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The TIMBERJAY



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COMMUNICATIONS

Frontier files for bankruptcy protection

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

Customer service would remain, State AG investigation continues

REGIONAL- Frontier Communications filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection this past week as it struggles to restructure a massive debt load while maintaining uninterrupted services to consumers.

However, the move won't halt an ongoing investigation by Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison into the company's business practices.

Frontier provides phone and internet service to a large portion of the *Timberjay* coverage area, including Ely, Tower, Crane Lake, and surrounding areas.

"We are undertaking a proactive and strategic process with the support of our bondholders to reduce our debt by over \$10 billion on an expedited basis," said Robert Schriesheim, chair of the finance committee for



the Frontier board of directors. "We do not expect to experience any interruption in providing services to our customers."

Between 2020 and 2025 the company has about \$11.8 billion

in debt obligations coming due, the majority of it unsecured, according to company reports. As of Dec. 31, 2019, the company's total indebtedness was \$17.5 billion.

By filing for Chapter 11 protection the company was able to obtain commitments for \$460 million in new financing that will provide necessary flexibility to keep services afloat. Frontier

also will continue with a sale of its operations and assets in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana to Northwest Fiber for \$1.352 billion.

As a result of the filing, Frontier's common stock is being dropped from the NASDAQ stock exchange effective on April 24. On April

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COVID-19

DELIVERING THE GOODS



Robotics students help grocery shoppers

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Ely robotics students Raif Olson and Caleb Kappes-Bliss, above, sanitize and program a "grocery bot" at Zup's Market. A grocery shopper, right, unloads her groceries in the parking lot.
photos by K. Vandervort

REGIONAL - A futuristic shopping cart appeared to be on the loose in the parking lot at Zup's Market in Ely during a recent windy Friday afternoon. Drawing gawks and finger-pointing, even a loud "look out!" warning from one shopper, the contraption scooted around cars and people with a load of groceries.

It stopped behind a white minivan. The driver got out of her car, flipped open the lids and loaded her groceries into her vehicle. She waved and

yelled "Thank you" toward a couple of high school kids standing near the store entrance.

That cart is actually a robot made by a group of robotics students at Northeast Range School

See...'BOT pg. 8



SULFIDE MINING

Lawsuit seeks records from mining study

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Environmental critics of copper-nickel mining near the Boundary Waters believe a trove of federal documents could greatly bolster their case for blocking a proposed copper-nickel mine just upstream of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. And that's why they're watching an ongoing lawsuit by the Wilderness Society with keen interest.

The suit, filed under the Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA, is an attempt to finally wrest free an environmental assessment, or EA, and related documents, developed by the U.S. Forest Service that explored the potential environmental and economic impacts of copper-nickel mining on about 234,000 acres of the Rainy

See...MINING pg. 7

Coalition appeals ruling on Twin Metals' leases

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— A coalition of nine Minnesota businesses, Ely-based Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, and several other environmental organizations has filed an appeal they hope will overturn a Trump administration decision to reinstate federal mineral leases for a controversial proposed copper-nickel mining project near Ely.

The coalition, part of the national Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, is asking the federal Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit to overturn a March 17 district court ruling that dismissed the group's claims. District Court Judge Trevor McFadden, a Trump appointee, concluded that the Trump administration had a right to "a mulligan" regarding a prior decision issued by the Obama administration not to renew mineral leases controlled by the

See...TWIN METALS pg. 7

More
USFS denies DNR request for study data. **Page 3**



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



Community notices

Vermilion Dream Quilters May 7 meeting canceled

REGIONAL- Our May 7 Vermilion Dream Quilters meeting in Tower is canceled. With the state mandate to extend the stay-at-home plan to May 4, and with the reality of a very slow and careful return to "normal," a large group will not be allowed to meet so soon. We can remain hopeful that we can see each other face to face in June. We may not need a program, only LOTS of show and tell. In the meantime, please take all precautions to care for yourself and yours, which protects us all.

Update from Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital

ELY- Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital remains fully operational and ready to serve our community. Emergency Departments statewide have seen significant decreases in the number of patients coming in for things such as trauma, heart attack, or strokes. EBCH is no exception. We encourage anyone experiencing symptoms to call 911 or come to the Emergency Department. Our team is prepared to care for you, and life-threatening medical conditions should not be ignored.

We are offering regularly-scheduled outpatient appointments with appropriate precautions in place for the following departments: Physical and Occupational Therapy, Cardiac Rehab, and Infusions and Chemotherapy.

In Diagnostic Imaging, most routine screening exams have been postponed, but our Radiology Team remains on campus for emergency exams. Per the Governor's orders, there are no elective surgeries at this time. We evaluate our Specialty Clinics for Orthopaedics, Urology, and Podiatry monthly and work with the provider to determine whether it is appropriate to hold them. If you have any questions about Ely-Bloomenson, please do not hesitate to call 218-365-3271 for more information.

Annual Breitung Clean-Up

Monday, May 4 & Wednesday, May 6

Maintenance Workers will pick up specified items for FREE DISPOSAL (anything that doesn't cost money at the dump)



All items must be separated and bagged or piled as directed and placed on the curb.

Absolutely no household garbage will be accepted!

Brush (place in piles) • Clean Yard Waste (in bags, no glass, no rocks, etc.) • White Goods (old refrigerators or stoves - doors must be removed from refrigerators) Scrap Metal (pile in alley) Car & Pick-up Truck Tires (24" or smaller) • No Batteries, Paints or Hazardous Waste

Please place all items ON THE CURB.

Residents must call Breitung Town Hall 8 am-4 pm Tuesdays through Thursdays 753-6020 to arrange pick-up or with questions.

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COVID-19

Northland Foundation grants \$30,000 to Bois Forte Band to expand nutritional and essential services for Elders

BOIS FORTE- The Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, along with the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa have each received \$30,000 grants to help their Elders access healthy meals, necessary hygiene and household products, and other critical services during the COVID-19 health crisis. The Northland Foundation awarded a total of \$90,000 to the three bands.

The three Tribal Nations acted quickly to address the challenges created by the pandemic in order to continue providing services in a way that reduces Elders' risk of exposure to the virus. All three nutrition programs have traditionally offered meals served in a community setting. In addition to food delivery, the grants will also help supply items such as hand sanitizer, soap, toilet paper and other essential supports to Elders in their homes. The Tribal Nations serve hundreds of households with older adults, many living in isolated areas, through

this program. Expanded services are urgently needed to help keep Elders safe and abiding by the stay-at-home order.

Under normal circumstances, this programming is supported by revenues from Tribal business ventures such as gaming. In the current health crisis, with operations and revenue streams shut down, an infusion of grant dollars will help them meet essential needs now.

"The Bois Forte Band is extremely thankful for the funding from the Northland Foundation to help support our Elders with their needs during this COVID-19 pandemic," stated Cathy Chavers, Bois Forte Chairwoman. "They are our most treasured resource that we must protect, and the \$30,000 grant will provide us that opportunity to do so with access to delivered meals and other essential needs they may have."

In March, the Northland Foundation announced the suspension of its typical April 1 grant round. Instead, the foundation is

devoting available grant funding to programming that serves people most vulnerable to the impacts of the pandemic. Partner organizations are being invited to apply for targeted grants, primarily to meet basic needs such as food access, housing access, and other pressing services.

"We reached out to many non-profit partner organizations, asking what they are seeing in terms of community impacts and what resources would help them deliver critical support," said Erik Torch, Director of Grantmaking.

"The Bois Forte, Grand Portage and Fond du Lac Tribal Nations expressed an immediate need to adapt and expand their programs, ensuring that Elders would not miss meals or run out of essential supplies," added Torch, "and the Northland Foundation was happy to partner with them in this important work."



No decision yet on Tower Fourth of July

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board met Monday, but no decision was made on whether or not the group will need to cancel the annual Fourth of July festivities.

"First and foremost is the safety of our community," said board chair Julie Johnson. "But how do we know what that will be two months from now?"

The finality of making the decision to cancel was something that no one on the committee was quite ready to face.

Johnson said they haven't seen any other area towns canceling their Fourth of July celebrations yet, and that most seemed to be waiting to see what changes would go into effect in May.

But even if the stay-at-home order is lifted, the decision to potentially open up the area to throngs of visitors could be a concern.

"Bringing thousands of people into town," said Tim Tomsich, "no doubt would be raising the risk."

Committee members seemed to

agree that the wisest decision would be erring on the side of safety, but they decided to wait until later in May to make the final decision.

One committee member said that someone had called them and asked how they could consider putting on a parade when health care workers were at risk and dying.

The Tower Soudan Civic Club has already made the decision to cancel the pancake breakfast. The committee is not selling fundraiser raffle tickets this year. Fundraising for the Fourth is basically done a year in advance, so money raised last year was to fund this year's parade, and if the events need to be canceled, the money will be available for 2021.

The Fourth of July Run will also be canceled if there is no parade.

Committee members had ideas on other ways to commemorate the nation's birthday if the decision is made to cancel the parade and related events

Orlyn Kringstad said he would feel really bad if the Fourth could not be celebrated in some way.

Fireworks would still be an option, as they have already been paid for.

Jarri Ankrum floated the idea of having a home and business decorating contest, where people could drive around and then vote for their favorites. The idea of having floats simply parked, and then voting on them, was also an option.

"If the six-foot distancing is continued into July there is no question we would need to cancel," said Tomsich. "Crowds on sidewalks, candy being thrown from floats, children at the sawdust scramble, and the Breitung Community Picnic all involve people tightly packed together."

"It is so hard to break with tradition," said Lori Tomsich.

The committee also talked about 2021 and is looking into the idea of hosting an all-school reunion to mark the 10th anniversary of the closing of the Tower-Soudan High School.

The committee will meet on Monday, May 18 at 4:30 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center (where there is ample room for social distancing). Johnson said June 1 would be the latest date to make a final decision.

RAMS and St. Louis County invite residents to participate in an internet speed test

REGIONAL-St.Louis County in partnership with the Range Association of Municipalities & Schools (RAMS) is pleased to announce the formal public kickoff of a crowdsourcing project covering all of St. Louis County. This broadband speed testing initiative is being con-

ducted by GEO Partners, LLC during a time when more people are at home per the Governor's stay-at-home directive. This includes over 30,000 students (K-12) as well as parents required to work from home and thus should provide the most comprehensive, accurate accumu-

lation of actual broadband speeds ever conducted in the county while demand on the system is highest.

The data collected via a one-minute speed test can be conducted from any device connected to your broadband signal including cell phones and will result in statistically valid data and mapping. This data will then enable any locale in St. Louis County to utilize the validated information for a broadband expansion project and seek grant funding from the FCC, USDA or Border to Border state program. We anticipate a higher than normal volume of participation, partially because of all the students who are struggling to stay connected to their E-Learning while living in rural areas in the county.

RAMS as an organization has been a strong advocate for broadband expansion across the region. RAMS and the St. Louis County Commissioners recognize that high speed, quality broadband is a critical utility to economic development, education, business and virtual healthcare. RAMS is grateful to the partnership with St. Louis County on this project and encourages everyone to take the test and share the link, <https://expressoptimizer.net/public/>. Your participation is important and no personal information will be collected.

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SULFIDE MINING

Forest Service denies DNR request for study data

State officials sought results from two-year analysis of mineral leasing withdrawal proposal

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Research into the environmental and economic effects of a potential copper-nickel mine near Ely will remain under wraps, despite a request from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to obtain the data.

Last month, DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen requested to review the information gathered by the Forest Service as part of what was supposed to be a two-year study of the effects of a mineral withdrawal affecting 234,000 acres of the Superior National Forest. In 2018, the Trump administration abruptly canceled the study a few

“Now, more than ever, we need facts and science to be out in the open, not hidden.”

Chris Knopf
Friends of the BW

months short of its completion and has since refused requests from Congress, environmental groups, and now the state of Minnesota, to release the partial results.

The DNR had requested to review the information gathered by the Forest Service as part of its own environmental review of a controversial mine

proposal issued by Twin Metals, a proposed copper-nickel mine that would be located a few miles upstream of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, near Ely.

Yet, in an April 13 letter, Robert Lueckel, acting regional forester for the Eastern Region of the U.S. Forest Service, declined to release the requested information, citing the preliminary nature of the data. “Not only are the incomplete data and documents deliberative pre-decisional materials, but also reliance on potentially irrelevant and unreviewed data and analyses will only hinder our collective efforts to develop a sound environmental analysis for the current proposal,” wrote Lueckel.

It’s unclear how the Trump administration decision will impact the state’s own review of the Twin Metals proposal. “The DNR has not yet determined how we will respond to the USFS letter nor any implications their response may have to our review of the Twin Metals proposal,” said DNR Assistant Commissioner Jess Richards.

Environmental and congressional critics were more outspoken. “It’s sad that the U.S. Forest Service is suppressing scientific findings and making decisions based on special interests and political pressure,” said Chris Knopf, executive director of the Friends of the Boundary Waters. “Now, more than ever, we need facts and science to be out in the open, not hidden.”

Rep. Betty McCollum was even more pointed, and called on the DNR to take a firm stance on the issue. “The Minnesota DNR should not spend even one dollar of state taxpayer funds reviewing the Twin Metals project until this report is made public,” said McCollum in a statement provided to the *Timberjay*. “When the Trump administration doesn’t like the facts, they cover-up or lie. In this case, the U.S. Forest Service report likely demonstrates that sulfide-ore copper mining in the Superior National Forest poses an unacceptable risk of toxic acid mine drainage into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness – and would destroy this national treasure.”

CITY OF TOWER

Ambulance co-director resigns with withering attack

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— One of the two co-directors of the Tower Area Ambulance Service has submitted a harshly-worded resignation letter and used his submission as an opportunity to attack the other co-director. The move comes as the city of Tower is in the process of hiring a permanent director for the ambulance service.

Josh Villebrun, who the city council appointed to the co-director position on March 16, submitted his letter of resignation on Monday, first announcing it in a text message to ambulance service members early Monday morning. Villebrun’s resignation letter puts the onus for his decision on the city council and his fellow co-director Dena

Suikhonen, whom he states has “poor communication with me, poor leadership style, poor Human Resources skills/knowledge and different goals and aspirations for the Department.” Villebrun also took issue with the city council’s recent decision to accept the recommendation of the Tower Area Ambulance Commission for the ambulance service to contribute \$1.66 for every mile driven on a non-emergency inter-hospital transfer to the ambulance replacement fund.

Villebrun’s scathing letter hasn’t gone over well with city officials.

“I would give Dena my full appreciation and confidence,” said Mayor Orlyn Kringstad in

response.

Council member Dave Setterberg, who worked with both Villebrun and Suikhonen on ambulance issues said he found Suikhonen easy to work with. “So far, with everything I’ve asked for, she’s been able to give me the information in a timely manner,” he said. He noted that Suikhonen had also tracked down a potential source for no-cost assistance on the development of a business plan for the ambulance service, something it has lacked for years. The city council had looked at hiring a consultant to do the work, but the price tag ranged from \$23,000-\$30,000, a prohibitive amount for an ambulance service that

has been struggling financially since shifting to a relatively high-wage, paid-on-call business model.

Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua, who has also worked closely with both co-directors since their appointment, indicated she’s been impressed with Suikhonen’s efforts in the role. “Four days after she assumed the interim role the state of Minnesota issued a COVID-19 peacetime state of emergency,” noted Ranua. “This virus directly affects the well-being of ambulance staff and the people we serve. [Dena] was proactive in obtaining the additional recommended personal protective equipment

and securing short-turnaround COVID-19 funding. She has a keen awareness where her experience is insufficient to guide her and is not afraid to reach out to others for solid guidance. Her lack of rashness is a protective quality for the service. As for communication, it’s always a two-way street. The entire city could benefit from improving their communication skills.”

Villebrun’s future with the ambulance service remains unclear. In his letter, Villebrun indicated that he would immediately return to his duties as the “permanent” assistant director.

“No, he won’t,” respond.

See RESIGNATION...pg. 5

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We are currently booking Exam appointments for mid-May in anticipation of a lifting of current restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are expanding time between appointments to limit the amount of people in our office at any time. Call now to reserve your appointment spot as we anticipate a busy schedule as we renew daily services to our patients.

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HELP IS NEEDED FROM GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS TO IMPROVE BROADBAND SERVICE IN OUR AREA



Everyone received a postcard with information to visit two websites to do surveys. With the information from the postcard – please go on-line to complete the surveys.

Please take a moment to visit these two websites and complete the surveys as soon as possible.

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OPINION

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

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

COVID-19 politics

Sound policy, not politics, should govern response to the current pandemic

State officials, like Gov. Tim Walz, are coming under pressure from well-funded political operatives, posing as a grassroots uprising, to halt efforts to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The push, which is coming from far-right elements within the Republican Party, is designed to organize and incite anger against public health officials and Democratic governors who have taken effective action to slow the spread of this highly contagious disease.

It has the hallmarks of what is likely to be the central thrust of the Republicans' campaign this fall: that Democrats are tyrants for telling people to stay at home or use social distancing or face coverings to protect the public health.

Organizers of a protest held in the state of Virginia last week made it explicit in a statement that read: "Government mandating sick people to stay home is called quarantine. However, the government mandating healthy citizens to stay home, forcing businesses and churches to close, is called tyranny."

Such claims, of course, are nonsense. The biggest impediment to reopening the economy is that we currently lack sufficient testing capacity to determine which citizens are, in fact, healthy and which are not. We know that infected individuals can go for weeks without symptoms, spreading the virus everywhere they go. We also know what happens when we fail to take sensible steps to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. In South Dakota, for example, where far-right Gov. Kristi Noem has refused to enact a stay-at-home order or take other sensible measures, the rate of infection has skyrocketed in recent weeks. South Dakota now has five times the rate of infection as Minnesota, where Gov. Tim Walz has taken appropriate steps to keep the rate of infection under control.

Yet the public health implications don't appear to concern those paying for or encouraging the growing number of protests. Unfortunately, that now includes President Trump, who is clearly searching for a new campaign theme heading into the fall. Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, Trump planned to run on the strength of the U.S. economy and the fear of Democratic

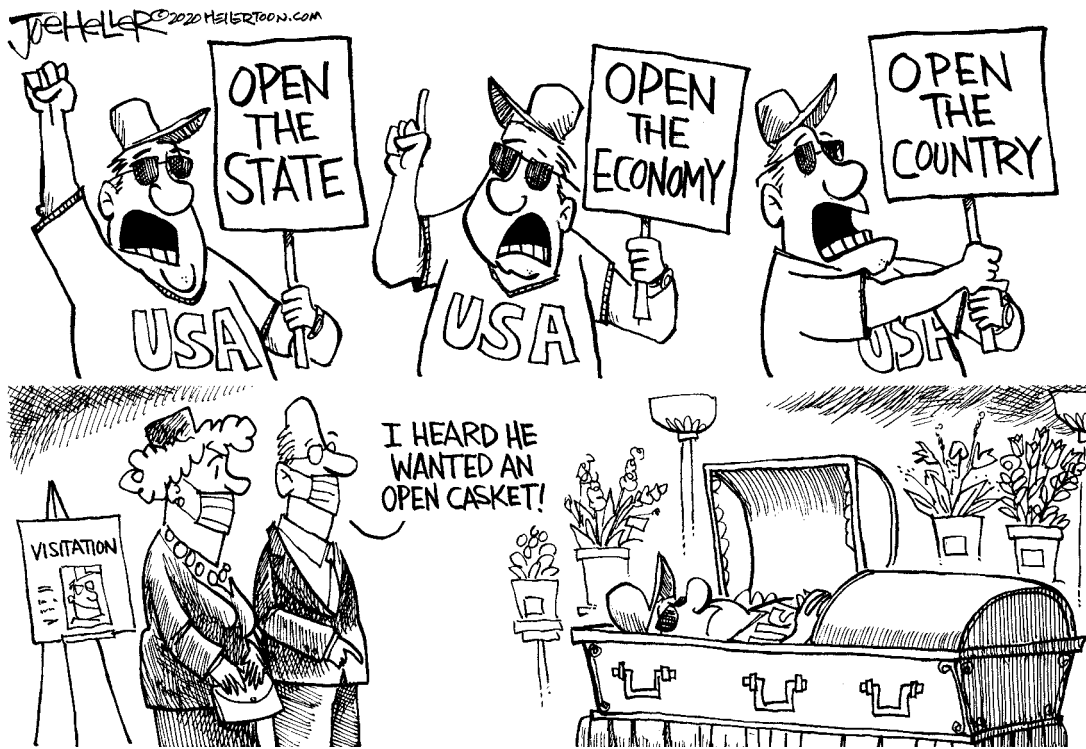
socialists. But with the economy in the greatest freefall in modern history, and with Republicans leading the most dramatic deployment of big government socialism in American history, those campaign themes are no longer operative, even with Trump's true believers.

So, it appears the GOP is set to wage war against the public health, with gun-toting protesters blocking streets and filling capitol corridors, like a Tea Party revival. The Trump campaign knows an organizing opportunity when they see one, so it was no surprise to learn last week that the largest of the recent protests, held in Lansing, Mich., was funded by the family of Betsy DeVos, Trump's controversial education secretary.

Here in Minnesota, former rightwing radio talk show host Jason Lewis, who is challenging U.S. Sen. Tina Smith, is sounding the same themes as he barnstorms around the state fomenting opposition to the current public health measures. The public should not confuse any of this for a spontaneous eruption of grassroots anger. It's 95-percent political theater, organized and paid for by big money interests who gain advantage whenever the GOP is in power in Washington.

There is no question that the current public health measures are an inconvenience and have impacted the economy. We've certainly felt the effects here at the *Timberjay*, like most other businesses in our region. But Minnesota has managed to avoid the crisis situations seen in places like New York City or Louisiana, where failure to control the outbreak early led to huge numbers of infections and a medical system that has been completely overwhelmed.

It's a balancing act. And, fortunately, the vast majority of Americans understand the importance of the steps that most states are enacting, according to recent polling. We all want to see America re-opened, but it matters how that happens. For now, leaders like Gov. Tim Walz, need to continue to follow the advice of the public health experts who have kept the outbreak largely under control here in Minnesota. We can't let crass political posturing take the place of sound public health policy.



Letters from Readers

Those who won't follow the rules should at least respect those of us who do

I wear a cotton, homemade face mask in any face-to-face interactions. The mask protects people I meet in case I might have the virus (initially you don't know you have been exposed). It keeps me from breathing virus into the air and possibly infecting others. It does nothing to protect me. Unmasked people sometimes chuckle at what they perceive as my silly efforts to protect myself. In fact, if they should have the virus, I am totally unprotected from them. The airborne virus will travel to surfaces, clothing, my mask, etc.

I have family in Sioux Falls, S. D., a state where the governor refused to take the kinds of action our governor has. They have a spiraling outbreak and death rate. I am thankful that Governor Walz has stayed the course. I also am thankful the majority of people in our community choose to act rationally and in a caring way towards others

If you feel you must protect your perceived Constitutional right to do as you please, to not wear a mask, to not take precautions, to not social distance and to congregate in crowds, do so with others who share your beliefs. But please respect the rights of those of us who choose not to spread the virus and to keep a safe distance from you in the grocery store, at our front doors or any other spaces where we might interact.

Anne Uehling Ely

Fifty years after first Earth Day there is still much left to do

Earth Day began 50 years ago, on April 22, 1970, with 20 million participating. That's one in 10 Americans. Primarily American in 1970, it grew to be global in scope with 200 million participants by 1990. The envi-

ronment was in terrible shape back then.

Earth Day led to the formation of the Environmental Protection Agency, The Clean Air Act, Occupational Safety and Health Act, and Clean Water Act. Regulations on just the primary air pollutants now save 220,000 American lives every single year! Earth Day was founded by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson; he later became Counselor to The Wilderness Society where I visited him in 2003 in Washington D.C.

In 1970, I was a medical student, and organized an Earth Day Symposium at the University of Minnesota Northrop Auditorium on the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. We heard from Dean of Forestry Frank Kaufert on the Forest Service's Multiple Use policy, Dr. Clayton Rudd, editor of *The Naturalist* magazine, and raconteur Bill Magie, founder of Friends of the Wilderness, who was a wilderness fighter since the air ban in the 1940s. I was an Ely wilderness guide for 10 summers and grew up above the store at Canoe Country Outfitters. I learned how to guide from Ely legends Jeep Latourell, Gust Walske, Fred McReady, Don Beland, and Mark Spink. My mentor about protecting wilderness was Sigurd Olson.

In 1978, I was recruited by Bud Heinselman to lobby the Western Congressional offices (I was on faculty at the University of Utah then) for a wilderness law to protect the BWCA. I had guided Bud and his wife Fran on a canoe trip to the lakes south of Lac La Croix, and met him again in 1975 when Lenny Cersine and I drove snowmobiles to Ottertrack Lake. From Ottertrack, I hiked into Lake of the Clouds in the heart of the BWCA, and ran into Bud who had flown in with the Forest Service to Mountain Lake and was extracting mud samples from the bottom of Lake of the Clouds. What a coincidence! Snowmobiling in the BWCA certainly made a mockery of wilderness values, and later

in 1975 I had a meeting with the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service to express this point of view. In the field hearings on the BWCA Wilderness, I presented the economic impacts of Ely canoe outfitters- about half a dozen outfitters generated approximately \$19 million for the local economy in 1978. Now there are about two dozen outfitters, but many more canoeists have their own camping equipment. The BWCA Wilderness Act was passed and signed into law at the end of 1978. It was a compromise with the boats and tow services intact for Lac La Croix, the Moose Chain to and including much of Basswood, and Seagull and Saganaga Lakes. The wilderness was expanded to include the Hegman pictographs, Big Moose, the Mudro route, and others. Entry points and a permit system dispersed canoeists. Importantly, snowmobiles and outboard motors in the interior wilderness were banned.

Over the past 42 years since the BWCA Wilderness Act, I have visited almost all of the lakes (two more to go in Quetico and 10 in the BWCA) and the wilderness is in far better shape than the 1960s and 1970s when I was guiding. The impact on the Ely economy is still significant, plus all of us cabin owners contribute even more to the local economy. Looking forward from Earth Day 2020 we face carbon pollution contributing to the greenhouse effect causing global warming. The BWCA Wilderness is now threatened by the loss of its boreal forest including our pines and spruces, a loss of our loons as they head further north, and changes to our wildlife ecosystems. There is still much to do!

William N. Rom MD, MPH Ely and New York City

Where the North Country Sounds Off!

Old friends reappearing in the era of COVID-19

The phone rang one sheltered night, bringing a voice from the past across 27 years of silence. A friend I'll call Sam was looking through old class reunion stuff, and saw my name, and thought he'd see if he could reach me. If I'd made a list of 100 people I thought might contact me, his name would not have been on it. He was my ex-husband's best friend in high school, and



BETTY FIRTH

he met Pam, my bridesmaid and good friend, at our wedding. Later he married her, and the four of us hung out together, playing cards or board games and going to movies.

We talked and talked, telescoping our lifetimes into 60 minutes. They had three kids, and I'd only met the first one when he was small. Pam died from ALS two years

ago. Sam later heard from a woman, Linda, he'd dated, loved and broken her heart when he called it off, feeling there were too many differences between their families, including religion, Methodist and Catholic. I don't recall him as being a particularly religious person, but parental pressure can weigh heavily on the very young, and the two sets of parents did not like each other.

Sam remembered visiting us in Storm Lake, Iowa, shortly after our wedding. He recalled getting drunk, saying my ex had switched Sam's drink from

vodka to gin without saying anything because he didn't have enough vodka for both of them. (There's one tiny glimpse into why he's my ex.) Sam remembered waking up naked on a blow-up mattress on the living room floor the next morning. I said I honestly didn't remember that, and I wasn't just sparing his feelings. The story had a faint edge of familiarity to it, but maybe I'd blanked it out so I could look him in the face after that. Or maybe I was hung over, too, and the brain cells that carried that memory wasted

away and died.

Sam was an electrician, good with his hands; a nice guy, easy going, and not very talkative, seemingly a good match for my ex who would banter, but shied away from any personal subject. I don't think Sam and I had ever talked for an hour, just the two of us, but the conversational stream ran full that night with him leading the way. Without any prompting, he told me that he and Pam never talked much or even saw each

See FRIENDS...pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Believing is easy; evidence-based thinking is tougher

OPINION, UNINFORMED, IS A BRIDGE TO NOWHERE. “Don’t confuse me with facts, my mind is made up,” is dangerous folly. Anyone can spout off an opinion, but it takes a well-read, thoughtful person or schooled professional to express an informed opinion based on hard-earned knowledge, critical thinking and reason. Your right to an opinion doesn’t make it valid.

WISHFUL THINKING MAY BE PLEASING, BUT NEVER FULFILLING. Desire and want are powerful psychological impulses that can be playfully enjoyable. Without action, wishing is an idle exercise that produces only imaginary results. Wishing doesn’t connect with reality and attacking something you disagree with as hoax will not make facts go away.

FLIGHTS OF FANTASY

MAY TAKEOFF, BUT NEVER LAND IN REALITY. Imagination offers a fanciful ride that is not grounded in reality. Ducking from harsh truth offers only temporary relief from anxiety. Escapism avoids the hard work of gathering facts, carefully analyzing them for sound conclusions to solve problems. Truth doesn’t disappear with accusations of fake news and witch-hunts

DENIAL OFFERS NO SANCTUARY FROM UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTHS. Denialism is a psychological defense mechanism that rejects threatening facts in the face of overwhelming scientific evidence. Anti-science denialism targets climate change (caused by human activity) and evolution to impede intelligent public policy-making. Expertise and professionalism in administering and governing does matter.

BELIEVING SOMETHING TO BE TRUE DOESN’T MAKE IT SO. Beliefs are claims, made and accepted, absent evidence. A recent opinion letter in the

Timberjay questioned whether the pandemic is God’s punishment for our sins and unfaithfulness. An angry punishing God is an ancient worldview of desert nomads who used fear for social control. A more compassionate path recognizes the power of love to move beyond belief to a scientific means for understanding death, disease and disaster capitalism.

Harold Honkola
Tower

A good time to consider your will

I’ve been asked to write something about how to write your own will during this time of so many increased concerns.

Having helped people with their estate plans, writing wills, health care directives, powers of attorney, and trusts for more than thirty years, I’d be very happy to do so. The problem is, so many people do it so poorly that the families and beneficiaries end up looking for someone besides their loved one to blame. “The

lawyer made mom and dad do it all wrong” can be an attractive proposition.

So this letter is not legal advice. Just general education. For a more thorough discussion, check out the Minnesota State Attorney General’s website at <https://www.ag.state.mn.us/Consumer/Handbooks/Probate/CHI.asp>.

What I tell young lawyers starting out is: Yes, you can write a will if you follow some basic rules, like being sure it is acknowledged in front of two witnesses who sign in front of the Testator (the person whose Will it is). Doesn’t even have to be in the same place and at the same time, but there do have to be those two witness signatures on the document, next to the Testator’s signature. And no, despite what the pre-printed form says, no, it does NOT have to be notarized. The most common mistake is to assume a Notary takes the place of two witnesses - it doesn’t. Any will should always show the date it was signed.

The devil is in the details.

Most often, the person writing their own will gets caught up in a swirl of conflicting and competing emotions and thoughts. This results in a document that makes perfect sense to the person who wrote it, but turns out to be hard for everyone else involved to agree on what they meant. It’s like surgery. Except there are competing surgeons, each trying to undo the work of the other one.

This is why we have lawyers and why people who write their own wills so often make more work for lawyers than they mean to.

Folks, this is like plumbing behind a plaster wall. By the time people figure out it’s leaking, it’s gotten really expensive to fix.

This is the best I can do for a newspaper story. Meanwhile, I’ll do my best to take care of my people here in south Minneapolis, as reasonably as possible. Just like I’ve been doing since 1976.

Dave Porter
Minneapolis

COVID-19 FUNDING

Area health care providers, responders receive grants

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL—Several area health care providers and area ambulance services received grant funds as part of an emergency funding package by the Legislature in March to provide resources to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Department of Health, which administered the funds, announced last week that it had awarded \$50 million in

short-term, emergency funding to approximately 350 health facilities and ambulance services around the state. The MDH received more than 1,600 requests, totaling more than \$300 million, which meant many requests went unfunded or under-funded.

Among area hospitals, successful applicants include:
 ▶ Cook Hospital- \$75,000
 ▶ Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital- \$75,000
 ▶ Rainy Lake Medical Center- \$75,000

Among community health centers, Scenic Rivers Health Services will receive \$130,283, while the Bois Forte Indian Health Service will receive \$43,193.

Among area ambulance services, successful applicants include:

▶ Babbitt Ambulance- \$8,600
 ▶ Ely Area Ambulance- \$50,000
 ▶ Orr Area Ambulance- \$5,050
 ▶ Tower Area Ambulance-

\$8,500
 ▶ Virginia Ambulance- \$60,000.

The funds can be spent in the following ways:

▶ The establishment and operation of temporary sites to provide testing services, to provide treatment beds, or to isolate or quarantine affected individuals.
 ▶ Development and implementation of screening and testing procedures.
 ▶ Additional emergency transportation of patients.

▶ Development and temporary information technology and systems costs to support patient triage, screening, and telemedicine activities.

▶ Staff overtime and hiring additional staff.

▶ Staff training and orientation.

▶ Expenses related to the isolation or quarantine of staff.

▶ Other expenses that cannot reasonably be expected to generate income for the recipient of the funds after the outbreak ends.

FRIENDS...Continued from page 4

other until the end of day. They would have dinner, then go off to their separate spaces to do needlework, woodworking or other projects, coming together at bedtime. I thought that sounded like a consignment to a hellhole of emptiness, but there were the kids to fill in the spaces. I asked, “Was that OK for you?” He said, “Yeah, I guess,” and joyfully added, “but now with Linda, we talk about everything, and I really like that.” I responded, “Well, after all those years of being bottled up, you have a lot to say.”

He filled me in on what he knew of my ex’s story, but had last seen him 25 years earlier at my mother-in-law’s funeral. We

compared memories of the wisecracking guy who ran from his feelings as if they were wild animals bent on destroying him. It surprised me to hear that Sam saw him the same way, but then, the way men relate to each other was and is an ongoing mystery to me.

I’ve heard that many people are reaching out more often to friends and relatives since COVID-19 began, and I was touched that Sam took the time to call. One friend told me that he feels closer to his family than he ever has in his life. I’ve also reached out to some people who have slid out from my view, and they have seemed happy to hear from me.

Why is this happening? Is it because we have more free time? Are we bored and trying to find ways to fill up the hours or some different people to talk to? Does the shadowing possibility of death, like a drumbeat in the background, compel us to make those connections before it’s too late?

A friend of mine is spending a lot of time outdoors, skiing, walking, and even biking on the lake, but even with all that time outdoors said she feels there’s something in the air, a difference that makes us all a little on edge. I thought maybe it’s like the uneasiness we feel when the wind blows for too long, wondering when it’s

going to stop. While some folks have been productive, cleaning basements and closets, I’ve heard quite a few people say they haven’t been motivated to do much of anything in spite of all the projects they thought they’d dig into. I think our underpinnings have been dislodged; our usual structure cannot be counted on. One woman said, “I go from room to room, not sure what to do next.” Even for those with work or other routines still in place, the lingering possibility that more change will come hovers disconcertingly.

Years ago, during the classes I took to become an acupressure practitioner, we would always end with

a meditation. On the last day of class, the instructor said to us, as we rested in the deep calm, “You can always return to this moment, this feeling of peace. If you center down, you can be right here again; not just a similar feeling, but actually bringing back this moment and living it again.” I have found that to be true when I take the time to do it.

The phone call with Sam felt like that. We tele-scoped our lifetimes into moments revisited, and the years disappeared. In spite of decades of silence, Sam reached out, trusting I’d be receptive to his news and his feelings. He concluded the call with, “We should talk more,” and I just might

keep in touch, maybe.

I have been concerned for the people who are riddled with anxiety during this health crisis, not handling the fear and isolation well. I’d like them to know that there is peace at hand for all or us within our own beings, within our own memories. We can get quiet and dreamy or crank up the lively music and dance our hearts out. Sing a song that makes you cry, like many people did last Friday, singing “You’ve Got a Friend” (with MPR), out on porches, singing to neighbors, singing to the evening. Or sing a song that makes you laugh just to hear the joyful sound.

RESIGNATION...Continued from page 3

ed city council member Sheldon Majerle. “That job was eliminated.”

Ranua suggested that Villebrun may be within his rights to return to the position. “When people are appointed to an interim position it is temporary,” stated Ranua. “If they are assuming this role above another position, they typically return to their regular position upon termination of the interim role.”

Setterberg did express some hope that, based on his letter, Villebrun was still willing to work constructively with the city. In his letter, Villebrun did say he was willing to accept direction from Suikkonen as assistant director, despite his criticism of her performance. “I was glad that he stepped aside realizing there was a difficulty working together,” said Setterberg. At the same time, Setterberg indicated that Villebrun had been less forthcoming with information than Suikkonen and that he

sometimes questioned his objectives. “I haven’t always been sure exactly what is going on [with him],” said Setterberg.

Kringstad questioned whether the city wants to continue a relationship with Villebrun, who has prompted concerns among city officials over his inconsistency and unclear motives. “At what point does it become obvious that he will continue to disrupt and interfere with rebuilding the ambulance and fire departments?” Kringstad asked.

Villebrun insists that he’s focused on moving the ambulance service forward and says he hopes his decision to step down will help improve morale.

Villebrun said he’s focused his efforts since becoming co-director on better understanding the revenues generated by non-emergency inter-hospital transfers and argues that the transfers are important to the service given the revenues they generate.

That’s a view that has not always been shared by others on the service or by city and township officials who have closely watched the ambulance service.

Villebrun complaint dismissed

Villebrun’s resignation letter came just hours ahead of the release of a letter from City Attorney Mitch Brunfelt, who informed Villebrun that he had dismissed his complaint against a fellow member of the ambulance service for an alleged violation of patient confidentiality laws. The complaint stemmed from the investigation into former director Steve Altenburg, during which the service member revealed some of Villebrun’s medical limitations to investigator Nancy Roe.

“I have concluded that your complaint is without merit,” wrote Brunfelt in his April 20 letter to Villebrun. Brunfelt went on to explain that the

service member revealed information that they had been told was part of an official investigation and that [the service member] believed “[he/she] was allowed to provide to the investigator any and all information that [the service member] believed was substantive and relevant to the subject matter of the investigation.”

Brunfelt added: “I have concluded in my capacity as Tower City Attorney that [the service member] did not engage in any wrongdoing. [The service member] did not violate any of your rights under HIPAA.”

At the same time, Brunfelt extolled his own concerns about who it is he believes is really motivating Villebrun. “Your complaint has all of the indications and markers that it actually was orchestrated by, and perhaps even written by, Steve Altenburg,” wrote Brunfelt. “If that is the case, then I suggest that

you seriously consider utilizing your time and energy for more constructive efforts to help the Tower Area Ambulance Service move forward in a positive way, rather than letting yourself be used by Steve Altenburg as his mouthpiece and as a pawn in his campaign of smear and retaliation.”

Villebrun did not comment on Brunfelt’s accusation, other than to say that he went through

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Week of April 27

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 May 19.

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

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

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

Vermilion Country School Board- Meetings posted online at vermilioncountry.org.

Tower Food Shelf open by request
TOWER- Any households who missed the regular food shelf day on April 21 and are in need of food should call Marge at 218-753-3503 or Kay at 218-248-0198 and arrange a time to pick up a pre-packaged food box.

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 27
Monday- Chicken Sandwich
Tuesday- Taco Dip & Chips
Wednesday- Chunky Chicken Gravy over Mashed Potatoes
Thursday- Rotini/Meat Sauce
Friday- Breaded Pork, Mashed Potatoes/Country Gravy

Breitung continues closures and layoffs through May 3; parks, playground, trails are open

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

SOUDAN- The Breitung Town Board met via teleconference for the first time on April 15 for a special meeting to discuss township closures and the ambulance subsidy.

Following Governor Tim Walz's orders, the board extended the closure of the township's buildings through Sunday, May 3. Three part-time staff have been laid off. Clerk Dianna Sundahl and treasurer Jorgine Gornick have been working alternate shifts, with Sundahl working in the mornings and Gornick in the afternoons, but the doors remain locked to the public. The maintenance supervisors, Dale Swanson and Tom Gorsma, who is still in training, have also been alternating days.

Parks and Rec

The Breitung Recreation Area remains open to the public and McKinley Park will still be opening Friday, May 1. Per the gover-

nor's order, the campground may not have any overnight campers, however, the facilities are open for day use. The board established a 10 p.m. curfew at the campground. Chairman Tim Tomsich said the park store will likely be able to open, with social distancing measures. Reservations are not being taken at this time. Township trails, playgrounds, and pavilions remain open.

Ambulance

Supervisor Chuck Tekautz said that the township's contribution to the ambulance subsidy fund will remain the same as in years past, \$15 per capita made in two installments, in June and December.

Tekautz said, "It sounds like they will pull back on transfers. If there is a transfer, Tower will reimburse \$1.66 per mile."

He also said the Tower Area Ambulance Service was working on creating a business plan.

Tekautz said that in 2019 there were 34,740 transfer miles and

that if this agreement had been in place, \$57,668 would have been contributed by the city of Tower to the ambulance replacement fund. He said if they get away from transfers, ambulances would only need replacement every 6-7 years and the department would only need two rigs.

Other news

In others news, the board:
▶ Heard that reservations to the Breitung Community Center are closed until Wednesday, May 20, in hopes that the stay-at-home orders will be lifted in time to host graduation parties.

▶ Heard that the police and fire departments have appropriate personal protective equipment.

▶ Heard that the town hall and Post Office are sanitized each day.

▶ Heard that the board will reassess closures at their next meeting at noon on Tuesday, April 28. The meeting will again be held via conference call. The phone number to dial in is 1-701-802-5299 and the access code is 8973797.

Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Rec Board meeting postponed

TOWER- The regular meeting of the Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board, scheduled for May 1, will be postponed to a later date due to the pandemic and stay-at-home order. If you would like to submit requests for funding to Julie Suihkonen or Terri Joki Martin at Tower City Hall, they will be considered when the next meeting can be held. The board regrets the inconvenience and will try to schedule a meeting or teleconference meeting as soon as possible. Thank you and stay safe and healthy.

Tower and Soudan clean-up days set for May 4 and 6

REGIONAL- Area residents are being asked to do their part to spruce up Tower and Soudan/Breitung Township. Both Tower and Soudan/Breitung Township will be holding clean-up days on Monday, May 4 and Wednesday, May 6.

Residents are being asked to pick up brush, yard waste, and old appliances in their yards, as well as help pick up trash on roadsides and vacant lots. The city is looking at options for disposal of junk vehicles. Yard waste and old appliances should be left in neat piles alongside the alleys.

Tower is asking for volunteers with trucks and/or trailers to help with pickup of brush, appliances, and roadside litter that is being collected. Volunteers can email Mayor@CityofTower.com to sign up, or they can send a message on the City of Tower Facebook page.

In Soudan/Breitung Township, pick-ups can be arranged for brush, appliances and other items by calling the township office at 218-753-6020 (office open Tuesday - Thursday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.), and township maintenance staff will pick up the items sometime on May 4 or 6.



Vermilion Country School honor roll



The following students have been named to the Vermilion Country School honor roll for the third quarter.

Alyssa Pratt
Danica Starkman

B Honor Roll
Caleb Ramponi
Hunter Jackson
Mariah Mitchell
Kyla Stellmach
Jacob Dorman

A Honor Roll
Talyn Hedin
Annakeiah Chavez
Leah Anderson
Alex Dorman

Get Informed!
Get the Timberjay!



Northeast Range High School third quarter honor roll

A Honor Roll

Grade 12
Jolie Langevin
Shelby Nelson

Grade 11
Oskar Koivisto
Willa Koivisto
Alexia Lightfeather
Phoebe Morgan
Ethan Zaitz
James Zupancich

Grade 10
Audrey Anderson
Erin Backe
Amara Lampton
Hannah Reichensperger

Grade 9
Mariah DeJoode
Kassidy Turner

Grade 8
Aubree Gerlovich
Abby Koivisto
Hailey Lindquist

Grade 7
Noah Backe
Kyle Kratz
Greyson Reichensperger
Danica Sundblad

B Honor Roll
Grade 12
Brody Anderson
Charles Fritz

Tracker Koivisto
Lara Poderzay
Stephanie Sam
Jason Skube
Travis Vogh
Darien White
Charles Winger
Casey Zahnaw

Grade 11
Anne Barich
Christopher Ferguson
Ariel Kalinowski
Kaleb Kappes-Bliss
Bralyn Lislegard
Gracie Sperling

Grade 10
Rylee Dusich
Wyatt Gorsma
Joscelyn LaSart
Thia Lissing
Natalie Nelmark
Rylan Poppenhagen
Jenna Smith

Grade 9
Connor Berhow
Zoey Cameron
Layne Kaufenberg
Logan Meskill
Jennie Nelson
Alice Wolter
Jonathan Zaitz

Grade 8
Natalie Backe
Allie Larson
Ruby Milton

Grade 7
Joshua Burton
Alexus Childs
Aubree Minier
Chelsey Nelmark
Maizy Sundblad
Lydia Wright

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SUPPORTING THE ARTS

Gardner Humanities Trust awards grants

ELY – The Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust recently awarded \$7,487.08 to local artists, organizations and fine arts events.

“The Trust had less submissions this spring,” said Executive Director Keiko Williams, in announcing the latest round of local funding. “We believe some of that is due to COVID-19 and the fact that people were busy taking care of other priorities. But the board is very pleased with the high quality of the applications submitted.”

Individual artist grants are awarded for unique, short-term opportunities that will impact an artist’s career.

John Ratzloff, photographer, was awarded \$817.08 for supplies and materials for a new exhibit titled: Free Lens. John will be collaborating with five other artists this spring or summer for a group exhibit.

More help for artists

The Arrowhead Regional Arts Council has a new grant to help artists through the current coronavirus pandemic crisis. The grant provides \$2,000 to help you pay staff, artists, or make adaptations to make art in new settings.

The grants are available both to smaller arts organizations (those who don’t receive operating support from the Minnesota State Arts Board) and to organizations led by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color who have substantial arts programming.

The application deadline is 4:30 p.m. on Friday May 8, with decisions to be made before the end of May. Please email info@aracouncil for more information.

The Trust’s project grant program supports activities in the fine arts and is intended to make unique presentations or productions.

One project grant was awarded this year to the following organization. Reflections on Water Dance Company was awarded \$5,000 in support of their third annual dance production titled, “Home on Earth,” scheduled for August. The dance production will include live music, original dances, video, photography, and

poetry. Youth scholarships were awarded to the following two Ely students:

► Cora Olson was awarded \$835 to attend the TU Dance Pre-Professional program, a three-week intensive dance course taking place in July.

► Gracie Pointer was awarded \$835 to attend the Minnesota Conservatory for the Arts (MCA) Summer Dance Intensive which is by audition only. Gracie has been approved

for a second option which would be the TU Dance Pre-Professional program in July.

The Trust allocated \$3,000 for the Ely Public Library this year.

“Some of the Trust grants from last year are experiencing delays due to the COVID-19 Stay-at-Home orders,” Williams said.

Look for the following grant events later this summer or fall:

► DyAnne Korda will be having a book release party in July for her self-published new

poetry, The Shore’s Absolute Edge. Korda received an Individual Artist Grant last fall.

► Shaun Chosa also received an Individual Artist Grant last fall for supplies and materials toward a new exhibit this May. He will be collaborating with four other artists; two who have also received Trust funding for this exhibit are Dafne Caruso and John Ratzloff. The exhibit may be postponed to later this summer.

“The Trust will have a fall grant round with applications most likely due by the end of September. The actual deadline will be published in the newspapers as well as on the website by August,” Williams said.

Questions about the grant programs, the Trust, or ways to support the arts in Ely, can be directed to Williams at 218-365-2639, or at info@gardnertrust.org.

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.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



people masking up attempt to block the virus catch it in it’s wake

ELY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Symbols of support



ELY - Ely Memorial High School turns the lights on at its baseball and football fields twice a week as part of a Minnesota State High School League effort to support schools that includes approximately 250 high schools around the state.

On Monday and Friday evenings, the lights at Veterans Memorial Field and Ely School Stadium go on at 8:20 p.m., and stay on for approximately 20 minutes and 20 seconds. This activity will continue until further notice.

Ely teachers and staff also decorated hearts of support for students and put them at the front door.



the TIMBERJAY

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AROUND TOWN

Ely Police Report - April 1-15, 2020

Arrests/Citations:

► Individual arrested on a felony warrant.

► Individual cited for driving after suspension and no insurance.

► Individual cited for driving after suspension.

► Individuals cited for misdemeanor theft (see complaint entry below).

► Individual charged with possession of stolen property, unregistered motor vehicle, no proof of insurance, and driving after revocation.

► Individual charged with fourth degree criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct, public nuisance, and littering (see complaint entry below).

► Individual cited for theft, driving without a license, and keep to the right.

► Individual cited for theft and allowing an unlicensed driver to drive.

► Individual cited for under age consumption (three incidents).

► Individual arrested for domestic assault and fifth degree assault.

Complaints

► Theft. Two individuals were observed on surveillance cameras shoplifting at a local gas station. One individual was observed opening the donation jar and taking money from inside. The other was observed taking a hat and a “lighter leash”. Both suspects were identified on the surveillance footage and later admitted to the thefts. Both were charged with misdemeanor theft.

► Property Found. Two license plates that were reported stolen were located once the snow melted.

► Intoxicated Person Call. Report of intoxicated female, with a bottle of vodka, on the caller’s front porch. The caller gave a description and the female was located about a block away. It was determined the intoxicated female had grown up in the caller’s home and only went back to reminisce. Officers spoke with a family member of the female, who agreed to

watch her for the evening.

► Motor Vehicle Property Damage. Driver of a vehicle was turning onto Sheridan Street when she observed her dog chewing on something that could cause it to choke. The driver used her arm to try to stop the dog and in the process crashed into a parked vehicle. Damage was observed on both vehicles and owners exchanged information. Advised for driving conduct.

► Loud Music Complaint. Report of a neighbor playing music loudly. Officers investigated and determined the music volume was reasonable. No information provided on the age of the complainant or type of music being played.

► Suspicious Activity. Report of a male acting suspicious on the Vermilion Community College campus. Officers located the male, who said he was just out for walk and looking around. The individual was advised the campus is closed.

► Garbage Call. The

city of Ely payment drop box at City Hall received an unwanted deposit. An individual, who has been identified, put a bag of animal feces, along with a note voicing displeasure over dog owners not picking up after their pets into the drop box. This individual was charged with fourth degree criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct, public nuisance, and littering.

► Animal Disturbance. While working stationary radar, an officer was advised by a passerby of a loose pig in the next parking lot. The officer located and attempted to capture the pig with a leash, but was unsuccessful. The officer was able to contact the owner of the pig, who came to his location. The owner was able to capture the pig with a bowl of food, and it cried “Wee, wee, wee” all the way home.

Submitted by:
Sgt. Chad Houde
Ely Police Department

ACCESSIBILITY

Corgi's wheels may give goats a run for their money

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

Dog can keep on running while fighting neural disease

COOK- If you're driving outside of Cook and suddenly think you need to have your eyes examined because you thought you just saw a herd of goats being chased by a dog on wheels, well, no. Your eyes are fine.

That dog on wheels would be GusGus, a nine-year-old Pembroke Welsh Corgi at Lois Pajari's Cook Country Connection, and the goats are his "arch enemy Number One."

"He lives for chasing goats," Pajari laughed.

His "wheels" are a new wheelchair Pajari recently got to help GusGus overcome a growing inability to use his hind legs, due to a disorder called degenerative myelopathy, or DM.

DM has been likened to Lou Gehrig's disease in humans, also known as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. With both diseases, the white matter surrounding the spinal cord and nerves that transmits movement signals to the muscles gradually begins to break down. In dogs, an initial symptom is often lack of coordination in their hind legs.

"He was chasing goats back in the fall and he would kind of lose control of his back end and sometimes send himself tumbling," she said. "It was like he wasn't aware of where his back feet were. Over the course of the winter it hasn't been getting better, in fact it's getting worse and his activity level is less."

Known for her extensive menagerie at the popular petting zoo, including a bevy of large dogs, Pajari decided nine years ago she wanted a smaller dog with a longer life span.

"I love the giant breeds, but Corgis have always intrigued me," she said. "They look like somebody threw them into the dryer because of their short legs. They're bred for herding."

GusGus, sometimes just Gus, is actually named Octa-



vius, and fans of Disney's animated "Cinderella" are sure to make the connection.

"He was the fattest puppy in the litter, and he reminded me of the big fat mouse on Cinderella, that little dopey guy," Pajari said.

When Pajari ran the Cook Dollar Barn downtown, GusGus and his sister Walli were "shop dogs." GusGus would rather have been chasing goats.

"Gus was always afraid of everybody," Pajari said. "He hid behind the counter; he hid under my chair. It wasn't his gig."

When the Cook Dollar Barn burned to the ground in June 2013, Pajari decided not to rebuild and instead started Cook Country Connection.

"I'd been adopting these misfit animals forever, and my sister teased me that I already had a petting zoo - I just needed to set hours and charge admission," Pajari laughed.

And that's where the scared

and typically low-key GusGus "discovered his latent herding abilities" and began keeping the goats in line. He's been so effective at it he doesn't even have to be outside to strike fear into the hearts of the herd.

"He can be sleeping in the house and if I go out in the yard and see a goat getting in trouble I can yell 'Gus, get the goats,' and they take off running."

Now GusGus is having to learn how to run with two front legs and two rear wheels, and he's not quite sure what to make of this new contraption that Pajari was able to rent for \$50 from a group called Corgi Aid. New chairs for dogs typically cost between \$400 and \$600.

"He was a little interested while I was on the floor with the instructions putting the wheels on," Pajari said. "He sniffed around it some because it was a used chair. I'm sure it smells like other dogs."

Anyone familiar with the

scene in the movie "A Christmas Story" where young Ralphie squeamishly modeled a hated Easter bunny suit can relate to Gus's reaction when Pajari strapped him in the wheelchair for the first time.

"He just stood there and shook like a leaf," she laughed. "The first time I had him outside to walk in the chair he was going backwards. He was trying to walk away from it and kept backing himself up the snow bank."

Pajari admitted it make take awhile for Gus to get acclimated to the chair.

"Convincing him this is going to be a good thing is taking real persuasion," she said. "Lots of little bitty Milk Bones, lots of coaxing. I even tried to bribe him with a goat. He's not going to go for it yet. It's some kind of medieval torture device."

That may be due in part to the fact that while GusGus's left rear leg buckles when he tries to walk, causing him to

flop on his left side and drag himself forward, it's business as usual when chasing goats.

"He can still run straight as an arrow," Pajari said. "By some magic he can keep his left leg under him to run when he's chasing, but as soon as he slows down to walk that's when his butt flops over."

Corgis aren't the only breed affected by DM. It's common in German Shepherds, boxers, some poodles and retrievers, and other breeds and mixed breeds as well. In all cases, the disease is terminal. Dogs become wobbly and weak, their hind legs stop functioning, and they typically become incontinent over a period of six months to a year. There is no cure, but wheelchairs and continued activity can help to prolong a dog's life.

"One of the positives of this disease is that all the studies say it's not painful," Pajari said. "It's more frustrating for him than painful."

Pajari said that whichever animal on the farm she's interacting with at a given moment is her "favorite," but GusGus is getting a little more attention.

"He's a little more spoiled, of course," she said. "Oh yes. I sit on the floor with him more, where he used to be able to jump up on my lap. I don't like crust on my toast, so he gets the crust."

With the opening of Cook Country Connection delayed indefinitely because of COVID-19 restrictions, Pajari has to be even more careful about how she allocates her budget for the more than 70 animals she has. A new chair would have been too costly, she said, but discovering Corgi Aid gave both her and GusGus a welcome option.

"It's completely, utterly heartbreaking," Pajari said. "His heart is so into everything, which is why I had to get him a chair. If he'd lost interest in life then, no, it would be time. But his heart is just there. I have to give it a shot. In our case it made the difference between giving Gus that chance and not."

the *TIMBERJAY*

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North Star CU offers budgeting suggestions

COOK- Feeling greater worry, anxiety and stress around personal finances during this time of uncertainty around COVID-19 has become a reality for people in our community.

Some are struggling with losing their jobs and less income with hours cut back at work and have the added strain of stocking up on food supplies. Parents are scrambling to find childcare or cover shifts so they can stay home because their child's school has closed.

North Star Credit Union of Cook has partnered with LSS Financial Counseling, a nonprofit, holistic credit counseling organization operated by Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, to provide basic guidelines to help people assess and prioritize their budgets both for their immediate needs and for the future.

"My hope for people is to find their comfort in their finances," stated April Sanderson, financial counselor for LSS Financial Counseling. And "to start thinking about what THEIR goals are, and not looking around them as an indicator of

what they should spend money on/buy, etc."

Sanderson encourages people to use this time to really identify their values and start aligning their spending with those values, so THEY feel comfortable and satisfied. She said it's important for people to focus on financial wellness, as it impacts their physical, social, and emotional health as well.

"During this time, we understand that financial storms happen - but this really illustrates how quickly they can come up and how being prepared even with a little bit of savings can make a difference," she noted. "Using this 'down-time' to really determine how to boost savings and what is necessary to have in savings can bring a measure of security and control to our lives, and I think we all need a bit of that."

A financial wellness approach should include the following six elements, according to Sanderson:

1. Review your budget. If you are concerned about a decrease in income, review your budget and cut down on any expenses that you can. Ask yourself: Are there items in your budget that could be cut temporarily? Avoid overbuying or stockpiling too many supplies, such as toilet paper and sanitizer.

2. Pay priority expenses. Pay your housing expenses first. That includes rent/mortgage and utilities. If you're concerned about the ability to make your mortgage payment, contact LSS Financial Counseling, which offers free housing counseling over the phone.

3. Take care of your mental and physical health. Food is a priority expense. Also, maintain your health care and insurance premiums. Focus on what you can control, including basics such as exercise, good sleep and nutrition.

4. Have a plan for managing your debt. Debts for credit cards, car loans and student loans have different priorities and options for helping you through times of uncertainty. Create a plan for addressing them. Contact lenders on your car loan, credit cards or student loans, and let them know if you are having difficulty making payments. See if they have any hardship programs. Contact LSS Financial Counseling, which specializes in these areas and can help you determine action for helping to manage your debt.

5. Stay up to date on changing situations and resources available to you. In Minnesota, if you are facing unemployment, you can file online at www.uimn.org or call

651-296-3644 or toll free at 877-898-9090. The United Way of Northeastern Minnesota maintains a list of numerous community resources at its Iron Range COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Resources webpage at <https://www.unitedwaynemn.org/iron-range-covid-19-resources>.

6. Don't stop saving. Seventy percent of Americans don't have \$1,000 saved. Make this a priority. This will decrease financial stress and uncertainty. Stock market fluctuations are inevitable. Keep investing as you can. If your employer has a retirement savings match, make sure you are doing at least the minimum to get the match.

LSS Financial Counseling partners with North Star Credit Union to provide members with six free appointments each calendar year to you and your immediate family members.

For additional resources to help you face these times of financial uncertainty, or for information about scheduling an appointment, go to <https://www.lssmn.org/financialcounseling/northstar> or call 800-528-2926 and mention you are a North Star member. Non-members may call LSS Financial Counseling at 888-577-2227 to inquire about services and potential fees.

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FRONTIER...Continued from page 1

17, 2019, Frontier stock on NASDAQ was trading at \$2.59 a share; exactly one year later, the price per share had dropped to just 22 cents. Five years ago this month, Frontier stock was trading for just over \$105 per share.

Poor service, old systems

Questions about Frontier's poor service quality and business practices were first highlighted in an investigative report in the Timberjay in late 2017. That report prompted the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to order an investigation by the state's Department of Commerce, an investigation that revealed widespread problems in Frontier service territory across the state. Last August, state regula-

tors and Frontier reached agreement on a settlement that offered customers some financial relief for past service lapses. The company is also now required to regularly report on its handling of complaints.

Meanwhile, before the Department of Commerce investigation was complete, Attorney General Ellison initiated his own investigation of Frontier's promotions, advertising, sales, billing, and provision of internet and telephone services, pursuant to Minnesota's consumer protection laws.

In an April 16 press release reaffirming his ongoing investigation, Ellison noted that about 90,000 Minnesota households and businesses get telephone service through

Frontier, and many more get internet through the company, particularly in rural areas.

"Part of being able to afford your life means knowing the full cost of what you're getting, getting what you were promised, not being overcharged for things you didn't ask for, and not being unfairly charged to get rid of things you didn't ask for," Ellison said. "But when people signed up for telephone or internet service with Frontier, that's what happened to them. That's why regardless of Frontier's bankruptcy filing, my office is going to keep investigating Frontier, advocate for changes to their business practices, and protect Frontier's customers in Minnesota."

New York, Ohio, and West Virginia have instigated similar investigations against Frontier.

While internal Frontier documents frequently use the term "legacy products" to describe services like voice landlines and DSL internet service, in laymen's terms those would be described as "out of date" or "behind the times."

Frontier covers 79 percent of its service area with an aging copper-wire-based DSL network, a far slower and less reliable system than the fiber-optics systems used by its competitors, according to a company presentation made just three weeks ago. Frontier has steadily lost customers who have abandoned their land lines for cell phones and voice-

over-IP phone service, as well as faster internet. With half of the company's revenue coming from its residential customers, revenues have also taken a nose dive.

A look at available Frontier residential plans in Tower, Ely, and Crane Lake reveals significant network disparities. Tower internet service plans top out at just 12 Mbps, while Ely subscribers can access a 25 Mbps plan. Conversely, the company advertises a much faster 90 Mbps plan for Crane Lake.

While the plan to reorganize its debt under Chapter 11 court protection gives Frontier the ability to continue services uninterrupted for now, the action has the potential to make it harder to obtain additional long-

term capital commitments to overhaul its increasingly obsolete network. According to an article in Forbes, only about 25 percent of companies that file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy ultimately survive.

Additional information for customers, vendors, investors, and company retirees is available online at www.frontierrestructuring.com.

Individuals and businesses that have experienced or continue to experience issues with Frontier are encouraged to report complaints to the Attorney General's office by calling 800-657-3787, by filing a complaint online at ag.state.mn.us/office/complaint.asp, or by writing the office at 445 Minnesota St., Suite 1400, Saint Paul, MN 55101.

MINING...Continued from page 1

River watershed within the Superior National Forest. The two-year study, begun in January 2017, was supposed to help the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management decide whether a 20-year withdrawal of federal mineral leasing on the identified acres was warranted. The study was nearly complete when the Trump White House abruptly canceled it on Sept. 6, 2018. Since then, the administration has defied multiple requests by Congress, environmental groups, and, most recently, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, for the release of the EA and supporting documentation.

The Wilderness Society, a national environmental group, made its request on Sept. 11, 2018, for all documents and correspondence related to the development of the study. Nine months later, after receiving no response from the administration, the group's lawyers filed suit in federal court, which, per federal rules, prompted negotiations between the parties over the release of documents before a judge becomes actively involved. On Sept. 27, 2019, more than a year after the Wilderness Society's initial request, the Forest Service released 48 heavily-redacted pages of records, while withholding 120 additional pages as privileged. This past November, the Forest Service released an additional 659 pages of heavily redacted documents. That included the 60-page EA itself, which was redacted in its entirety, except for the cover page.

Wilderness Society lawyers believe the extensive redactions are improper and that it appears the White House is using claims of privilege to hide their behind-the-scenes political manipulation of a process that is supposed to play out in the open.

"Transparency remains a really significant challenge in the Trump administration's continuing efforts to roll back environmental initiatives generally," said Alison Flint, attorney for the Wilderness Society. "But this case does seem unique, in that their relentless efforts to keep this taxpayer-funded information from the light of day, certainly suggests they have

something to hide."

Politics at play?

While federal decision-making is supposed to be based on "substantial evidence," there is little question that political calculations occasionally play a role as well. In this case, however, environmental critics of Twin Metals contend that the decision was not just partially political, but entirely so, and they believe it was directly at odds with the evidence developed as part of the two-year study. If so, the release of that information could help build their case in opposition to the Twin Metals mine.

President Trump has made it clear from early in his administration that he hopes to tip Minnesota into his win column as part of his 2020 re-election bid, and he has made mining-friendly northeastern Minnesota a key part of that electoral strategy. Trump made that explicit during a June 20, 2018 rally in Duluth when he announced that he would be allowing copper-nickel mining in the Superior National Forest to move forward.

While that announcement prompted cheers from his supporters, it didn't immediately halt action on the two-year withdrawal study. In fact, just over a month later, on July 25, 2018, Bob McFarlin, the public spokesperson for Twin Metals, expressed his concern that the Forest Service intended to complete the study. "I wanted to report on the meeting the Twin Metals team had with Glenn Cassamassa of the U.S. Forest Service in D.C. earlier today. It was extremely disturbing," wrote McFarlin in an email to Jeff Small, an aide to Rep. Paul Gosar, of Arizona, who also serves as executive director of the mining-friendly Congressional Western Caucus. "Glenn was very clear that USFS/Dept. of Ag. has no intention of rescinding the withdrawal proposal per President Trump's statement in Duluth on June 20. Cassamassa called the President's statement merely an expression of preferred 'policy direction' and not a specific directive to the agency or Secretary Purdue. He stated that they intend to keep the Secretary's commitment to Cong. McCollum and complete the proposal's Environmental

Assessment before turning over to Interior for a decision."

McFarlin was referring to Agriculture Secretary Sonny Purdue and his May 25, 2017, promise to Minnesota Fourth District Congresswoman Betty McCollum that he would not make any decision on the proposed withdrawal until the EA was completed. His comments were part of only a handful of unredacted emails obtained by the Wilderness Society as a result of its FOIA request.

Small responded to McFarlin's email, forwarding the message to Doug Crandall, legislative affairs director with the Forest Service. "Given the President's announcement in Minnesota, if the below email is true Chairman Gosar and other Members are going to be pissed."

McFarlin is no longer employed by Twin Metals, but current company spokesperson Kathy Graul stated that Twin Metals is not opposed to the release of the information developed by the Forest Service. "We assert that the most responsible way to assess the Twin Metals project is through a comprehensive environmental review of the specifics of our proposed underground copper, nickel, cobalt and platinum group metals mine," stated Graul. "This will be accomplished in the coming years in conjunction with state and federal agencies and tribal governments, and through multiple public input opportunities. Twin Metals is committed to an open and thorough scoping and environmental review process. We anticipate cooperation between the agencies that oversee our proposed project as we move forward. We welcome the extensive analysis of any data available and relevant to our project proposal that will come through the well-established science and law-based environmental review process."

Officials unaware

Even as the political pressure to halt the release of the study grew behind the scenes, Forest Service officials continued to move ahead. In a Sept. 1, 2018, email, Matthew Judd, minerals project coordinator on the Superior National Forest, forwarded documents related to the study to both the Forest Service's

regional and Washington, D.C. offices for review, with all feedback due by Sept. 18.

The email points to the fact that officials involved in the review appeared unaware that the study was slated for cancellation within days.

It was just five days later, on Sept. 6, 2018, that the Forest Service Regional Forester Kathleen Atkinson, released a statement canceling the study. "After a careful 15 month review, including extensive public input, the Forest Service has enough information to determine a withdrawal is not needed," wrote Atkinson in a letter to the BLM. "The laws that govern mineral development within the Rainy River watershed provide considerable discretion as to whether to allow new mineral leases that will be guided by the Superior National Forest's Land Management Plan. Future lease offerings can adequately be evaluated and regulated on a case-by-case basis without invocation of a 20-year withdrawal."

Yet if the Forest Service truly did have "enough information" to determine a withdrawal wasn't needed, they aren't sharing it. Courts have ruled that federal agencies do have the right to withhold what is known as "deliberative" information, which includes internal comments on the various factors that might go into a decision. They can also typically withhold reports and studies that remain in draft form, but those documents become public once finalized. Robert Lueckel, acting regional forester for the Eastern Region of the U.S. Forest Service, in an April 13 letter to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources relies on such exceptions in declining to release any data related to the study to the state agency. "Not only are the incomplete data and documents deliberative pre-decisional materials, but also reliance on potentially irrelevant and unreviewed data and analyses will only hinder our collective efforts to develop a sound environmental analysis for the current proposal," wrote Lueckel.

Yet Flint, the Wilderness Society's attorney, takes issue with the nature of some of the

claims made by the administration. For one, the Forest Service released two copies of the withdrawal EA, both fully redacted except for the cover sheet. One is clearly labeled draft at the top, while the second copy is not labeled, leading Flint and others to assume it may be the final version.

What's more, a Forest Service press release announcing the cancellation of the withdrawal study indicates that the study included "a mineral resources report, a biological and economic assessment, and potential impacts to water resources, wilderness areas, and cultural resources."

If the Forest Service made a decision based on such reports, Flint argues, those reports would clearly be public information under FOIA. Becky Rom, chair of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters and a retired lawyer, agrees. "The reports are not privileged," she said. "They are not deliberative. These are all taxpayer-paid-for documents that we the taxpayers own and they all relate to the impact."

Flint argues that the basic scientific findings and conclusions or descriptions that might appear in a typical EA, don't fit the definition of "deliberative" information. "This is resource data," said Flint, referring to the EA itself. "It's possible that there are small portions of the EA that could be legitimately withheld, but not all 60 pages. The inference we all have to make is that the study raises serious issues. This was prepared by Forest Service resource experts, and it could go against the administration's plans to approve a mine."

If so, that's information that critics want to see released before the federal government proceeds with scoping on the Twin Metals environmental review.

Having exhausted their efforts to negotiate a release of information, Flint says her organization will likely take their claims to the judge and seek summary judgment to compel the release of the information they're seeking. Flint hopes that briefing could go to the judge by summer, with a decision perhaps coming by the end of the year. "I don't know whether that's optimistic or not," she said.

TWIN METALS...Continued from page 1

Chilean copper mining giant Antofagasta. The company has proposed an underground copper-nickel mining operation, processing plant, and tailings disposal just upstream of the 1.1 million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Environmental groups and many local businesses that serve wilderness users strongly opposed the company's proposal.

While acknowledging that the contract terms that

applied to the original mineral leases, issued in 1966, were not expressed clearly, McFadden determined that the Interior Department's decision was "reasonable," based on the available evidence and notes that courts can only overturn an agency decision when it is deemed "arbitrary or capricious."

The Obama administration declined to renew the leases in 2016 after substantial public comment in opposition to the proposed

mining operation and after the Forest Service concluded that the mine posed an unacceptable risk to water quality in a major watershed within the BWCAW.

"We are appealing the district court's ruling because the fate of America's most popular Wilderness is at stake," said Tom Landwehr, Executive Director for the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters and Northeastern Minnesotans

for Wilderness. "The U.S. Forest Service not only had the right, but the obligation to cancel Twin Metals' risky leases. The reversal of this decision by the Trump Administration goes against science, public opinion, and established environmental policy."

The coalition remains hopeful that the D.C. appellate court will provide a thorough review of the decision. "The D.C. Court of Appeals is very familiar with cases

under the Administrative Procedures Act," said Becky Rom, chair of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters. "They roll up their sleeves and work hard. And with the strong administrative record we have in our case, it's the kind of appellate court you want."

The court will review the district court decision "de novo", which means it takes an entirely new look at the case, without deference to the prior court

decision. The process is expected to take at a least a year, possibly longer, to reach a decision.

At stake in the case is whether the Trump administration's renewal of two half-century-old mineral leases was lawful. A ruling against the administration could well reinstate the Obama era decision to cancel the leases, which would deal a severe blow to the proposed Twin Metals project.

CITY OF ELY

Council considers extension for Community Center purchase

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

K America Foundation requested more time due to COVID-19

ELY —A three-year extension request from a Korean foundation concerning its six-year Community Center building renovation project agreement was denied Tuesday by Ely City Council, which decided to maintain the pact as it stands.

Citing recent fundraising failures and rising xenophobic attitudes toward people of Asian descent due to the coronavirus pandemic, K America Foundation approached the city of Ely last month seeking an extension to their purchase agreement to renovate the city landmark and develop a Korean cultural center.

The agreement was signed just a year ago, and as K America enters its second of six construction seasons, the worldwide COVID-19 outbreak forced the cancellation of several of their large fundraising events for this year.

In addition, according to K America officials, the South Korean government has delayed support for the Ely project as they respond to the pandemic in their country.

“But also, unfortunately, at this time, there is a rise in xenophobia and our partners, supporters and participants have voiced concerns and shared their own experiences of racism and we need to take their safety seriously and cannot have a large gathering of Asians at this time,” said K America Foundation president Byongchan Yoon in a March 16 email to Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski.

In a follow-up email to the city of Ely on April 17, Africa Yoon expressed surprise at the current state of fundraising.

“I’ve never faced such a massive hurdle including that so many donors of ours are now financially

insecure and not spending now,” she said.

She also cited her disappointment in the increased xenophobia in the United States.

“I’m actually scratching my head on this one,” Africa Yoon said.

She said in the email she was curious to know the local feeling toward Koreans coming into Ely. When K America Foundation first approached the city about acquiring the Community Center, at least one dissenter warned of possible disease being introduced into the community.

“(This) is what all the racist people are saying to all Asians as they pour acid on them, shout at them, or stab them saying ‘go back to China’ which isn’t Korea, but to a racist, they don’t care much about the difference. How has (Ely) reacted to the coronavirus crisis in general?” she asked.

“I definitely need more time to see how this plays out. Recovering from two years of set up is going to be a steep climb. The milestones we set won’t happen,” she said.

The city’s Heritage Preservation Committee recommended that the council reconsider K America’s purchase agreement extension proposal at a future date after allowing them to make more progress on their project milestones.

In an email to Langowski last Friday, HPC chair Celia Domich wrote, “It is likely the K America Foundation will lose fundraising ability setting them back at least two years, although more likely three (years) and possibly beyond based on current financial projections of the COVID-19 impact. And, we have no other viable interested parties.”

The council voted

5-0 to allow the original Community Center purchase agreement to continue. City Attorney Kelly Klun affirmed the decision by council member Angela Campbell to recuse herself from voting on the matter. Campbell previously made an offer to purchase the building. Jerome Debeltz was absent from the meeting.

Police chief

Four candidates will be interviewed next week for the city’s police chief position. Chief John Lahtonen is set to step down this spring. Three of the candidates, George Burger, Chad Houde and Adam Borchert, currently serve on the Ely Police Department. John Swenson, of Embarrass, is the fourth candidate.

The council’s law enforcement committee, consisting of Mayor Chuck Novak and council members Heidi Omerza and Ryan Callen, along

with City Attorney Klun, selected the four candidates to be interviewed on Friday, May 1.

The entire council will interview the candidates in a special meeting conducted electronically and open to the public, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Council members will vote on filling the supervisory position following the interviews.

Other business

In other business, the council took the following action:

► Approved a three-year law enforcement labor services contract that calls for a 2.5-percent annual wage increase and the addition of another paid holiday each year.

► Adopted the Sanitation Rules and Regulation ordinance concerning refuse collection and disposal following a public hearing and approval of the second reading of the proposal.

The Timberjay’s Hamtastic Winners

ORR

Pelican Bay Foods - Jeremy Wright

Subway of Cook - NA
1st National Bank - Jim Ohotto

Good Ol’ Days - Riverage Milbridge
EVCU, Tower - Reggie Childs
D’Erick’s - Bruce Carlson

Merhar’s Ace - Bonnie Derr
Piragis - NA
Ely Auto - Martha McPheeters
Ely Drop and Shop - NA
Mike’s Liquor - Hope

Ely Flower & Seed - Galen Kayute
Front Porch Coffee & Tea - Deborah Nyquist
Ely Northland Market - Delores Potter

COOK

Waschke Family
Chevrolet - Cassandra Dejno
McDonald’s - Jessica Hannine
Cook Building Center - Cindy Aune

TOWER

Tower-Soudan Agency - Craig Henderson
Soudan Store - Molly Korpi
Vermilion Fuel & Food - Melanie Aldrich
Zup’s Tower Grocery - NA

ELY

Northwoods Collision - Taylor Ganzer
Frandsen Bank, Ely - Gene Hicks
Lakeshore Liquor - NA

Blyton
Potluck - NA
Grand Ely Lodge - Sandy Davis
Zup’s in Ely - NA

BABBITT

Ely Area Credit Union - Raylon Honkola
Zup’s in Babbitt - Carole Maki

‘BOT...Continued from page 1

in Babbitt who are taking contact-free shopping to the next level.

NER students and “Iron Mosquitos” robotics team members Zoey Cameron, Isaac Hendrickson and Oskar Koivisto, along with their advisor Ryan Lindsay, were fresh off the school robotics competition circuit earlier this year when distance-learning protocols kicked in because of the coronavirus.

“Before school closed and we all went home to shelter in place, these students were brainstorming on what they could do to help their community,” Lindsay said. “One of their top inventions was a robot that shoots t-shirts into the crowd at our annual Fourth of July parade. When the pandemic rolled in, they gave it a more serious role.”

They literally put the project together on the last day of classes at school.

“At first, it was kind of a joke, but four hours later they put together a ‘grocery bot’ and they have had some real success with it,” Lindsey said.

Shoppers call or make an online appointment with the team and provide their shopping list. When shoppers pull up to the store, the kids go shopping. They wear masks and sanitized gloves, fill the robot’s boxes, pay for the order with the customer’s check or credit card, and drive the robot out to the cars for delivery. The students re-sanitize the grocery boxes and their gloves with every new order.

Ely Memorial School robotics students Raif Olson and Caleb Kappes-Bliss recently operated the grocery bot at Zup’s Market.

“Our robot is basically

broken after competition and the Babbitt team offered their back-up bot for this project,” Olson said. “It has been lots of fun and gets us out of the house.”

Lindsey added that the community has been very supportive.

“Rather than sitting at home playing video games, these students are spending the days getting this set up and putting ads in the paper. It’s fun to see,” he said. “It is great to see kids step up. Everyone loves to see the best in the future, and maybe this makes you have faith that, hey, we’re going to be alright.”

The service is free. Members of the team will be driving their Social Distancing Grocery Bot to deliver groceries in the Babbitt, Ely, and Tower Zup’s parking lots.

The schedule (subject to change): Babbitt deliveries on Tuesday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tower deliveries

on Wednesdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.; and Ely deliveries, Fridays, from 3-7 p.m.

Call 218-504-9280 to place a grocery order or send an order online through the Google form

link that can be found on the Northeast Range Nighthawks Facebook page.

NOTICE

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

They will inform you if you need to present to the emergency room.

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

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

MHealth Fairview:
<https://oncare.org/>

St Luke’s:
<https://slhduluth.zipnosis.com/>

218-666-6200
10 Fifth Street SE,
Cook, MN 55723



Cook Medical

20 5th St SE
Open Monday - Saturday
(218) 666-5941

Cook Dental

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

Tower Medical and Dental

415 N 2nd St, Suite 2
Former High School Building
Open Monday - Friday
Medical: (218) 753-2405
Dental: (218) 753-6061

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HYDRANT FLUSHING

Breitung Township
will be
flushing hydrants
in Soudan on

Wednesday, May 13
starting at 8:30 a.m.

Residents should expect
discolored water.



North Country

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COVID-19

Stay at home: More time for fix-up projects

Hardware stores, lumberyards busy as homeowners use time at home for spruce-up

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL—If you had plans for the weekend, they're probably canceled. And that's probably true for next weekend and most likely the weekend after that. Yet many North Country residents aren't taking the current stay-at-home order lying down.

"They're painting," said Dan Julkowski, owner-operator of Northwoods True Value stores in Cook and Tower. While many

Right: North Country residents are tackling more home improvement projects this spring during the current stay-at-home order due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

businesses are suffering as a result of the closures and social distancing requirements of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, area lumberyards and hardware stores are busier than usual as folks stuck at home are turning their attention to home fix-up.

"It's just little things," said Tootie Roy, at Vermilion Golden Rule Lumber in Tower. "We didn't really know what to expect, but

we've been busier than usual for April. Mostly, it's paint and materials for little projects around the house."

Julkowski said he's seeing a noticeable jump in sales at both his Cook and Tower stores, much of it from higher paint sales. He speculates that as people are stuck at home they have more time to look

See HOME...pg. 2B



REMEMBERING

A way to connect

Northeast Range teachers parade thru Ely, Tower, and Babbitt to greet their missing students



by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

REGIONAL - Coral Switajewski, a sixth grader at Northeast Range School, donned a requisite protective face mask and held a big "We Miss You" sign outside her Babbitt home last Friday as she waited for a special parade to pass by.

ISD2142 staff have missed their students so much since the onset of distance learning because of the coronavirus, that they held a parade. According to a Facebook post announcing the event, "We miss you and want to see you."

Teachers and staff members from Northeast Range drove around in a parade of more than two dozen cars on the main streets and some of the circles in Babbitt to wave, honk, and yell, "Hello!" to students and families.

"I think I was good for her," said Coral's mother, Kristin Switajewski. "It's been

hard these last weeks. She depends on her teachers for more than learning. They are her support network, and more than that, they are her friends. So, for her to see all of them was good for her, for the support, the emotional support."

Teachers and students are struggling with the isolation imposed by distance learning.

Minnesota has yet to determine if it will end the school year under the stay-at-home protocol. School superintendents are waiting on directives from the Minnesota Department of Education as the state agency works with Gov. Tim Walz in developing a plan.

"They do their best to keep in touch, but nothing is the same as a face to face," Kristen Switajewski said. "She (Coral) told me that she wants this to be done so she can hug her teachers again."

With decorated cars and

See CONNECT...pg. 2B

Top: NER sixth-grader Coral Switajewski expresses her sentiments as her teachers drove by last Friday.

Above: A parade of teachers in their cars.

Right: Cecilia Majerle holds a sign for her older brother Bobby.

Below: A decorated teacher's car.



EDUCATION

ISD 2142 schools will hold grad ceremonies

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Seniors in ISD 2142 schools will get to participate in graduation ceremonies, but what the ceremonies will actually look like is still up in the air.

Superintendent Reggie Engebritson announced the decision via a Facebook post.

"We want to let you know that we are planning on having graduation on May 29, 2020," she wrote. "This is the date that we have been planning on for over a year. If we wait to have our ceremony until the fall, we may lose some of our seniors to the military, college, or moving away."

On-campus classes are scheduled to resume May 5, but it is anticipated Gov. Tim Walz will extend school closures to the end of the year.

"Once the Governor gives his next Executive Order regarding what schools will look like starting May 5, we will have a better idea of what a ceremony could look like," Engebritson said. "Our senior advisors will contact the seniors to help plan the ceremony via Zoom meetings. While it may not be the traditional ceremony we are used to, I can assure you it will be special and memorable for our seniors."

Engebritson encouraged those with questions to contact her or their building principals.

Vermilion CC graduation to go virtual

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a traditional Vermilion Community College spring commencement will not be held next month. Instead, a graduation celebration for students, faculty and staff will be held in a virtual setting.

Members of the class of 2020, their parents and relatives, and all others will all be able to take part in the celebration from the comfort of their homes or anywhere else they can log into a computer.

"We know our students understand that these are extraordinary times. Vermilion shares in the disappointment of the graduating class of 2020 and so we have arranged for VCC's spring 2020 ceremony to be held in a virtual setting," said Provost

See VERMILION...pg. 2B

MINING

Two more Iron Range mines idle operations

Hibbing and Keewatin Taconite join Northshore in announcing layoffs due to COVID-19 impacts

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — A third Iron Range mining operation has announced plans to idle as a result of the impact from the COVID-19 pandemic.

ArcelorMittal, which operates Hibbing Taconite, announced this week that they will idle the taconite facility beginning on May 3. The shutdown, which will impact about 650 workers, both salaried and hourly staff, but is expected to be relatively brief.

Company officials indicate that workers are currently scheduled to be brought back on July 6.

The announced layoffs come in the wake of previous announcements from U.S. Steel, which is laying off about 380 workers at its Keewatin taconite

plant, and Cleveland-Cliffs, which laid off about 470 workers at its Northshore Mine in Babbitt and processing facility in Silver Bay.

Most domestic steel producers have been idling steelmaking operations in recent weeks, sub-

stantially lowering demand for iron ore. Shutdowns in automobile and other steel-demanding manufacturing industries have contributed to the sluggish demand for steel and related products.

CONNECT...Continued from page 1B

signs, about 30 cars joined the parade of teachers as they first drove around Babbitt to greet everyone, then continued to Timber Hall in Embarrass and

greeted their students who live in that area. Their route took them to Tower and Soudan, where they joined Tower teachers to greet students and families

there, and concluded in Ely to parade for students from that community, too.

“We put the event together to show our students and their families

how much we miss them and that we are still there supporting them during this difficult time,” said NER teacher Crystal Poppler. “It really filled

all of our hearts to get out there and see our students’ faces in person and not over a computer screen for the first time in weeks. We had so much fun and

it was such a highlight for all the staff who came out to participate.”

HOME...Continued from page 1B

at that faded or peeling paint in the bathroom, the kitchen, or the bedroom. “I think it’s mostly things people have been sitting on for a long time,” said Julkowski.

And it isn’t just paint. “We’re definitely seeing people doing more home projects,” said CJ

Roesch, sales manager at Cook Building Center. “Sheetrock is flying out of here right now, along with a lot of tongue-in-groove paneling.”

The spike in home fix-up is also being fueled, said Roesch, by the earlier return of many seasonal residents, who have

decided to come north ahead of schedule to escape the higher risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus in more populated areas. “The Minneapolis crowd is coming this way already,” said Roesch. “That’s about a month early.”

Local hardware stores and lumberyards may

also be benefitting from the reluctance of many shoppers in the area to drive and shop at big box retailers in regional hubs, like Virginia, where the risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus is presumably greater.

“It’s nice that more people are buying locally,”

said Roy. “It seems they don’t want to make the trip to Virginia.”

While the risks associated with shopping in small towns are seemingly less, some folks are showing more concern than others. “We have had a few people who’ve wanted to pick up their

supplies on the sidewalk, rather than coming inside,” said Roy. That’s a service that small town merchants will generally deliver with a smile. “We’re still open. That’s what makes it nice,” said Roy.

VERMILION...

Continued from page 1B

Shawn Bina. “We are committed to recognizing and celebrating the hard work of our graduates and we are reaching out to each of them in order to make this occasion as memorable as possible under the current circumstances.”

VCC’s Virtual Commencement is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12.

“Graduates have received communication from the college regarding the process to participate in our online celebration,” Bina said.

Students wishing to participate should respond by April 27 via a link provided in an email notification. Upon receipt of the online form, VCC will mail graduates a cap, gown, tassel, and diploma cover. Students are encouraged to take a picture of themselves and return to be included in a virtual slide show to be played while VCC Faculty President Rita Koch reads the names of the graduates during commencement, Bina said.

The graduation ceremony will utilize a webinar platform reportedly more secure than a ZOOM meeting, that allows up to 500 participants.

The virtual ceremony will include a welcome from Bina, an address by Mike Raich, president of the five-school Northeast Higher Education District, and remarks from VCC Student Senate President Abby Nordstrom. A possible keynote speaker will be announced at a later date.

Most VCC staff began working from home in late March, and the school’s gymnasium, dining hall and residences remain closed. Vermilion has about 560 students from 20 to 25 different states.

Recruiting and registration for the 2020-21 academic year continue in a modified format.

Please contact Michelle Zupancich at 218-235-2169 or m.zupancich@vcc.edu for more information.

15th Annual Sweet Spring Auction

ONLINE!



Bidding Begins 6:00 pm Sunday, April 26

Ends 6:00 pm Sunday, May 3

Go to ely.younglife.org

All proceeds benefit Ely area youth!

Click on Auction; Click on Sign Up in order to bid; Click on Auction Items to view donations. Items will end at various times from 2:00 - 6:00 on May 3.

Aaron Tody Customs - Custom painted brook trout hat
Ace Hardware - Craftsman Lithium - Ion screwdriver 4.0 volt
Ace Hardware - Dremel hatch project kit
Anderson, Dawn - Beadwork jewelry
Anything by Austin - Numerous items and wood carvings
Arrowhead Outdoors - Bait each month
Arrowhead Outdoors - Humminbird Helix 5 depth finder
Bader's Pheasant Run - Pheasant hunt for 10 birds
Bermel, Anthony - Guided fishing for panfish or walleye
Bina, Cindy - Fine silver jewelry
Bloomers - Gift card
Boes, Lori - Bucket of cleaning products & services
Boundary Waters Septic - Residential septic pumping
Britton's - Gift card
Campbell, Deb & Zupancich, Deb - 4-Course dinner for 4
Canoe Country Outfitters - Kevlar canoe rental for 1 week
Chernak, Sue - Pottery bowl
D & D Accounting - \$100 in services
Dairy Queen - Blizzards for 10 months
Daybreak Pottery - Mugs & bowls
Disney World - Park hopper tickets
Dorothy Molter Museum - Case of root beer
Ely Chiropractic - Tri-Core pillow
Ely Fire Department - Private ride
Ely Flower and Seed - Succulent planter
Ely Golf Club - Round of golf for 2
Ely Memorial Senior High - Athletic passes
Ely Northland Market - \$100 Gift card
Ely Vision - Nonprescription sunglasses
Ely YL - Kelty tent & pack
Ely YL - Quantum spinning reel
Ely YL - Walleye Jig set
Ely YL - Hammock
Ely's Historic State Theater - Marquee message
Erzar, Debbie - Quilt table runners
Faltese, Evan - Cutting board
Fisher Maps - Maps covering the Ely area
Flood, Melissa - Set of four pictures
For King & Country - Duluth concert tickets
Forest Concrete - Class 5 gravel & Stan Passananti's bobcat
Fortune Bay Resort - Tamarack dining gift card
Fortune Bay The Wilderness - Round of golf for 4
Front Porch - Coffee & tea basket
Gene Hicks - Coffee basket
Gracie's Plant Works - Gift card
Grand Ely Lodge - Grand Fishing Package
Great Lakes Aquarium - 4 Admission passes
Gunflint Lodge - Zip line passes
Hearthside Corner - Wood stove
Hunter, Anne - Cabi \$100 gift card
International Wolf Center - 4 Admission tickets
J & L Hardware - Gift card
Joe's Marine - Tube for boating
Johnson, Marc - Rustic outdoor furniture
Kidd, Kris - Northern lights metal print
Kondos Outdoors - Forty-Five duffel bag
Kottke, Carrie - Carrie-Mels
Krista Krekelberg Cleaning - Cleaning service
L & M - Gift card
LaTourell's - Bent shaft paddles
LaTourell's - Katadyn water filter

Lefebvre, Nick - Maple syrup
Legacy Toys - Melissa & Doug wooden railway set
Legacy Toys - Numerous games & puzzles
Levar, Sarah - Private painting lessons
Low Impact Excavating - Class 5 gravel
Lucky Seven - Gift card
Lutsen Mountain - Lodging & activity passes
Mase, Dayna - Mixed media painting
Mealey's - Youth picnic table
Moran, Brian - Muskie fishing trip
Norman, Chris - Beaver pelt wall hanging
North American Bear Center - Admission passes & picture
North Shore Railroad - Admission for Duluth Zephyr
Northern Grounds - Wine Society tastings for four
Olson, Brenda - Hand-made soap
Orcutt Guide Service - Guided fishing trip for 2
Passananti, Stan - Firewood cut & split
Passananti, Stan - Italian dinner for 6
Pebble Spa - 90-minute massage
Pebble Spa - Spa party for 4
Piragis - Holiday shopping event & \$100 gift card
POTLUCK - Baking package & gift card
Razor Edge - Knife sharpening
Rock Country Masonry - \$500 of services
Rock Ridge - Complete outfitting package
Roots Salon - Pedicure & manicure
Roots Salon - Haircut & foil
Ruoho, Ella - Dog treat basket
Science Museum of MN - Admission tickets
Scott, Martha & Bill - All American steak BBQ
Scott, Martha & Bill - Barnes & Noble gift card
Sir G's - Twelve large pizzas
Soderberg, Barb & Kurt - Books (youth) by Erin Soderberg
St. Paul Saints - Tickets
Stony Ridge - \$100 Gift card
Subway - Subs & sandwich platter
Superior Portage Pads - Canoe portage pads
Swanson Excavating - Class 5 gravel
Tara Kay Photography - Photo shoot
Today, Dave - Guided fishing trip
Tony's Towing - Gift card
VanDusen, Bud - Airplane ride
Vermilion Club - Gift cards for Poor Gary's Pizza
Voyageur Brewing Company - Gift card
Wetzel, Becky - RuffHewn cabin signs
Wetzel, Tom & Mischke, Larry - Walleye fry for 8
Zups Ely - \$100 Gift card
Zups Babbitt - \$100 Brat package
Anonymous donations:
Custom walleye cribbage board
Edgewater gift card
Replica moose antler

AND MANY MORE!

Financial and other support from the Ely Echo, Ely Credit Union and Frandsen Bank.

New to online bidding? Let us help you out!
Contact Lisa Porthan at 218-349-3780
for a Proxy Bidder.

HELPING OTHERS

Operation Round Up[®] gives more than \$47,000 to community programs

REGIONAL - Through the contributions of Lake Country Power's participating members, the Operation Round Up[®] Trust Board recently approved \$47,875 in assistance to local community programs during its quarterly meeting.

The cooperative's trust board reviewed and considered 63 grant applications and distributed funds to 54 projects and

programs this past quarter. Since the program's inception in October 2004, more than \$2.4 million has been distributed to community-based projects and programs.

All funds generated through Operation Round Up[®] are set aside in a trust fund. A voluntary trust board of nine co-op members administers the trust. Of the funds collected through the program,

100 percent is distributed to charitable organizations through an application and selection process. The trust board uses special guidelines and policies when choosing recipients.

Most recent recipients in our area include: Arrowhead Regional Corrections; St. Louis County Sheriff's Office; Northeast Range School Team 5653 Iron Mosquitoes; St. Louis

County Volunteer Rescue Squad; Project Care Free Clinic; Camp Olson YMCA; Ruby's Pantry in Cook; Tower-Soudan School Community Ed; Laurentian Environmental Center; Muscular Dystrophy Association; Vermilion Lake Township Fire Department; Advocates Against Domestic Abuse-HOPE; The Salvation Army Heatshare;

ElderCircle Stay Active and Independent for Life; Minnesota State Old Time Fiddle Championships; Northstar Foundation; City of Tower (Howard Wagoner Trails Club); Ely Folk School; Ely-Winton Historical Society; Ely's Historic State Theater; Well Being Development/Northern Lights Clubhouse.

Interested members can opt into the Operation

Round Up[®] program by calling the cooperative at 800-421-9959 or using an online form at lakecountrypower.coop.

Applications are available online at www.lakecountrypower.coop (My Cooperative, Community, Operation Round Up[®]). The next application deadline is Friday, May 15.

Greenwood closing town hall, grounds to public use during state stay at home order

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- With some technical assistance from the Minnesota Association of Townships, the Greenwood Town Board held its first virtual board meeting on April 14. The meeting went relatively smoothly, though Supervisor Larry Tahija apparently had trouble logging onto the phone-based system and joined the meeting about 20 minutes late.

The meeting did not include any public comment, a decision made by Chairman Carmen DeLuca, who said it was on the advice of the township attorney to keep the meeting as simple as possible.

The board had postponed its regularly scheduled reorganizational meeting from March, so the meeting began with the election of a new board chair. Recently reelected Mike Ralston was named as chair, and DeLuca was named as vice-chair.

The township has decided to close the town hall and recreational facilities including the pavilion and playground to public use during the stay-at-home order, as well as suspending non-essential meetings of boards and commissions. The town board and fire department are still permitted to meet.

The vote to declare a non-military state of emergency, which gives the board the authority to close township facilities, was 4-1, with Byron Beihoffer voting against. Beihoffer felt the playground and pavilion could still be open if proper social distancing was observed. The township will post signs and tape off the recreational area.

Township treasurer Pam Rodgers had asked that the two extra sets of keys for the township office be returned to the clerk and treasurer.

"I would like to place them in the township safety deposit box," she said.

DeLuca said he had contacted the township attorney who said the town board sets policies for the town hall.

"I think the chair and vice-chair should have keys in case we need to get in," he said.

The board voted 5-0 in favor of having the chair and vice-chair retain a set of keys.

Issues relating to the security cameras in the township office were also discussed. DeLuca said the camera in the office had been covered up.

"I talked with Mike Couri and he said it was township property and should not be covered or monkeyed with."

The clerk and treasurer have expressed concerns about having the office under surveillance.

The town board has yet

to set any policy on who has the authority to review the security system video.

"Right now, it is just recording, and runs and records over itself," Ralston said. "We haven't had any incidents so no need to review it."

Rodgers also asked the board to look at township spending. She noted the township's checking account balance will be falling below \$100,000 and that the next tax apportionment doesn't come until July.

Fire chief

With no discussion, the board made a motion to appoint Dave Fazio as fire chief. Fazio had retired from the position last year, though he had not resigned as a fire department member. Mike Indihar had been serving as interim fire chief. Longtime fire department member Jeff Maus had submitted an application for the position.

"I compliment your selection of Dave Fazio," Indihar said. "He helped our department grow. We really support him and are well served having him back as fire chief."

Indihar reported that the department had done repair work on both fire boats to get them ready for the summer season.

Broadband survey

Ralston said that participation in the online surveys to gauge interest in high-speed internet service has been disappointing. Residents and property owners who were mailed postcards with the information are urged to go online and complete the survey. The township decided to advertise to get the word out. Two providers, CTC and Paul Bunyan, are both interested in possibly providing service in the township if enough residents are interested.

Reorganization

Most items in the reorganization section of the agenda stayed the same as last year, though DeLuca was named as the representative to the ambulance commission, replacing Tahija. The *Tower News* was named official paper, based on their low bid.

Clerk Drobac noted that the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization, set for May 6 from 10 - 11 a.m. will only consider appeals in writing, not in person.

In other business the board:

► Approved liquor licensing for Shamrock Lending, Vermilion Club, Bayview Bar and Grill, and Timbuktu.

► Accepted a payment of \$8,000 from St. Louis County for providing fire protection to the unorganized township on the north side of Pine Island/Trout Lake portage area.

► Will advertise for lawn mowing services for the town hall.

Young Life engaging kids from a distance; online Sweet Spring Auction starts Sunday

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - How do you care for kids when you can't see them in person? That's been the challenging question during these days of the coronavirus pandemic and "stay-at-home" orders as Young Life (YL) continues to pursue and engage kids.

"I'll be honest, I was super down as we started canceling clubs, small groups, and trips, and were no longer able to see kids at lunch or at basketball," said Ely Area Young Life Director Mike Keller. "Although I miss those things, we are finding new and creative ways to be there for kids in Ely."

The organization is doing their clubs through Instagram, hangout times and small groups with Zoom, and are messaging and calling kids often to see how they're doing. "It's been amazing to watch our leaders step up and take on new, creative ways to be with kids," he said.

YL has been connecting with even more kids during this difficult time. "We've even been seeing kids getting involved who have never been before, simply because they can join in the comfort of their home," Keller said. "That's due to the hard work of over 40 volunteers caring for kids and letting them know there's a God who cares about them too."

Keller acknowledged there has been disappointment, as well. Young Life is known for its "best week of

Sweet Spring Auction begins on April 26

Go online to ely.younglife.org to check out auction items and sign up for a bidding number. Auction items are also posted on Ely Young Life Sweet Spring Auction's Facebook page. Bidding will open Sunday, April 26, at 6 p.m. and end Sunday, May 3, at 6 p.m. Auction

your life" camp experiences. "We were looking forward to our largest summer ever, with 80 kids in grades 6-12 signed up for trips to camps in Colorado, Detroit Lakes and a Mystery Road Trip in which kids didn't know where they were going," he said. Those trips have been postponed due to COVID-19. But kids and leaders both remain optimistic as to what summer will bring and there is hope that camp will still be part of their summer experience.

Young Life depends 100 percent on donations from businesses and individuals. One of their largest fundraisers is their annual Sweet Spring Auction, which supports programming and camp scholarships.

According to YL auction chair Cindy Bina, the 2019 auction brought in \$25,000, which is 20 percent of their budget. "The auction is more than just about raising money. It's a social event that many of us look forward to all year long. It's a chance to show kids our commitment to them, recognize businesses and individuals who support this organization, and give our community a fun night together to buy both useful and unusual items," she said.

Last year over 150 people attended the auction with 176 items donated by over 120 different businesses or individuals. "That is an incredible commitment by a community and testament as to the value of Young Life to our kids and families," Bina said.

The 2020 YL auction is going online. "We refuse to be thwarted by social distancing so we are bringing the auction into your home," she said. "In doing so, the auction will be reaching a larger bidding audience and the committee is hoping our community helps to market to their friends beyond the Ely area. What can be more convenient? You'll have auction items to bid on 24/7 for a week!"

Although many businesses are struggling financially, most have been able to find a way to still support the 15th annual auction. "We were prepared for most businesses to be unable to participate this year, which is completely understandable, and we support them in whatever their decision has been," Bina said. "But the committee has been elated at the community response and auction items will be plentiful."

Obituaries and Death Notices



Harold "Dayshun" Goodsky

Harold "Dayshun" Goodsky, 79, of Nett Lake, passed away on Friday, April 10, 2020. A Traditional Native Wake was held at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook on Monday, April 13. The Traditional Native Service was held on Tuesday, April 14. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Harold was born to Harold and Agnes (Caribou) Goodsky on July 6, 1940, in Cloquet. Harold grew up and attended school in Nett Lake. He entered the United States Navy and served honorably. He attended college at the University of Minnesota, earning a bachelor's degree. During Harold's work career, he wore many hats: attorney,

probation officer, housing inspector in Minneapolis, construction worker for KGM, logger for Bois Forte Forestry, and duck hunting guide. Harold was a founding member of the American Indian Movement, a member of the Big Drum Society, and an active pow wow dancer.

Harold loved to spend time with his family, visiting and telling jokes. He had a humorous side and enjoyed ribbing his family and friends with his "honest sense of humor." He was always concerned for his family and would often offer advice. Harold was a person who made a significant impact on his community, and more importantly his family; he was a father, grandfather, great-grandfather, mentor and friend.

Harold is survived by his children, Terry Goodsky, Waubun Goodsky, Mai'ingan Goodsky and Beemus Goodsky; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold Sr. and Agnes Goodsky; sons, Harvey Goodsky Sr., Michael Goodsky and Rodney Goodsky; sister, Myrna Goodsky; and brothers, Archie Goodsky and Gilbert Caribou.

Domenica Hanka

Domenica Carena Hanka, 96, of Embarrass, passed away on Wednesday, April 15, 2020, at her home with her daughter and grandsons at her side. A Memorial Mass will be held at a later date with burial in the Gilbert Cemetery. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her daughter, Anna of Embarrass and grandsons Joseph, James and Christopher Adamiak; son, David of Aurora and granddaughter Tara Hanka and grandson David Jr.; six great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren with two more on the way; sister-in-law, Adele Buono of Saugerties, N.Y.; and many nieces, nephews and relatives in Italy.

Stanley P. Cherne

Stanley Peter Cherne, 90, of Ely, died on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, at Ely Bloomenson Hospital following a stroke. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his sons, Paul (Vicky) of

Shoreview and Tom (Lee) of Edina; grandchildren, Anthony, Mary and John Cherne, Katherine Cherne (Andy Pace), Alexandra and Conrad Robison; and many cousins, nephews and nieces, especially Donna (Mike) Riikola Engelmeyer.

Betty J. Polyner

Betty Jean "Betsy" Polyner, 62, of Duluth, passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 9, 2020, at Essentia St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth. Due to the coronavirus restrictions, services will be held in Ely at a later date. Memorials can be made to her special charities, Animal Allies of Duluth, the Minnesota MS Society, Second Harvest of Duluth, St. Benedict's Church in Kenwood and the Ely Area Food Shelf. Arrangements are by Kerntz Funeral Home in Ely.

She is survived by her brother, John (Sharyl) Polyner of Ely; sister, Kathy (Bob) Champa of Ely; nieces, Kim (Mike) Doyle of Naperville, Ill., Kara Polyner of Ely and Kristin (Kurt) Mattila of Ely; nephew, Bobby (Aurora) Champa of Ely; great-nieces and great-nephews, Addison, Jordan, Lillian, Sadie, Nicholas, Eric, Tyler, Tanner and Taya.

Ely Community Health Center



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Providing NO COST basic healthcare and referrals

111 S 4th Ave E, Ely

Volunteer opportunities also available



Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

COVID-19

Walz lifts some restrictions on outdoor activities

Bait shops, golf courses among the facilities that can reopen; campgrounds remain closed

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— With the 2020 fishing opener and the start of the summer tourism season in northern Minnesota approaching, Gov. Tim Walz has issued a new executive order that relaxes some restrictions designed to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

According to Walz, the

changes will allow Minnesotans to continue to enjoy the outdoors close to home while following social distancing guidelines.

His latest executive order allows Minnesotans to engage in a range of activities, including golfing, boating, fishing, hunting, and hiking, as long as they follow new outdoor recreation guidelines. These guidelines include maintaining 6-foot social distanc-

ing, avoiding crowded areas, and staying close to home.

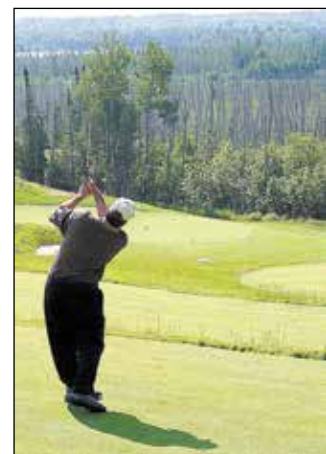
“It’s important for us to stay active and enjoy the outdoors while preventing the spread of COVID-19,” said Gov. Walz. “This measure will allow Minnesotans to take advantage of more opportunities to get outside, while still doing their part to keep their neighbors healthy.”

Under Executive Order

20-38, facilities that may reopen or remain open include:

- ▶ Bait shops for live bait
- ▶ Outdoor shooting ranges and game farms
- ▶ Public and private parks and trails
- ▶ Golf courses and driving ranges
- ▶ Boating and off-highway

See **OUTDOORS...**pg. 5B



CO REPORTS

ATV issues keeping conservation officers busy

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Area conservation officers have been busy on ATV enforcement in recent days, citing riders for a variety of infractions, including illegally operating on non-motorized trails, drinking and driving, and failure to follow social distancing when traveling in large groups.

Virtually all of the officers were reporting considerable ATV traffic in their patrol areas. Sean Williams, in Ely, reported that “ATV activity was again high” and he asked that riders pay close attention to trail markers to ensure they aren’t operating on trails closed to ATV use.

Don Bozovsky, in the Hibbing area, reported encountering 16 ATVs in a group, all illegally operating on a non-motorized state trail, creating ruts and consuming alcohol. And several did not have proper registration. Bozovsky reported encountering another large group of ATV riders gathered around their machines, and while he noted fewer violations than the earlier group, he reminded the physician in the group that social distancing was not being observed.

Darrin Kittelson, in International Falls, reported that much of his workload centered on ATV enforcement as well, and noted that ATV drivers “need to be respectful of the trails and forest roads.”

While Shane Zavodnik, of Cook, also worked ATV enforcement, he was the first local officer to deal with an out-of-control brush fire. Zavodnik reports: “Upon arriving, the individual was black from head to toe with soot while attempting to put out the fire on his own for several hours. The individual admitted that starting the fire with high winds in conjunction with kerosene was a bad idea but seemed to think that burning down the remaining trees for a better view of the water was his only option.”

It wasn’t the only unusual incident during the week. Hibbing’s Bozovsky reported responding to a report of a human caught in a beaver trap. That must have been an interesting conversation...



LAKE VERMILION

Vermilion outlook mixed

Walleye numbers improve modestly, but weak 2017-year class a challenge

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

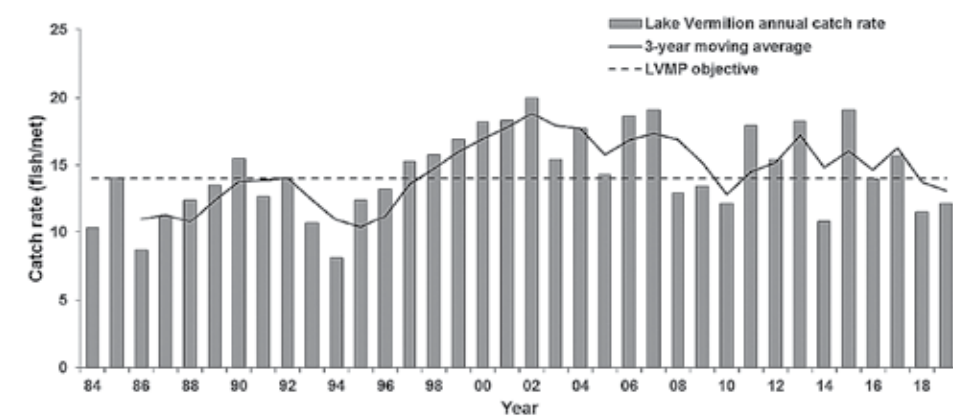
REGIONAL— The 2020 season should offer plenty of opportunity for anglers on Lake Vermilion, according to the latest status report issued by the Department of Natural Resources.

The annual report, produced by Matt Hennen, the DNR’s large lake specialist in Tower, highlights the results of the 2019 fish survey that the DNR conducts each fall.

The closely watched walleye survey showed an average catch of 12.2 walleye per net. That’s a slight increase from the 2018 average of 11.6 fish per net, but it remains below the 25th percentile for catches dating back to 1984.

As usual, however, the average obscures much more important information to anglers. As with most lakes in northern Minnesota, the quality of fishing on Vermilion is governed largely by year classes.

On Vermilion, an apparently weak 2017-year class is keeping the average catch rate down, yet it’s bracketed by a strong 2016-year class and a 2018-year class which appears to be on the strong side, at least on the lake’s western half. The DNR test netting also caught above-average numbers of walleye from the 2019, 2018, 2016, 2013, and 2012-year classes. The number of netted walleye eight years of age or older was above the 75th percentile, suggesting a sizable number of large walleyes will be in the mix this year for anglers. That’s a continuation of the trend toward larger walleye that has been a factor on Vermilion since the protected slot limit



Top: Anglers on Lake Vermilion during the 2019 opener. file photo

Right: DNR large lake specialist Matt Hennen holds one of the giant musky captured as part of the annual fish survey on Lake Vermilion submitted



took effect in 2006. This year, the average length of a netted walleye was 14.5 inches.

The survey, again, highlighted the differences between Vermilion’s eastern basin and the western half, although the disparity in catch rates between the two ends of the lake was actually less than some recent years, in part because of the weak 2017-year class which depressed the catch rate on the eastern end. Even so, the survey suggests that anglers will see moderate numbers of walleye 12 inches and larger this year, mostly from the strong 2016-year class.

Meanwhile, the DNR believes that angler pressure on the lake’s west end may be responsible for the below-average catch rate there. While the western basin had been plagued in recent years by good numbers of large fish within the protected slot, but relatively few in the optimal “eater” range, anglers there may find the opposite problem this year. According to the latest survey, an apparently strong 2018-year class on the west end has produced a large number of

See **VERMILION...**pg. 5B

RECREATING IN COVID-19 ERA

Forest Service campgrounds, rec areas closed indefinitely

REGIONAL—In an effort to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus, both the Superior and Chippewa national forests are closing developed recreation facilities, including campgrounds and restrooms, as well as suspending trash pick-up until further notice. In addition, all overnight camping is currently suspended and campfires are not allowed, in order to minimize the risk to first responders in the event of wildfire.



The general areas of the two forests remain open to the public, including forest roads, trails and trailheads for hiking, and boat ramps (unless within campgrounds). The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, however, remains closed to public use—even day use—until May 4.

With the potential for crowded conditions in the coming days and weeks, both forests are implementing a group-size limitation of 10 people or less per group across the entire forest. “I encourage you to get outside and enjoy your public lands, while recreating responsibly and safely,”

said Connie Cummins, Forest Supervisor on the Superior National Forest. “Please consider reducing the impacts to local communities who may be at risk from the virus by utilizing the forest for day use and staying closer to your community as Gov. Walz has outlined in his stay-at-home order.”

The Forest Service asks the public to recreate responsibly. Law enforcement and/or search and rescue operations may be limited due to COVID-19 issues. Backcountry activities that increase your chance of injury or distress should be avoided. Please remember to pack-out what you pack-in.

DNR: Be safe, use social distancing on the water

REGIONAL—As boaters across Minnesota prepare to hit the water, they need to keep in mind tips for being safe on cold water as well as their responsibility for staying close to home and practicing socially distancing under Gov. Tim Walz’s “Stay at Home” executive order.

“We constantly remind people about ways they can stay safe while they’re on the water,” said Rodmen Smith, DNR Enforcement Division director. “In light of COVID-19, we also ask this year that you take additional steps to protect yourself, your family, and the people around you.”

Cold water safety
No matter when the ice went out, there’s one common theme: The water this time of year is dangerously cold. Falls into the water can quickly turn tragic. With water temperatures not much above freezing, a fall in likely will trigger cold-water shock. Numbness will set in quickly, and swimming or calling for help will be difficult. You’ll probably gasp uncontrollably and draw water into your lungs. Even strong swimmers may drown within minutes. “The best way to prevent that from hap-

pening is to wear a life jacket – actually wear it, not just have it along,” said Lisa Dugan, DNR Enforcement recreation safety outreach coordinator. “It’s the easiest and most effective way to prevent an unfortunate situation from turning into a tragedy.”

Guidelines
When hitting the water, know the DNR’s COVID-19 outdoor recreation guidelines and practice the following to protect yourselves and others:

- Maintain social distance of at least 6 feet. This includes places such as fuel stations and community docks, and means no beaching or tying up to other boats.
- Boat only with people in your immediate household.
- Boat close to home. Travel to and from the access site without making other stops.
- When fueling, wash your hands as you would when fueling a car. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Do not touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday											
54 29				55 27				56 28				58 35				54 34											
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.			
04/13	35	19	0.00		04/13	34	18	0.00		04/13	33	18	0.00		04/13	28	16	0.00		04/13	34	18	0.00				
04/14	30	13	0.00		04/14	30	11	0.00		04/14	29	12	0.00		04/14	27	12	0.01		04/14	31	13	0.00				
04/15	28	7	0.00		04/15	27	6	0.00		04/15	27	11	0.02	0.3"	04/15	34	10	0.00		04/15	27	5	0.00				
04/16	32	8	0.00		04/16	32	7	0.00		04/16	32	11	0.00		04/16	37	19	0.00		04/16	32	6	0.00				
04/17	38	16	0.00		04/17	38	13	0.00		04/17	37	18	0.00		04/17	48	19	0.00		04/17	39	14	0.00				
04/18	44	17	0.00		04/18	44	13	0.00		04/18	46	21	0.00		04/18	54	34	0.00		04/18	45	21	0.00				
04/19	51	27	0.00		04/19	52	13	0.00		04/19	53	24	0.02	0.2"	04/19	39	21	0.00		04/19	52	24	0.00				
Total				1.98	94.7"	YTD Total				2.50	65.4"	YTD Total				2.97	76.6"	YTD Total				NA	NA	YTD Total		2.16	64.4"

Correction

Mea culpa, as Marcus Aurelius might’ve said. As an astute reader correctly pointed out, I got dates mixed up in my recent essay in the

Timberjay. I portrayed the Buddha as having lived about four centuries after Marcus Aurelius, when in fact it was about four centuries

before. Instead of “foreshadowing” the Buddha, Marcus Aurelius “echoed” him. I apologize for the slip-up. *Peter Leschak.*

VERMILION...Continued from page 4B

fish which will be on the small side early in the season, but will likely be on the low end of the harvest range by later in the summer. These fish should make up the bulk of the west end harvest in 2021, when they will be in the ideal size range for the frying pan.

Electrofishing results from the fall were also encouraging as to future walleye abundance, at least on the east end. The electrofishing samples young-of-the-year abundance and the 2019 results on the east end were above the historic average. The average length of fish captured was 6.1 inches, which was the third-largest average dating back to 1988.

Yellow perch

For anglers looking to add perch to their catch, it appears Vermilion’s west end will be the

place to go. The lakewide perch catch was 27.2 fish per net, which was above the historical average and was the highest catch rate since 2014. But that lakewide average obscured a drastic difference between the basins. The perch catch rate on the west end was the third highest ever, at 51.9 fish per net. That contrasted dramatically with the east end, where the catch was just 10.7 fish per net, the second lowest ever recorded.

Perch numbers have been generally declining on the lake’s east end since the 1990s, likely due to a combination of factors, including habitat loss and increased predation.

While anglers will find an abundance of perch on the west end, the average size is likely to be marginal for most anglers. An abundance of fish in the 5-7-inch range contributed to the high count,

while also contributing to the lowest average size ever observed. Those fish, captured in the fall, could grow into the harvest range for many anglers by mid-summer of 2020.

Musky

This past fall marked the first year in a two-year effort to obtain a population estimate of adult musky in Vermilion utilizing mark and recapture techniques. Overall, Hennen said the effort was successful, with a total of 715 muskies captured and implanted with passive transponder tags. The fish ranged in length from 24.2 to 54.1 inches with an average length of 44.7 inches. Fish from 39-51 inches were well represented and over ten percent of the fish caught were 50 inches or larger.

OUTDOORS...Continued from page 4B

- vehicle services, including:
- Marina services
 - Dock installation and other lake services
 - Boat and off-highway vehicle sales and repair, by appointment only.
- Campgrounds and dispersed

camping, outdoor recreational equipment retail stores, recreational equipment rental, charter boats, and guided fishing remain closed for now.

Minnesotans should continue to take part in outdoor activities close to their primary residence,

urged Walz. Staying home helps protect Minnesotans from spreading COVID-19 and limits pressure on rural medical facilities and essential supplies.

These new provisions went into effect on last Saturday, April 18.

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- Have a Plan Managing Debt
- Don't Stop Saving Money

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218-666-5940

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KELLY KLUN
Attorney At Law

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www.klunlaw.com

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marylee.erickson@klunlaw.com

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Real Property Law

Our physical office is closed until further notice, but we will do our best to accommodate your legal needs.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to install a guyed tower near 8401 Orr Buyck Road, Buyck, St. Louis County, MN 55771 (48 05 31.3N / 92 35 49.1W). The height of the tower will be 136.9 meters above ground level (558.3 meters above mean sea level). The tower is anticipated to have FAA Style E lighting. AT&T Mobility, LLC welcomes comments on the impact of the proposed action on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under National Historic Preservation Act Section 106. Interested persons may also review the application for this project at www.fcc.gov/asr/applications by entering Antenna Structure Registration (Form 854) file no. A1160131. Interested persons may raise environmental concerns about the project under the National Environmental Policy Act rules of the Federal Communications Commission, 47 CFR §1.1307, by notifying the FCC of the specific reasons that the action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Requests for Environmental Review must be filed within 30 days of the date that notice of the project is published on the FCC's website and may only raise environmental concerns. The FCC strongly encourages interested parties to file Requests for Environmental Review online at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest, but they may be filed with a paper copy by mailing the Request to FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. A copy of the Request should also be provided to EBI Consulting at 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403.

Published in the Timberjay, April 24, 2020

CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

Certificate of Assumed Name Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333. The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business. Assumed Name: Everett Bay Lodge

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 1820 Everett Bay Rd, Tower, MN 55790

NAMEHOLDER(S): Everett Bay Lodge Operations, LLC, 1820 Everett Bay Rd, Tower, MN 55790

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

Dated: February 18, 2020
SIGNED BY: Darrell Hoffman
MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 416, Tower, MN 55790

Published in the Timberjay, April 24 & May 1, 2020

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the

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 17 & 24, 2020

MORCOM TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF RESCHEDULED MEETING

Morcom Township's regularly scheduled board meeting set for Thursday, May 7 at 6:00 pm has been rescheduled to Thursday, May 21 at 6:00 pm due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

This meeting will be held virtually and not in person. If you would like to attend, or receive a copy of the meeting minutes, you may contact the Clerk, Sasha Lehto, to make arrangements or requests.

Sasha Lehto, Clerk, Morcom Township
morcomtownshipmn@gmail.com
218-969-5812

Published in the Timberjay, April 24, 2020

City of Tower AMBULANCE DRIVER

Temporary position • \$14/hour for runs

For full description and to apply see www.cityoftower.com

Must be able to respond to calls within 10 minutes

Position only available during current MN State of Emergency Declaration
Apply at www.cityoftower.com

Published in the Timberjay, April 10, 17 & 24, 2020

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ALFTYPO	SCAT	THICKE	
SILLO	ODD	ATMS	ASIANS
HEY	PROTEIN	HATONE	EARTH
REP	SNO	ENRY	DEE
ASSAYED	EAR	IEVER	
MICHELOB	HEAT	CRACKERS	
BRASS	DES	BRUT	NOONAN
URL	HOLE	NUMBERS	DIE
SEEU	OUTREK	ESE	BSIDE
HERESTHE	BEEF	TAKEOVER	
RESOD	DIM	PINCERS	
OLE	BOAS	SOP	SCI
HEN	INDOUBT	HALES	HARKS
MARLEE	TRAP	NAM	LEIA
PALACE	ATRA	TIEA	BLY
REGULAR	HEELS	AND	DEALS
CREMONA	ALLOY	ENEMIES	
ASSENTS	MYLES	MAESTRO	

GENERAL NOTICE TO CONTROL OR ERADICATE NOXIOUS WEEDS

Notice is hereby given this day of April 24, 2020 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.83, Subdivision 1 (2015), that all persons in St. Louis County, Minnesota, shall control or eradicate all noxious weeds on land they occupy or are required to maintain. Control or eradication may be accomplished by any lawful method, but the method(s) applied may need to be repeated in order to prevent the spread of viable noxious weed seeds and other propagating parts to other lands. Failure to comply with the general notice may mean that an individual notice, Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.83, Subdivision 2 (2015), will be issued. An individual notice may be appealed within two working days of receipt to the appeal committee in the county where the land is located. Failure to comply with an individual notice will mean that the inspector having jurisdiction may either hire the work done or seek a misdemeanor charge against the person(s) who failed to comply. If the work hired is done by the inspector, the cost can be placed as a tax upon the land and collected as other real estate taxes are collected. You may obtain a list of the plants that are designated as noxious weeds and the members of the appeal committee from your County Agricultural Inspector or County Designated Employee. You can also obtain this information from your Local Weed Inspectors. Local Weed Inspectors include the township supervisors, city mayors or their appointed assistants. More information regarding the statewide listed noxious weeds, the MN Noxious Weed law and a list of County Agricultural Inspectors and County Designated Employees can be obtained from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Web Site by visiting: <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants-insects/noxious-and-invasive-weed-program>

Kristin Fogard, County Agricultural Inspector, Land and Minerals Department, 320 West 2nd St. Ste 302, Duluth. 218.726.2606, fogardk@stlouiscountymn.gov.

Published in the Timberjay, April 24, 2020

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EMPLOYMENT

HELP WANTED

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

POSITION OPENINGS

Ely Public Schools - ISD No. 696
2 Science Teachers

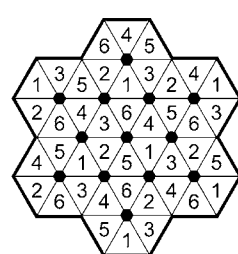
Ely Memorial Middle/High School is looking for 2 Science Teachers starting with the 2020-2021 school year. We are a 6th-12th grade building, seeking talented and energetic teachers who have abilities and interests in secondary Science courses. Courses would include Physical, Life or Earth sciences and will be assigned based upon the right candidate's strengths and experience. Desired skills include strong classroom management, outstanding communication, organization, and a passion for Science. Salary and fringes as per Master Agreement between ISD #696 and the Ely Education Association and School Board policy. Include district application, resume, official transcripts, 3 letters of recommendation and current Minnesota teaching license; background check required. Application available at www.ely.k12.mn.us; return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us. Application review to begin Friday, May 8, 2020; open until filled. ^{5/1}

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

Considerations of personal privacy, time and resources prevent the newspaper from investigating ads placed in the classified section. If you respond to an ad, we urge you to use the same care and prudence that you would use when conducting business in any other situation.

HAIR CARE

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

HOSPICE

VIRGIE HEGG HOSPICE PARTNERS can provide help for patients and their families in ways such as: comfort care, massages, last wishes and more. For more information, contact Program Director Becca Bundy at 218-780-5423 or vhhpdirector@gmail.com. This ad is paid for by Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners.

WANTED

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

MS SUPPORT GROUP- meets the second Friday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Babbitt Municipal Building, senior room. Open to all. For information contact Mary at 218-827-8327.

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

ELY CO-DEPENDENTS MEETING- Fridays at noon-St. Anthony's Church Classroom 3-Use west side entrance. For more information go to coda.org on the web.

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

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

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP- Are you troubled by someone's drinking? Al-Anon Family Group is a community-based mutual support program for the friends and families of alcoholics. It is confidential and open to anyone affected by someone else's drinking. Hope Lutheran Church in Embarrass hosts an Al-Anon group on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. 218-984-2037.

VIRGINIA AA WOMEN'S MEETING- Ladies by the Lake. Tuesdays at 12 noon. Peace United Methodist Church, 303 S 9th Ave, please use side door and parking.

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

MEETING in Ely! "New Ideas" WOMEN IN RECOVERY: 12 Steps. For women seeking help and hope to recover from any addiction: drugs, alcohol, food, gambling etc. Every Thursday noon at St. Anthony's Catholic Church. Come join us! Q: 218-235-3581.

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH DRUGS, give yourself a break. There is a way out with the help of other recovering addicts in Narcotics Anonymous. We have been there. For meeting or other information call 218-728-3199. (Narcotics Anonymous is a non-profit organization.)

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

The Timberjay classified ads reach readers of all three editions every week. Call 753-2950 to place yours now!

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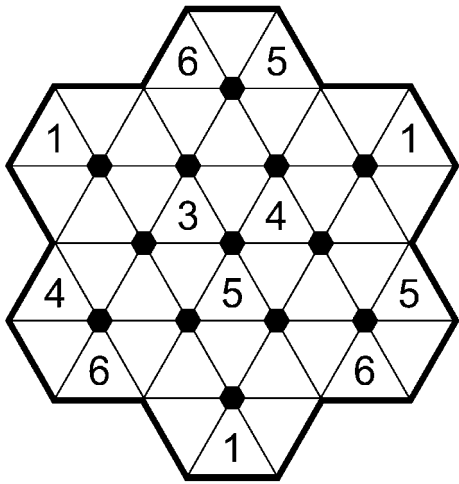
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Boundary Waters Dog Grooming
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(behind Jeanne's Cards & Gifts)
Owner
Eileen Kronmiller
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GOT ELASTIC? I don't.
Mask-maker...Scarlet Stone requesting donations or purchase of elastic (any width). Donations of 100% cotton yardage or sizeable scraps requested also.
218-235-1377 or drop off at the Timberjay.
Thank you and stay healthy!

SNOWFLAKES by Japheth Light

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆◆◆
◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆◆◆ Difficult

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

Classifieds run in all 3 editions of the Timberjay.

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

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Super Crossword WHOO-HOO!

ACROSS

1 Laid fresh concrete on
8 Waste
13 Found
20 Like gushing actors
21 Malia's sister
22 Kildare locale
23 More with-it red fish?
25 Runs fast
26 1980s NBC sitcom
27 "Teh" for "the," for one
28 Jazzy singing
29 "Growing Pains" actor
30 Tower for fodder
32 Uncanny
34 24-hr. money sources
36 Japan natives, e.g.
38 "Lookie there, muscle-building stuff!"
42 Terrestrial chapeau?
44 Dem.'s opponent
45 --cone (frozen treat)

46 "Just you wait, — 'iggins ..."
47 Near-failing mark
48 Analyzed
52 Cochlea site
54 "Will — learn?!"
58 Beer brand
60 Microwave saltines?
66 Orchestra section
67 — Moines
69 Old Spice alternative
70 Reagan speechwriter
71 Cyberspace address
72 Pars?
75 Lose power
76 "Later!"
79 Arduous trip
80 Suffix with Japan
81 45 half
83 "My gripe is as follows ..."
86 Coup, e.g.
88 Lay new turf on
89 Not well-lit
91 Crab claws
92 Bullfighting cheer
95 Gaudy scarves
98 Be soaked

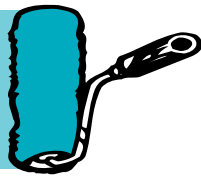
100 Zool. or ecol.
101 Skeptical egg layer?
105 Disease-free sea
110 Actress
111 Rat catcher
113 '60s conflict site
114 "Star Wars" royal
115 Royal home
117 Gillette shaver brand
119 "— yellow ribbon round ..."
122 Journalist Nellie
123 Not unusual
124 Things found at discount shoe stores?
127 Italian city
128 Steel, for one
129 Adversaries
130 Agrees (to)
131 "Black Velvet" singer
Alannah
132 Orchestra leader

DOWN

1 Go over again, as old issues
2 Mrs. Oskar Schindler
3 Easy-to-catch hit
4 Org. for Rafael Nadal
5 — Cong
6 "— Time We Say Goodbye"
7 Dictator
8 Air marshal's org.
9 Copies Dr. Dre
10 U.S. humane org.
11 Put away, as a sword
12 "NewsRadio" co-star Phil
13 Shopping aid
14 Oliver Twist, e.g.
15 Bright red
16 Silverstone or Keys
17 Tall ale mug
18 International compact
19 Cavity filler's deg.
24 Branching-out points
31 "— Next Chapter" (Winfrey series)
33 Eat in style
35 Least lenient
37 "— loves me ..."
39 California's Point —
40 Astra automaker
41 Biblical ark builder
43 — and terminator
48 Waylay
49 "Yes, —!"
50 Peak climber, e.g.
51 Dumbbell
53 Chastised
55 SUV cousins
56 Prefix with warrior
57 "Bringing Up Baby" studio
59 Sang loudly
61 Radius site
62 Part of CRT
63 Alternative to lettuce
64 Oakland footballer
65 Smiles villainously
68 Dinar earner
72 Hovels
73 Once named
74 Lop the crop
77 "— goin' down!"
78 Suffix of sugars
81 Pianist's seat
82 Communal
84 Boxcar rider
85 Bait biter
87 Smack
90 Complain
92 Unit of resistance
93 Frogs and kangaroos
94 Angers a lot
96 Patriarch of Judaism
97 Majestic
99 Juan's silver
102 Enlighten, in poems
103 Kevin of "Saturday Night Live"
104 Pour gently, as wine
106 "Relapse" rapper
107 Hang a new worm on
108 Word with app or bee
109 Makes the assertion
112 Green shampoo
116 Periods
118 Burn balm
120 Ferber or Krabappel
121 Chick chaser?
123 Nipper's co. Abbr.
125 Procedure: lengths



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