Inset: A red-breasted nuthatch. photo/M. Helmsberger

mentioned that on more than one occasion in his forestry career he’d seen wolves and ravens sharing a deer carcass without conflict. Ravens will sometimes lead wolves to prey, or to a carcass, so the wolves can tear it open for them, and they also seem to serve as lookouts at kill sites, providing additional ears and eyes. Researchers have witnessed play behavior between the species, with ravens tugging on wolf tails to provoke them into a kind of tagging game, and wolf pups and ravens cavorting as if on recess. It seems clear they have social attachments.

Raven expert Bernd Heinrich noted that, “The raven-wolf association may be close to a symbiosis that benefits the wolves and ravens alike.”

Wolf expert L. David Mech wrote, “Both species are extremely social...Perhaps in some way individuals of each

species have included members of the other in their social group and have formed bonds with them....”

Was the dead wolf in the shack known to the ravens? Had they teased it as a pup, shadowed its pack from the air, shared venison in the snow during a January cold spell? Could be. Don’t know. Would like to think so.

Two millennia ago the Roman emperor and philosopher Marcus Aurelius wrote, “...our life is what our thoughts

See LIFE...pg. 5B

**RECREATION**

**LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST**

from NOAA weather

**BWCAW closed thru May 4**

REGIONAL— The U.S. Forest Service announced Wednesday that it will be closing the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness for both day and overnight use through May 4, in order to comply with Gov. Tim Walz’s stay-at-home order issued April 9. Reservations made through May 4 will receive a full refund including reservation fees.

their entry point without stopping at a permit issue station.

The reservation confirmation email is sent from communications@recreation.gov at the time of reservation and again seven days prior to the entry date. Permit holders will be instructed to print one copy of the email for each watercraft in their group.

Day use motor visitors must contact their permit issue station no later than one week prior to their trip, to designate the day of the week they will enter the BWCAW.

Forest Service offices are currently closed to the public and will provide virtual services until further notice. If you’ve made your travel arrangements or are renting gear or hiring a guide with a local cooperator or outfitter, please look for information from them or contact them directly with questions.

The Forest Service will also change its permit pick-up requirements beginning May 5 for all BWCAW quota permits. Visitors will have two options: 1) print their BWCAW reservation confirmation email at home and use this as their permit, or 2) pick up the permit in person at a cooperating business that remains physically open and that is under an agreement with the Forest Service. Using the printed email as the permit will enable visitors to travel to

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
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.
04/06	49	16	0.05		04/06	50	20	0.00		04/06	52	22	0.07		04/06	48	36	0.35		04/06	51	22	0.12	
04/07	48	36	0.07		04/07	50	35	0.07		04/07	48	26	0.15		04/07	55	37	0.46		04/07	50	35	0.09	
04/08	57	27	0.01		04/08	56	25	0.04		04/08	54	32	0.00		04/08	46	27	0.00		04/08	55	26	0.00	
04/09	47	25	0.03	0.3"	04/09	49	25	0.06	0.2"	04/09	45	26	0.04	0.5"	04/09	32	27	0.01		04/09	47	25	0.00	
04/10	34	23	0.00		04/10	33	21	0.00		04/10	34	21	0.01	0.1"	04/10	46	18	0.00		04/10	34	20	0.00	
04/11	45	22	0.00		04/11	44	19	0.00		04/11	44	20	0.00		04/11	45	27	0.00		04/11	44	21	0.00	
04/12	46	29	0.00		04/12	46	19	0.00		04/12	44	27	0.00		04/12	34	25	0.00		04/12	46	28	0.00	
Total 1.98 94.7"					YTD Total 2.50 65.4"					YTD Total 2.97 76.1"					YTD Total NA NA 2.16 64.4"									

**FISHERIES**

**DNR cancels walleye egg harvest for 2020**

PIKERIVER— The harvest of walleye eggs, long an annual rite of spring here, is just the latest victim of the effort to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announced this week that it will cancel its egg harvest operations statewide this year, out of concern for protecting the health of its fisheries workers. That includes the harvest of eggs for walleye, northern pike, musky and steelhead.

Collecting eggs and milt from spawning fish in the wild is a labor-intensive effort that requires teams of six-to-eight people working in close proximity. According to a DNR statement, officials considered ways of conducting the work, while still practicing

appropriate social distancing, but ultimately determined it was not feasible.

The DNR collects eggs each spring to hatch, raise and then release either as fry or fingerlings to stock Minnesota waters that have no or limited natural reproduction of these fish species. While this stocking is important to maintain fish populations and angling opportunities over time, fisheries officials say that missing one year will not cause any long-term harm to the fish population of any water body.

“Fish populations naturally are made up of fish hatched in different years, so a missing or weak year class is not uncommon,” said Brad Parsons, fisheries section manager for the DNR. “In fact, in lakes with natural reproduction, a strong year

class often follows a weak year class, so not stocking for one year might actually benefit the following year’s stocked fry.”

Canceled egg-take activities means walleye eggs and fry will not be available for the DNR’s cooperative fish management programs with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and White Earth Nation. In addition, the DNR will not be able to fulfill requests from private sector hatcheries to purchase eggs and fry in 2020.

Minnesota joins some other Midwest states including South Dakota, Michigan and Indiana in suspending egg-take operations. In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service canceled all planned lake sturgeon production for 2020.

**WILDLIFE**



**Be bear aware this spring**

REGIONAL— With the snow all but gone, bears are rapidly emerging from hibernation and as they do, they’re looking for good eats at a time when there’s little natural food on the landscape.

bears. Avoid feeding birds from April 1 to Nov. 15.

If you still wish to feed birds, hang birdfeeders 10 feet up and 4 feet out from the nearest trees. Use a rope and pulley system to refill birdfeeders, and clean up spilled seeds.

► Do not put out feed for wildlife (like corn, oats, pellets or molasses blocks).

► Replace hummingbird feeders with hanging flower baskets, which are also attractive to hummingbirds.

► Store pet food inside and feed pets inside. If pets must be fed outdoors, feed them only as much as they will eat.

► Store garbage in bear-resistant garbage cans or dumpsters. Standard rubber or plastic garbage cans are not bear-proof.

► Keep garbage inside a secure building until the morning of pickup.

As bears emerge from hibernation, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is reminding homeowners to check their property for food sources that could attract bears.

People should remove or secure attractants such as birdseed, garbage, livestock feed, or compost to reduce potential conflict.

Never approach or try to pet a bear. Injury to people is rare, but bears are potentially dangerous because of their size, strength and speed.

Avoid bear conflicts by following these tips:

► Any time you feed birds, you risk attracting

**LIFE...Continued from page 4B**

make it,” foreshadowing a key message of the Buddha by four centuries, not to mention the insights of modern therapists. To say, “It’s all in your head” is usually meant to be derogatory, but should it be? What you award attention to is by definition important to you, at least in that moment. What you think about and focus on sets your course through life, and you may do worse than closely attend to animals, and to the habitats that support them (and us).

Several years ago I walked in Central Park in New York City in early spring. I was pleasantly startled by the abundant bird life of Manhattan, and if I lived in the Big Apple, I would undoubtedly spend a lot of time in the park. That 843 acres of the most valuable real estate in the world is protected from urban development was a farsighted act of civic genius. Over \$7 million dollars was spent on the land in 1855(!), and totaled slightly more than the Russians charged us for all of Alaska in 1867. To be sure, Central

Park was engineered and heavily landscaped, and is not in that sense a native feature, but 303 species of birds have been tallied there, with about 200 of them regulars. They’ve voted with their wings, and were joined by 42 million human visitors in 2016, who were presumably seeking associations not readily available on the streets.

A lot of research – not to mention common experience and common sense – has demonstrated the mind and body rejuvenating power of outdoor landscapes – forests, lakes, bogs, meadows, etc. – and the other species that inhabit them. In 1984, the prominent naturalist Edward O. Wilson coined the term biophilia and defined it as “the innate tendency

to focus on life and life-like processes,” affirming that, “to the degree that we come to understand other organisms, we will place greater value on them, and on ourselves.” This concept transcends the notion of “natural resources” in the guise of water, food, air, materials, and posits that beyond these physical essentials we crave deep connections to the biosphere to fulfill psychological and spiritual needs. Over 70 years ago, Aldo Leopold wrote that, “All ethics... rest upon a single premise: that the individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts.... The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals.... It is inconceivable... that an ethical

relation to land can exist without love, respect, and admiration.” We protect and nurture what and who we love, and we are interdependent with all of the world. For proof of the latter look no further than the COVID-19 pandemic.

I don’t know why the nuthatch danced on my head, and can’t say with certainty that a flock of ravens mourned a dead wolf, but I do know that the only way to survive and to prosper is to acknowledge, and to revel in, the sanctified webs of the community of life.

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

## VERMILION LAKE TOWNSHIP Important Information Regarding Property Assessments This may affect your 2021 property taxes.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Vermilion Lake Township will meet on Thursday, April 23, 2020 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. at Vermilion Lake Town Hall, 6703 Wahlsten Rd.

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 the 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 appear before the local board before appealing to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization.

\* Assessor's Office, 218-749-7147, Northland Office Center - Suite 2R, 307 1st Street South, Virginia, Minnesota 55792.

Crystal Alaspa, Town Clerk  
Vermilion Lake Township

Published in the Timberjay, April 10 & 17, 2020

## NOTICE – LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL & EQUALIZATION EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP

Due to the ongoing COVID19 pandemic, related State of Minnesota stay at home orders and Federal guidelines on avoiding contact, Eagles Nest 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 Dave Hillstrom, Assessor, 218-365-8235, fax 218-365-8207 first. Often issues can be resolved at this level.

If you are going to make an appeal in writing, mail your written appeal to Township of Eagles Nest, 1552 Bear Head State Park Road, Ely, MN 55731. 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 Friday, May 1.

The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization is set for Saturday, May 2, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

To join a call as a participant:  
-At the scheduled time, dial (701) 802-5104.  
-When prompted, enter the access code 2894250, followed by pound (#).  
-Participants can mute/unmute themselves by pressing \*6, or the 'mute' button on their phone if applicable.

Deb Siverhus, Town Clerk, Eagles Nest Township, 1552 Bear Head State Park Road, Ely, MN 55731, 218-365-4573.

Published in the Timberjay, April 20 & 27, 2020

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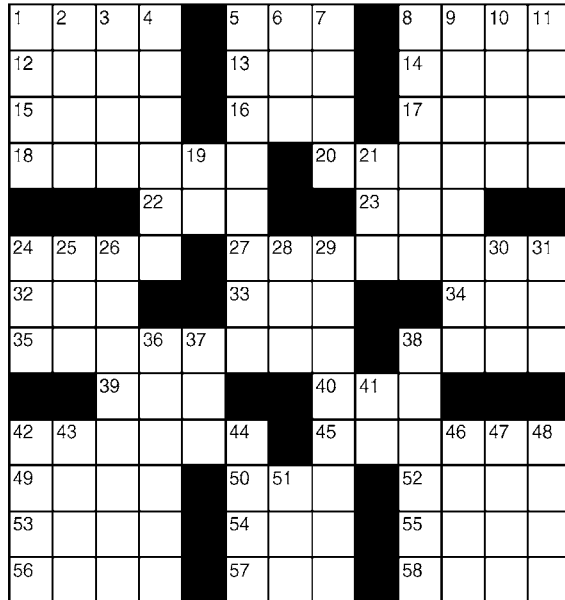
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# King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Radius neighbor
- 5 Letterman's network
- 8 Atlantic food fish
- 12 Public disturbance
- 13 Have a bug
- 14 Dumbo's "wings"
- 15 Pace
- 16 Also
- 17 Greek vowels
- 18 Proofreader's finds
- 20 Lava rock
- 22 Army rank (Abbr.)
- 23 Cul-de- —
- 24 Make fun of
- 27 Small caterpillar
- 32 Literary collection
- 33 Actress Vardalos
- 34 Cattle call
- 35 Braised beef
- 38 Help in crime
- 39 Swiss river
- 40 Spring mo.
- 42 Walk quietly
- 45 Lengthy list
- 49 Defeat decisively
- 50 Bashful
- 52 Pelvic bones



- 7 Unkempt one
- 8 Playground favorite
- 9 Subterranean passage
- 10 Caspian feeder
- 11 "Hey, you!"
- 19 Gift-tag word
- 21 Baseball bat wood
- 24 Treasure hunter's aid
- 25 Yoko of music
- 26 Grenade hurler
- 28 Serbian city
- 29 Stimulus of a kind
- 30 Fish eggs
- 31 Witticism
- 36 Baby's toy
- 37 Acapulco gold
- 38 Sculptor, e.g.
- 41 "Life of —" (2012 movie)
- 42 Decorate
- 43 Tittle
- 44 Catch sight of
- 46 Lotion additive
- 47 Pleasing
- 48 Tibetan herd
- 51 Weeding tool

### DOWN

- 1 Incite
- 2 Taleteller
- 3 Bleak, in Hollywood
- 4 Assault
- 5 California island
- 6 Resume

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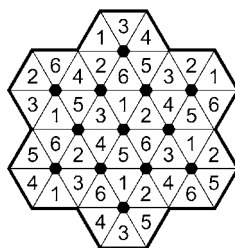
# Super Crossword

### Answers



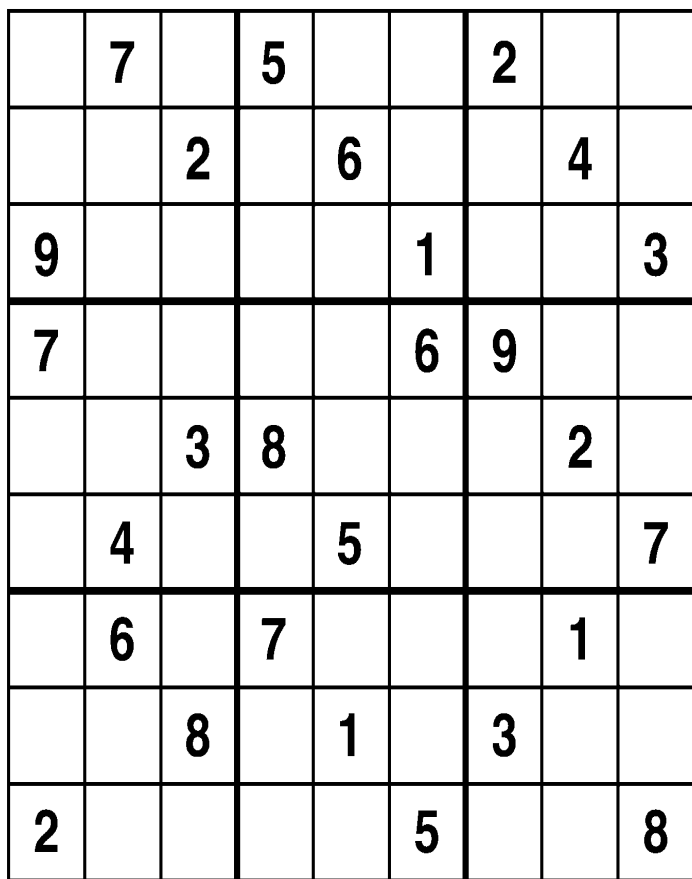
### SNOWFLAKES

#### solution



# Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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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# King Crossword

### Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.



### SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

- Melodic
- TILLING
- Annoyance
- ARCHING
- Blowing
- ZEBRE
- Blinking
- SORBET

### TODAY'S WORD

\_\_\_\_\_

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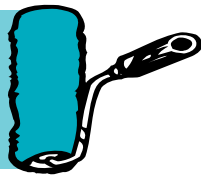
"That's right, ma'm, you got ants...  
\_\_\_\_\_ of them!"







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Our Realtors can be reached as follows during this time:  
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