

Don't miss this year's summer visitors guide.... See inside

the TIMBERJAY



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CORONAVIRUS

Tower-Soudan hit with report of COVID-19

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

Family member illness prompted testing on May 22

TOWER-SOUDAN- A resident of the Tower-Soudan area tested positive for COVID-19, marking the first-known case in the communities.

The individual, who has not exhibited symptoms, sought testing on May 22 after a family member came down with possi-

ble symptoms of the virus. The individual, whose other family members have all tested negative, is now self-quarantining and will remain in isolation until further testing shows no further evidence of the contagion.

The individual was employed at three places deemed



“essential” during the COVID pandemic: at the Vermilion Country School, as an EMT

for the Tower Area Ambulance Service, and as a delivery driver for the *Timberjay*.

All three workplaces were notified immediately after the individual received word of the positive test on Sunday.

The test result prompted Interim Tower Ambulance

Director Dena Suihkonen to cease operations of the ambulance for a time on Sunday, so a professional cleaning service could complete a deep cleaning of the fire/ambulance hall, the ambulance rigs, and the Tower Civic Center, where members have been attending meetings and trainings.

Suihkonen also notified all
See...COVID pg. 9



Memorial Day 2020

Memorial Day 2020 in Ely, presented through the combined efforts of the local American Legion and VFW Posts, was conducted rather uniquely this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing recommendations. The ceremony was broadcast over WELY radio. Live music was omitted this year, but a wreath laying and color guard salute were part of the abbreviated program. Several veterans who attended the ceremony displayed their patriotism by wearing protective face masks. Hundreds of veterans' gravesites at the Ely Cemetery were marked with American flags by local Scouts and veterans on Saturday morning. photos by K. Vandervort



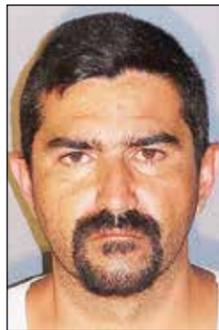
LAW ENFORCEMENT

Burglary suspect apprehended, faces additional drug charges

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

ORR- An Orr man faces new drug-related charges following his arrest on an outstanding felony burglary warrant by St. Louis County Sheriff's deputies on May 16 in Orr.

Jeremy Dale Morris, 41, was apprehended at his residence at 4720 Pine Dr. on a warrant issued after he missed a December 2019 court date related to his alleged role in a burglary at The Old Muni in Cook in 2019. Morris had been in southern California with family since mid-December, but the sheriff's department was notified



Jeremy Morris

Morris and his white van had been seen at his home the day he was arrested.

According to the official court complaint, when Morris was arrested he had a glass pipe and a small baggie with a white crystalline substance in a pants pocket. The substance later tested positive for methamphetamines.

Deputies checked Morris's van and discovered a fully loaded H&R .22 revolver in plain view, and a bottle containing what appeared to be marijuana was discovered in a blue backpack. At that point officers stopped the search, ordered

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COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

Embarrass Fair canceled for just second time in 80 years

State and county celebrations also nixed due to coronavirus

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

EMBARRASS- While Tower can claim the rights to the best small town Fourth of July, Embarrass can rightfully claim the rights to the best little regional fair in northeastern Minnesota. But that fair, like so many

other events this summer, is being canceled due to safety concerns over the novel coronavirus.

Embarrass Fair's unofficial historian Roland "Charlie" Fowler said this will be only the second time the fair has been canceled in its 80-year history. The first time was just after World War II. The fair is traditionally

held the fourth weekend in August.

"There was just no way to feel safe putting on something like this," said fair committee chair Jerry Meier. "Mass gatherings just cannot be done right now."

Meier said this was a difficult, but

See...FAIRS pg. 10



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Community notices

Story Portage T-shirt contest for students open now

ELY- Story Portage has launched a T-shirt design contest for students, as part of its community-wide book club. With funding provided by a State Farm Good Neighbor grant, Story Portage will sponsor a community-wide book club featuring the books by local and regional writers William Durbin, DyAnne Korda, Timothy Stouffer, and Mary Casanova. The book clubs will bring together readers of all ages to discuss the books (virtually or in-person) beginning in September and running through January 2021.

Students are encouraged to submit an original design and/or slogan promoting the book club in a pdf format to storyportage@gmail.com by Monday, June 1. The first twenty submissions will receive a complimentary T-shirt. The selected design will receive a fifty-dollar gift card from the Front Porch Coffee and Tea Company. Students should include their email address, phone number, home mailing address, and T-shirt size with their entry.

Advance care planning classes online through Essentia, June 3 and 16

REGIONAL- Advance care planning is a process that helps you think and talk about your choices for health care in the future. It's important for every adult to have an advance directive, also known as a living will or health care directive.

COVID-19 has brought advance care planning to the forefront. While COVID-19 can affect people of any age, it's especially dangerous for those with underlying medical conditions and those over the age of 65. By having these conversations proactively, you can make sure your preferences are understood if you become unable to make medical decisions for yourself due to an accident, injury or sudden illness.

Essentia Health is offering free online classes to learn more about advance care planning. Classes will be held on Wednesday, June 3 at 11 a.m. and on Tuesday, June 16 at 11 a.m.

The class will discuss advance care planning and encourage you to think about who will be your healthcare agent, what is important for you to live well, what fears or worries you have about your illness, and how you want to be cared for if you become seriously ill.

At Essentia, instead of in-person visits, we are offering online classes for those interested in learning more about advance care planning and completing an advance directive. The classes are open to anyone and will provide a thought-provoking presentation to help you make your wishes known.

Go to www.essentiahealth.org/patients-visitors/advance-care-planning/ to register for upcoming classes, which are free and will be conducted via Zoom, a video conferencing platform. At that link, you also can access health care directives and additional resources for your state of residence.

For more information on health care directives, or to better understand the complications of COVID-19 with an underlying medical condition, please contact your primary care provider's office to schedule a virtual visit. You can do so at EssentiaHealth.org or by calling your clinic.

Range restaurants are Good to Go!

REGIONAL- W.A. Fisher Co. of Virginia has announced the launch of a new website to promote Iron Range restaurants that are providing takeout and delivery service during the COVID-19 outbreak. The website, which is branded as Good to Go! Iron Range Restaurants, is located at rangerestaurants.com.

According to W.A. Fisher partner John Kohlhase, who spearheaded the effort, the goal of the site is twofold – to help local restaurants who are struggling to cope with the outbreak and to make sure Range residents have access to good quality food.

Future plans for the site include development of online ordering capabilities for qualified local restaurants that wish to expand their takeout and delivery services. Interested restaurant owners and managers can find more information on rangerestaurants.com.

NORTH COUNTRY FINNS

Finnish Americans and Friends continues to grow



The Finn Hall Band has played a summer music festival at Mesaba Co-op Park in Hibbing and another dance at Kaleva Hall in Virginia. The band plays traditional Finnish music with kantele and accordion music. submitted photo

REGIONAL- It is no secret that local and national clubs and organizations have been struggling with membership in recent years. Opposing that trend is Finnish Americans and Friends of Hibbing, a cultural organization affiliated with the Finlandia Foundation National. The Finlandia Foundation National consists of 58 Chapters across the United States. The mission of Finlandia Foundation National and the Hibbing Chapter of Finnish Americans and Friends is to promote cultural ties with today's modern Finland and recognize the rich legacy of achievements by Finns in America and Europe.

Finnish Americans and Friends was born in 1995. Early organizers include President Oiva Ylonen, an aeronautical engineer, Rodney Ikola, an international geo-physicist who earned special recognition from the government of Canada, Vice-President Sulo Kangas, an agricultural agent and a director with the St. Louis County Fair Board, Secretary Edla Mott, Treasurer Aune Ruskanen, and Membership Chair Lempi Halberg.

Beginning in 2014 an enthusiastic, dedicated and imaginative Executive Board rejuvenated FAF. A welcoming atmosphere was nurtured, greeters engaged visitors

at the door and name tags were provided to help people meet one another. Newcomers were warmly introduced and welcomed. Changing meeting venues, increasing publicity, updating the FAF brochure and streamlining the business meetings fostered growth. Most notable, presenting engaging programs focused on Finnish themes and the contributions of Americans of Finnish background and European Finns spurred an increase of attendance. This brightened the image of FAF and enhanced appeal from all walks of life and vocation.

"I just love to see how happily and eagerly people come to the meetings" said Carol Koski, who greets people and helps with the name tags as people arrive. Carol added, "Friends who are not Finnish wonder if they are welcome. Yes, they are, and we want them to enjoy our heritage."

Nancy Fisher, of Zim, said, "FAF is about preserving the Finnish heritage, culture and history. Our speakers are very informative. We are lucky to have talented and knowledgeable people in the area who are interested in all things Finnish and have delved into their topics. I look forward to programs every month. FAF also sponsors talented musi-

cians from Finland and the U.S. FAF attracts new members almost every month. The interesting programs are the draw for people."

In addition to excellent meeting programs, Finnish Americans and Friends have promoted Finnish culture with outstanding summer events including a music festival. The Finlandia Foundation has helped fund a number of performers and events with travel and program grants.

Traditional summer picnics are another highlight. Delicious picnic fare, lively music by accordionist Oscar Forsman, and traditional Finnish lawn games of Molkkyy are enjoyed.

FAF actively supports Salolampi, the Finnish Language Villages, with scholarships, the Finlandia Foundation National, and collaborates on many projects and events with the Virginia Ladies and Knights of Kaleva. FAF members support other ethnic events and celebrations as well. Last year, FAF helped fund Mary Erickson's research in Finland, learning the constructing of straw mobiles called himmelis, a craft thousands of years old.

Submitted by Ken Lahti, Past FAF President and member of the Virginia Knights of Kaleva

Don't delay, file your taxes today!

REGIONAL- The Minnesota Department of Revenue is urging Minnesotans who are expecting a refund and still need to file their individual income taxes to file their returns now so they can get their refund sooner. Taxpayers still have until Wednesday, July 15 to file their 2019 state and federal individual income tax returns.

The department estimates over 400,000 taxpayers may be due a refund but have not filed their returns yet. The sooner a return is filed, the sooner the department can review and process the return and issue a refund, if necessary. To date, over 2.3

million taxpayers have already filed their individual income tax returns and the department has processed over 1.6 million refunds.

"July is typically when the department starts to review and process property tax refunds for renters and homeowners," said Revenue Commissioner Cynthia Bauerly. "By filing now, you'll get your income tax refund sooner while helping us ensure we will have the capacity to review and process claims for property tax refunds in a timely manner this summer."

When filing your taxes, choose electronic filing. Last year, over

90 percent of Minnesota taxpayers filed their taxes electronically. Using electronic software is easy, convenient, and secure. Electronic filing also ensures that you have the most up-to-date forms and instructions when you file.

Get the latest news and updates from the Minnesota Department of Revenue by following the department on Facebook or Twitter, or by signing up for our email subscription list at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNREV/subscriber/new>.



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HEALTHCARE

Cook Hospital will resume specialist visits in June

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

COOK- The Cook Hospital is slowly and safely resuming more patient services, with specialists resuming visits starting in June. Visitor restrictions at the hospital remain in place, according to Hospital CEO Teresa Debevec, and the doors to the hospital remain locked so that anyone visiting the hospital for a specialist visit can be screened prior to entering the building.

Debevec said there are concerns that patients are ignoring health care needs during this pandemic period.

“We are seeing more critical patients coming into the emergency room,” she said. “We really want to stress the importance of not letting conditions get that severe.”

The emergency room is open and is seeing patients as usual, she said.

Visits with orthopedic and ENT (Ear, Nose, Throat) specialists and EMG testing are all resuming in June. Twin Ports Dermatology will resume visits in July.

The hospital’s Adult Day Services remains closed at this time and will reopen as soon as state guidelines permit. The hospital is not sure when colonoscopies and endoscopies will resume; these also will follow state guidelines.

The hospital’s laboratory, physical therapy, and occupational therapy services are all open for visits. The wellness gym remains closed at this time.

To obtain more information or to schedule an appointment, contact the Cook Hospital Outreach Coordinator at 218-666-6247.

COVID-19 Triage

If you have signs or symptoms relating to COVID-19, please utilize one of the triage providers listed below before going to the Cook Hospital emergency room. They will inform you if you need to go to the emergency room. COVID-19 telephone



and online triage services for Cook Hospital patients include:
FairviewRangePhone Triage - Nurse triage line, 218-362-6682, staffed from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MHealth Fairview <https://oncare.org>
St. Luke’s - <https://slhduluth.zipnosis.com/>

ELY SCHOOLS

Ely School Board revises budget amid pandemic

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Strives to make improvements to distance learning

ELY – As the 2019-2020 school year wraps up for IDS 696, school board members studied a revised budget Tuesday night and, as reported by the district’s superintendent, school finances took a minimal hit as the school responded to the coronavirus pandemic.

Due to parameters dictated by the Minnesota Department of Education, students were sent home in mid-March and the administration implemented a distance learning procedure for the rest of the year. School officials are looking forward to how education will look in the fall and are approaching the new school year with caution and an open mind.

Superintendent Erik Erie said the federal government’s response to COVID-19 resulted

in an \$87,544 windfall for the district. Along with enrollment ending up slightly higher than budgeted (561 to 570 students), the revised budget for the 2019-2020 school year shows an increase in revenue of \$152,436.

Expenditures also increased, to \$168,000, but not because of COVID-19. Erie said employee expenses from new hires and contract revisions accounted for a \$32,000 expense increase, along with gymnasium ceiling repairs of \$63,000 and legal settlements of \$70,000.

The actual cost of responding to COVID-19 for the last portion of the school year for technology and meals for students and staff was about \$15,000.

“We also had a savings of about \$12,000 because we are not paying for substitute teach-

ers, spring activities, and other transportation-related costs,” Erie said. “We are looking at a net increase of \$3,000 to our expenditures because of the coronavirus response.”

A net decrease of \$15,664 to the general fund was reported. Along with the \$500,000 transfer from the general fund to the school district’s facility renovation project, the unassigned general fund balance decreased from 27.3 percent of the annual budget to 21.3 percent.

“This is still within the scope of our policy to maintain a 20-percent unassigned fund balance to total annual budget ratio,” he said.

“If we didn’t get that \$87,000 (from the CARES Act) we would be looking at a larger deficit,” said board chair Ray Marsnik. “It really helped.

And we should continue to maintain our 20-percent policy of unassigned fund balance expenditures.”

Distance learning

With distance learning in place at the end of this school year and a very real possibility that this could be the required teaching method continuing into the fall, school officials are striving to improve access to technology for all ISD 696 students through the “one-to-one initiative” of providing an assigned learning device for each student.

“The pandemic is not yet over and we are looking at how we address things going into the future,” Erie said. “We are looking at using funds from the (federal) CARES Act to

help supplement our initiative. That would be an appropriate expense.”

The district has many devices, and teachers were using them in the classroom before the distance-learning protocol.

“We want each student to have a device that they would be able to take them home just like a textbook. Right now, that is not the case. We know right now that some students are in their homes with high-speed Internet and a computer device to use and they are sitting next to someone that does not have that (access), yet we have the same expectation for all of them. That is something that was borne out during our distance learning. We want all of our students to be on a level playing field.”

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

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Scenic Rivers Health Services – Drive Up Covid-19 Testing Available by Appointment

As indicated by the Minnesota Department of Health, Scenic Rivers Health Services and their six medical clinics are designated Covid-19 drive-up testing locations. Scenic Rivers continues to support our communities and their healthcare needs during the Covid-19 pandemic. Testing in rural Minnesota will help to define the Coronavirus and assist with isolation and treatment. If you have Covid-19 symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell), or you feel you have been exposed to Covid-19 through someone with a known positive Covid-19 test result, please call your local clinic site listed below. Your call will be screened to determine if you meet the criteria for Covid-19 testing. If you do meet criteria, an appointment for drive-up testing will be scheduled for you. Please note criteria may change based on latest Centers for Disease Control and Minnesota Department of Health guidelines.

Do not walk in or drive up without an appointment. You can only be tested after screening and scheduled appointment.

No payment is due at the time of testing. Patients will not receive a bill for Covid-19 testing. If you are insured, your insurance company will be billed. If you are uninsured, testing charges will be waived as determined through the CARES Act.

- Scenic Rivers - Bigfork 218-743-3232
- Scenic Rivers - Big Falls 218-276-2403
- Scenic Rivers - Cook 218-666-5941
- Scenic Rivers - Floodwood 218-476-2221
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e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Local news suffers

Consolidation has hurt newspapers and those they serve

When it comes to business, there's long been a theory that bigger is better. And we've seen that theory at work in recent years in the newspaper world as venture capital firms and larger media organizations have bought up smaller newspapers by the hundreds.

We've seen that trend at work here in northern Minnesota, where companies like Forum Communications and Adams Publishing, have come to own the vast majority of newspapers throughout the region.

The consolidation of the industry may generate more revenue for corporate shareholders, but there's little reason to believe that communities are being well-served by this trend. As we've seen at so many newspapers across the country, consolidation has meant job losses from the front office to the newsroom to the printing plant. In many cases, even small regional newspapers that once employed dozens, have been hollowed out to just a handful of staff. Newsrooms that once held a fleet of reporters and editors have become lonely outposts for an editor and a couple of part-time staff writers.

And given the latest shock to the industry posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the bloodletting has only intensified. In just the past month, we've seen the announcement that the *Lake County News Chronicle*, owned by a subgroup of Forum Communications, has ceased publication entirely. Meanwhile, Adams Publishing has announced that the *Chisholm Tribune*, once the voice of independent newspaper legend Veda Ponikvar, has been reduced to a weekly insert in the Hibbing paper.

Lost along the way is a tremendous amount of local news coverage. That's not to fault the dedicated journalists who still fight the good fight at many of these consolidated newspapers. But there's only so much a handful of people can cover. Which is why we've seen so many local newspapers rely increasingly on news wire and syndicated services, or shared content from other media, typically from within their own newspaper groups. They simply don't have the time, or the corporate direction, to truly serve their communities.

Readers recognize those changes, and often respond by letting their subscriptions lapse. That reduces readership, which eventually reduces advertising, and the decline in revenue typically prompts the

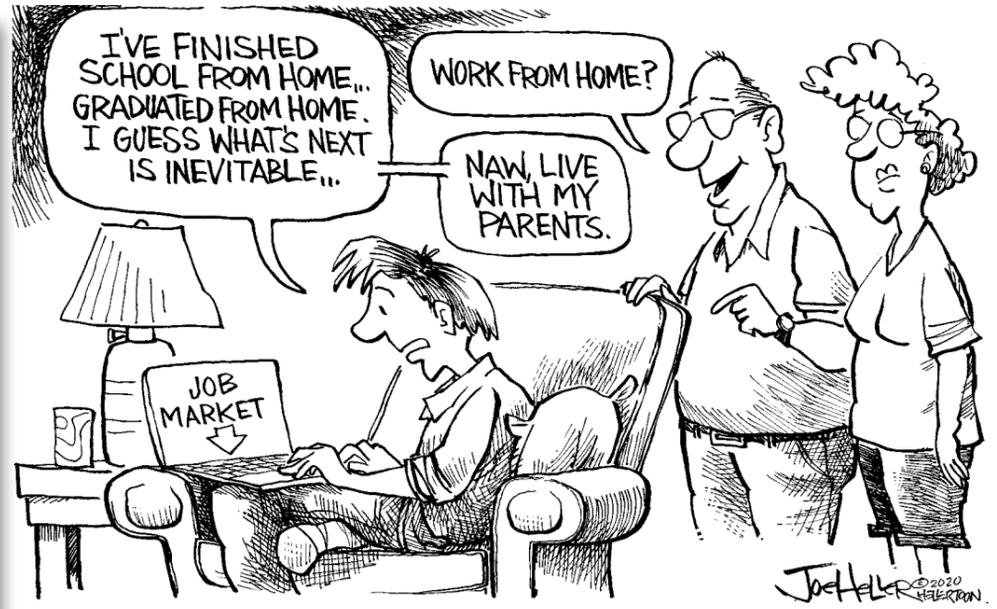
corporate accountants to push for further cuts, rather than reinvestment in staff to restore the news product. That, in turn, leads to further erosion in readership in a vicious cycle that is killing newspapers around the country.

This is one case where, sometimes, small and independent, can be a better choice for newspapers. Here at the *Timberjay*, we've gone against the grain of the industry in general. As most other newspapers have slashed newsrooms, we've invested in ours by adding experienced journalists. Far from relying on news wires or reprinting stories from other media, the *Timberjay's* primary struggle is to find space for all the local staff-written content we generate each week.

We know that readers recognize the difference, because we hear from them every day. And while the COVID-19 shutdown has certainly had an impact on our business, with so many advertisers closed for business, we have taken steps to ensure that the *Timberjay* will continue to do the work of bringing accurate and professional news coverage to our region for a long time to come.

That's not to say that we couldn't use your help. In a media market that is more fractured than at any time in the past, many businesses are wondering where to place their advertising dollars. Letting local businesses who advertise in the *Timberjay* or other local media know that you see their ads and appreciate their support of high-quality local news coverage, helps them determine where their ad dollars are most effective. And it encourages them to continue advertising with independent, locally-owned businesses that are serving your community.

Finally, we greatly appreciate all of our loyal subscribers. And for those who might wish to make an additional contribution, we have placed a donation button on our website at timberjay.com. We've already received several extremely generous donations from readers across the region, for which we are exceedingly grateful. These are challenging times for local news. But we believe that newspapers that provide a real service to their communities will be the ones that survive the pandemic and the many other factors affecting local news organizations. We are committed to making sure that the *Timberjay* will continue to provide that service.



Letters from Readers

Let's do our part to protect democracy

I'm a political geek who loves the act of voting at my local polling place, in person, in every local, state and federal election. I've never missed one, ever. In fact, I'm such a geek that the longer I've had to stand in line, the happier I am because I see my fellow Americans taking advantage of our freedom. My first opportunity to vote was in turbulent 1968. Then my son and I voted together in his first election in 1988. We went late in the evening shortly before the polls closed. In those days, results were announced early based on exit polls so we knew before voting who had won. We didn't go home rationalizing that our votes wouldn't matter. We stayed to honor our privilege to be informed voters who never take it lightly.

On Memorial Day we remember those who fought and died for our freedom and on Election Day we remember those who fought for our right to vote regardless of our race, gender or economic status. Women of my age remember that it was women of our mother's generation who fought hard to ensure that we have the right to stand in line at our polling place. Yet in 2016, only 61.4 percent of Americans voted. In Minnesota, the percentage was highest in the nation at 74.7 percent, one of many reasons to be proud of our state.

This year I'm taking advantage of Minnesota's process that allows for the choice to vote by mail for any reason. I'm going to hope for the conditions to exist that will allow me to show up in person on Aug. 11 for the Primary Election and Nov. 3 for the General Election, but I'm not taking any chances with my health or the health of my neighbors and our poll workers this year. I've applied for my absentee ballot for the first time.

It's easy to apply for a ballot and it can be requested now. You can go to mnvotes.org to request the application online and learn about the entire process. In Ely, you can

also pick up an application for your ballot with instructions at Northland Market and Zup's, by the entry doors. The library will provide an application for you if you request it when you pick up books. They are also available at the City Clerk's office.

In these days of hyper-partisanship I believe that one of the basic truths on which we can all agree is that when we enjoy the freedom to take part in the process of electing a representative democracy, it's our duty as citizens to participate in that process. However you cast your vote, I hope it's done from a position of thoughtful consideration and knowledge of the candidates and issues. Let's all do our duty and vote and let's do it in good health.

Linda Sutton
Ely

PolyMet/Glencore taking steps to avoid accountability

This letter is in response to Marshall Helmlinger's *Timberjay* article on the U.S. Supreme Court's 6 to 3 majority ruling that discharging pollutants into the ground may be subjected to regulations under the Clean Water Act.

At times one million gallons of wastewater a day seeped into the Ely Pioneer Mine, according to the historical plaque at the mine site. (Miners wore raincoats.) It is impossible to contain or control all of the water infiltration into a mine. Wastewater in a copper mine is exposed to sulfide ore and can drain out of the mine as a toxic secretion of sulfuric acid. The polluted water can flow through cracks, crevices and fissures in any direction and unpredictable distances regardless of the aboveground contours or watersheds.

This is a water-rich environment. Water is abundant and PolyMet recognizes that water will penetrate into its proposed mining operation. As much as 10 percent or more annually will be uncontrollable and will continuously leach and accumulate into one or more of the 10,000 lakes,

aquifers or rivers in Minnesota.

The toxicity of the mine's water discharge can cause irreparable environmental degradation and very serious debilitating human problems. Minnesota taxpayers will pay the monetary restitution, not PolyMet. PolyMet has financially insulated itself against any enforcement of their violations of the laws and regulations including discharge of pollutants.

In the case of the PolyMet mining operation, the company is a thinly capitalized Canadian corporation with minimal tangible assets and is controlled by Glencore Xstrada. They will operate leased equipment that cannot be used as collateral.

Glencore is registered in Jersey, a small island off the coast of France. The legal barricade is stated in Glencore's initial public offering: "Substantially all of the Company's assets and the majority of assets of its Directors and officers are located outside the U.S. As result, it may not be possible for U.S. investors to effect service of process (legal claims) within the U.S. upon the Company or its Directors or officers located outside of the United States." Furthermore, "the signed plans and promises by PolyMet in SDEIS are by surrogate, lacking the wherewithal to assure total future compliance and implementation of its assertions."

People who take solace in U.S. laws and regulations and financial assurance as safeguards from illegal labor practices and environmental infractions, may not realize the constraints and limitations of enforcement of any of PolyMet's unlawful actions.

How can our government encourage exploitation of our natural resources by a foreign corporation that deliberately seeks to evade major and normal corporate responsibilities?

Gerry Snyder
Ely

Where the North Country Sounds Off!

Still living close to the changing land

These days, I'll suddenly pause in the middle of something and think, "Wow, 67 years old. I'm gettin' up there!" Sometimes, it's when I'm doing something strenuous. I'll let out a little "Ouch!" and wonder if it's a warning sign to slow down, lighten my load and take two trips instead of one. After all, I'm not thirty anymore!



KATHLEEN
MCQUILLAN

Another thought on the passing of time, "Wow! I've lived on this same piece of land for nearly forty years." I've begun to realize lately that this relatively tiny speck of "real estate" on this extraordinary planet is changing right along with me. We're growing older together — I and the

land, with its forests, fields and flowing waters. Let me try to

paint a picture.

Over the years, when meeting someone for the first time, I'll inevitably be asked, "Where do you live?" I typically answer, "Linden Grove," believing that my township is an adequate reply knowing how little it reveals about me. I've always thought of this place as "a small island nestled in the middle of a giant spruce swamp." Not very inviting I know, since it conjures images of swarms of mosquitoes and perpetually wet feet. But for me, it's home! It hasn't a dramatic beauty, like the

Canadian Rockies or the north shore of Lake Superior, but it has an allure. After four decades I've discovered that much of the appeal lies in its private, quiet, subtle beauty. Not a "tourist destination," but my home.

Let me start with the "island" part. Much of Linden Grove's landscape is dominated by a vast undisturbed black spruce forest. That's because it's situated at the extreme southeastern border of the Glacial Lake Agassiz Plain, created by massive advancing and retreating sheets of ice formed in stages over a period

lasting well over two million years. Melting was finally complete about 10,000 years ago, leaving this region scraped of its natural topsoil, along with much of its relief. Linden Grove is not noted for rolling hills. Whenever I refer to myself as a "flatlander" I usually get a chuckle, but it's true. In 1972, when John and his buddies first laid eyes on this 40-acre parcel, they discovered an old-timey gypo cabin with a unnamed creek a short hike away flowing between two steep,

See **LAND...** pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Time to take public health seriously

Northland Market deserves a special thank you for their dedication to their workers and customers.

Their employees wear masks. They post cautions about social distancing. They have installed Plexiglas to protect their check-out persons.

We all know these protections are not one hundred percent fool-proof, but they help at a time when those workers are so critical to the essential services we all need.

There are some basic facts we can all agree on no matter what our politics: no one likes wearing a mask, we want our lives back, we want to be able to be out and about in public, and we want the economy up and running as soon as possible.

In the interest of getting back to business as soon as possible, though, I would urge everyone to don the mask in public places. You're not doing it for yourself, you're doing it for the workers who wait on you, for your family and friends, and for your fellow citizens.

I would also urge other businesses to follow Northland Market's example. Your workers and customers are important to your business. Please do everything you can to protect them.

Some individuals tout the statistics on traffic deaths and the flu as a way to say people die all the time and we are over-reacting. But, 40,000 traffic deaths and 61,000 flu deaths over twelve months are vastly different from 100,000 COVID deaths in two and a half months. In the highest flu death week in recent memory, there were 1,600 deaths. In the highest week of COVID deaths, there were 20,000.

Please, take this seriously and do everything you can to protect yourself and those around you. The more we do to stem the tide of this pandemic, the quicker we can get back to business as usual.

Kay Vandervort
Ely

LAND...Continued from page 4

wooded banks. That triggered their resounding, "Yes!" John's been here ever since.

Three creeks surround our "island". Their main source of water is the accumulated snowmelt or rainfall that seeps in from these miles of wetlands. I've witnessed the power of its springtime flowage. These headwaters continually move downstream, widening our once narrow Plum Creek, merging with the Little Fork River a quarter-mile through the woods, gaining volume as these waters travel on to join the Rainy River, fed by its many tributaries, continuing north to Lake Winnipeg and ultimately, feeding into Hudson Bay. Nothing short of awesome!

The island grows and shrinks with the forces of nature. It was once farmed, but Linden Grove is not Field Township, located just east of us at a slightly higher

SCHOOLS...Continued from page 3

Erie said as many as 130 different devices were distributed to Ely students this spring as distance learning was initiated.

"We don't know what our schools will look like in the fall. We need to be prepared so that students are on that level playing field when we resume school in whatever form that may be," he said. "We are hoping it will be (back) to the traditional form, but we need to be prepared in case it isn't," he said.

Erie said he was impressed with the level that teachers and staffed have embraced the dis-

stance-learning model, and funding is available through the federal CARES Act to help improve that technology.

"Another bill, in the state legislature, would have provided additional funds related to broadband going to our schools, but we are hoping that is realized through a special session," he said.

He also noted that the federal Department of Education has recognized that many schools are struggling with technology needs and are allowing fund balance transfers typically assigned to other

The harassment needs to end

Great editorial Marshall. I plan to ask Fort Knox for a 'request for public information'. I want to know how much of our money has been spent (wasted) on attorney's fees by Carmen DeLuca and Mike Ralston to bully, harass, and intimidate the clerk.

Do they not realize that Sue is their equal? She is an elected official, not their employee. This ridiculousness is about power and control over a woman. She received more votes than either of them ever has. The cameras are surveillance cameras and have nothing to do with security. A security system would have a keypad to enter the building, and disarm the system, and it would be armed again when the worker(s) leave. There would also be a panic button or two, monitored by a security service that contacts the police.

Mike Ralston's fairy tale about worker safety is ridiculous. If anyone were attacked on the job, no one would come to their aid. The cameras would not be running 24/7 to spy on Sue or Pam. This is an invasion of privacy, and more than a little bit creepy. Rather like having a peeping Tom. I admire Sue's ability to put up with their nonsense. Many of us wouldn't. It would be great if those who support privacy and oppose bullying would contact the board members and express your dissatisfaction with their draconian actions.

Barbara Lofquist
Lake Vermilion, Tower

Greenwood board ought to reconsider

Greenwood Township once again is using its statutory exemption to keep information from the public. As the *Timberjay* describes, the exemption was written into law to protect small townships with limited resources from complying. It has become clear that some townships, like Greenwood, simply use this

exemption as a defiance of the Minnesota Data Practices Act. The township attorney, when first hired, had a list of recommendations to the Town Board, one of which was to stay out of the newspaper. With passage of these ordinances they have done just the opposite and drawn the attention of Mark Anfinson, counsel for the Minnesota Newspaper Association and specialist in First Amendment and information law. Anfinson has been involved in dozens and dozens of information law cases including the Data Practices Act, and questions the legality of the Greenwood Ordinance. It would be wise if the town board rescinded these ordinances before they become challenged and all townships pay the price for Greenwood's overreach.

The board has continually attempted to intimidate and harass the clerk. Most recently, they installed surveillance cameras to watch her at work, they attempted to restrict citizens from her office, placed an option on the ballot to eliminate her position as elected, and now threaten her with fines and imprisonment. Marshall and Jodi, your opinion and article are spot on but it will cost you. I don't think the *Timberjay* will be the newspaper of record in Greenwood anytime soon.

John Bassing
Greenwood Twp

NC Trail needs your help on routing

As you may know, Congress made the North Country National Scenic Trail's "Arrowhead Re-route" official back in March of 2019. The North Country Trail Association has been making progress on identifying parts of the future NCT route in the "Big Gap" area near Grand Rapids and Ely where they have volunteers. They're also starting to think about the route in a couple of other places where they don't have many volunteers or ideas. Two of those areas are in between Grand Rapids and McCarthy Beach State Park and the other is in-between

the Laurentian and Kawishiwi Districts of the Superior National Forest (centered on Tower).

The North Country Trail Association is working with ARDC Planning on collecting routing ideas and we have created an online map for people to share their ideas for places for the NCT to visit and also places to avoid. Interested community members can learn more at the ARDC project website at <https://ardeplanning.org/nct/>. This is an opportunity for people who live, work, and/or recreate in these areas to help route a National Scenic Trail (there are only 11 in the country) and we're using new tools (virtual meetings and the online map submission) during this time when we can't hold the traditional public meeting with maps spread out over tables. We are also working with people who may not be able to access those online tools

Josh Bergstad, AICP
ARDC Planning, ARDC

Help conserve our county's soil and water

This November, voters in northern St. Louis County will head to the polls to elect, among other positions, Board Supervisors for the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). If you live in one of the nomination districts up for election, and are interested in being involved with local water quality and natural resource issues, I encourage you to consider running for Board Supervisor. Individuals can file with the county auditor from May 19 through June 2.

Positions on this year's ballot will include those representing Nomination Districts 2, 4 and 5.

► Nomination District 2: Cook to Ely and Embarrass to Crane Lake

► Nomination District 4: Mt. Iron to Lavell and McDavitt townships.

► Nomination District 5: Virginia to Bassett Township and south to Ellsburg Township.

As chair of the North St. Louis SWCD, I can attest to how

rewarding it is to serve on the SWCD board of supervisors. We play an important role in addressing a wide variety of resource management issues aimed at protecting and improving water quality, properly managing wetlands, and preventing soil erosion. Our SWCD employees work with landowners and other units of government, in both rural and urban settings, to provide financial and technical assistance for these efforts.

SWCDs are local units of government, and Supervisors are elected to four-year terms. Our terms are staggered so either two or three Supervisors are up for election each two years. We hold monthly business meetings (currently the 2nd Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.) and also attend various conferences throughout the year. While we are not paid a salary, we do receive \$75 compensation for attending meetings and we are reimbursed for expenses.

The mission of the North Saint Louis Soil and Water Conservation District is to encourage sustainable use of our natural resources by engaging people in soil and water conservation in northern Saint Louis County. Its three goals are to provide services, spread the message and strengthen capacity.

Learn more about SWCD elections and the work of the SWCD by visiting our website at www.nslswcd.org or calling our office at 218-749-2000.

Peggy Pearson
Board Chair
North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District

Thanks for the marigolds

Thanks to Marshall Helmberger for his informative article on marsh marigolds. I always knew them as cowslips and the marshes and ditches are full of them now. Have you ever heard "The Cow Pasture Polka?"

Mary Smilanich Batinich
Soudan and Lake Vermilion

elevation, requiring less ditching to grow crops. Field's farms are broken by fewer patches of lowland too wet to till and woods relentlessly reclaiming cultivated land to make "wild" again. When we first arrived, we tried to bring back some of our abandoned fields but we soon learned that we lacked the same kind of sisu needed by the original homesteaders who first broke ground here in 1903. Consequently, these gumbo clay fields are now covered with twenty years of regrowth, mostly native species like spruce, aspen, and willow brush. Looking east from our front window, spring is a sight to behold blanketed by soft-green leaves barely the size of mouse ears, the blush of red osier, milky-colored catkins and glorious early morning sunrises. But with time, we know this much loved vista will be no more, exchanged for a gradually

maturing forest.

Its wildness has been one of the most cherished aspects of this place. Until recently, John and I were the only residents on this two-mile gravel road. An ancient black spruce bog stretches untouched for five miles south and west of us. Although rare, one can spot small popple islands, somehow able to support a few large pines, rising up from the swamp. Some especially brave, or desperate, homesteaders actually punched trails through the muskeg to try to farm these tiny tracts. Those trails can still be spotted one hundred years later. I often imagine the toil required back then to make a life in this harsh environment. Truly admirable!

The remote seclusion of this place had allowed an abundance of wildlife. Fewer humans gave animals room to flourish. In earlier years, sightings of bear,

bobcats, fisher, pine marten and wolves were common, not to mention a vast array of resident and migratory birds. Paradise!

But more recently, things have changed. The arrival in the 1980s of the Potlatch plant south of Cook played a part. The increased demand for pulpwood created a near twenty-year logging boom. More and more pulpwood — mostly aspen, balsam, and black spruce — was required to meet the needs of ox-board plants and paper mills. And production of larger equipment significantly increased the speed at which the wood could be cut and the rate of disruption to key habitat.

Another source of pressure on the land has been ever-increasing human activity. Hunting shacks have sprung up all around us. The sounds of firearm enthusiasts target practicing is now a regular weekend occurrence,

disturbing the peace. It seems like we've become a "destination spot," also contributing to a notable decline in the diversity and abundance of wildlife. And then there are the effects of climate change. Despite debate over the specific causes and their degree of impact, these noticeable changes are now undeniable. Sightings we once took for granted are no longer.

With every change, one can apply a "cost-benefit analysis." For example, it's obvious there is no shortage of deer. Certainly great for hunters! And if you love berry-picking, massive clearcuts can render extraordinary yields! But then there are the beaver, "a whole 'nother subject!" One which I'll happily go into in my next column. Until then, please be safe, and stay tuned.

upgrades," he said. "We are also looking at what (educational) platforms we would use."

Other business

In other business, the board:

► Heard from administrators on the master school schedule and learned that plans for a seven-period school day and early dismissal are on hold due to the unknowns surrounding COVID-19 and distance learning considerations.

► Hired Nathan LaFond for the full-time Memorial School science teaching position.

► Hired current Ely elementary teacher Kaley Hotaling to the part-time high school teaching position.

► Adjusted the con-

tract for middle school teacher Brenda Check-Olson from a full-time to a part-time position.

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TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY

TS Elementary graduation, pandemic-style...



Clockwise from top: Staff waves as families drive by the school on May 20. Hannah Reichensperger cheers on the students with help from the school mascot. Sixth-grade teacher Scott Chiabotti hands a diploma to Chloe Adkisson. Gwen Lilya cheers on the students from across the street. LR teacher Mary Larson congratulates her young students. The Villebrun boys enjoy the ice cream sandwiches that were being handed out. Learning Readiness student Ayva Anderson had a sign to thank her teachers. Sixth-grader Bobby Schwarz. Sixth-grader Elsie Larson and her youngest brother, Eddie, a Learning Readiness graduate.



photos by J. Summit



Tower Cemetery Association

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN.
Thank you to ALL who donate.
We still need your support and the support of others.

Checks are to be made out to:
Tower Cemetery Association
PO Box 874, Tower, MN 55790

Thank you,
The Tower Cemetery Board



Read us online at
www.timberjay.com

FUN ON MAIN STREET

Week of June 1

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 June 16.

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

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

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

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

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



JUST horsin' around



TOWER- Diane Childs, along with 20-year-old Diego, and Donna and Julie Rahkola with 19-year-old mini-horse Eclipse and mini-stallion Sully, brought some smiles to faces in Tower last Friday. The three woman said they just wanted to make people happy.

The horses first visited outside the windows at Vermilion Senior Living, which delighted the residents, and then toured up and down Main Street. No horse treats were available at the drive-through at the credit union when they tried to make a deposit, and the Sulu's window was closed for the day, so no oatmeal cookies. The horses did make a few deposits of their own, but when they were done, all those "deposits" were cleaned up!

photos by J. Summit

Old Settlers Reunion canceled

BREITUNG TWP- This year's Old Settler's Reunion and Picnic in July has been canceled.

"As far as we know, this is the first time in our over 100-year history that the picnic has been canceled," said committee chair Kathy Hoppa.

Hoppa said the same safety concerns over COVID-19 that have caused the cancellation of almost every other large gathering this spring and summer are the reason for the decision. In addition, the attendees at Old Settlers are mostly senior citizens, a high-risk group for the virus.

The Old Settlers Reunion and Picnic is an annual event featuring a meat and vegetable booyah stew, cooked outdoors in huge iron pots that date back to the early mining days in Soudan. The event



is always held at McKinley Park Settlers is open to any born or living on the Vermilion Iron Range.



the TIMBERJAY

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Publisher General Manager Cook-Orr Editor Ely Editor Staff Writer Office Manager Graphics/Ad Sales Ad Sales/Sports Ad Sales	Marshall Helmberger Jodi Summit David Colburn Keith Vandervort Stephanie Ukkola M. M. White Scarlet Lynn Stone Jay Greeney Bill Stone
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BREITUNG POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls: 99
Citations/formal charges/arrests: 3
Monthly mileage: 1,228 (Tahoe: 902, Explorer: 326)
Squads: Current end of the month mileage for the Gold 2012 Chevy Tahoe (Tower) is 94,793. Current end of the month mileage for the 2017 Ford Explorer is 27,453.
Additional shifts: The Breit-



April Police Report

Breitung Police Chief Dan Nylund

ung Police did not work any extra shirts in April.
Training: none
Misc: The department has

been checking with the CDC for COVID-19 updates.

Citations/formal charges/arrests:
1 domestic assault – jailed
1 no proof of insurance – citation
1 no drivers license in possession – citation

Transfer station

Soudan Canister

Expanded hours year-round
Monday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wed. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
For info: 1-800-450-9278

Hwy. 77 Canister

Summer Hours through Sept. 30
Tuesday 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Thursday 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Recycling canisters available at the canister site when open.
For info: 1-800-450-9278

Immanuel offers drive-in worship for Pentecost and summer

FIELD TWP- Pentecost is this Sunday, May 31 and Immanuel Lutheran, together with Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook, will be holding drive-in worship at the North Woods School Parking lot. Everyone will stay in their vehicles and tune in to a radio station. There will be Holy Communion, but attendees are asked to bring elements from home (crackers/bread and juice). The service starts at 10 a.m. Come a little early to get parked and tuned in!

Immanuel of Tower will also be offering drive-in worship services once a month during the summer. Time and location are yet to be determined so stay tuned for more information.

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City of Orr, City of Tower, Townships of Bearville, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, Crane Lake, ISD 707.

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

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.

Want to run for office in Ely?

ELY – The candidacy filing period closes at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2. The two-year term of mayor and three seats on the city council, for four-year terms, are open for the Nov. 3 election. A primary, if needed, will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 11.

Mayor Chuck Novak has filed for re-election. Three seats on the council, occupied by Paul Kess, Jerome Debeltz and Ryan Callen, are also up for re-election this year.

The cost for filing is \$5.

Forms are available at the City Clerk's office at City Hall, 209 E. Chapman St., and on the city's website, www.ely.mn.us. For more information, email deputyclerk@ely.mn.us or call 218-365-3224.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



feels like summer's here
ice is gone, planting gardens
waiting for big rains

ELY SCHOOL DISTRICT

From the Superintendent's desk

This has certainly been a school year unlike no other for our Ely School faculty, staff, students, their families and our community. The Distance Learning model of delivering education has been a significant change for all of us, presenting many challenges. I would like to thank students and their families for all they have done to make Distance Learning work in their homes.

While we have been navigating Distance Learning, our Ely School District has also been looking into the future on how to provide a 21st Century Learning environment for our students and community. On May 11, our Ely School Board decided to move forward with a \$10 million bond referendum to raise funds that can help address the needs of our aging buildings, connect our buildings for safety and security, and provide new flexible learning spaces for 21st Century Learning. Election day for the referendum is Tuesday, Aug. 11, and absentee balloting starts as early as June 26.

►How did we get to this point? In September of 2018, former Superintendent Kevin Abrahamson secured a School Safety Grant of \$495,000 from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). Plans were developed to join the buildings with a \$1.9 million Linkways system, basi-

cally a secure entrance with hallways between buildings and not much else. A community-based task force was formed to help identify additional needs and propose solutions. Then a community survey was conducted in the fall of 2019 which indicated the community would support addressing the needs identified, up to a figure of \$11 million. Knowing that the needs identified by the task force exceeded this dollar figure, the District applied to Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation (IRRR) in hopes of securing more funding. With help from many people and the support of our local legislators, the District was awarded a \$7 million grant from the IRRR. The District committed \$500,000 from their general fund balance as well as \$1.6 million from Long Term Maintenance Funds (LTFM) to bring the total funding for the project up to \$19.65 million.

►Why hold a referendum now? With the changes we are experiencing in our economy due to COVID-19, it may seem like waiting to pursue a referendum would make sense. That is an understandable position. On the other hand there are a number of good reasons why moving forward with a referendum now is a course of action the Ely School District should follow. One reason for moving forward now is that the grants that have been secured from IRRR and

MDE will sunset and they are dependent on additional funding from the District and the community. The \$7 million commitment from the IRRR is contingent on passing a \$10 million referendum by Dec. 31 of this year. We either take the opportunity to use it or we may lose it. Another reason to move ahead is that the challenges we are experiencing now with our buildings will not go away. The roofs, windows, plumbing, electrical, and heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) systems all need significant attention while our students continue to have to go between buildings in all kinds of weather, exposed not only to the elements, but to anyone who might venture onto our school campus. The safety and security of our students is something we can not ignore.

The way the funding for the building project is structured, local homeowners, businesses, and timber land owners would get \$19.65 million in improvements for \$8 million. At this time next year a building project of nearly \$20 million could be pumping up the local Ely economy, a stimulus package that could help the community.-

►Are other school referendums being held elsewhere at this time? Yes. Roseau Community Schools just passed a \$40 million referendum on May 12. Mora, Benson, Bertha-Hewitt have also passed

construction-related referendums in April and May.

►Where can I get more information? The Ely School District has created an informational brochure that will be mailed out to all District residents very soon. In the meantime, you can view the information on our District website: <https://www.ely.k12.mn.us/> or visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ely.k12.mn.us/>

If you contact the District Office at 218-365-6166 and leave a message, an informational brochure can be sent to you via email or one can be mailed out to you.

You can also contact me for more information by calling 218-365-1725 (school) or 218-750-4564 (cellular). My email address is eerie@ely.k12.mn.us.

►Congratulations to the Ely Memorial High School Class of 2020. A unique Commencement Ceremony is being held May 30 at 7 p.m. As only graduates and their families are able to attend due to social distancing guidelines from MDE, we ask you to tune in to WELY and observe the parade of graduates after the ceremony as they move down Harvey Street and loop around to Sheridan to be recognized by their community.

*Superintendent
Erik Erie*



the TIMBERJAY

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Staff Writer	Stephanie Ukkola
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OUR COMMUNITY



Ely Memorial High School graduating senior Sara Isbell received a \$250 scholarship from Ely Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2717. She collected her award last week on the steps of Memorial High School from Tony Rechichi, left, incoming Post 2717 commander, and Mike Pope, right, outgoing Post 2717 commander. Isbell is planning to attend Gustavus Adolphus College in the fall and study nursing. photo by K. Vandervort

Fire departments partner for mask drive

ELY - St. Louis County and area fire departments are partnering to collect cloth mask donations on an ongoing basis. The masks will be donated for use at congregate living settings throughout the county, where they remain a high need.

Masks can be dropped off any time at the Ely Fire Department, 209 E. Chapman St., and fire halls in Duluth, Grand Lake Township, Hermantown, Hibbing, Lakewood Township, Proctor and Virginia.

St. Louis County staff will then collect the masks and coordinate delivery to long-term care facilities.

Ely taxi service out of gas

ELY – The only taxi service in town, A-2-B Taxi, has closed for good.

According to the company's announcement this week on Facebook, the business closed temporarily this spring due to health concerns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Due to being self-employed, the owners said they did not qualify for unemployment benefits and had to seek employment elsewhere.

NLAA presents Arts Road Show

ELY – The Northern Lakes Arts Association has put out a call for Ely artists of all skill levels, professional, amateur, or budding, and all ages and mediums, to participate in a community event next month to display works of art on the lawn, front porches, fence, trees, clotheslines, in back of a pickup, on the car, on lawn chairs, etc. for others to enjoy.

The unique art show is a community-building event during shelter-in-place recommendations due to the coronavirus pandemic.

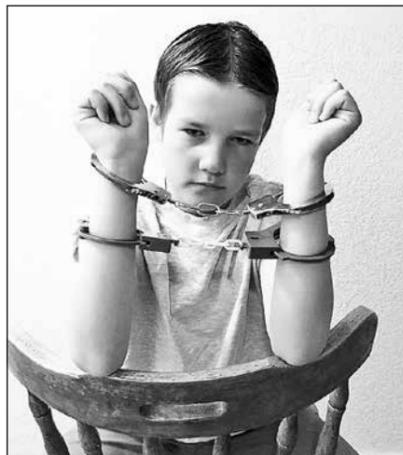
Be creative and think outside the box. Kids can paint a scene or build a fort out of cardboard, or use an old tablecloth as a canvas. The sky is the limit.

Register an art display by Saturday, May 30 at contact@northernlakesart.org, and let the art speak for itself to residents and visitors on Saturday and Sunday, June 6-7.

NLAA promotes viewing from cars, motorcycles, bicycles and on foot. Social distancing is required. The arts organization will create a map of participating artists on their website NLAA.org and Facebook page.

Subscribe: 218-753-2950

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Fourth-grade wax museum



The Ely Washington Elementary School fourth-grade class conducted their wax museum project this spring despite the distance learning protocols in place because of the coronavirus pandemic. Teachers John Meyer and Nancy Preblich had their students submit their reports on their favorite famous person in history, and rather than the traditional event in the school library, students submitted their selfies. Mrs. Preblich's class is featured this week and Mr. Meyer's class will be featured next week. Top row from left, Bela Moskowitz as Annie Oakley, Audrey Engan as Helen Keller, Blake Houde as Harry Houdini, Elle Marshall as Malala. Above, from left, Charlee Nielsen as Queen Elizabeth, Emmett Boes as Abraham Lincoln, Violet Udovich as Maria Tallchief, Naomi Archer as Sacajawea.



From left, Sovia Meyer as Mary Jackson, Stella Koivisto as Frida Kahlo, Jace Myers as John F. Kennedy, Kyle Zobits as Harriet Tubman.

SUPPORTING THE ARTS

Ely dancers celebrate end of season with virtual performances

ELY - Due to the coronavirus pandemic Studio North was forced to cancel their live dance shows this spring, but a virtual dance event was held online.

"While the dancers didn't perform at Washington Auditorium as in past years, that does not mean they worked any less throughout their season," Nicole Boitz said. "We held a virtual recital tribute to honor and recognize their efforts."

This season Studio North celebrated LIFE, LOVE & DANCE! Dancers from ages three through 90 practiced from September through May. "Great music, beautiful costumes and amazing talent entertained viewers as we celebrated virtually. While this is not how we planned to wrap up our season, we

kept on dancing. We finished our last few weeks practicing through online classes. We worked out, we danced, we had fun, we made memories and we pushed through it. We are so proud of all of the dancers. This is definitely a season we will never forget," she said.

Kess wins INSPIRE award

A special recognition award was put into place for Studio North dancers in 2016. Young dancer Bella Davis was battling Ewing's Sarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer, and was unable to dance that season as she was going through treatments.

"She has been back dancing her heart out for the past four years," Boitz said. "The inspiration we received from Bella was the spark that put

it all into place, and the Bella Davis 'INSPIRE' award was born."

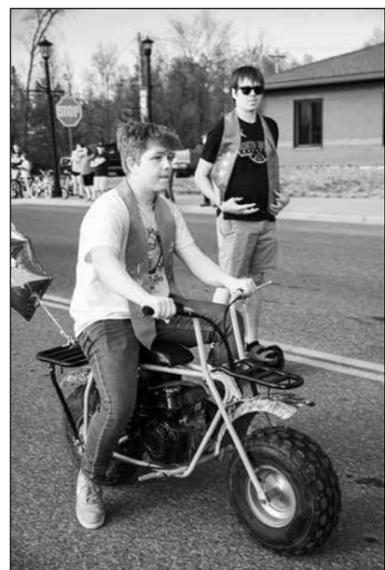
Every year, one Studio North dancer is honored with this award. This dancer is someone who is an inspiration to others on and off the dance floor.

- Past Recipients:
- 2016 - Emma Larson
- 2017 - Madelyne Roderick
- 2018 - Jaicee Krings
- 2019 - Charlie Carlson

"INSPIRE stands for Incredible, Nice, Sweet, Passionate, Impressive, Respectable, Exceptional," she said. "We are proud to name Senja Kess as the 2020 recipient of the INSPIRE Award You are an inspiration to all those around you. Congratulations!"



Grizzlies seniors feted with downtown parade



The North Woods Class of 2020 gathered last Thursday on foot, on motorcycles, on horses, in cars and trucks, and even a tractor to celebrate their upcoming graduation with well-wishers who lined River St. in Cook to cheer them on.

Pictured clockwise from top left:

1. Savannah and Sophie carrying the banner at the start of the parade.

2. Kennedy Wardas rides her horse.

3. Amber Scofield wears a big grin.

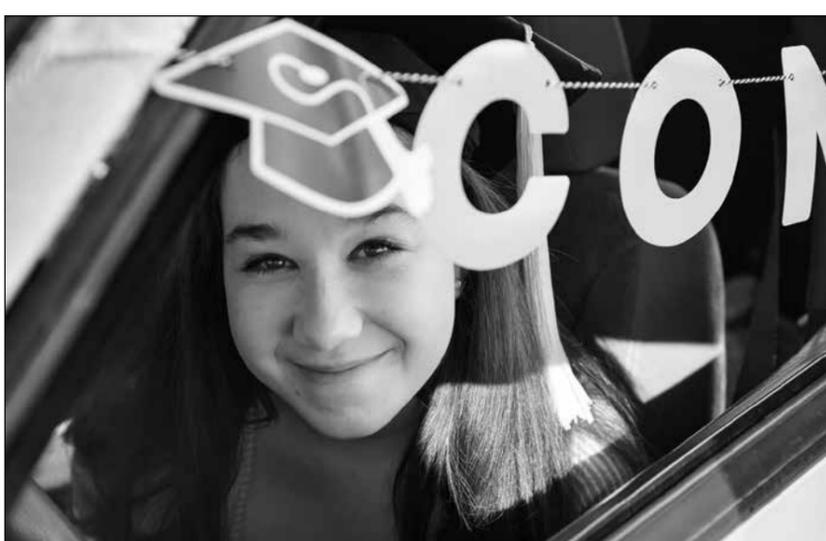
4. A vehicle decorated with seniors' names.

5. Luke Gabrielson's pick-up truck is decorated with a classic graduation sentiment.

6. Denis Parson holding a sign for daughter Kylie.

7. Morgan Malecha gives a thumbs-up to the crowd.

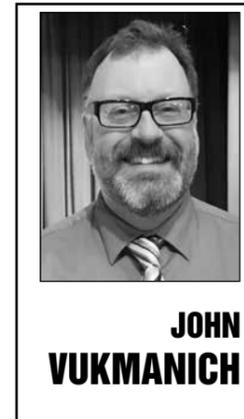
8. Jerome King waits to roll on down the parade route.



photos by C. Stone



North Woods principal wraps up the school year



JOHN VUKMANICH

FIELD TWP- It has been a while since I have written an article, as it was challenging to write about school with school not being in session. But with the end of the school year in sight, I wanted to write one more column for closure.

I know that I speak for many when I say that the events of the last couple months have brought with them a collection of many emotions. When beginning teachers enter the profession, they have an "emotion curve." It's real, and you can look it

up online. When teachers first start out, they are feeling excitement, fear, and anxiety. This stage is called "anticipation." Once they get to the second or third month of school, many find themselves struggling with classroom behavior, dealing with parents, keeping up with grading and other responsibilities. This stage is called "survival." They move on to stages of disillusionment, rejuvenation, reflection, and as the year comes to a close, back to anticipation.

My emotion curve regarding the current situation of quarantine, panic, and uncertainty, positivity, frustration, hope, and disillusionment as well. Educators function best when we are among our kids, and we know we can have a positive influence when our kids are here in the building. We can see them and see their emotions, and then act to help them. Distance

learning has taken much of that away.

Now that the school year is coming to an end, we are focusing on moving on to summer to recharge, but we'll also be reflecting on what we did well and what we could have done better. We surveyed our families and received a great deal of feedback, some negative, but overall positive. Some families made very poignant suggestions, and if we had to do this all over again, which we hope we don't, there are some things we could do differently. We have never done this pandemic thing before. We want our families to know that we want to make this work for them, and that involves being flexible, as families' perceptions of how school should look vary widely.

Wrapping up, the biggest event on my mind is graduation. The rules put in place by the state make it impossible to have a traditional ceremony

inside, so North Woods will be having a ceremony outside in our parking lot. All seniors and families will arrive by vehicle. Seniors will be transported one graduate at a time up front to a portable stage, cross the stage to receive their diploma, and then be transported back to their personal parking spot. Senior officers will address the crowd in a mix of live and pre-recorded speeches. There will be music and decorations. The ceremony will be live streamed on YouTube and also broadcast live on our local radio station, KBFT 89.9 out of Nett Lake. Professional pictures will be taken, and our Senior Class of 2020 will be celebrated just as they would be at any other graduation ceremony. It will just be a little different. In the event of inclement weather, we will move the diploma ceremony inside but keep with the "one graduate at a time" theme. We are praying for

decent weather.

Our cafeteria ladies have been busy making meals every day for families. Our bus drivers and paras deliver twice a week. Paras are cleaning and organizing. Teachers are still here planning. Janitors are cleaning. We have daycare for our essential workers' children. Our team of secretaries have become organizers for a transportation and logistics company! We have had teachers do drive-up class visits, Zoom meetings, and virtual picnics. We had a parade for elementary kids, and Cook had a parade for graduates. Students have done math and reading 100 percent on the internet. I have seen wonderful projects for shop classes, thoughtful artwork and poetry, and science taking place outside in nature. Kids are baking, biking, exercising, and fishing. I even saw a student project that involved making a kayak trailer for his mountain

bike! Students are working more hours at jobs, and hopefully some other life-lessons are a part of their education. Local businesses have signs out supporting our seniors. We filmed a virtual scholarship awards ceremony, complete with a bloopers reel. Many of us have spent 20 hours a week minimum looking at a screen. It's been hard, but it is going to get better.

As we say goodbye to our seniors, the evening should and will be about 50 high school seniors moving on to the next stage of their lives in a changed world. I will give them only one message that focuses on the pandemic that we are all still working through, and that is about how this has altered our perspective.

All of us at North Woods School pass along our best wishes to our North Woods graduates, and to all area graduates. I only wish that we could have said goodbye in a more personal fashion.

Thrift stores in Cook and Orr welcome customers

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Happy smiles were seen inside the Orr Center Thrift Store on Saturday, but there were none on display that morning at the Cook Area Healthcare Auxiliary Thrift Shop in Cook.

That's because the stores, which both reopened last week, are approaching COVID-19 precautions a bit differently.

There's little doubt shoppers were smiling at the Cook shop, but they were concealed underneath protective masks that are being required for all shoppers and staff. If someone comes without one they're asked to buy one for \$1 and put it on before shopping.

"So far everyone's been good," Kirsten Reichel said. "They've come in with a mask, they used the hand sanitizer, and they're being cautious about everything."

Opening day on Thursday was a busy day, Reichel said, but it was a bit calmer on Saturday.

"Today it's been a small steady flow," she said. "There haven't been lines to where we have to regulate who comes in."

No items have been in extra demand as shoppers have browsed the aisle for anything that looks appealing, Reichel said. And if they didn't

see something they wanted this time, it may be there the next time, because there's a backlog of donations to go through.

"You can see how much stuff we have backed up to try to get out on the shelves," Reichel said, motioning to a back room stacked high with boxes and bags. "We've had lots of donations and we're anxious to start moving things out here."

Health protocols have been put in place for volunteers, too, but they haven't been deterred from helping.

"If a person doesn't feel comfortable working, that's fine, we respect that," Reichel said, "but so far the volunteers are stepping up and wanting to help out as much as they can." Reichel is particularly happy the store is back open so that they can resume raising money to benefit Cook Hospital.

"That's the one thing we've been struggling with over the past couple of months because we usually donate at least \$60,000 between scholarships and direct donations to the hospital and senior care," Reichel said. "We need to start getting back to our usual donations. We haven't had a request this year from the hospital so far, but we'd like to start building up our coffers so we have enough to start donating back whenever we can."

Orr Center Thrift

Opening day on Friday was "a great day" for customers of Orr Center Thrift Shop, said center director Wendy Purdy.

"They were just happy to be out doing something normal," Purdy said. "Everybody's looking for normal."

Several people were browsing the aisles late Saturday morning, some wearing masks, some not. Purdy said she's leaving it up to customers to decide what they're comfortable with.

"We're offering masks if somebody wants one when they come in," she said. "We have hand sanitizer to use. We're not enforcing any major restrictive rules. People just need to come in and be comfortable. Personal safety is up to you, whatever you want to do."

Asking people to take personal responsibility seems to be working as far as social distancing is concerned.

"Everybody has been kind of staying away from each other," Purdy said. "They're keeping their six-foot distance when they're in here. That's OK."

Orr regulars have probably noticed that the store they're shopping in now doesn't feel the same as it did before, and that's because Purdy and others spent the past two months revamping the operation to get ready to open a sec-



Annakeiah Chavez, left, and Amber Boshey gaze through a window frame that serves as a protective device while they wait along with Aiyeshia Mohamed for Orr Thrift Shop director Wendy Purdy to tally up their purchases on Saturday. photo by D. Colburn

ond thrift shop in the Orr Center.

"We totally tore the store down and re-did it all and got it up and running again," Purdy said. "This store is now basically books, clothing, children's supplies, art supplies, puzzles, games, men's stuff, tools, and sporting goods."

Purdy hopes that a second store located down the hall will be ready to open in two weeks, provided she has the manpower to pull it off.

"It depends on how much help I can get in here and how quickly we can pull it together," she said. "The stuff is all down there; it's just a matter of putting it on shelves and getting it tagged."

The new thrift shop will be stocked with housewares, decorating supplies, antiques, quilts and linens, and furniture.

"We didn't have room in here for furniture before," Purdy said. "We'll be adding what we can get."

Having two stores open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays means Purdy is going to need more help, something she said may be difficult to fully accomplish.

"I'm going to have to have more staff," she said. "We're hoping that's going to work out OK. Because of all this going on it's harder to get staff because the elderly people are a little more afraid to come in and spend time."

Purdy said she could alternate between having one store open at a time if staffing is a challenge. Both would be open on the same day, just at different times.

With enough to fully stock two thrift shops and more in storage, what the Orr Thrift Shop doesn't need right now is donations.

"We're not going to take any until July 1," Purdy said. "We're so overloaded we have cut it off, because I have to deplete what's in the storage room first."

With much work still ahead, Purdy still couldn't conceal her feelings about being open for customers again.

"It's wonderful," she said. "We're excited to be open, YES!"

Orr July 3rd Fun Days canceled

Nighttime fireworks spectacular is still a go for now

ORR- Organizers announced last week that the annual July 3rd Fun Day in Orr has been canceled, bowing to the same fate as other area festivals in the wake of novel coronavirus precautions.

"Everybody was canceling all around us, so we decided we'd go with the flow," Sandy Wardas said. "We weren't sure what the governor was going to come up with as far as the crowds, and

we wanted to keep people safe. Most of the activities are not individual activities. And we weren't sure if we would get any vendors."

Wardas said reaction to the decision has been mixed.

"Some people were frustrated that we were canceling, and other people were OK with it," she said. "I think everybody expected it to happen because surrounding areas

canceled things."

Mayor Joel Astleford was understanding but didn't diminish the impact of the decision.

"They made the call and it was not an easy call for them," he said. "It's going to hit the city pretty hard. That's a big day for us. Everybody bands together, you get so many people from the resorts. It's just a great community event for everybody."

Wardas and Astle-

ford both indicated that the fireworks show scheduled for that evening would likely go ahead, with emphasis on spectators staying safe by practicing social distancing.

"There's only so much you can control," Astleford said. "Things are a little different this year. Hopefully next year we get back to normal, whatever normal will be."

Arts gallery to reopen June 4

COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook will open for summer hours on Thursday, June 4, with reduced capacity and implementing social distancing.

Regular opening hours will be Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Only three customers at a time will be permitted in the gallery, and all are required to wear face coverings. Masks will be

available for those who have none.

The gallery, a showcase for local artists to exhibit works for sale, is located at 210 S River St. in the Dream Weaver Salon complex.

Works created for NWFA's promotion "A Canvas and You" are due June 26. For more information about NWFA, the gallery, and programs go to www.nwfamn.org or email nwfamn.org@gmail.com.

Cook Library will launch summer reading on June 1

COOK- Cook Public Library will launch its adapted summer reading program on June 1, providing three months of varied socially-distanced activities for children, teens and adults to encourage and support a love of reading.

Children can participate in a reading Bingo game, teens can try a blackout grid-style game, and adults are challenged to read books from various genres as some of the activities.

All games are available on the Cook Public Library website or by contacting the Cook Public Library.

The Friends of the Cook Public Library will use monetary reserves to fund small prizes for summer reading participants.

"We've had great support in prior years," said Friends treasur-

er Kristi Sopoci. "This summer we're not asking for funds. We can support Cook Library patrons and our community with our small savings."

Due to COVID-19, there are no planned summer events at the library. Patrons are encouraged to use curbside pickup and online resources until the library is able to open.

"Now more than ever our library is committed to supporting lifelong learning and educational enrichment for all families," said Library Director Crystal Phillips.

Summer reading programs continue through the end of August. To learn more about the summer reading adventures and all library updates, call 218-666-2210 or visit the library's website at www.cookpubliclibrary.org.

CATHOLIC SERVICES Masses resume in Cook and Orr

REGIONAL- St. Mary's Catholic Church of Cook and Holy Cross Catholic Church of Orr are now open to the public for Mass but at 25 percent capacity. Seating reservations for weekend Mass are required. Please visit www.stmmhc.com for a link to sign up and guidelines to follow while attending Mass.

St. Mary's will have Mass at 8 a.m. on Sundays. Tuesday Mass will be at 9 a.m., preceded by Adoration at 8 a.m. Mass on Thursdays will be at

8 a.m. preceded by Adoration at 7 a.m. The first Saturday of each month a traditional Latin Mass will be offered at 9 a.m.

Weekend Mass at Holy Cross will be at 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Mass will be offered at 5:30 p.m. on Thursdays, preceded by Adoration at 4:30 p.m.

Confession will be heard 30 minutes before Mass or by appointment.

Mass days and times are also listed on the website.

NOTICE * CHANGE OF HOURS

Until further notice the
COOK COMMUNITY FOOD SHELF

will only be open from 9 AM to 1 PM
on the third Wednesday of each month.

This change will start on June 17.



the *TIMBERJAY*

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Congratulations Graduates!

Class of 2020



Julianna Schmidt
PSEO Student



Jacob Dorman



Alyssa Pratt



Andrew Sauls
PSEO Student



Danica Starkman



Vermilion Country School held individual drive-by graduation ceremonies at the home of each graduate, complete with music, decorations, and a cake!

The Graduates

Julianna Schmidt (PSEO Student), Jacob Dorman, Alyssa Pratt, Andrew Sauls (PSEO Student) and Danica Starkman

Class Colors: Purple and Gold

Class Song: "Hey Look Ma, I Made It" by Panic At The Disco

Class Motto: "Around here, we don't look backwards for very long... We keep moving forward, opening new doors and doing new things because we're curious, and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths." *Walt Disney*

This ad is sponsored by these fine community businesses:

- Align Builders
- Aronson Boat Works
- Bauman's Funeral Home
- Bob's Service and Towing
- Breitung Township
- D'Erick's Tower Liquors
- Embarrass-Vermillion Federal Credit Union
- Fortune Bay Resort Casino
- Frandsen Bank-Tower

- Glenmore Resort
- Good Ol' Days
- Gruben's Marina
- J & P Auto
- Lake Vermilion Cultural Center
- Lamppa Manufacturing
- Nordic Home North
- Marjo Motel
- Northwoods True Value
- Red Rock Mini-Storage

- Rolando Noyes Construction
- Soudan Store/Vermilion Fuel & Food
- Tech Electric
- The Timberjay
- Tower-Soudan Agency
- Vermilion Park Inn
- UBetcha Antiques & Uniques
- Vermilion Mini-Storage/IBI Construction
- Vermilion Senior Living
- Zup's Grocery- Tower

COVID-19

How to slow the spread of the coronavirus

Learn about COVID-19, how it spreads, its symptoms, testing, when to see a doctor, and more. <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/basics.html>.

Stay home as much as possible, stay at least six feet from other people if you are in public, and avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, use a hand

sanitizer that contains at least 60percent alcohol.

Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw used tissues in the trash. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your arm or elbow.

If you are 65 and older or have certain underlying medical conditions, stay at home and avoid situations where you could be exposed, including travel.

Minnesotans who can work from home should continue to do so during the Stay at Home order.

When to wear mask

The federal government has issued some new guidance on the use of cloth face coverings to help slow the spread of COVID-19. CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies).

Here are a few important things to keep in mind:

Masks or cloth face coverings can help with preventing your germs from infecting others – especially in situations

where you may spread the virus without symptoms.

Wearing a mask **does not** protect you from others who may spread the virus. So, whether or not you wear a mask, you still need to wash your hands frequently, cover your cough, and practice social distancing by keeping at least six feet of space between people.

People who are sick should still stay home. Wearing a mask does not mean people who are sick should go out into the community. If you are sick and need to go to the doctor, call your health care provider before going in and

wear a mask to the clinic.

Don't buy or wear surgical or N95 masks. These supplies are in high need in health care facilities to protect health care workers.

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age two, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

Masks and face coverings

Minnesotans are strongly encouraged to wear a manufactured or

homemade cloth face covering at all times when they leave their homes and travel to any public setting where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery and other stores), and to follow face covering guidelines issued by MDH and the CDC until this order is rescinded. Such face masks and coverings are for source control – to help limit the person wearing the covering from infecting others. They are not yet known to be protective of the wearer and thus are not personal protective equipment.

COVID...Continued from page 1

the service's EMTs and First Responders, and worked with the ambulance service's medical director and Virginia Ambulance Chief Al Lewis on developing a plan for the situation.

"We let Virginia Ambulance know," said Suihkonen, "and we sent a first responder kit home with our on-call personnel so they could respond to the scene if the ambulance was called out."

No ambulance calls came in during the shutdown, and the rigs were back in service by the evening, Suihkonen said.

The service also contacted local medical clinics to make sure they were aware of the positive test in the community. Tower Fire Chief Paige Olson also worked with Suihkonen on

the plan, which includes new protocols requiring fire and EMS personnel to wear a mask in the fire/ambulance hall if more than one person is there, except in cases where they are members of a single household.

"We consider our crew to be our family," Suihkonen said. "But now our ambulance personnel will be wearing a mask as soon as they enter the hall, once in a rig, and keep it on until they are back from a call and in their own personal vehicle."

Suihkonen said the department received fabric masks from the Ely Care Team but will be needing some more.

Tower Mayor Orlyn Kringstad said he wasn't surprised that Tower-Soudan was experiencing

a case.

"We are taking this seriously," he said, and said area residents have to be careful with the surge of visitors coming up to the area at this time.

"We all have to be vigilant," he said.

Tower City Hall, which had reopened last week, is again closed to the public, Kringstad said, with only the two city clerk office employees, keeping appropriate distance from each other, in the building.

Vermilion Country School Administrator Frank Zobitz said the charter school building is closed for now, and that all school staff are getting tested.

School staff had been working at the school building, and while they did have their work sta-

tions set up more than six feet apart, they were in a shared space during the day.

"Some have already gotten tested," Zobitz said on Tuesday, "and the rest will be soon."

The school sent out an email over the holiday weekend to all parents and students, notifying them of the positive test.

"If you, or someone in your household, exhibits COVID-19 related symptoms, please notify me so we can track any potential outbreaks within our school community," he wrote.

The positive test means the school's at-home graduation ceremonies are being postponed, until the school is certain that no other staff tests positive. The school had planned to

do individual graduation ceremonies at each of the graduate's homes the week of May 25.

"We did hear back from one parent already," Zobitz said, "and they were just hoping that everyone at the school is safe."

The school will be using substitute van drivers and substitute teachers and staff to help with the student food deliveries this week and next. Zobitz said none of these individuals have been working in the school building or had contact with the individual who tested positive.

The individual also worked part-time as a delivery driver for the *Timberjay* but did not work in the upstairs *Timberjay* office.

"We are very lucky that this individual was

wearing a mask when doing deliveries of the paper," said *Timberjay* publisher Marshall Helmberger. "They also were always wearing a mask while upstairs in our office."

The *Timberjay* has been told by medical officials that the risk to our staff is minimal, and that employees should only be tested if they are exhibiting symptoms or feel the need to be tested. So far, no employees at the newspaper have exhibited symptoms. The *Timberjay* has notified all the vendors that the individual was in contact with while doing deliveries last week.

As of May 26, there were a total of 21,960 positive cases in Minnesota and 114 in St. Louis County.

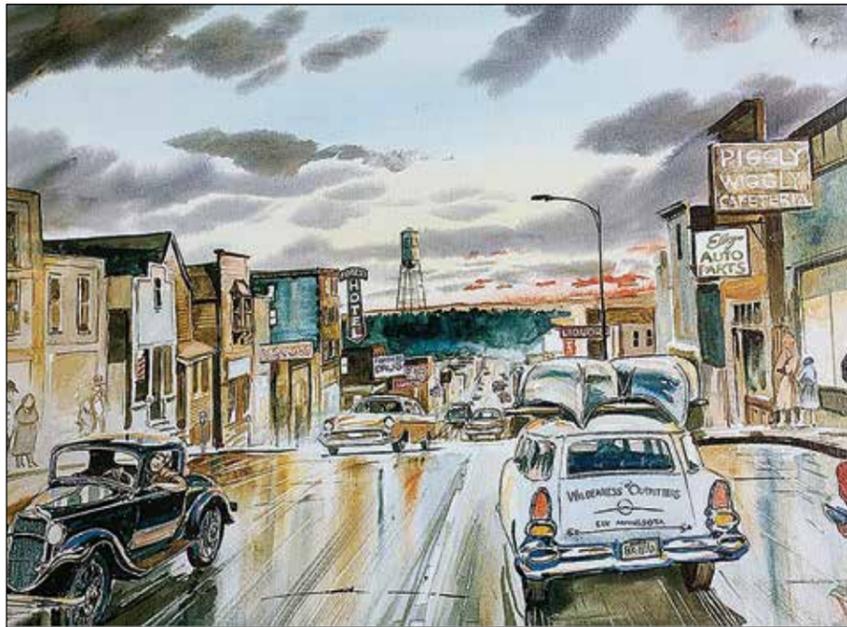
HISTORICAL ELY

Carl Gawboy prints available from EWHS

ELY – Carl Gawboy prints of iconic Ely locations are now available from the Ely Winton Historical Society.

Four prints, The Train Depot, Spike Erickson on the Burntside River, The Bus Depot, and Local Traffic, are available for \$25 each, plus \$10 shipping and handling. Cash, check, or money orders accepted. The museum office is currently closed due to the coronavirus

For more information, contact the EWHS at 218-365-3226 or Manager Margaret Sweet at 218-827-2386.



Twin Metals provides relief for COVID-19

REGIONAL - Twin Metals Minnesota is providing special financial assistance to organizations in northeast Minnesota to aid with COVID-19 relief efforts.

► \$10,000 to United Way of Northeast Minnesota. Funds are currently being matched by the Northland Foundation; learn more at: www.unit-edwaynemn.org/

► \$5,000 to the Ely Food Shelf. Funds are also being matched during the month of April; learn more at: <https://elyarea-foodshelf.org/>

► \$1,500 to Ruby's Pantry in Babbitt. Funds are being used to distribute food gift cards; learn more at www.rubyspantry.org or contact on Facebook.



COVID-19 Testing Available

Curbside COVID-19 testing available Mon-Fri at our Cook and Tower Clinics. If you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to COVID-19 through someone with a known positive test result, please call to schedule a testing appointment.

Testing will not be completed without an appointment.

Patients will not be billed for testing.

Insurance coverage will be processed when available.

Cook Medical and Behavioral Health

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

Cook Dental

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

Tower Medical, Dental, and Behavioral Health

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



1-877-541-2817

www.ScenicRiversHealth.org

24 Hour Emergency Care Available Through Cook Hospital

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SEASONAL CELEBRATIONS

Breitung Township Board votes to cancel Community Picnic

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

BREITUNG TWP-COVID-19 strikes again. The Breitung Community Picnic, held as part of the Fourth of July festivities, has been canceled.

The Breitung Township Board voted to cancel the picnic at their May 26 meeting. The board also voted to not offer any help to The Old Settlers Association for their summer reunion. The township is an important partner in that event, helping with setup and cleanup as well as helping get the large booyah kettles in place. The Old Settlers committee announced on May 27 that the annual picnic is being canceled,

due to safety concerns. This is the first time in the picnic's 100-year history that it has been canceled, as far as the committee members know.

Seasonal campers have already moved into McKinley Park Campground, while short-term renters will have to wait until after June 1. A camper sent a letter to the board asking for them to offer wireless internet at the campground, and Chairman Tim Tomsich said he would look into it. Tomsich will also be working with campground manager Susie Chiabotti to purchase additional picnic tables for the campground, including handicap-accessible tables.

Supervisor Greg

Dostert said he was looking into getting a baseball team together for the summer but hasn't had much luck recruiting players. Nevertheless, the board passed a motion to hire Green Again Lawn and Landscape of Hibbing to apply Weed and Feed to the baseball field, soccer field and wayside rest and apply Total Kill to the volleyball court, hockey rink, and baseball diamond for \$1,600.

The board decided to keep the township building closed to the public until July 31 but will allow certain public meetings, like the town board and fire department, when necessary, following social distancing protocols.

While summer fun

is taking a back seat to COVID-19, summer roadwork and maintenance is still on track. New maintenance director-in-training Tom Gorsma went over some of the work planned for the summer including lowering a culvert near Birch and South Sts., raising a manhole on South St., grading roads, sanitary sewer castings on Mineview St., removing sanitary sewer casting on the bike trail at the baseball field, fixing a water leak, changing a hydrant at the intersection of Birch and South Sts., and leveling the alleyway between Main St. and Poplar St.

The board heard from Supervisor Chuck Tekautz that Lenci Construction still has a few miscella-

neous unfinished projects around the building, and it's been tough trying to get them here.

In other business, the board:

► Decided to leave the dog/cat license as an annual registration, instead of changing to a lifetime registration.

► Heard that there was some confusion about clean-up days, because Tower and Soudan agreed to pick up different items but published a shared ad. The Soudan Canister is now charging for brush drop off, which might mean a change for next year's clean-up days.

► Heard that the Soudan Canister will accept household hazardous waste on Wednesday,

June 24 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

► Heard that Cody Vail was hired as a new part-time Breitung Police officer and accepted him for the Public Employees Retirement Association.

► Will hire two or three maintenance workers for miscellaneous painting and brush removal projects.

► Approved the purchase of a tablet or computer for Gorsma at a cost of up to \$1,000.

► Postponed a decision on window treatments.

The next township meetings are Wednesday, June 10 at noon and Tuesday, June 23 at noon.

SUSPECT...Continued from page 1

the van towed, and applied for a search warrant.

Once the warrant for the van was obtained, officers located a plastic container, bottle, and baggie all containing suspected

marijuana, two broken suspected meth pipes, and a cellophane-wrapped package and a baggie containing methamphetamines.

An official press

release from Lieutenant Lt. Jason Akerson said approximately 109 grams of methamphetamine was recovered.

The St. Louis County Attorney filed felony

charges of first-degree possession of methamphetamine with intent to sell and first-degree possession of methamphetamines and possession of a firearm on May 19. Each

charge carries a maximum sentence of 30 years and/or up to a \$1 million fine for a first violation. The existing third-degree burglary charge carries maximum penalties of five years and/

or \$10,000.

As of Tuesday, Morris remained in St. Louis County Jail with bond set at \$85,000.

FAIRS...Continued from page 1

necessary, decision by the fair board.

"Nobody is happy about it," he said. "But the vast majority of people in this area are older and we want to protect them."

Meier said that Roland "Charlie" Fowler was "absolutely broken up" about the decision, but agreed it had to be made.

The only bright spot is that Team Penning will be held on Friday, Aug. 28 and Saturday, Aug. 29, and Ranch Sorting will be on Sunday, Aug. 30. So at least horse fans will still have something special to look forward to that weekend. Team penning is a great spectator sport and there is plenty of space

around the horse arena to keep spectators at least six feet apart.

Meier said the board understands the hardship that the cancellation of this fair, and all the other area events, is having on their vendors.

"So many of our vendors come back year after year," he said. "They all are hurting. They live for the summer."

The Embarrass Region Fair Board announced the news on May 21 on their Facebook page.

The fair is organized by a large, active committee, with dozens of individuals required to get each of the many events up and running, including

the Tony Morshing Mud Run, Classic Car Show, Demolition Derby, children's games, bingo, beer garden, livestock barns, dog show, horseshoe tournament, garden and craft exhibits, food booths, live entertainment, Flying Finn Run, Miss Embarrass, Embarrass Fair Horse Show, and the parade.

Timber Hall rentals over the summer have been canceled, but Meier said they are taking reservations for the building for events planned for later in the fall.

St. Louis County Fair canceled

The decision was also made last week to cancel the St. Louis County Fair.

"The health and safety of our community is our top priority," said the fair board in a release on Facebook. "With the COVID-19 restrictions, we feel we cannot guarantee a safe event. We are extremely disappointed but know that the right decision has been made."

Minnesota State Fair canceled

Last year two million visitors attended the Minnesota State Fair. The so-called "Great Minnesota Get-Together" has also been canceled, with that news released on May 22.

"We all love the fair and that's exactly why we can't have a fair this year,"

said Jerry Hammer, the fair's general manager in a press release.

The event has been canceled before, most recently in 1946 because

of a polio epidemic.

In April, Gov. Tim Walz said he had a hard time seeing the fair operating this year.

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ELY TIMBERWOLVES

Congratulations,
Class of 2020!



Commencement Saturday, May 30 • 7 PM

Ely Ice Arena Parking Lot • Graduate Drive-By

Parade to follow

Parade route: Ice Arena parking lot north to Harvey Street, East on Harvey Street to Highway 1, North to Sheridan Street. West on Sheridan Street through town.

The community is invited to attend with adherence to Covid-19 distancing and mask guidelines.

Senior Class of 2020

Elijah Anderson	+* Nathan Nettifee	+* Apolonia Homer
Steven Kerntz	Holly Dirks	Lauren Porthan
TJae Banks	Justin Nyman	+* Sarah Isbell
Joshua Larson	Andrew Dunn	Caitlin Priebe
Elissia Bennett	* Luke Olson	Savannah Johnson
Bryce Longwell	Andre Edgington	Seann Prigge
+* Ana Bercher	+* Raif Olson	McCartney Kaercher
* Henry Matthys	+* Kalyssa Eilrich	Abigail Rabe
Adrianna Bishop	Eric Omerza	Brielle Kallberg
Eric Mattila	* Dylan Fenske	* Winter Sainio
* Ethan Bremner	* Brooke Pasmick	* Isabelle Kelley
+* Erika Mattson	Arrin Frank	Dalton Schreffler
Emma Debeltz	Mitchell Peterson	Brandon Kerntz
+* Jenna Merhar	Madison Hill	* James Schwinghamer
Nils DeRemee	Joshua Pohlman	Kiara Weisinger

* Honor Student Cumulative GPA 3.50 or above

+ National Honor Society

Class Officers: **President-Dylan Fenske, Treasurer-Nathan Nettifee, Secretary-Brooke Pasmick**

Class Color: **Pistachio Green**

Class Song: **"Second Chance" by Shinedown**

Class Motto: **"Be Good People" Mrs. Kosik**

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The Ely Timberjay
Vermilion Community College
Zup's Grocery- Ely

NORTH WOODS HIGH SCHOOL

CONGRATULATIONS

Graduates



Graduation Ceremony • Friday, May 29 • 7 PM North Woods School Parking Lot (not open to the public)

Dylan Pike Adelman
Trevor V. Adelman*
Angelina Rose Anderson
Brielle Nicole Anderson**
Lauren Marie Arvila**
Levi Jonathan Byram
Zander Amiel Carr*
Katrina Marie Chapman*
Bethany Grace Cotten**
Nathan P. Crain
Daniel David Crockett*
Genesis Amaya Day
Lavonne Carol Drift
Kenzie L. Fox**
Samantha Jean Francke*
Luke G. Gabrielson*
Hailey Hakila***

Stacie Cecile Howe
Clayton A. Janssen**
Katie Lou Johnson
Pierce David Johnson*
Tyler Jason Kehoe
Jerome William King
Amia Isabelle Kisch*
Wyatt John Kneen
Morgan Jayne Malecha*
CeCilia M. Martinez**
David Lucas Moes*
Trevor James Morrison**
Jordyn Noelle Nelson
Olivia Jane Niska**
Nicole A. Olson**
Kylie Breanne Parson**

Karlyn Elizabeth Ann Pierce***
Meadow Rae Prescott
Nicole Haley Roy**
Jahna Lynn Sandberg
Amber R. Scofield
Neiva Janae Smith**
Gunnar Matthew Stavenger
Sasha Ann Strong**
Shane M. Toivola
Kayla Nicole Towner**
Michaela M. Tschida**
Taylor Marie Vagle*
Macy Taylor Viita*
MaKenna Beverly Villebrun
Kennedy Rene Wardas*
Brian Lee Whiteman Jr.
Courtney Morgan Woods*

** High Honors Cumulative GPA 3.667 * Honors Cumulative GPA 3.00
♦ National Honor Society ■ AA Degree

Class Officers:

President Nicole Olson **Vice President** Trevor Morrison
Secretary Olivia Niska **Treasurer** Karlyn Pierce

Class Motto

"What can you grow, in the garden of your mind?" Inspired by "Garden of Your Mind" by Mr. Rogers

Class Flower
Gerbera Daisy

Class Colors
Navy & Rose Gold

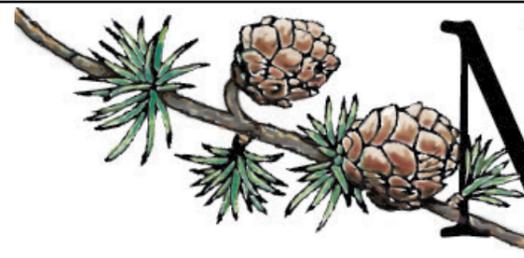
Class Song
"My Wish" by Rascal Flatts

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ELECTIONS

Mail-in voting has worked well in St. Louis County

Most Minnesotans say they support a change, but Republicans fear the political impact

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— With fears about the health risks that upcoming elections could pose to both voters and poll workers, there’s been a push by election officials across the country to move to greater use of mail-in voting. And election officials aren’t the only ones. A new Minnesota Poll, released Monday, showed that 59 percent of Minnesotans favor a proposal by Secretary of State Scott Simon to move to mail-in balloting statewide.



Election officials note that mail-in balloting is popular with voters, who like the convenience, and it typically costs less to administer because it doesn’t require maintaining polling places.

But support for the measure is breaking down sharply on

partisan lines, with 97 percent of identified DFLers in Minnesota expressing support, while nearly three-quarters of Republicans say they oppose the idea. That opposition is likely being fueled by President Donald Trump, who has claimed, without evidence, that mail-in balloting is rife with voter fraud. Those claims, which Trump put out on Twitter, prompted a rare fact-check response from Twitter, which flagged the president’s comments and linked to news sources that provided more factual information on the topic.

While mail-in balloting may sound like a new idea, it’s actually been used for years in other parts of the country, and also in parts of Minnesota. St. Louis County, for example, has had mail-in balloting for decades for voters living in unorganized portions of the county.

St. Louis County Elections Supervisor Phil Chapman said the use of mail-in ballots is both cost-effective for the county and convenient for the approximately 2,200 voters who typically take advantage of the service, since they don’t have to travel

to a distant polling place to vote.

In Minnesota, any township outside the metro region and any city with fewer than 400 registered voters can opt to go to mail-in voting for residents. Under mail-in voting, every registered voter in a jurisdiction that adopts the system automatically receives a ballot in the mail, complete with a return envelope. That’s different from absentee balloting, which requires a voter to fill out and send in an application form before receiving a

See MAIL-IN...pg. 2B

SCHOOLS

School board OKs partial coach pay

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- After spending 45 minutes at their last meeting discussing what coaches should be paid for spring sports seasons that were canceled due to COVID-19, there was little left for ISD 2142 school board members to say Monday as they voted to approve partial pay for both head and assistant coaches.

Spring sports practices had started but were suspended by the Minnesota State High School League on March 18 when Gov. Tim Walz imposed a temporary halt to school attendance to allow districts to begin planning for distance education. Head coaches were permitted limited communication with athletes to facilitate optional individual workouts, but once distance education was implemented formal practices could not resume, no contests were held, and the MSHSL officially canceled the seasons on April 23.

Superintendent Reggie Engebritson recommended that head coaches receive 75 percent of their stipend and assistants receive 50 percent, after having consulted with school athletic directors, she said. While she acknowledged concerns expressed at the May 12 board work session, Engebritson said she believed the recommended amounts were appropriate.

“This is just an unusual time,” she said.

Board member Christine Taylor revived her objection from the May 12 meeting that coaches should be paid less because of the limited amount of team practice time and lack of competitions, but agreed to go along with Engebritson’s recommendation provided the board developed a specific policy about pay levels for limited seasons before next school year.

“I think it’s too high but I will defer to you on that, Reggie,” Taylor said. “I will say that I’m only comfortable with that if the board does agree for next year’s



COVID-19 RESPONSE

Masks for Ely

Group needs more volunteers, donations

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – A group of dedicated people who call themselves “Masks for Ely” have been sewing relentlessly this spring, producing protective face masks in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

“As a community, we should all be grateful for the time, donations of materials, and skill they give up to do this for our community,” said Paula Mair, one of the group’s organizers. “We need to take care of this wonderful and giving resource we have at our disposal. I am sure we are all getting a little tired of sewing masks, yet the demand remains. This is a marathon and not a sprint.”

The grassroots group was created in April to try to connect people living in the Ely area and needing a COVID-19 face mask with people in the community who are willing



and able to make them. Masks for Ely has garnered nearly 200 followers on Facebook.

“This group is for homemade masks only. Let’s leave the commercial medical masks for our first line responders who need them,” Mair said.

Those in need of a mask can post a request on the Masks for Ely Facebook site and anyone who has masks or

Top: Masks for Ely volunteer Kaitlyn Montgomery displays material used in mask making.

Above: A wide selection of colorful masks. submitted

is willing to make them can comment to that person seeking masks.

See MASKS...pg. 2B

RELIGION

Churches allowed to reopen for in-person services

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Bowling to pressure from church leaders and the Trump administration, Gov. Tim Walz on Saturday gave the green light to Minnesota houses of worship to re-open for limited in-person services beginning Wednesday, May 27.

Walz said the new guidelines were being issued after President Donald Trump declared houses of worship essential institutions, after the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued new guidance for religious services, and after state leaders consulted with Minnesota faith leaders. Walz also said he had a telephone conversation with Vice President Mike Pence prior to issuing his updated guidance.

As of May 27, houses of worship are allowed to open at 25 percent occupancy if they adhere to social distancing and other public health guidelines and specific requirements of each, including the posting of a plan. This includes services for weddings and funerals, but does not change the ten-person group limit for activities such as receptions that might follow such events.

Claiming they should be considered equally alongside businesses, Minnesota Catholic and Lutheran leaders notified Gov. Tim Walz on May 20 that their congregations intended to resume in-person worship services at 33-percent capacity, in opposition to Walz’s executive order that restricted worship activities to ten persons or less.

Catholic Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis Bernard Hebda welcomed Walz’s revised guidelines.

“I am so thankful for the honest, open, and fast-paced dialogue we had over these past days and am pleased we could come to a consensus about a reasonable and safe path forward that allows a greater number of people to safely return to worship,” Hebda wrote in a statement released Saturday.

Walz cautioned that Minnesota has not yet reached its peak for COVID-19 cases and urged congregations to continue online worship services if possible.

Catholic Diocese of Duluth

See CHURCHES...pg. 2B

See SCHOOLS...pg. 2B

MAIL-IN...Continued from page 1B

ballot. As with absentee voting, mail-in voters are required to sign a verification that they are who they say they are, and a separate witness (who must be a current or prior registered voter in Minnesota or a notary) must sign as well to verify the identity of the person casting the ballot. Falsely attesting to the identity of a voter constitutes a felony. Prosecutions are rare, however, since, according to Chapman, there's been little to no evidence of any voter fraud during his time as elections supervisor for the county.

"Off the top of my head, I can't think of any issue we've had," he said. That's consistent with the experiences of elections officials throughout the country. Despite the casting of approximately 250 million ballots by mail nationwide in recent years, fewer than 1,000 instances of verified voter fraud were documented over the past 20 years by the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank. That's one instance of alleged fraud for every 250,000 votes cast. According to a May 27 story by NBC News, elections officials from

both political parties generally agree that mail-in voting has been successful, with minimal evidence of fraud. In St. Louis County, Chapman notes that many layers of protection help to discourage fraud. He notes that the state's voting lists are all electronic and are updated frequently to ensure that deceased voters are cleared from the rolls and no longer receive ballots. And every mail-in ballot that comes back to county offices is reviewed by an independent board to ensure that all the signatures are in

place and are consistent throughout. At the same time, said Chapman, the county tracks all voters to ensure that a voter who submits a mail-in ballot doesn't try to vote a second time on Election Day. "From my experience, I don't believe there's any more fraud taking place with mail balloting than at the polling place," said Chapman. **Political motivation?** So why all the push-back against mail-in balloting? President Trump may have made his real fear clear back in March when he told Fox and

Friends that if the country allowed more mail-in balloting, it would hurt Republicans because it would increase the level of voting. While Chapman said he hasn't yet crunched the numbers, he suspects that voter participation is generally higher under mail-in voting. "I'm pretty confident of that," he said. While mail-in voting in Minnesota is currently limited to rural areas and small towns, voters and election officials in such places will likely face the lowest risk from the COVID-19 virus in

upcoming elections, since the numbers of voters are much lower. Rural and small town voters rarely have to stand in long lines to vote, whereas voters in many urban areas often must wait for hours to cast a ballot. Urban voters tend to tilt heavily toward support of Democratic candidates, which is another reason that GOP political leaders may be wary of any change that makes voting more convenient or safe for big city residents.

CHURCHES...Continued from page 1B

Administrator Bissonette issued a statement reinforcing that parishes should be thoughtful about the decision to re-open, and that parishioners are not required to attend Mass. "Parishes should only open when they are able to implement the protocols," Bissonette wrote. "Again, if the faithful feel safer at home, the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains lifted. We also strongly encourage those over the age of 65 or who are especially vulnerable not to attend for now."

St. Pius X Catholic Church in Babbitt indicated those congregations will resume Mass on June 2, with online streaming of services continuing for those who feel uncomfortable attending in person. Catholic churches in Tower, Cook, and Orr, served by Father Nick Nelson, will re-open for Mass this Saturday and Sunday. "This is the best time to come back to the Church or come to it for the first time," Nelson wrote in a letter sent to parishioners and provided to the *Timberjay*. "No one will notice that you weren't at Mass last week because NO ONE was at Mass last week! While there will always be risks of contagion we believe we are taking the necessary steps so that you can be safe and be at peace in our Churches."

people had signed up for 75 slots at St. Martin's in Tower, and four people had signed up for 40 spots at Saturday vigil Mass at Holy Cross in Orr. And while Vermilion and Pelican Lake parishes are using a generic online sign-up site, a local Tower man has developed a site designed for churches. Frank Zobitz runs Northwoods Professionals Group, a business which provides affordable technology services to small businesses and non-profit organizations to meet their needs. Using previously developed booking apps for sports venues, Zobitz has rolled out bookapew.com to facilitate reserved seating for church services. "It's a low cost but simple setup," Zobitz said. "Many of those other ones have it more involved to get set up and working. I always strive for an easy user experience and an easy administrator experience."

Church services are displayed on a calendar and when a user chooses a date the number of available spaces is displayed. They fill out a form with their name, email address, and number of spaces to reserve, and receive an email confirmation. Zobitz said churches can choose to do reservations on a seat-by-seat basis or allow people to reserve entire pews. One-year and two-year subscriptions for churches are available. After a national press release and follow-up marketing to faith-based organizations, bookapew.com is drawing national attention, Zobitz said. "Within two days of the press release somebody in 40 of our 50 states looked at the website," he said. "I've gotten quite a few inquiries and I've got customers in Minnesota and in Massachusetts."

worship videos to the church's YouTube page, St. James Presbyterian Tower, MN. He also stays in contact with members via email, sending midweek devotionals, care concerns, and bulletins and sermons. Workman said church elders would begin in mid-June to assess possibilities for restarting in-person services in July after having an opportunity to observe how the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve and how other churches have been affected. "There haven't been a lot of cases up here compared to other places," Workman said. "A lot of our people are older so I don't know if they're going to be comfortable anyway."

summer," Foss said. "This is not a decision made easily or lightly, but a decision made out of safety for our congregation, staff and community." In addition to online worship, Trinity is collaborating with Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower to hold monthly drive-in services in the North Woods School parking lot, with one scheduled for this Sunday. "Our church council has put together a small team of leaders to look at all the resources, recommendations, requirements and other items to develop a plan of when and how we will be able to worship together in our building," Foss said. "As Lutherans we believe that Christ is with us whenever and wherever we are gathered in his name, Matthew 18:20. The church never closed, we just aren't able to worship inside the building of Trinity Lutheran. We are the church wherever 'we' children of God are."

Area Catholics reopening

A newsletter sent to members of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Ely and

choices left of fabric colors or designs," she said.

"We are all in this together. Please help our mask makers through this marathon by doing your part," she said. "Wash and reuse. Try to discipline yourself to carry a mask with you instead of taking a new one every time you enter a store. If we want the privilege of these mask donations we need to be considerate of the makers. We all had busy lives before this

started, and we have gladly accepted another big job by sewing masks and our families have supported this. But it's getting long and tiring and we all have summer chores and recreation we want to be able to participate in as well. And we deserve to have some down time by this point in the race. Please help us with this."

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MASKS...Continued from page 1B

has as well as a time table for when you feel you need them. "Please do not go into a business expecting them to have extra masks for you to take," she said. "It has come to our attention that many are treating these masks basically as disposable."

sewing machines. "Please value this gift we are giving and, if you take a mask, use it. Take it home, wash it and put it where you can find it for the next time you need one," she said. "We ask that you do not take masks just because they are there and convenient, or because you like the pattern. They may not look like much but a lot goes into them."

It is not a business's responsibility to provide customers with a mask.

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SCHOOLS...Continued from page 1B

hiring that it is conditional on the seasons actually happening. If we do end up starting we should already have something in place if we have a surge and we have to go to distance learning again."

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Obituaries and Death Notices



Janet M. Thompson

Janet Mae Thompson, 67, of Nett Lake, passed away on Friday, May 22, 2020, in St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth. A Traditional Wake was held on Wednesday, May 27 at the Nett Lake School Gym. The Traditional Native Service was held on Thursday, May 28. Spiritual leader was Steve Jackson and Spiritual Advisor was Gene Goodsky. Casket bearers were Quinten Thompson, Orion Thompson, Nick Thompson, Henry Thompson, Shane Drift and Sean Drift. Honorary casket bearers were Mark Drift, Pete Drift, Erik Halvorson and Henry Halvorson. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral

Home of Cook.

Janet was born to Leonard and Myra Drift Thompson on Feb. 15, 1953, in Thief River Falls. Janet grew up and attended school in Nett Lake. She raised a family as a strong single mother of three. She was a loving and strong-willed mother who raised her children to be respectful and to be responsible. She was the tough mama bear who taught her cubs the ways of the world.

Janet enjoyed hunting and fishing. She enjoyed her time at the casino, playing bingo and slots, and attending the shows. She loved going to Orr with her mother Myra to play smear. She was an accomplished beader and loved sewing. She made many jingle dresses for herself and her family. She loved attending powwows, was a jingle dress dancer, and also a drum-keeper.

Janet is survived by her three children, Raymond (Rebecca) Thompson, Michael Thompson and Rorie Thompson; grandchildren, Henry Thompson, Nicholas Thompson, Amanda Thompson, Orion Thompson, Samantha

Farr and Jon-Marie Farr; sisters, Muriel and Lois Thompson; and uncle, Harvey Thompson.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and brothers, Leonard Thompson and Curtis Thompson.



Davetta M. Sam

Davetta Marie Sam, 55, of Nett Lake, passed away on Saturday, May 16, 2020. A wake was held on Friday, May 22. The Traditional Native Service was held on Saturday, May 23. Steve Jackson was the Spiritual Leader. Casket bearers were Darin Jenkins, Alvin Sam, Ryan Sam, Coltin Robinson, Matteo Goggleye, Tony Sam and Christopher

Day. Interment was in the Vermilion Native Cemetery in Tower. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Davetta was born to Ellen Boshey Sam and David Sam on March 11, 1965, in Cook. Davetta liked playing foosball and softball, doing laundry and keeping her house clean, and taking walks. She was always laughing and having fun and loved being with friends and family. She lived a fulfilling life of being a grandmother, mother, aunt, sister and friend.

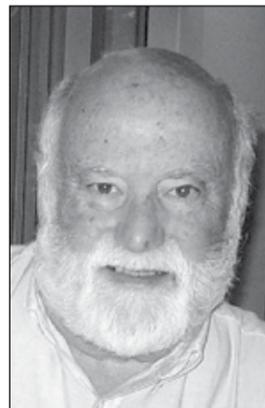
Davetta is survived by her husband, Robert Wayne Jenkins Jr.; sister, Carrie Sam; brother, Randy Sam; children, Melissa, Darin, Vanessa, Sasha and Deanna; and numerous grandkids.

Amelia L. Manner

Amelia Louise "Molly" Kochevar Manner, 95, of Hibbing, died on Saturday, May 16, 2020, in Cornerstone Villa in Buhl. A memorial service will be held at a

later date. Family services are provided by Anderson-Daniels, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Hibbing.

She is survived by four children, Richard (Sue) Manner of Hibbing, Bill (Jan) Manner Jr. of Floodwood, Larry (Judy) Manner of Hibbing and Karen (Pat) Brodeen of Cook; ten grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.



Dr. Richard Bevis

Dr. Richard "Dick" Bevis, 80, of Ely, died from a heart attack on Friday, May 22, 2020.

Memorial service plans to follow. Arrangements are with Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

Dick grew up in Minneapolis and enjoyed summers on Burntside Lake. He was a graduate of the University of Minnesota Dental School, and practiced orthodontics in the Twin Cities for over 30 years. He remained active throughout his life, enjoying boating, fishing, golf, and sailing on Lake Superior. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and friend, and will be remembered for his steady character, optimism and generosity. Dick was a man of quiet faith in God, and his family rejoices that he is now in his eternal home.

Dick is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mary Palmquist Bevis; three children, Karen (Peter) Tamte, Randy (Cheryl) Bevis and Ben (Sara) Bevis; and nine grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Percy and Allie Bevis; and sister, Joan Nelson.

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[card/](https://bit.ly/2Uefg9) or <https://bit.ly/2Uefg9>.

With your ALS library card, you are able to access many of the free digital resources available 24/7 online and can use it to check out books, DVDs, audiobooks, and more at any of our 27 member public libraries in the region and ALS Bookmobile once the majority of services have

been restored. New library cards will be sent via mail to the mailing addresses listed in the applications. If you include your email address, your library card number will be emailed to you as well. If you know you have a library card but can't find it, give us a call at 218-741-3840 and we can help get your library card renewed or issue you a new library card for free.



THANK YOU...
to the brave firefighters who battled the blaze on Birch Point Road on May 9.

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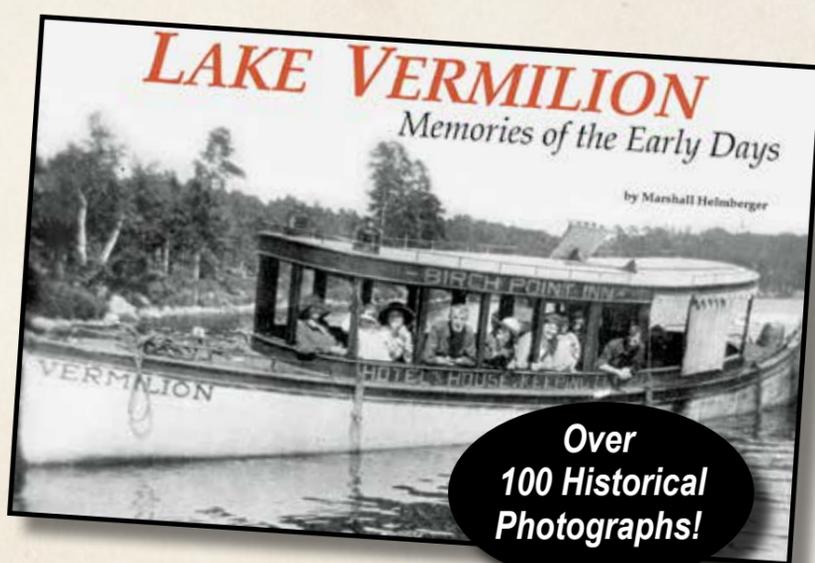
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Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Coalition bringing AIS fight to Boundary Waters

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL—In the fight against aquatic invasive species, lake associations in Minnesota have often been leading the way. Organizations like the Vermilion Lake Association or the White Iron Chain of Lakes Association, are two organizations that have played a significant role in educating lake users, developing inspection programs, and lobbying for resources.

But what about the nearly 1,600 uninhabited lakes found within the 1.1 million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness? Who is advocating to protect those lakes from the risks posed by aquatic invasives?

It turns out, a new coalition of both state and local organizations and government agencies has come together to begin to address the threat posed by aquatic invasives in the BWCAW.

While the vast majority of

Right: Morning mist on Bootleg Lake in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

M. HelMBERGER

BWCAW lakes remain free of invasive species for now, both spiny water fleas and rusty crayfish have gained a significant foothold, which has the potential to impact fisheries in the wilderness. The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research

See AIS...pg. 5B



SPRING HAS SPRUNG



Area swamps are currently in their glory with the annual explosion of the marsh marigolds.

M. HelMBERGER

PLANNING

Input sought on route for North Country Trail

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Most Americans have heard of the Appalachian Trail or the Pacific Coast Trail. These national scenic trails have existed for decades and have been used by millions of Americans over the years.

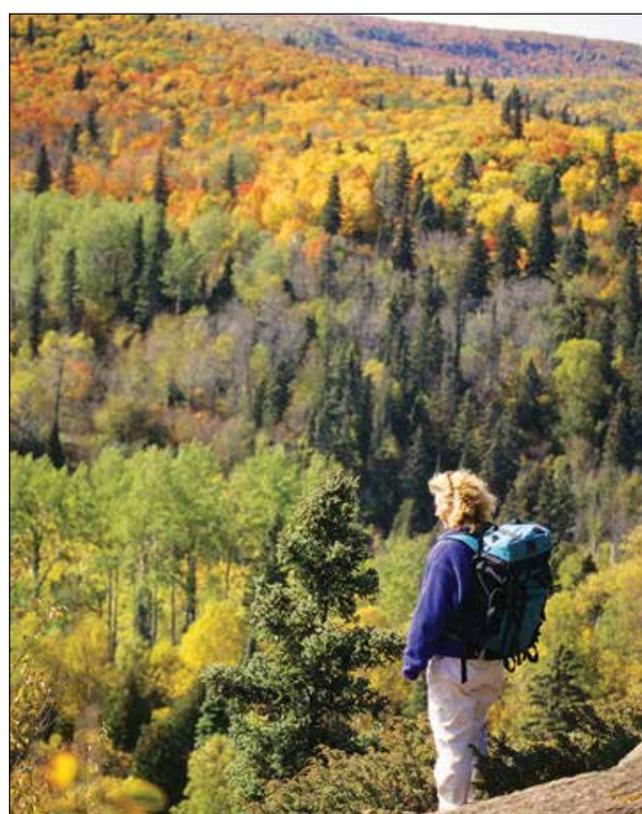
The North Country Trail, or NCT, was officially designated by Congress in 1980 and has been under development ever since. Once completed, it will stretch from Vermont to western North Dakota, making it the longest of all the national trails at approximately 3,300 miles. Most of the trail is already in place, although the route through portions of northeastern Minnesota is still uncertain. It was originally slated to head west from near Duluth across the state to North Dakota. Last year, however, Congress approved the “Minnesota Re-Route,” which extends the trail up the North Shore of Lake Superior to Grand Portage before heading back to the west.

Fine-tuning that route, particularly in the Ely-to-Tower corridor is the goal of a planning effort currently underway. “We don’t know exactly where the trail is going to go,” said Josh Bergstad, senior planner



North Country Trail Route as approved by Congress.

Below: An autumn hike along the Superior Hiking Trail, now part of the North Country Trail.



with the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, or ARDC, which is assisting with the planning effort. The NCT makes use of the Superior Hiking Trail, extending along the North Shore. From there, it heads west through the Boundary Waters, first utilizing the Border Route Trail before connecting to the Kekekabic Trail and eventually arriving in Ely. From there, the route is less certain.

“We do know that Tower will be right in the middle of the planned corridor,” said Bergstad.

While the Mesabi Trail will soon connect Tower and Ely, Bergstad notes that the NCT is designed to be an unpaved backcountry trail, not a paved bike path. For now, the Mesabi Trail is a designated route but trail officials are asking the public for ideas as they plan development of the final backcountry route. “We’re just asking people to

See TRAIL...pg. 5B

DNR

Area state parks begin to reopen

REGIONAL— Slowly, but surely, area state parks are reopening for business.

Gov. Tim Walz announced the phased reopening of state park and state forest campgrounds beginning June 1, provided they create and maintain a preparedness plan and follow guidelines issued by the state of Minnesota.

“We look forward to welcoming overnight visitors back to DNR-managed camping and lodging facilities in June,” said DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen. “Our staff are already out conducting assessments of campsite conditions and preparing to receive visitors. We will open as much as we can on June 1, but this will be a phased process based on staffing and safety considerations.”

State parks and recreation areas are like small cities that need to have all of their infrastructure restarted in order

See PARKS...pg. 5B

Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower
WILD GINGER



You’ll need to get down on your knees to see the distinctive flower of the **Wild Ginger**, *Asarum canadense*, which is one of our early bloomers. The Wild Ginger is most easily identified by its fuzzy, heart-shaped leaves, which average about four inches across. This plant typically grows in small colonies as it spreads vegetatively through rhizome-like roots which are known for their ginger-like flavor. You’ll find it growing in rich soil, often in shady locations

The flower is bowl-shaped and is a deep reddish-brown with three sharply-pointed sepals that look like narrow petals. It’s a member of the Birthwort family.

TRAIL...Continued from page 4B

give us as many ideas as possible," said Bergstad. The ARDC recently sponsored an online public workshop to solicit ideas but turnout was somewhat limited, so they're reaching out in other ways to spread the word. "There will be more meetings throughout the process," said Bergstad. "We're hoping to get more participation."

Trail officials are looking for routes as well as points of interest along the way. Scenic locations or interesting side trails are all popular with NCT hikers and are called "positive control points" by trail planners. They're also interested in negative control points, which would be places that the trail should avoid, either because they're open to motorized use, or are industrial or blighted. According to Bergstad, local residents are often the most familiar with such points of interest, which is why they're trying to get the word out. "When we get these ideas from the public, ARDC will compile them into an online GIS system. Then North Country Trail staff will go out in the field and

try to connect them." The ARDC has an interactive online tool that they're encouraging the public to use to suggest either positive or negative control points. You'll find that online tool at bit.ly/NCTPlanning.

Once a route is identified, the trail itself will be modest, with a standard four-foot wide cleared corridor. Because the trail is primitive, the costs associated with its construction are minimal, with most of the work for construction and maintenance undertaken by volunteers.

For more information, you can email or call Josh Bergstad with comments and questions or to discuss alternate methods to submit information. You'll find him at jbergstad@ardc.org or at 218-529-7516.

You can also visit the project website to view updates, trail documents, and access the mapping tool at www.ardcplanning.org/nct.

Or you can like their Facebook page at [facebook.com/northcountrytrail](https://www.facebook.com/northcountrytrail) for notification of updates on the project.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
59 38					62 38					69 46					72 55					80 57				
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.
05/18	70	37	0.00		05/18	70	29	0.00		05/18	70	41	0.00		05/18	75	36	0.00		05/18	70	35	0.00	
05/19	72	34	0.00		05/19	71	29	0.00		05/19	74	43	0.00		05/19	77	34	0.00		05/19	72	33	0.00	
05/20	74	44	0.00		05/20	74	33	0.00		05/20	76	43	0.00		05/20	82	46	0.00		05/20	75	40	0.00	
05/21	80	49	0.00		05/21	79	42	0.00		05/21	81	50	0.00		05/21	82	52	0.00		05/21	80	49	0.00	
05/22	79	46	0.00		05/22	79	45	0.00		05/22	81	52	0.00		05/22	66	55	0.00		05/22	79	47	0.00	
05/23	68	53	0.00		05/23	67	53	0.00		05/23	67	55	0.01		05/23	72	57	0.00		05/23	68	54	0.00	
05/24	70	51	0.00		05/24	71	49	0.00		05/24	71	53	0.00		05/24	75	55	0.00		05/24	70	50	0.00	
Total 2.62					YTD Total 3.28					YTD Total 3.89					YTD Total NA					YTD Total 3.00				

AIS...Continued from page 4B

Center, MAISRC, linked a reduction in the size and abundance of walleye and perch species to spiny waterflea, while rusty crayfish wreak havoc on native crayfish and aquatic plants.

As Minnesotans have demonstrated, efforts to control the spread of invasive species can be effective. That's one reason that less than ten percent of Minnesota lakes are currently infested with one or more invasive species. By extending those efforts to the BWCAW, members of the new coalition are hoping to head off potential problems.

"The very real risk we face is that a headline could appear across Minnesota newspapers this summer that zebra mussels were found in Basswood," said Carrie Ohly-Cusack, an Ely area cabin owner who is working with the coalition.

While some AIS experts believe that zebra mussels are unlikely to survive in most Canadian Shield lakes, due to low amounts of the calcium that mussels need to build their shells, that confidence was shaken last year with the discovery of immature zebra mussels, known as "veligers" in Lake of the Woods, a shield lake with similar water chemistry to many lakes in the BWCAW. That revelation was a "wake-up call" notes Ohly-Cusack, one that prompted greater concern for lakes in the BWCAW.

Developing a plan to effectively address the AIS threat won't be

easy, notes Jeff Forester, executive director for Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates.

"The overlapping agencies, tribal governments, lake associations, and interested citizens and business groups involved in the management of the BWCAW are as complex as the geography of this area," he said.

While canoeists are unlikely to transport aquatic species, Forester said the largest risk to the Boundary Waters comes from infestations in lakes just outside the wilderness boundary. He said Birch Lake, near Babbitt, is one example of a lake that is part of a major watershed just upstream of the wilderness. Because the waters are so interconnected in canoe country, invasive species can spread widely once established, even without further human assistance. "That puts the Boundary Waters at pretty high risk," said Forester.

Other factors only increase that risk, notes Forester. The Boundary Waters' wilderness protections are likely to complicate any effort to address aquatic invasive outbreaks if and when they do occur. In some cases, the DNR has been able to deploy chemicals in lakes to eliminate invasive species when small pockets are first discovered. But such efforts would likely be inconsistent with wilderness protections.

Coalition efforts

The new coalition is utilizing an approach known as "civic

organizing," in which each of the entities involved plays a role that's consistent with their expertise and available resources. "This is an organizing approach, not a mobilizing or an activities-centered approach. We will define the problems, with a focus on the capacities of each partner, and then focus on solutions that leverage those unique capabilities and resources of the many different groups. What is impossible for one is possible for a broad cross sector base with each contributing."

The coalition group hopes to have a working plan in place which prevents the infestation of all water bodies that drain into the BWCAW for open water by 2021.

That plan won't necessarily include a request for additional resources. "Those of us focused on this issue do not think more money and more inspections are the only answer," said Forester. "There are many practical alternatives that could be implemented immediately and would save money."

The new coalition meets monthly. In addition to a core working group of active citizens, the group is also including a broader group of interested stakeholders and keeping them informed of their progress.

For more information, contact Forester at jeff@mnlakesandrivers.org.

PARKS...Continued from page 4B

to reopen. This includes water, sewer, power, roads, trails and buildings. During the Stay at Home Order, the DNR limited its on-site parks and trails workforce to only those employees most critical to support day-use activities. As a result, the DNR now has a lot of work left to do to ready campgrounds and lodging for overnight visitors.

While more details will be available in the coming weeks, the DNR officials state that, generally, they plan to open sites as soon as they are ready. Dispersed camping in state forests is already allowed, and DNR officials anticipate the following general timeline going forward:

June 1: The DNR anticipates having about 20-30 of its campgrounds within state parks, recreation areas and forest campgrounds ready to open, with limited services. Some lodging options, such as camper cabins and yurts, will also open on June 1. In general, visitors can expect that water systems will be turned on, grounds will be maintained, and vault toilets will be available. However, some value-added services may not be ready or available at that point, such as showers and ranger stations.

June 8: The DNR will reopen another 20-30 campgrounds and lodging facilities, the rest of its remote campsites, and many of its ranger stations.

June 15: The DNR plans to have the rest of the campgrounds open and most areas with full services.

Campers should come prepared with their own hand sanitizer, cleaning wipes, paper towels, toilet paper and other supplies for use at their campsites and available bathrooms.

The DNR will leave the following facilities and amenities closed until further notice: beaches, visitor centers, group centers, large-group facilities, group tours and other scheduled interpretive programs.

Minnesotans are encouraged to use the following guidelines to minimize potential points of virus transmission:

▶ Travel as directly to destination as possible and minimize stops along the way.

▶ Attempt to bring all needed supplies with you.

▶ If you do need to stop for gas or supplies, wear a cloth face covering.

▶ Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer after touching common surfaces (gas pumps, door handles, shared bathrooms, etc.).

▶ Do not travel if sick.

You can check the DNR's COVID-19 website for the latest information about facility status and reopening timelines.

We're your most reliable local news source!

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CLEAN

- Boats, PWCs, trailers, and gear
- Remove all weeds, mud, and hitchhiking contaminants from axles, wheels, undercarriage, motor, prop, skis, wakeboards, ropes, and life jackets before leaving

DRAIN

- Water from boat, bilge, motor, ballast tanks, and bladders. PWCs - run motor for 10 seconds to blow water out of jet drive
- Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices
- Trash unused bait

DRY

- Everything at least five days before going to other waters
- (Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120° F or warmer)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Advertisement for Bids

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Tower, Minnesota
FAA AIP No. 3-27-0148-14-20
MnDOT SP 6918-32
SEH No. TOWER 152656

Bids shall be on the form provided for that purpose and according to the Bidding Requirements prepared by Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. (SEH®) dated May 13, 2020.

The Bidding Documents may be viewed for no cost at <http://www.sehinc.com> by selecting the Project Bid Information link at the bottom of the page and the View Plans option from the menu at the top of the selected project page.

Digital image copies of the Bidding Documents are available at <http://www.sehinc.com> for a fee of \$30. These documents may be downloaded by selecting this project from the PROJECT BID INFORMATION link and by entering eBidDocTM Number 7083684 on the SEARCH PROJECTS page. For assistance and free membership registration, contact QuestCDN at 952.233.1632 or info@questcdn.com. In addition to digital plans, Paper copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained

from Docunet Corp. located at 2435 Xenium Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55441 (763.475.9600) for a fee of \$125. A pre-Bid conference will be held via videoconference on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 2:00PM. Representatives of Owner and Engineer will be online to discuss the Project. Bidders are encouraged to attend and participate in the conference.

Pre-Bid videoconference login information: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/404524277>. Access Code: 404-524-277. Call-in number: +1 (571) 317-3112. Bid security in the amount of five (5) percent of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

A Contractor responding to these Bidding Documents must submit to the City/Owner a signed statement under oath by an owner or officer verifying compliance with each of the minimum cri-

teria in Minnesota Statutes, section 16C.285, subdivision 3. This Work shall be subject to minimum wages and labor standards in accordance with US Department of Labor and the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.

Bids shall be directed to the Clerk/Treasurer, securely sealed and endorsed upon the outside wrapper, "BID FOR Snow Removal Equipment (SRE) Building."

The City of Tower reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, to waive irregularities and informalities therein and to award the Contract in the best interests of the Airport.

John Burgess
 Airport Manager
 Tower Municipal Airport

Published in the Timberjay, May 15, 22 & 29, 2020

NOTICE CITY OF TOWER Date: May 26, 2020

To: All Interested Citizens, Organizations and Government Agencies

From: Chad Kolstad, DWRF Program Coordinator, Drinking Water Protection Section, Environmental Health Division

Subject: Drinking Water System Project

Loan Applicant: City of Tower

Loan Project No.: 1690051-2

The City of Tower is applying for a construction loan under the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) drinking water revolving fund program and is, therefore, subject to the state environmental review process. This notice is to advise the public that MDH staff has reviewed the proposed project and has determined that preparing an Environmental Assessment Worksheet is not required.

The loan applicant has solicited public comment on potential environmental consequences. After reviewing any comments received we conclude that construction and project implementation will lead to no significant environmental impact.

The environmental summary included with this notice provides information on the existing and proposed drinking water infrastructure and associated environmental considerations. If there are comments about this environmental review process, they must be received within 15 days. They should be submitted to: Chad Kolstad, Minnesota Department of Health, P.O. Box 64975, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0975

Published in the Timberjay, May 29, 2020

Environmental Summary DRINKING WATER REVOLVING LOAN FUND

Project Name
 WTP and Well Field Improvements/Tower Water Main Replacements
 DWRF Project Number 1690051-2

Project Proposer
 Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board
 P.O. Box 366
 Soudan, Minnesota 55792

Project Location - Legal Description
 SE¼, Section 32 and 33, Township 62N, Range 15W
 City of Tower/Breitung, Minnesota, St. Louis County

Present Water System, Need, and Selected Alternative

The City of Tower /Breitung's existing water system consists of two primary wells, a treatment plant used to remove iron and manganese, addition of potassium permanganate, chlorine, fluoride and blended phosphates and a 100,000 gallon elevated storage tank. The existing drinking water system is in need of upgrades.

The proposed project consists of improvements to the water treatment plant and well fields, as well as the construction of new watermain and sanitary force main.

Environmental Impacts
 The primary impacts of the projects are the short-term construction related disturbances such as dust and noise. The short-term impacts will be mitigated by the use of standard construction practices. Effective soil erosion and dust control measures will be carried out as often as necessary to prevent any dust or erosion that may be damaging to property, area vegetation, wildlife, adjacent lands, surface water bodies, or may cause a nuisance to persons in the vicinity.

Three species were identified in the project area through a NHIS data base search, including: American Bittern, A Purple Casemaker Caddisfly and Floating Marsh Marigold. Where each of these species are identified, the project work only occurs on previously developed land (existing well field site or roadways). It is not anticipated that the project will adversely impact these species.

The project is not expected to result in any direct impacts (other than those list above) to: threatened or endangered plant or animal species or their habitats; wetlands; flood plains; nearby farmland; historic, architectural, cultural, or archaeological features; shore lands; or air quality non-attainment areas.

Public Participation Program

The City of Tower and Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board published the environmental review public notice in the local newspaper on March 27, 2020.

Michael E. Luhrsen, P.E.
 Minnesota Department of Health
 Northeastern District Engineer
 Section of Drinking Water Protection
 11 East Superior Street,
 Suite 290 Duluth, Minnesota 55802-2007
 218-302-6178
mike.luhrsen@state.mn.us

Published in the Timberjay, May 29, 2020

EMPLOYMENT

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CITY OF TOWER Notice of DBE Construction Goal

The City of Tower, Minnesota has set a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal of 7.9% for the FY2020/2021/2022 Airport Improvement Projects which are funded, at least in part, by Federal grant(s). The goal and rationale are available for inspection during normal business hours at the Tower City Hall, PO Box 576, 602 Main Street, until (30 days after date of notice). The

City of Tower and the US Department of Transportation will accept comments on the DBE construction goal until (45 days after date of notice) at the above address for the City and at: US Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration AGL-9 2300 E. Devon Avenue Des Plaines, IL 60018

Published in the Timberjay, May 29, 2020

EMPLOYMENT

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 707 Nett Lake, Minnesota PART-TIME BUS DRIVER

Position: Part Time Bus Driver
 Qualifications: Valid MN Driver's License, Valid MN Bus Endorsement or able to obtain bus endorsement; Ability to pass criminal background check; Ability to pass random drug testing

Duties: Drive school bus for AM and/or PM routes; Other duties as assigned.
Rate of Pay: \$20.10 hr. AM or PM routes are a two-hour minimum
Terms of Contract: Hours to be determined. Expected start: AM start Mon.-Fri. 7:00; PM start: 3:00 Mon., Tues, & Thurs.; 1:45 Wed. and 2:45 Fri.
Anticipated Start Date: September 8, 2020
Due Date: Applications can be found at www.nettlakeschools.com. The district will begin reviewing applications on Friday, June 19 at 3:00 PM. Paper applications may be picked up at the Nett Lake School Office, M-F, 8:00-3:00. Please call before you come. 218-757-3102.

If you have any questions, please contact Superintendent Varichak @ 218-757-3102. Equal Opportunity Employer

Published in the Timberjay, May 22, 29, June 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2020

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humanresources@cookhospital.org

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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SCRAMBLERS

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

Shine

LARGE

Sheet

BOLTAID

Bandanas

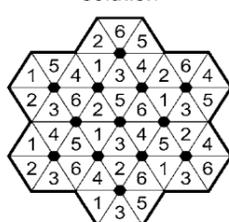
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TABLE

TODAY'S WORD

SNOWFLAKES solution



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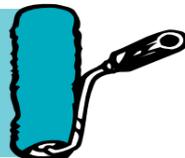
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