



**Ancient cedar trail...**  
See /4B

**Inside:**  
**Tower City Council...**See /7  
**An American Original...** See /1B  
**Spring reading picks...**See /3B

# the **TIMBERJAY**



VOL. 31, ISSUE 17 May 1, 2020

\$1.00

## WATER POLLUTION

### High court ruling could impact mining regulations

U.S. Supreme Court finds some groundwater discharges subject to Clean Water Act

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**  
Managing Editor

**REGIONAL**— A lawsuit originating in Hawaii, decided last week by the U.S. Supreme Court, is likely to reshape the regulatory framework for pollution discharges across the country,

including on Minnesota's Iron Range.

For years, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Minnesota courts have generally declined to regulate mining discharges from Iron Range tailings basins, or other point sources of pollution, if the polluted

water first traveled through the ground before reaching surface waters. They did so under the controversial legal theory that the Clean Water Act only applied to direct discharges of pollutants into surface waters, rather than to discharges that first travel through groundwater.

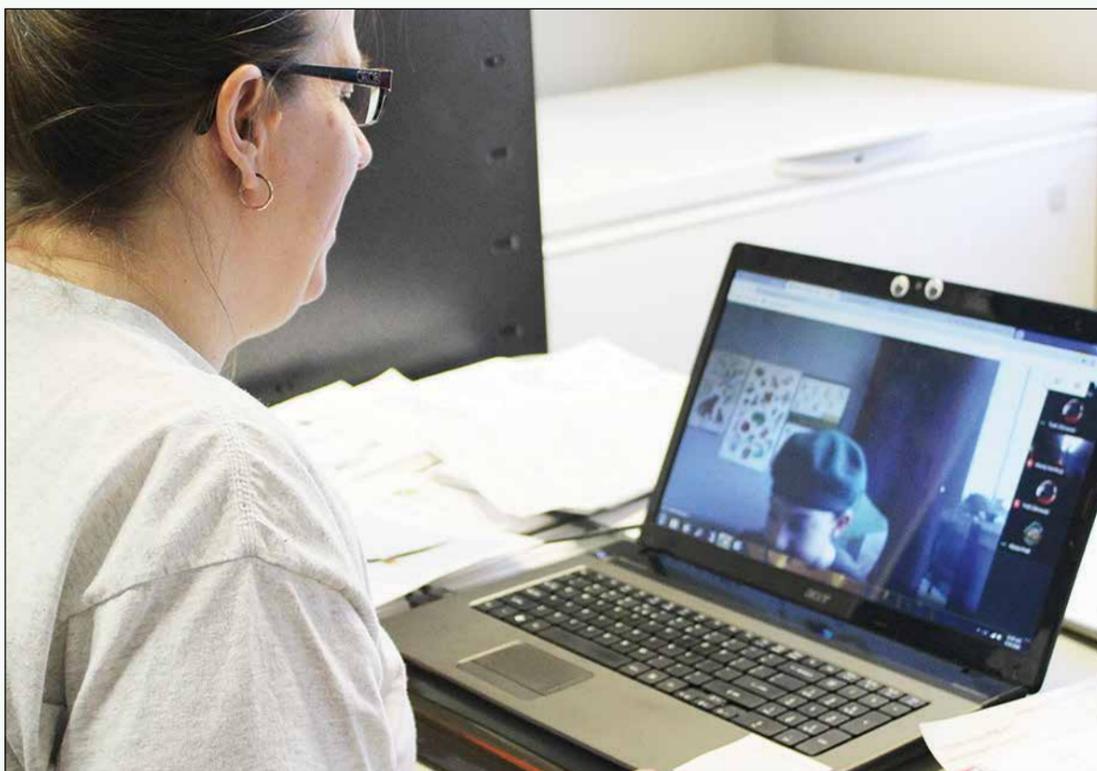
Indeed, last December, the Minnesota Court of Appeals rejected arguments by environmental groups that the MPCA had erred when it issued a water discharge permit, known as an NPDES permit, to U.S. Steel that failed to regulate polluted seepage from under

Minntac's tailings basin dam. Environmentalists and other courts in the U.S. had rejected such an exemption for discharges to groundwater, noting that such a reading of the law opened a giant loophole in the Clean

See...**WATER** pg. 7

## COVID-19

### Home school



### Classrooms closed for the rest of the school year

by **TIMBERJAY STAFF**  
Cook, Ely, Tower Editors

**REGIONAL** - Gov. Tim Walz made official last week what many Minnesota parents and students predicted as inevitable. All schools will remain closed for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year due to continuing caution over the coronavirus pandemic.

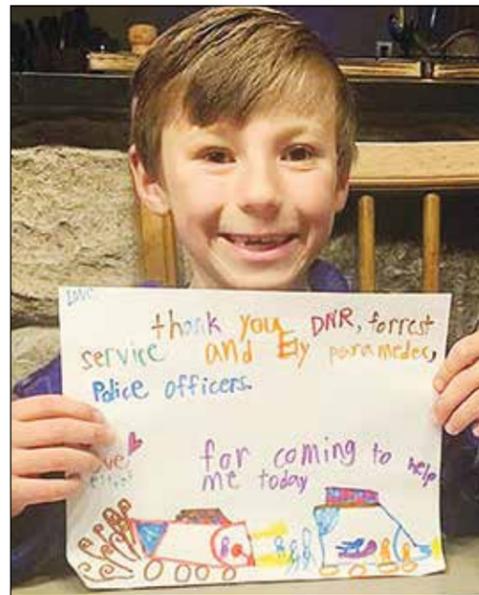
Distance learning, initiated in late March, will remain in place.

See...**SCHOOL** pg. 8

**Vermilion Country School teacher Paula Herbranson, above, checks in with Caleb Ramponi via computer. Ely parent Mark Spanholz, right, collects learning materials at school.**  
Timberjay photos



## EARTH DAY



### Big 911 response for lost little boy 'just exploring'

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**  
Ely Editor

**ELY** - With the help of an anonymous "good Samaritan" and the local emergency response team here, a cold, wet little boy avoided serious trouble last week after becoming lost while stretching the limits of exploring the woods along the Trezona Trail.

Lisa Eastham gave a shout out to all those who helped reunite her son, Elliot, almost 8, with the rest of the family. She related the adventure on a Facebook post.

Along with daughter, Annika, Lisa and Elliot were participating in an Earth Day event for the Washington Elementary School Student Council last Wednesday. They were part of a group of participants who carried water as they simulated the walk that many people in the world have to complete each day

See...**RESPONSE** pg. 7

## CITY OF TOWER

### Judge dismisses gross misdemeanor charge against former city clerk

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**  
Managing Editor

**TOWER**— A St. Louis County District Court Judge has dismissed a gross misdemeanor charge against former Tower Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith for lack of probable cause.

The ruling, by Judge

Finds Keith only recorded illegal actions of city council

Michelle Anderson, was issued April 22. In it, the judge found that "while the Tower City Council may have been acting improperly" when it removed *Timberjay* publisher Marshall HelMBERGER in January 2018

from his position on the Tower Economic Development Authority, Keith did not have the authority or a vote on the matter.

Instead, the judge determined that the former clerk-treasurer had merely drafted minutes and other city records that accurately reflected the illegal changes in the terms of office of HelMBERGER and other TEDA members that had been approved by the city council, and may have

been unaware that the changes represented an improper alteration of city records.

In fact, as acknowledged by Keith's attorney in his briefing to the judge, the only explicit action taken by the city council in January 2018 was to remove

See...**CLERK** pg. 7



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

**Contact The Timberjay**

218-753-2950  
editor@timberjay.com



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

## Community notices

### Ruby's Pantry set for May 14; drive-through at old Cook School

COOK- The next Ruby's Pantry will be a drive-through food distribution at the old Cook School parking lot on Thursday, May 14 from 4:30-6 p.m. \$20 cash donation at the door. For safety reasons, no one over 60 years of age will be asked to volunteer. Sponsored by St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Alango. For more information, contact Amy Viita at 218-666-2220.

### St. Louis County solid waste sites winter hours extended to May 17

REGIONAL- Winter operating hours at St. Louis County solid waste sites have been extended until May 17. The continuing need to adapt operations to ensure safety of staff and customers during the COVID-19 situation prompted the change. Typically, summer operating hours begin in April and include an expanded schedule at some locations. The complete schedule is available online at [stlouiscountymn.gov/environmentalservices](http://stlouiscountymn.gov/environmentalservices).

The county's two Household Hazardous Waste drop-off sites in Virginia and Hibbing remain closed until further notice. Residents are asked to keep any household hazardous waste items - such as paint, household cleaners, rechargeable batteries, and fluorescent bulbs, among other things - until the sites re-open, so that the items can be disposed of safely. People needing to make an emergency drop-off of household hazardous waste can call 218-741-8831 to try and make an appointment. Staff will accommodate emergency drop-offs as schedules permit.

Because the COVID-19 situation is continually changing, residents are encouraged to call the Environmental Service Hotline at 218-749-9703 before driving to any of the county's drop-off sites.

### St. Louis County Environmental Services limits access to residents

REGIONAL- St. Louis County Environmental Services solid waste drop-off sites have seen a significant increase in customers in recent weeks. While solid waste drop-off sites are considered an essential service that should remain open, the increased traffic is a concern as the county is trying to minimize public interaction for the safety of both visitors and staff. The increase in traffic is believed to be the result of a combination of factors. People who are staying at home have been cleaning and want to dispose of larger amounts of waste; and some neighboring counties have reduced disposal opportunities at their sites; and the WLSSD Materials Recovery Center is temporarily closed, resulting in their customers driving to St. Louis County's drop-off sites.

The increase in traffic has created volume and safety issues for county staff. In response, the St. Louis County Solid Waste and Septic Subcommittee held an emergency meeting and voted to stop accepting solid waste from residents living outside the St. Louis County Solid Waste Management Area, with the exception of the Northwoods Transfer Station in Ely. This action is effective immediately and will last through the duration of Governor Walz's Emergency Executive Orders.

"This is not a decision we made lightly, because our goal is always to ensure trash is disposed of properly, no matter the source," said Mark St. Lawrence, St. Louis County Environmental Services Director. "But our priority right now has to be the health and safety of our staff and the citizens who live in our service area."

Residents of the county's Solid Waste Management Area pay a fee for this service as part of their property taxes. The Environmental Services Department provides solid waste services for all of St. Louis County with the exception of that area served by the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District.

## LOCAL FOOD

# Harvest Nation seeking potential CSA food box customers

Registrations will help company determine size of pilot project farm

TOWER- Harvest Nation, a 100-percent women and native-owned family company, has announced plans to move forward with its second phase of development for an innovative indoor aeroponic Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm.

Harvest Nation's CSA Farm-To-Table product will be a subscription farm box of nutritious and tasty heirloom fruits and vegetables for everyday consumption distributed on 10-day cycles. For an annual subscription to Harvest Nation, customers will receive high quality produce items with fun recipe cards that will make healthy lifestyle maintenance more appetizing and easier for real families.

With the help of its Pilot Development Advisory Board, Harvest Nation is fundraising for a three-year demonstration project expected to cost between \$900,000 and \$1.5 million or more. The amount of capital raised will determine how many customers the farm will serve during its pilot program, ranging between 20 to 100 potential participants. The amount of funds raised will determine the actual size of the pilot farm and the number of customers it can serve.

CEO Denise Pieratos, Harvest Nation's main founder and principal designer of its advanced aeroponic system, says the pilot program is necessary for research and development



to capture the full potential of what is possible with soil-less farming. The objective of the pilot farm is to provide a local source of quality health food direct to families while showcasing the future of aeroponic technology and indoor agriculture.

Earlier this year, Harvest Nation completed an independent feasibility study through a grant awarded by the Blandin Foundation of Grand Rapids. The study involved direct market research with local permanent residents of the Iron Range and Bois Forte Reservations to gauge interest and verify local demand for their project and as a way to promote health as they develop the farm. Much of the data is shared in Harvest Nation's first publication: "Healthy Eating & Living on the Iron Range and Bois Forte Reservations," a free PDF e-booklet available online on at Harvest Nation's blog at [harvestnationinc.com](http://harvestnationinc.com).

Harvest Nation is now looking to its base of potential customers to pre-register for its pilot project to assist with fundraising efforts.

## NORTHERN PROGRESSIVES

# Postponing or suspending the 2020 election

by KEITH STEVA  
Contributing Writer

REGIONAL- In this chaotic and deeply partisan time when the President of the United States tests and expands the powers of the executive branch to an extent never seen in the history of the country, an unusual but understandable question has become a topic of interest. Can the President of the United States postpone, suspend, or cancel the 2020 national elections?

Historically, and this year, some state primaries have been delayed. That is rare since there are state laws or state constitutional language that set the date and nature of the state elections and primaries. Generally state laws dictate how and when the dates can be changed. State primaries are managed uniquely by each state and are subject to few federal limitations. The Congress and the executive branch have no authority over state elections or party primaries except the states must comply with the Voting Rights Act and other laws and amendments that prohibit discrimination and ensure access to the voting process.

The president is elected by the Electoral College, not a popular vote (in 2016 President Trump won the Electoral College vote but lost the popular vote). The general election is the process by which each state, by its

own laws, selects its electors which are the members of the Electoral College. The Constitution empowers Congress to set the general election date which is the date the states must appoint the state's general electors. Congress in 1845 set the date of the general election to be the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November. The Constitution allows only the Congress to change the date and it would take both the House and the Senate to agree to change the date. Such an agreement is currently unlikely with the House held by the Democrats and the Senate held by the Republicans. During previous wars, pandemics, depression, and financial crisis the presidential election date has never been changed.

Length of term becomes important if some event or catastrophe caused the election to be delayed. If for some reason the Electoral College cannot select the president, the president, by the 20th Amendment of the Constitution, is not allowed to hold office after January 20, 2021. At the same time the vice president, the speaker of the House (and all other representatives), and one-third of the senators no longer hold their offices. By the Presidential Succession Act adopted in 1947, the next line-of-succession occupied office would be the Senate pro tempore currently held by Republican Senator Grassley of Iowa. But the majority of the two-

"If we can show grant-making agencies a list of actual customers ready and willing to participate in our pilot project, we can get this farm going to produce food here on the Range sooner than later," Pieratos said. "With COVID-19 social distancing impacts on the food chain supply, it is more important than ever for us to start producing real food right here for our region."

Harvest Nation requests that only seriously interested potential customers sign up in advance. There are no fees involved, and there is no obligation to commit to participating in the program. If you reside on the Iron Range or Bois Forte, and truly see yourself making use of Harvest Nation's CSA farm box, they ask for you to fill out a pre-registration form online at <https://bit.ly/2XzCrTY>.

There is no date just yet as to when this pilot farm will start. When it's time, Harvest Nation will launch a crowdfunding platform to pre-sell weekly produce box subscriptions, with at least one month of advertising in advance to get the word out. Anticipated cost will be \$55 per week, and customers will have the choice to pay monthly, bi-weekly, or annually.

For questions or comments, please contact Dani by calling 978-906-4070, or by emailing [dani@harvestnationinc.com](mailto:dani@harvestnationinc.com).

thirds of the Senate now would be held by Democrats by one seat and would now select a new Senate pro tempore. In this scenario, the next president is likely a Democrat.

What about martial law? The executive branch can only do what is granted in the Constitution or granted by an act of Congress and cannot ignore or nullify an act of Congress. Congress has passed more than 100 powers that the President may exercise in an emergency, but none include the power to postpone or cancel a general election.

If the Constitution is upheld by the Supreme Court and the bodies of the House and Senate perform their roles according to the rule of law, there seems to be very little opportunity for President Trump to postpone or suspend the 2020 general election.

*Keith Steva, of Cook, has a masters degree from the University of Minnesota. He worked at Digi-Key Electronics in Thief River Falls Minnesota for 20 years before spending a number of years with companies like eBay in the San Francisco Bay Area and the west coast. He then returned to Thief River for the last three years of his career as the CIO. Keith and his spouse Amy have retired to Cook on Lake Vermilion.*

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## Annual Breitung Clean-Up

Monday, May 4 & Wednesday, May 6

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



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

**Absolutely no household garbage will be accepted!**

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

**Please place all items ON THE CURB.**  
Residents must call Breitung Town Hall 8 am-4 pm Tuesdays through Thursdays 753-6020 to arrange pick-up or with questions.



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EMERGENCY SERVICES

# Tower EMS targeted by apparent sabotage

Incident temporarily knocked city's main fire engine and at least one ambulance out of service

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER— The Tower fire and ambulance departments have been hit by potential sabotage by an unknown individual or individuals this week. The incidents, which appeared to be directed primarily at disabling the city's primary fire engine, also left the city without a working ambulance for a period of time on Tuesday.

The first sign of trouble was apparent Monday morning, when a member of the ambulance staff heard a low voltage alarm sounding on the city's main fire engine. After some investigation, fire staff discovered that the truck's master switch had been turned on, contributing to the drain on the battery. At the same time, an automatic battery



Tower's Volunteer Fire Department has been targeted by apparent sabotage in recent days. photo by M. Helmberger

charger on the vehicle and an air compressor that powers the truck's air brakes were both inoperable because the circuit that powers them had been tripped. The portable battery charger, that Fire Chief Paige Olson says has been at the hall for years, also

appeared to be missing. Fire staff were able to turn both the automatic charger and compressor back on. Meanwhile, city maintenance staff brought another portable charger to the station, which enabled fire staff to start the engine. Olson later

took the rig to a repair shop for inspection before returning it to service later in the day.

Monday's incident likely would have been dismissed as accidental or a coincidence, but the situation appeared far more troubling on Tuesday, when EMS staff discovered that someone had been in the hall subsequent to the return of the fire engine and had apparently climbed up to switch off a power strip that powered both the automatic battery charger and the air compressor.

It appears that in doing so, the saboteur cut him or herself fairly badly, as a significant amount of what appeared to have been blood was found in one of the ambulances, with lesser amounts discovered in the second ambulance and in the city's main fire engine. Samples

of the blood were provided to the Breitung Police Department and Police Chief Dan Nylund confirmed that he did forward the samples to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension for analysis.

"This is not okay," said Interim Ambulance Director Dena Suikhonen. "Somebody is messing with us, and they're endangering people's lives. This is not a little game. This is not pretend. This is real."

According to Suikhonen, there is reason to believe that whoever is responsible also tampered with one or both of the ambulances that were inside the hall at the time. At least one of the rigs was also taken to a repair shop for an inspection to ensure that there wasn't potentially

See SABOTAGE...pg. 5

CITY OF ELY

# Council will interview chief candidates in person

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

Decision represents a reversal of earlier decision to interview via Zoom

ELY – Concerns of fairness with the process prompted the city council here Tuesday to reverse course and hold in-person interviews for the police chief candidates on Friday.

Four finalists, including three members of the Ely Police Department and a member of the Virginia Police Department, will be interviewed before council members in the Ely City Hall council chambers beginning at noon on May 1.

The council agreed last week to conduct the

interviews to replace Chief John Lahtonen by video conference due to concerns over the coronavirus pandemic and social distancing protocols. Lahtonen, a member of the EPD for more than 25 years, is set to retire at the end of May.

That action did not sit well with council member Al Forsman.

"Being an open meeting, I was concerned about how we make it fair for the first interviewee or the last one," he said. "I want to make sure we are all on the same page

to create a fair process for our candidates."

In a pre-emptive move earlier in the day, Mayor Chuck Novak issued a declaration that allows for an in-person meeting by Ely council members in their chambers. He defended his abrupt action by saying that, according to the League of Minnesota Cities, "other cities have always met in person" if the space in their chambers, or other municipal locations, allows for social distancing.

"Several cities have

been meeting continuously since this began," Novak said, referring to the COVID-19 situation. "Social distancing is the rule."

The Ely city council had been meeting by internet video conference this spring, and canceled most committee meetings.

"In anticipation of Gov. Walz's modifying his stay-at-home piece later this week, I put out a declaration to allow in-person meetings," Novak said. "Not only are other councils doing this, but I get a

sense from this council that the current process was unfair to the candidates and unfair to the process."

The interview process to select Ely's next police chief is now open to the public.

"We can control the public access into the meeting," Novak said. "We will need to set some guidelines into how individuals may or may not come into the council chambers. The number of people allowed in will be extremely limited."

EPD sergeant George

Burger, EPD officers Adam Borchert and Chad Houde, and Virginia PD sergeant John Swenson are finalists for the chief position.

"My general feel is that if we did the interviews in the chambers, we'd have a better sense of the candidates themselves," Novak said. "It would most likely eliminate the candidates listening in to answers, not that they would, but there has been a concern raised about that. Doing this in chambers gives us a more

See COUNCIL...pg. 5

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**Tidy-Up Tower/Soudan**

Got Cabin Fever? Itching to enjoy the outdoors? Tired of Trash? Here's the perfect way to build up immunity from all of those maladies!

Area residents are being asked to do their part in this project...to spruce up Tower and Soudan/Breitung Township.

**Monday, May 4**  
**Wednesday, May 6**

- Brush, yard waste • Old appliances/other junk
- Trash on adjacent roadsides and vacant lots
- Bagged yard waste and brush (3 ft bundles)
- Old appliances, building debris, and junk in general

Please leave all this in neat piles alongside alleys. The city is looking at options for disposal of junk vehicles.

**TOWER:** Need volunteers with trucks/trailers to help pick up brush, trash and appliances being collected. Volunteers email to: Mayor@CityofTower.com to sign up, or post a message on the City of Tower Facebook page.

**SOUDAN-BREITUNG TOWNSHIP:** Pick-ups can be arranged for brush, appliances and other items by calling the township office at 218-753-6020 (office open Tu-Th 8 a.m-4 p.m.) Township maintenance staff will pick up the items on May 4 or 6.

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# OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

## Editorial

### Save the Post Office

President Trump shouldn't stand in the way of emergency loan to keep mail flowing

To hear President Trump speak at times, it's difficult to believe he's ever been involved in running a business. Take his latest salvo against the U.S. Postal Service, which he described as “a joke,” while threatening to withhold a \$10 billion emergency loan recently approved by Congress as part of one of its recent COVID-19 funding packages.

Trump said he's told Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin to withhold the loan funding until the Post Office agrees to increase the fees it charges for package delivery. Trump says their rates should be “quadrupled.”

Trump's advice to the Postal Service is on par with his recommendation last week that the nation's healthcare professionals should explore injecting chemical disinfectants, like bleach, into the veins of COVID-19 patients, since such disinfectants work so well on your kitchen counters. His suggestion to the Post Office would be just as fatal if anyone took it seriously.

While the Post Office has long generated most of its profits on its first-class mail delivery, with the mail volume steadily declining in recent years, and down sharply since the outbreak of COVID-19 in the U.S., its mail revenues have fallen significantly. That's left the Post Office increasingly dependent on its package delivery business to generate the cash flow the service needs to operate.

Sharply increasing, much less quadrupling, the fees that the Post Office charges for packages won't generate more revenue, or profits. While the Post Office essentially has a monopoly on first-class mail delivery, it operates in an incredibly competitive environment when it comes to package delivery. Companies like UPS, FedEx, and a long list of other package delivery services would eat the Post Office's lunch if the service is forced to jack up its delivery fees just to please a president who is virtually clueless on the subject.

And that could spell the end of the U.S. Postal Service, an outcome that would be particularly devastating to elderly and rural residents, who still rely on the Post Office for their mail communications. It would be devastating as well to many small businesses, including newspapers, that serve rural

areas and rely on the Post Office for delivery of products and invoices. Perhaps most of all it would be devastating for the 600,000 Postal Service employees who keep the mail flowing.

While President Trump, bizarrely, blames Amazon for the woes of the Post Office, the biggest threat to its future operations is the 2007 decision by Congress to force the Post Office to prefund all of its retirees' health benefits, something that is not required of private sector companies. Private companies are only required to prefund defined pension obligations, although few companies maintain such pension programs anymore.

The Post Office actually still makes money on its operations— but it's been forced to divert billions of dollars a year to its future health care obligations. It looks fine on a balance sheet, but it's stripped the Post Office of operating funds and forced them to take cost-saving measures (like closing its Duluth sorting facility, sending all mail from this region to Minneapolis) that have had a negative impact on mail service. The cash drain has also prevented the Post Office from making investments to modernize its operations for greater efficiency and competitiveness.

And maybe that's part of the plan. Conservatives have long disliked the Post Office, preferring such a service be provided by the private sector. The founding fathers had no problem with a government-run Post Office, which is why they expressly authorized Congress to create post offices and post roads. And, by the way, good luck finding a private company to deliver a letter to any mailbox, no matter how rural, for 49 cents. Without the Post Office, we'd be paying far more for that service.

While times and methods of communication have changed, the Post Office still provides an invaluable service to the elderly, rural residents, and the millions of small and large businesses alike that rely on the Post Office for billing or for product delivery. Congress created the biggest problem currently facing the Post Office, but at least Congress was willing to free up funds to help the service during the current economic downturn. President Trump shouldn't stand in the way.



## Letters from Readers

### Greenwood cameras are for security

In the April 24 edition of the *Timberjay*, there is a statement that both the clerk and the treasurer have expressed concerns over the “surveillance” cameras at the town hall.

First of all, they are security cameras, not surveillance cameras and secondly, I am happy that they are there.

Security cameras in the workplace are commonplace and have been in most companies I worked for in the past two decades.

They keep employees safe, defer theft and burglary, record events such as workplace harassment or accidents. I question why the clerk have a problem with the cameras- is she hiding something?

**Pam Rodgers**  
Treasurer  
Greenwood Twp

### Frontier epitomized corporate mentality

This whole time that we were a customer of Frontier we had nothing but problems with service. The phone line had a steady 60-cycle hum and sometimes you would have no phone service at all.

You couldn't hear the person on the other end of the line, and they couldn't hear you! When internet came into being in this house it was slow at best. Complaints to Frontier usually followed up with quick service at first but that soon slacked off and I'm sure everyone else out in the country here was complaining and waiting on service reps to fix their line too. It got to the point where if you wanted to place a call you had to use the cell phone. Twice I filed a complaint with the FCC and that fell on deaf ears..... Twice I filed a complaint with the Attorney General's office of Minnesota. They were more responsive than the FCC. I finally got a call from Frontier about my complaints and received a one-time \$20 refund on my next bill. After several years of poor service I get a whole \$20

dollars back! When fiber optics came through here we jumped at the chance and went with them. What a difference, of course, with updated service compared to the old lines that Frontier has.

Since Frontier is filing for bankruptcy I doubt whether anyone will receive a significant amount of money from this. As customers of Frontier we paid dearly for the poor service we got. I must say that throughout the time that we had Frontier all of the service people who came out here were very understanding and tried their best to try and fix problems. They just couldn't keep putting band-aids on an old line and Frontier would not upgrade their equipment. I just hope throughout this whole restructuring that they are going through, that they don't buy up our provider, Zito. If they do, then that service might not get maintained either due to corporate mentality.

**Brian LaFrenier**  
Embarrass

### Parenting just got a whole lot harder

Students won't be returning to school. While many parents knew in the back of their mind that this was likely to happen, it still came as a shock. Most had hoped that miraculously their children would return to school and then they could work – even if it was from home.

To say that the last few weeks have been difficult for families with children is an understatement. There is this image of detailed full schedules with experiential learning, children who are thrilled and engaged in distance learning and parents lining up additional activities through the many museums and other entities to enrich their children's lives. And everyone is smiling.

The reality is that the stress and anxiety related to COVID-19 is like a cloud over everyone's head. The schedule worked for a day or two. The boss called while you were trying to teach division. The internet went out while trying to connect to distance learning. Your elementary

age child dissolved in a tantrum and your teenager dissolved in tears or angry words. Or both.

For some families the economic hardship makes it even more difficult. School lunches were important and now difficult to obtain. Your job may mean that you can't be there during the day to help your middle school child. Your family may not have a computer or tablet and the worksheets that were mailed – well it's really hard to get your child engaged.

If your child is in special education, it may be more difficult. If they had a paraprofessional assisting them during the day – well, you are on your own. If you had in-home supports, they may not be coming out due to COVID-19.

So, what's a parent to do? First, ban perfectionism. You can't be perfect during a pandemic. Do what you can. Take one day at a time. The more stress that comes with instituting a tight schedule the more upset a child will be. Have a schedule, because that brings some normalcy to the situation, but also adapt to what you and your child need that day.

Second, work on wellness and coping strategies. Together, take deep breaths, move or dance, or use a meditation app. It does relieve stress and it will teach strategies your child can use in the future.

Third, help your younger children understand what is going on through some good books and videos such as “The Oyster and the Butterfly” or “Time to Come In, Bear.” For older children, understand and talk to them about how hard it is to not be with friends, to miss some of the events that are big in their lives such as dances, sports, and concerts. Listen and empathize.

It's not an easy time. But if we try to stay calm, love and support our children, and connect to others, we will get through this. Parenting was never easy, and now it's really hard. Know that there are free classes, videos, resources and support groups through NAMI Minnesota. Sometimes it helps just to hear that you are not the only one struggling.

**Sue Abderholden**  
Executive Director  
National Alliance on  
Mental Illness- Minnesota

## An excess of national “days” leaves me dazed

It's purely serendipitous that I'm writing this column on what turns out to be National Blueberry Pie Day, April 28, as anyone who's known me for years will tell you I'd do just about anything for a slice of blueberry pie.

It's also National Superhero Day, so for the record, my favorite superhero is



**DAVID COLBURN**

Captain Underpants. Unlike Batman or Superman, Captain Underpants doesn't have a national day all to himself, but at least his fans, casual or devoted, can celebrate him today. Hurrah!

We traditionally celebrate Friday, May 1 as May Day, although President Donald Trump calls it National Loyalty Day. Trump is

in good company – every president since Dwight Eisenhower has annually declared May 1 to be Loyalty Day, in accordance with the law.

As to whether Trump celebrated National Honesty Day the day before, I suggest you check FOX News or CNN for an answer that suits you.

Meanwhile, it seems as though there's a day for just about anything these days, doesn't it? May Day and Loyalty Day share a crowded May 1 with tributes to Mother Goose, chocolate parfait,

law, school principals, space, Silver Star military service, and school lunch heroes.

I first got caught up paying attention to the days of May back in 1988 when May 5 unofficially became “National Welcome My Daughter Kiersten Into the World Day.” Of course, that's not really a national day, just like the star named after her in the International Star Registry isn't really named after her at all. Star registries are a topic for another day.

How in the world did we

get to the point where just the first week of May has around 60 national days for anything from lumpy rugs to roast leg of lamb?

For once, it seems government isn't to blame. While Congress is responsible for National Prayer Day, for example, it had nothing to do with National Honesty Day (no surprise there).

Blame free enterprise in no small part for the dizzying chore

See **DAYS...** pg. 5

## COMMENTARY

# How Congress has changed, and not for the better

If you feel like Congress has become less productive, less functional, and more partisan... you're right. I've been thinking a lot lately about how it's changed over the years since I served there in the '60s to the '90s, and several issues help explain why it often struggles to get things done.

Heightened partisanship may top the list. Congress has always been a partisan organization; we've seen tense battles throughout its history. But now they're more intense and occur more frequently. Members tend to see issues

predominantly, though not completely, through a partisan lens.

This is reflected in their voting patterns. In the 1960s and 1970s, votes in which a majority of one party opposed a majority of the other occurred roughly one-third to one-half the time. Starting in the early '90s, that percentage rose into the 60 and 70 percent

range. Add to this increasingly split control of Congress, with one party controlling the House and the other the Senate, and agreement becomes exceedingly difficult to find.

In many ways, this reflects the country at large. Though identification with a party or as an independent has tended to move a few percentage points over time, Americans of each party seem ever more firmly stuck in their own camps. It has become more difficult to resolve our differences, and this has undoubtedly contributed to congressional gridlock.

Years ago, the question that pervaded discussions on Capitol Hill was, "What can we do to resolve this problem?" Members were unwilling to accept stalemate or lack of agreement. Leaders at the time—people like Carl Albert and Tip O'Neill on the Democrats' side and Bob Michel and John Anderson on the Republicans'—certain-

ly had partisan differences, but these did not dominate the discussion. Behind closed doors they would discuss them civilly and politely, even going so far as to share private polling numbers.

At the same time that polarization has increased, Congress's ambition has generally lessened. It's almost inconceivable today that Congress would tackle a big issue—say, how to provide health care for older people—by trying to create something like Medicare. You see this same trend in oversight of the executive branch. There were committee chairmen who knew the ins and outs of the departments they oversaw down to the finest detail. They would spend days grilling administration witnesses (of even their own party), creating an extensive record of what an administration and its political appointees were trying to accomplish—information that helped ordinary Americans understand and judge the government's approach. That is much harder to find today.

I think you can also detect the same trend at work in a diminishment of Congress's

oratorical ambitions. There was a time when members of Congress on both sides of the aisle considered Congress to be equal in stature to the President and the executive branch, and their speech-making reflected this: they saw strong oratory as a chance to encapsulate ideas and inspire Americans to rally behind them.

A key thing to remember is that this wasn't just the speaker of the House or the majority leader of the Senate. Power and influence were spread more widely across both chambers. As the leadership in recent years has come to dominate the process, ordinary members find far fewer chances to shine. The collapse of what was known as the "regular order," the committee work and amendment process that allowed ordinary members to participate in the deliberative work of Capitol Hill, has thoroughly concentrated power in the hands of leaders and made Congress less representative as a whole.

That trend has been accentuated by the extent to which money now talks at every stage

of the process. It's not just that members are constantly trying to raise campaign funds. It's that the mix of who funds those campaigns has changed dramatically. In the late 1970s, according to the Brookings Institution's Vital Statistics on Congress, labor and corporate PACs gave about equally. Now, corporate PACs account for the vast majority of all the money flowing to members' campaigns.

The result of all this? Congress is still a vital part of our democracy, but it is by most measures a less effective one.

*Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.*

## DAYS...Continued from page 4

of keeping up with so many national days that were created specifically for advertising and boosting sales.

Take National Road Trip Day, celebrated the Friday before Memorial Day and promoted for the first time last year. Who benefits from road trips besides the people who take them? Why, Pilot/Flying J Travel Centers, the company that established the day, as those road trippers fuel up and chow down at their plazas across the country.

The website National Day Calendar makes it perfectly clear why they exist on their "Register a National Day" page:

"National Day Calendar is the premier destination for brands, nonprofits, and corporations to register an official National Day that

aligns with their product or service. As the #1 trending topic of all time on social media, National Day Calendar offers a powerful media mix of digital, radio, social media and television news platforms that reach a hyper-engaged audience of Celebrators across the United States and around the globe. Over 20,000 media outlets source their stories from National Day Calendar's website."

Add one more to the mix, although there are many more sites that list national days.

Nonprofits are included in the marketing mix, and I certainly don't begrudge them at all for wanting to get more visibility for their causes and a designated time period they can use for targeted giving campaigns.

Nonprofits appear to be more inclined to opt for

national weeks or months, which makes sense. May is National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness month, for example. I've been aware of cystic fibrosis since the late 1960s, as my cousin Marcia had CF and died from it in 1971 when she was just 17 years old. But it's not a disease that has much visibility. It's estimated only 30,000 people in the US have this genetic disorder, and only 1,000 new cases are diagnosed each year. Having an awareness month is of great help in raising funds for care, support, and research.

But let's get back to the world of capitalism and profits.

The entire month of May is also dedicated to national recognition of three essential food groups: barbecue, hamburgers, and salsa. I seriously doubt

those applications were submitted by Michelle Obama.

And if that's not enough to please your palate, you'll eat really well in May if you observe the national days for chocolate parfaits, truffles, chocolate custard, raspberry popovers, candied orange peels, hoagies, crepe Suzette, shrimp, buttermilk biscuits, coconut cream pie, nutty fudge, croutons, apple pie, fruit cocktail, chocolate chips, cherry cobbler, walnuts, cheese souffle, devil's food cake, quiche Lorraine, strawberries and cream, vanilla pudding, taffy, Yucatan shrimp, escargot, and blueberries. On beverage-oriented national days wash those meals down with a good homebrew, lemonade, orange juice, Coke, juice slush, wine, or a product from a craft

distillery.

If none of that has any particular appeal, then mark May 11 on your calendar -- it's National Eat What You Want Day.

All of that in only one month. If you're on a diet, I'd strongly advise staying far, far away from the National Day Calendar.

A lengthy article on this topic that appeared in *The Atlantic* last August provides evidence that Marlo Anderson's brain-storm to turn his national day blog into a true moneymaker was, to put it mildly, brilliant. At that point National Day Calendar was "very busy selling and placing ads on the website, distributing a printed calendar, developing a clothing line, doing appearances at festivals, collecting licensing fees, creating a nationally syndicated radio segment,

and developing an app, a TV show, and a potential movie."

All of that by capitalizing on capitalism and people's seemingly insatiable desire to celebrate things both profound and trivial.

Meanwhile, some national days really do fit together well. National Lost Sock Memorial Day is May 9, and I have multiple reasons to observe that one. But the very next day is National Clean Up Your Room Day, providing hope that some of those wayward socks will be happily reunited with their mates.

And in a delightful ironic twist this year, National Clean Up Your Room Day shares the spotlight on May 10 with a much more familiar national day -- Mother's Day. How apropos.

## SABOTAGE...Continued from page 3

more serious damage. The second ambulance also required cleaning to remove the blood, a potential biohazard.

Perhaps most trou-

bling is that whoever entered the facility apparently had the entrance code since there was no sign of a break-in.

While the city's EMS

officials did change the code to the hall in the wake of the dismissal of former fire chief and ambulance director Steve Altenburg and the subsequent resig-

nation of several members of the fire department, Mayor Orlyn Krinstad said the city will be upgrading the locking system for the hall to prevent such

intrusions from happening again.

"My main concern is for the safety and security of the citizens of Tower and surrounding townships,"

said Krinstad. "We need to have our equipment in working order so we can respond effectively whenever there's an emergency."

## COUNCIL...Continued from page 3

fair process for everybody concerned."

Forsman raised a question about future council meetings going back to the in-person format in lieu of the mayor's proclamation.

"That would be up to the council," Novak said. He noted that his action "allows in-person meeting to occur" and will be made on a case-by-case basis. Social distance guidelines will continue according to orders from the governor's office.

"I feel I came to this stance with the purpose of doing what is in the best interest of the city and giving the taxpayer the biggest bang for their tax dollar," Novak said. He noted that taxpayers are currently banned from walking into city hall for passport applications, building permits and other services, and instead must utilize the city's website.

Council member Kess objected to holding any in-chamber meetings until the Governor's office

allows such actions by municipalities, or at least until the council approves and adopts the 11th-hour proclamation.

"I prefer to meet in person, believe me," he said.

"The governor has not said we cannot meet in person," Novak replied "He just requires social distancing. Other councils are meeting in person."

A debate about allowing the candidates to preview interview questions was put to rest by City Attorney Kelly Klun, who said that past practices by the city for in-person interviews did not allow for releasing preview questions.

"Usually questions are answered on the spot," she said. "You show up for the interview and you answer the questions."

Last week, Council members agreed to meet 30 minutes prior to the interviews to finalize interview questions and procedures.

Kess pushed for a

portion of the interview questions to be released to the candidates.

"That gives candidates a chance to think and respond creatively to questions," he said. "We could also ask other questions, like in a regular interview, that gives us a chance to gauge their ability to respond impromptu and

think on their feet, which we may value in a (police) chief."

Novak pushed back. "We are dealing with a position that is supposed to function under pressure, aren't we?"

Klun pushed for not releasing any questions to the candidates before the interviews begin. She

suggested allowing the council to review and refine the interview questions just prior to the start

of the interview meeting.

"This keeps the process fair," she said.

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**HYDRANT FLUSHING**

Breitung Township will be flushing hydrants in Soudan on

Wednesday, May 13

starting at 8:30 a.m.

Residents should expect discolored water.

**Week of May 4**

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

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

**Tuesday**  
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is May 19.

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

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

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

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

**Tower Food Shelf open by request**

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

**Senior Dining still available for carry-out**

TOWER- Vermilion Country School and AEOA sponsor a senior dining site at the charter school in Tower. While school is closed due to COVID-19, the kitchen staff will be providing carry-out meals. Please note, because of current health guidelines, the meals do not include the salad bar, but canned vegetables will be available.

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

**Reservations are requested a day in advance if possible.** Call the school at 218-300-1447 (direct line to kitchen) or 218-753-1246 (ext. 2 for the office) for information, or call AEOA at 1-800-662-5711 ext. 7323 for the one-time registration process.

**Week of May 4**  
Monday- Chicken Salad Sandwich  
Tuesday- Salisbury Steak  
Wednesday- Taco Soup, Tortilla Chips  
Thursday- Mac & Cheese, Garlic Bread Stick  
Friday- Deli Sub



**SPRING CLEANING**

**Tidy-Up: Clean-up days set for for May 4 and 6 in Tower and Breitung**

TOWER-SOUDAN- Got cabin fever? Itching to enjoy the outdoors? Tired of trash? Clean-up days may be the perfect way to build up immunity from all of those maladies.

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

Residents are being asked to clean up:

- Brush, yard waste;
- Old appliances and other junk and;

- Trash on adjacent roadsides and vacant lots.
  - Bagged yard waste and brush (3 ft. bundles);
  - Old appliances, building debris, and junk in general.
- Collected items from the above list should be left in neat piles alongside alleys. The city is looking at options for disposal of junk vehicles.

**Tower residents**

We are asking for volunteers with trucks and/or trailers to help with pickup of brush, appliances, and other items that are being collected. Volunteers can email

Mayor@CityofTower.com to sign up, or people can post a message on the City of Tower Facebook page.

**Soudan/Breitung Township residents**

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



**Breitung Township staff and friends drove by to wish Soudan resident Art Dale a happy 90th birthday on Tuesday, April 28.** photo by S. Ukkola

**Seasonal campers can move in May 1 at McKinley Park**

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA  
Staff Writer

BREITUNG- Seasonal campers may move into McKinley Park on May 1 as usual, though other short-term stays are still not allowed. At their April 15 meeting, the town board had stated that no campers would be permitted to stay overnight and had established a 10 p.m. curfew but has since found out that would be unnecessary. At the April 28 town board

meeting, campground manager Susie Chiabotti said they are taking tentative reservations for after May 4 with the understanding that reservations may need to be canceled if the Stay at Home Order, which was set to expire on May 4, is extended.

- In other business, the board:
- Sold a vacant lot, Block 4 Lot 1 in Soudan, to Bob and Tina Wright for \$6,500.
- Discussed changing dog registration from an annual to a

lifetime registration.  
➤ Recognized the Breitung Fire Department's 70th anniversary on April 1 and thanked its current members and the 200 people who have served on the department during its lifetime.

- Set their next meeting for Tuesday, May 26 at noon.
- Reminded property owners that the local board of appeal and equalization will be Tuesday, May 12 at 1 p.m.



**the TIMBERJAY**

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

Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office in Tower, Minnesota. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Timberjay, P.O. Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Three award-winning community editions are published each week for Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr, and Ely.

Publisher General Manager Cook-Orr Editor Ely Editor Staff Writer Office Manager Graphics/Ad Sales Ad Sales/Sports Ad Sales	Marshall Helmlberger Jodi Summit David Colburn Keith Vandervort Stephanie Ukkola M. M. White Scarlet Lynn Stone Jay Greeney Bill Stone
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**Moving? Questions about your subscription? Call the Tower office at (218) 753-2950.**

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**Baby Shower for Life- Fill the Bassinet at St. Martin's**

TOWER- The St. Martin's Catholic Church Quilt Ministry is once again partnering with the Women's Care Center in Duluth. We have been busy making quilts for them, but they have more needs. During the month of May we are sponsoring a Baby Shower for Life. All items/money donated will be given to the Women's Care Center. We spoke with The Crib Club manager and identified their specific needs:

- Travel size lotions, hand sanitizers, chapsticks, gifts for our mothers
- Infant hygiene products (lotion, sunscreen, shampoo)
- Outfits of any size - summer/fall (9 mo. to 12 mo. most

- needed)
- Infant/toddler toys
- Infant carriers
- Hooded towels and wash-cloths
- Boppy pillows and covers
- Bumbo seats
- Infant play mats
- Crib sheets
- Diapers

Donations may be placed in the bassinet located at the front entrance of the church or dropped off at the rectory.

Let's fill the basinet for the Women's Care Center! Questions may be directed to Maryann at 753-4310.

When we visited with the staff at the Women's Care Center

they told us that they never have enough diapers. Diapers are used as incentive gifts for the mothers-to-be. Our goal is to send diapers to them every other month. Would you be willing to donate to St. Martin's Diaper Club? If so, make a check payable to St. Martin's and make a note that it is for the Diaper Club and we'll take care of the rest. Thanks!

When you are in Duluth, the Women's Care Center invites you to stop by. They will gladly give you a tour and answer any questions that you have about the center and the work that they do.



**Area Solid Waste Facility site hours**

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

Winter hours extended through May 17, 2020

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



**Midco extends internet disconnection moratorium through end of June**

REGIONAL- Midco is extending its commitment to the FCC's Keep Americans Connected pledge. Through June 30, the communications company won't disconnect services to customers financially affected by the coronavirus pandemic. If customers are having financial difficulties during this time, Midco encourages them to contact customer care representatives by phone, via chat on [Midco.com](http://Midco.com), text or social media.

In addition, Midco will continue its partnership with area schools by offering Midco Internet Basics through June 30 for low-income households who have a student in the home but don't have an internet connection. Current customers who have been financially hampered by the coronavirus can also apply for Lifeline internet and phone services. The federal program is intended to put home phone and internet service within reach of qualifying families - giving low-income households affordable access. Midco's internet services are unlimited, meaning Midco does not impose any data caps or additional fees.

"We know connection is essential to our customers, and our customers are essential to us," said Midco President and CEO Pat McAdaragh. "Midco is proud to play an important role in providing our customers with a vital connection to the world."

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.**

**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.**

In Brief

**Ely Golf Course opens today**

ELY - The Ely Golf Course will be opening for the season on Friday, May 1 at 9 a.m. Like other golf courses across the state, courses, the Ely facility has restrictions in place out of caution over the coronavirus pandemic.

New rules are posted on the door. Memberships will be available to purchase on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Please call for tee times and please be patient with golf course staff while they work through the new challenges during the COVID-19 reality and the call for continued social distancing.

**Hands off the Monkey Bars**

ELY - Use of outdoor play equipment at Whiteside Park is not allowed under the state's Stay-at-Home Executive Order, according to the city of Ely Parks Department.

Activity in outdoor parks and recreation areas is allowed, but follow the CDC's recommendations: stay home if you're sick, and maintain six feet of distance from others when using open areas.

The Winton Playground is also closed until further notice. "We are unable to keep the equipment sanitized," said Mayor Kathy Brandau.

**Fire Departments host face mask drive to help essential workers**

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY - A week-long statewide drive to collect protective face masks concluded Saturday with more than 200 homemade COVID-19 protective devices dropped off at the Ely Fire Department.

Governor Tim Walz and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan launched the effort to encourage Minnesotans to create homemade masks for donation and highlight the importance of workers on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nancy Andreae, a member of the local Heart of the Woods quilting guild, was the first Ely resident to drop off her donation of 40 masks at the Ely Fire Department Saturday morning, and was greeted and thanked by Fire Chief Tom Erchull.

"I've made close to 300 masks already and our quilting guild members have made hundreds more," Andreae said. "This is very important to keep our workers safe."

Fire departments will deliver the masks to local congregate living facilities for their employees and residents to wear.

"Those working in congregate living facilities are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Gov. Walz. "While homemade masks will not replace personal protective equipment, they go a long way in preventing the wearer's germs from infecting others. I am asking Minnesota's crafters, sewers, and creatives to step up and help out their community."

John Harrington, commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, said, "We're grateful for the partnership of fire departments across the state for helping us get homemade masks delivered to where they're needed most."

Face mask design patterns and instructions can be found online and below:

Build a mask that tightly encloses the area around the nose and mouth, from the bridge of the nose down to the chin, and extending onto the cheek beyond the

OUR COMMUNITY



Nancy Andreae, of Ely, presented a pack of homemade masks Saturday morning to Ely Fire Chief Tom Erchull. More than 200 protective masks were collected to distribute to local essential workers. photo by K. Vandervort

corners of the mouth, so no gaps occur when talking or moving.

Use mask material that is tightly woven but breathable. Double-layer the fabric if possible.

Masks must be made from washable material such as fabric. Choose a fabric that can handle high temperatures and bleach without shrinking or otherwise deforming.

The mask should be tolerant of expected amounts of moisture from breathing.

Suggested materials:

- Outer layer tea cloth
- Inner layer of a microfleece to wick away moisture

➤ Use an accordion fold to mimic a hospital mask as much as possible

➤ Use a fat woven shoelace type material to bind the sides (such as quilt binding)

➤ For straps, use elastic straps that loop behind the ears.

The CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings to protect others from COVID-19. Cloth face masks can help prevent the wearer from infecting others - especially in situations where they may spread the virus without symptoms. Cloth face masks are not a proven way to prevent COVID-19 from infecting the wearer.

*the* **TIMBERJAY**

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

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**Little Libraries gain popularity around Ely**

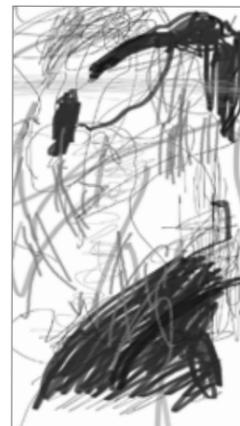
**Abbie and Lauren Rehbein, right, added some decorations Saturday morning to the new little free library at the Ely Community Resource building, located at the corner of Harvey Street and Fourth Avenue. Abbie is a Key Club member at Memorial High School. The new little library is filled with board books, picture books and chapter books for kids of all ages.**

photo by K. Vandervort



**Breathing Out**

by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



float in abstraction  
all turning round while in flux  
here for duration



For parents of middle school students and younger, Lynn Evenson's My Little Free Library, at the corner of Second Avenue and James Street is well stocked with interesting books. "If they've read everything in your house, feel free to swap out," Evenson said in a Facebook post this week. "If the weather's cruddy and the library is full, you are welcome to put books on the porch."



A garden seed library is located at 57 W. Chandler St., at the top of Finn Hill. Drop off any packaged flower and veggie seeds you don't need. Pick up any you do need.



# Early morning fire rips through Angora residence

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

ANGORA- The Angora home of Craig Sarazine was consumed by an early morning fire Friday that took the combined efforts of four area fire departments to extinguish. Northwoods True Value owner Dan Julkowski was on his way to Tower at around 6 a.m. and spotted smoke coming from the house at 8972 Hwy. 1, about a mile east of the Hwy. 53/Hwy. 1 junction. Units from Cook, Vermilion Lake, Pike-Sandy-Britt,

and Evergreen fire departments responded, as well as Cook Ambulance. The three-bedroom home, valued at \$111,800 in county tax records, was apparently a total loss, according to comments posted to a GoFundMe page created by Sarazine's daughter-in-law, Ashley Sarazine. "Today was one of the worst days a person can experience, got a call at 7 a.m. that my father-in-law Craig Sarazine's house was on fire," she wrote Friday. "And today he lost everything. Every family gathering, holiday,

and summers were spent at his house, and poof it's gone." She described Craig Sarazine as "a hardworking man of many trades, always a hand to help, and a man that never asks for anything." People responded to her request for assistance by donating \$1,150 as of Wednesday. The GoFundMe page can be found at [www.gofundme.com/f/1zlwlych5c](http://www.gofundme.com/f/1zlwlych5c). Attempts by the *Timberjay* to contact Cook Fire Department and Sarazine for additional details prior to press time were unsuccessful.



An unknown firefighter, upper left, and another from the Pike-Sandy-Britt department, above, perch high atop ladders Friday morning as they try to subdue a house fire at 8972 Hwy. 1 in Angora. Cook, Vermilion Lake, and Evergreen departments also responded. photos courtesy of Northland Fire Wire

# NWFA plans for possible June reopening of gallery

COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts in Cook is still humming despite closing the gallery for April. Plans are being formulated for a June reopening if state restrictions have been lifted. "Hearts for Humanity", a traveling exhibit created by The Lyric in Virginia, will be on display as the gallery returns to open regular hours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

Social distancing will still be practiced and visitors will be expected to wear masks or to purchase one to wear. During the NWFA board meeting on April 21, via Zoom, directors were enthusiastic about beginning art programming again. Planning will continue to explore how virtual reality could be used for exhibits. They expressed gratitude for the generous donations that have come in to NWFA during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The organization is preparing for a reboot of "A Canvas and You," which was postponed due to the pandemic. Artists may purchase a NWFA canvas for \$10 to begin a creation. Participants are invited to paint, draw, sew, slash, carve, glue, weave, etc. on their canvases with their own designs. Completed canvases will be exhibited for sale during July and August for \$50 each. There may be drawings and prizes. Proceeds of the sale will be

split equally between the artists and NWFA. Patrons are encouraged to regularly check [www.nwfamn.org/art-events](http://www.nwfamn.org/art-events) or [www.facebook.com/northwoodsfriendsofthearts/](http://www.facebook.com/northwoodsfriendsofthearts/) for an announcement of when and how to purchase canvases. Music at the Gazebo is planned during July, if criteria can be met for safe distancing and some funding to pay the musicians is received. Spring Art Expo 2020, NWFA's most important annual

fundraiser, will not take place this year, but planning will continue for 2021. The photo contest was canceled in March. Renewals of memberships are welcome for the new membership year starting June 1. Membership information is available by visiting [www.nwfamn.org](http://www.nwfamn.org) or by emailing [nwfamn.org@gmail.com](mailto:nwfamn.org@gmail.com). Contact us by mail at NWFA, PO Box 44, Cook MN 55723.

# McDonald's offers free "thank you meals"

COOK- In appreciation for the healthcare workers, police officers, firefighters and paramedics who are committed to our health and safety, McDonald's will offer free "Thank You Meals" between Wednesday, April 22 and Tuesday, May 5. Each Thank You Meal will be available at no charge via drive thru or carry out during breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Meals will be served in McDonald's iconic Happy Meal box, in the hopes of bringing a smile along with delicious food, and will include notes of appreciation. Day or night, these frontline heroes can simply show their work badge to receive one of the below Thank You Meal options (limit one per person per day): Breakfast -- A choice

of an Egg McMuffin, Chicken McGriddles, or a Bacon, Egg and Cheese Biscuit. All options come with any size soft drink, tea or hot coffee and a Hash Brown. Lunch and Dinner -- A choice of a Double Cheeseburger, 6-Piece Chicken McNuggets, or a Filet-O-Fish. All options come with any size soft drink, tea or hot coffee and small fries.

"As local business owners, we know that our communities need us now more than ever and we're committed to serve them," said McDonald's Minnesota Co-Op president and local owner/operator Courtney Henry. "We are proud to be able to support our neighbors who are on the frontlines as first responders and healthcare workers with Thank You Meals."



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**SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**  
BETTER WASTE SOLUTIONS

## Area Solid Waste Facility site hours

<b>Ash River Trail Canister Site</b> 11391 Ash River Trail Winter Hours Sat: 12:30pm-4:30pm	<b>Kabetogama Lake Canister Site</b> 10150 Gamma Rd Winter Hours Wed: noon-4pm Sat: 8am-noon	<b>Sturgeon Canister Site</b> 8380 Hwy 73 Hours Sun: 10am-4pm
<b>Orr Canister Site</b> 4038 Hwy 53 Winter Hours Tue, Thu: 9am-noon Sat: 8am-noon	<b>Portage Canister Site</b> 6992 Crane Lake Rd. Winter Hours Tue, Sat: 1pm-4:30pm	<b>County 77 Canister Site</b> 2038 County Rd. 77 Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm
<b>Cook Transfer Station</b> 2134 S. Beatty Rd. Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm	<b>Regional Landfill</b> 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm	<b>St. Louis County Environmental Services Department</b> <b>1-800-450-9278</b> Office hours 8-4:30 Monday through Friday <a href="http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle">www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle</a>
<b>Household Hazardous Waste Facilities</b> 5345 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia Tue, Sat: 8am-1pm		3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing Sat: 8am-1pm

Winter hours extended through May 17, 2020



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## CITY OF TOWER

## Council OK's business plan development for ambulance service

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER— In a short special meeting here on Monday, the city council approved development of a business plan for the city's ambulance service with free assistance from the Minnesota Small Business Development Center (MSBDC).

The Tower Area Ambulance Commission had requested a business plan earlier this year and the city had agreed to have one completed by the commission's July meeting. City Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua said the city should now be able to meet that target without incurring the expense of hiring an outside consultant. The city had earlier received two proposals to develop a business plan that ranged from \$23,000-\$30,000.

Interim Ambulance Director Dena Suikhonen had reached out to the MSBDC and found they could provide much the same service at no charge. The MSBDC can provide a wide range of business planning, including a working session with stakeholders, a market analysis, a cost-of-service analysis, a capacity and

utilization rate analysis, as well as monthly, quarterly and annual balance sheets, profit and loss statements, and a cash flow. They can also provide a five-year lookback as well as a three-year budget forecast.

"I want to thank Dena for her initiative on this," said Councilor Mary Shedd. "I agree," said Councilor Rachel Beldo. "This is great."

Councilors Dave Setterberg and Beldo will be part of the business planning effort along with city staff and members of the MSBDC.

As part of that planning effort, Setterberg also presented information to the council that he had developed having examined the financial effects of the 17 transfers that the ambulance service undertook in 2020 through early March. That's when the council suspended transfers following the dismissal of Steve Altenburg from his position as ambulance director and EMT. Setterberg's analysis of the ambulance service's cash costs found that the transfers generated a net average profit of \$376 per run, although he notes that those profits vanish almost entirely once the expense

of vehicle depreciation is included in the calculation. Setterberg's analysis also calculates only the time that ambulance personnel actually spent on the transfers and does not apportion any percentage of the un-utilized paid on-call time to the cost of transfers. Altenburg had cited the potential profits from transfers as the primary justification for his shift from a volunteer-based service to a paid on-call model in 2018, a change that more than doubled the ambulance service's payroll.

Based on Setterberg's analysis, the ambulance service actually lost approximately \$800 on transfers this year once the service adds \$1.66 per mile to the ambulance replacement fund for each mile driven on a transfer. The city had agreed to those contributions earlier this year at the request of the ambulance commission.

Setterberg noted that while most transfers generate a modest profit (if depreciation costs are excluded), longer transfers, totaling over 500 miles, consistently lost money for the service. A Jan. 5 transfer, for example, totaling 559 miles, cost

the service \$777.90 while generating only \$430 in revenue. Those miles also will require a \$927.77 contribution to the ambulance replacement fund, leaving a net shortfall to the ambulance service of \$1,275.64.

By contrast, a 228-mile transfer the following day generated a net profit of \$2,671. That was an outlier, however, which, by itself, generated nearly 42 percent of the city's total profit for the year from transfers.

Based on Setterberg's analysis, the council lifted its prohibition on transfers for now, leaving it up to ambulance officials to determine if they make sense, while urging them to refrain from accepting longer transfers. Suikhonen noted that some other ambulance services have discontinued transfers out of concern for exposing their personnel to COVID-19 exposure. Any ambulance personnel exposed would need to be quarantined for at least 14 days, which could put substantial pressure on small ambulance services with limited staffing.

The council and ambulance personnel will revisit the transfer question once the ambulance business plan is completed.

In other ambulance

related action, the council accepted two letters of resignation from Josh Villebrun. In an April 20 letter, Villebrun resigned from his interim co-director position in order to resume his duties as assistant ambulance director. But in an April 27 letter, Villebrun announced he is resigning from all of his city employment, including as assistant director.

The council accepted the resignations with little discussion other than Beldo's request to send Villebrun a thank-you letter for his service.

The council also approved the posting of the permanent ambulance director position. Unlike in the past, when the position was a part-time salaried job, the new position will come with a part-time hourly wage of between \$21-\$25 an hour, with a maximum annual pay of \$24,000.

For now, the ambulance service is likely to hire only a director, rather than a director and two assistant directors as in the past. According to Ranua, ambulance and other city staff have concluded that the department may have had too much administrative overhead in the past and she noted that the job

descriptions for the director and two assistant directors had considerable overlap. She recommended that, for now, the council not replace Villebrun following his resignation and wait until completion of the business plan before determining future administrative staffing.

In other action, the council:

► Heard an update on the status of the Hoodoo Point Campground. The council had planned to determine on Monday whether to allow the campground to open for monthly RV campers as of May 1, but the April 17 order by Gov. Tim Walz clarified that campgrounds will remain closed until at least May 4. Ranua noted that the city will be complying with the governor's order.

► Appointed Joe Morin to an open position on the city's planning and zoning commission.

► Approved the posting of the zoning administrator position, which has been held on an interim basis by Mary Shedd since last fall. The council hopes to appoint a permanent replacement to the unpaid position at its May 11 regular meeting.

## RESPONSE...Continued from page 1

just to get fresh water.

"Annika picked up a large bag of trash while walking with me, and Elliot wanted to ride ahead on his bike," Lisa said. "Elliot usually stops and waits for us along the trail but (this time) he blazed ahead of us. He just went for an explore and apparently ended up in knee-high water after breaking through some

ice and got lost trying to return to the trail."

When Lisa and Annika returned to the trailhead, Elliot was nowhere to be seen. "I started to worry and reached out to some friends as we started to look for him," she said.

Luckily for Elliot, a kind-hearted "good Samaritan," saw him, stopped to help, and

according to Lisa, gave Elliot his coat and shoes to wear, then contacted Ely police and walked him out to the U.S. Forest Service building.

There Elliot was met by an overwhelming Ely response team. "By this I mean, the Ely Fire Department, Ely Police, Department of Natural Resources, the Forest Service, and Ely

Paramedics," she said. "Thank you to all the wonderful people who helped us. You work hard, some of you volunteer your time and you made our day."

She added, "It's funny because he told the paramedics that his mom and sister were lost. He said he knew exactly where he was, just not with us."

Paramedics warmed up the boy and within minutes he was reunited with his family. "Elliot learned many safety lessons in this adventure, and most importantly he experienced the kindness of others and how to help others in need," his mother said. Elliot made special "thank you" notes for all those who helped him.

The family still has no idea who the "good Samaritan" was. "We're still unsure who it was who stopped to help him but our hearts are so incredibly grateful. We love Ely and are so humbled by its Emergency Response teams. God bless you for helping him," she said.

## WATER...Continued from page 1

Water Act that would allow companies to evade pollution rules merely by ending their pipes at any point short of a surface water.

This past week, the U.S. Supreme Court, in a 6-3 majority opinion, largely agreed with environmentalists in the case of County of Maui v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund. Conservative Chief Justice John Roberts and Trump-appointed Justice Brett Kavanaugh joined the court's four liberal justices in deciding that discharges of pollutants into the ground are subject to regulation under the Clean

Water Act when they are "the functional equivalent of a direct discharge."

"It's a game changer," predicted Paula Maccabee, legal counsel for Duluth-based Water Legacy, who was among the litigants in the recent Minntac permit case. That case is now headed to the Minnesota Supreme Court, where the Maui decision could well loom large.

In the Hawaii case, Maui County had, for years, been injecting partially treated sewage into deep wells located about a half mile from the ocean. Water testing had documented that the sewage fairly

quickly made its way to the ocean, but the county had argued that it didn't matter since their discharges weren't pumped directly to the ocean.

In ruling to the contrary, Maccabee said the nation's highest court has provided much-needed clarity to the standard and she expects the decision will reverberate here in Minnesota, when the state Supreme Court hears the Minntac case later this year. In fact, the parties in that case had agreed to delay briefing on the case until after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the Maui case.

The Supreme Court's decision was a surprise to some, particularly since the Trump administration's own Environmental Protection Agency had sided with Maui County in arguing for the exemption for discharges to groundwater. But as the high court's majority determined, "to follow the EPA's reading would open a loophole allowing easy evasion of the statutory provision's basic purposes. Such an interpretation is neither persuasive nor reasonable."

The Supreme Court's ruling did not determine whether Maui County will

actually require a permit. Instead, it remanded that question back to the Ninth Circuit, which will have to determine if the facts in the Maui case align with a six-point test that the high court has now established. At the same time, the Supreme Court's decision did modify the Ninth Circuit's original ruling, which had adopted an even broader standard for determining whether discharges to groundwater require a permit. While some environmental groups were unhappy with that change, Maccabee said she's pleased that the high court rejected the

Trump administration's "extreme" position and she's confident that the Supreme Court's position will have a major impact on future pollution regulation in Minnesota.

"It is of huge significance, not just to Minntac but mining in general. I think it's broad enough to cover tailings basins here in Minnesota, especially when they put them on top of rivers and streams," said Maccabee. "I think it would be hard to argue it's not a functional equivalent of a direct discharge."

## CLERK...Continued from page 1

Helmsberger from TEDA, an action taken largely at Keith's behest. City emails obtained by county investigators confirmed that Keith had sought Helmsberger's removal from TEDA and that former Mayor Josh Carlson had promised to do so.

A month prior to the January 2018 reorganization, Keith had emailed then-council member Kevin Fitton, telling him: "the mayor says for Christmas this year he got me a present which is to take Marshall off of TEDA in January." Helmsberger was removed following critical news reporting on both Keith and the city council in the *Timberjay*.

Carlson pled guilty to a single gross misdemeanor count earlier this year for

his role in Helmsberger's illegal removal.

While the judge contends in her ruling that it was the city council that altered the terms of TEDA members, rather than Keith, the council discussion at the 2018 reorganizational meeting never mentioned nor expressly authorized changes in the term dates for Helmsberger or other members of TEDA that subsequently appeared in the official city minutes that Keith produced. Without specific council action authorizing the changes in the TEDA terms, it remains unclear how Keith's minutes "accurately reflect the actions taken by the Tower City Council," as the judge concluded. Further, it was Keith who prepared the document

with the altered terms that the council adopted. Other than Carlson, it is unclear whether any other councilors were aware that the terms had been altered.

When questioned about the altered city records, Carlson had told Sheriff's Office investigators at the time that he could not explain the changes and indicated that any changes in the records would have to have been made by Keith.

While the city council would appear to have the authority to remove or alter dates for members of some other city commissions and committees, it does not have a legal right to do so in the case of an economic development authority, which is a semi-autonomous entity under state law. Once appointed, a

member of an EDA cannot be removed by the city council during their term except for cause, and the member has due process rights including the right to notice and the opportunity for a hearing. In the case of Tower, city officials never cited a cause at the time of Helmsberger's removal, other than to suggest his term had expired, when it had not.

Former council member Fitton confirmed during public comments in 2019 that Helmsberger's removal was retaliatory in nature, stating his dismissal came "because he wasn't agreeing with some of the city's positions... so basically, you burn enough bridges with enough council members, that everyone was, okay, well, enough's

enough of that."

In a related issue, the judge determined that a roster that Keith had prepared and provided to the new Mayor, Orlyn Kringstad, in advance of the city's 2019 reorganization, appeared to accurately reflect the term changes approved by the previous city council, whether or not those changes were legal. The judge determined that, in either case, the changes weren't material since the new mayor was already aware that the terms of office had been altered and so it did not impact the council's ultimate decisions in reorganization. In fact, the falsified record did prevent Helmsberger from being reinstated on TEDA for several months. It was not until after the resigna-

tion of Kevin Fitton that the council moved to reinstate Helmsberger to his position through the remainder of his term. The TEDA board, this past January, unanimously hired Helmsberger as TEDA's executive director.

Keith still faces a felony charge for her acknowledged destruction of a city laptop that she had in her possession in June 2019, when the city council voted to suspend her. The council later dismissed Keith and her union subsequently dropped her representation. The state of Minnesota's unemployment division later determined that she had been dismissed with just cause, denying her the unemployment compensation she sought.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

## Ely man, 33, hurt in rollover crash after high-speed pursuit

REGIONAL — A high-speed police chase last Sunday ended with the fleeing driver, a 33-year-old Ely man, being ejected in a rollover crash.

The pursuit began around noon in a rural area near Virginia when St. Louis County Sheriff's Office deputies attempted to stop the driver, Daniel

Ira Jauhola, who was driving a 2000 Oldsmobile Bravada that had been reported stolen in Ely.

The suspect, according to law enforcement officials, ignored attempts to stop the vehicle and led deputies and officers from surrounding police departments on a high-speed chase that lasted for

approximately 15 miles.

"Officers were able to deploy spike strips (a tire-deflation device) on the fleeing vehicle which ultimately slowed the vehicle, however the driver continued to drive in a dangerous manner," said Sgt. Wayne Toewe in an incident report

As deputies attempted

to end the pursuit, the Ely driver lost control of the stolen vehicle, causing it to leave the roadway and roll over multiple times. The driver was not wearing a seat belt and was ejected from the vehicle. Jauhola suffered life-threatening injuries and was airlifted to a Duluth-area hospital for treatment, according to

the incident report.

According to County Sheriff's Deputy Lt. Nate Skelton, Jauhola was released from Essentia Health-St. Mary's in Duluth on Monday afternoon and was being held at the St. Louis County Jail pending formal felony charges of motor vehicle theft and fleeing in a motor

vehicle.

There was no damage to property or injuries to anyone else during the incident.

The Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Virginia Police Department, Gilbert Police Department, Eveleth Police Department, and the Minnesota State Patrol.

## TOWER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

## County board approves transfer of tax-forfeited home for redevelopment

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER — The St. Louis County Board, on Tuesday, approved the

transfer of a tax-forfeited home on Tower's South Second St., to the Tower Economic Development Authority for redevelopment. The interior condition of the home is not

clear at present, but TEDA could either renovate the home for resale, if it can be salvaged, or demolish the residence to make way for a new home on the site. Under the agreement

with St. Louis County, TEDA will pay \$500 plus fees for the property. The TEDA board previously approved an effort to begin to acquire tax-forfeit or foreclosed properties in

the city for renovation, to expand and improve the city's available housing stock.

The city has a large number of vacant homes in various states of repair that

the TEDA board would like to improve to make available for families. Reinvesting in housing stock is a widely accepted method of boosting economic activity.

## SCHOOL...Continued from page 1

Walz did not dismiss the possibility that campuses could remain closed when the 2020-2021 school year begins after Labor Day.

"The answer is, I don't know yet on this fall," he said during a press conference.

Gov. Walz also explained that while distance learning continues, the state will pursue opportunities to expand technology for students, provide guidance for educators on how to best connect with students, and support families.

"As a former teacher, this is a heartbreaking decision," Walz said. "I am sorry for all of our students who will miss out on graduations, tournaments, and end of year celebrations. While I recognize distance learning is a challenge for many families, it is critical to social distancing in Minnesota and supports the health of Minnesota's families. We will continue looking for ways to improve the current system and better support our children."

Within minutes of Walz's announcement, the Minnesota State High School League canceled all spring activities and sports for the remainder of the school year.

Schools around the North Country immediately began planning how the current school year will be closed out.

## Ely School District

In Ely, school officials met last Friday to implement an end-of-school-year plan that has been in the works for weeks. Details were revealed during a special school board meeting Monday night.

Superintendent Erik Erie told board members, "When we found out that distance learning was extended to the end of the school year, it was a sad time for many of us, but also, we have seen some great things from our teachers and staff in pulling together."

K-5 Principal Anne Oelke said all parents were notified last week of the distance learning continuation procedures.

"Our teachers have been planning for this already," she said. "We don't want any delay in the learning plans for our students. We are ready to go. The parents are ready."

Another learning



**Ely Memorial High School teachers and staff decorated the front entrance with hearts and greetings for students.** submitted photo

## Ely Library resumes curbside service

ELY - The Ely Public Library will resume curbside service starting Monday, May 4.

All pickups will be no-contact and at scheduled times. Items may be placed on hold in advance online, or requested when patrons call to schedule a pickup time.

Patrons may also request that the staff choose books for them. Calls will be answered from 9 a.m. to noon, and 1-3:30 p.m. weekdays at 218-365-5140.

materials pickup opportunity was scheduled for Thursday and Friday of this week. Oelke also said that teachers will be collecting completed schoolwork from parents this week.

"We know that students and parents have been working really hard and we want our teachers to be able to look at that completed work," Oelke said.

Daily interaction continues with all elementary school students. Some teachers have expanded student contacts with Zoom meetings, according to Oelke. "Some of our fifth-graders are also hanging out together online," she said. Another material collection will be scheduled toward the end of May. Student locker clean-out opportunities will also be provided.

Megan Anderson, 6-12 principal, said that distance learning for the rest of the school year will mirror what has been implemented since mid-March.

"We are collecting work from our students, more Internet-based than the younger kids, and we will continue that through the end of the year," she

said.

Any commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2020 this spring will be unprecedented in scope and appearance, and Anderson said she is waiting for additional guidance from Gov. Walz on what a graduation ceremony might look like.

"My hope is that we will still be able to honor our May 30 graduation date, and it will likely not be all of us in the auditorium, but rather an outdoor event where we have room for social distancing," Anderson said.

The senior awards day set for Wednesday, May 6 will be presented in a virtual setting. Details will be announced next week, she said.

## Vermilion Country School in Tower

The news that distance learning was going to continue through the end of the school year was not a surprise to the staff at Vermilion Country School in Tower. For the students, on the other hand, the news was not what most of them were hoping to hear.

Science teacher Paula Herbranson had most of her health class students checked in for a Google Meet online class on April

24, but a couple with poor internet service at their homes kept bumping in and out of the video chat.

Herbranson said that online attendance has varied from very good to poor.

"My middle school and grade 12 students are doing the best," she said.

Students logged into health class had a range of views of the stay-at-home learning.

"I thoroughly enjoy this," said Alyssa Pratt, who admitted she was attending class in her pajamas.

Todd Zibrowski said he really misses the structure of a school day but likes the freedom of learning at home.

Caleb Ramponi expressed frustration with rural internet problems. Meeting the van to pick up his schoolwork sometimes conflicted with his online schedule, causing him to miss an online class, he said. Herbranson told him the school was working on the issue.

Danny Anderson simply said he hated the online format.

"We all wish you were here," said Herbranson.

VCS classes are meeting at their regular times. Teachers are scheduling Google Meet online sessions multiple days per week. Students check in daily with one of the staff paraprofessionals, in addition to contact with their teachers during scheduled class times.

The school is dropping off and picking up assignments Mondays and Thursdays, along with breakfast and lunch items, and the United Way backpack food program, if requested.

Herbranson, who also teaches health and physical education, said that health class at the moment has focused on learning about the pandemic, as well as learning how to spot misinformation on the topic online. One of the assignments this week was to find examples of articles and memes on social media regarding COVID-19 that were misinformation.

Language arts and music teacher Karin Schmidt was having her choir students work on pieces at home, which they could record and share through the "flipgrid" program.

"Some of the students are too shy," she said, "but

we are working on that."

Schmidt had shifted her language arts readings and assignments to the Google Classroom last quarter, so the switch was not as big of a leap for her students.

The focus in language arts this quarter is on non-fiction essays and poetry. She is recording some of the school staff reading the assigned poetry to make it more interesting.

Schmidt said she is working with students to make their online presence more professional, including writing online messages with proper spelling, grammar, and capitalizations.

"These online communications are all recorded for life," she said.

She is saving daily student check-in responses to show students how their online presence has changed from the beginning to the end of the quarter.

Work on the school yearbook is nearly at an end. One student has been working on the yearbook with Schmidt from home as yearbook staff is adding pages showing how school changed starting in March, with students sending in photos showing them doing school at home.

Plans for graduation are pending, with hopes that some sort of scaled-down in-person graduation ceremony will be permitted, but if not, plans are being made for a virtual ceremony.

"We miss working with our students in school," school administrator Frank Zobitz said. "But the reality is, this is what we have to work with right now."

Zobitz urged any students or parents who need assistance with homework, mental health concerns, supplies, or food to contact the school.

## North Woods School

To say that the teachers and staff at North Woods school are missing their students would be an understatement.

"They're craving human contact," Principal John Vukmanich said. "Now that we know we're going to be in it for the duration they're starting to think more long term. I've gotten a sense from some that the reality is now hitting them."

Teacher Tiffany Briggs said it was better having the

distance learning question settled, but that it was unfortunate for the kids that they are missing out on all of the fun group building things that happen at this time of year.

Briggs has been participating with three other teachers in an experimental team where they work with combined classes of fifth and sixth graders. Briggs does math for fifth and sixth grade and also oversees a sixth-grade homeroom.

Having well-established relationships with students has eased the transition to distance education, Briggs said, and the arrangement has proven to be beneficial for some students.

"For some of our kids that are the more quiet and reserved kids, it's a better platform for them because they feel more comfortable," she said.

A downside is not being able to see the students while they're learning.

"There are those kids I'd be reteaching, sitting in the classroom with them giving them more time," Briggs said. "Now you can't see their little nuances to know if they're absorbing it."

Vukmanich said that the high school staff has been doing as much as possible to support seniors as they finish up their required coursework and move toward graduation.

"Our goal has always been to get our kids to the destination of graduation, and we are going to do whatever it takes to get them there, because this was not their fault nor our choice," Vukmanich said.

Teachers have developed flexible timelines and alternate assignments to accommodate individual student needs while maintaining basic academic standards, Vukmanich said.

"If a student is falling behind or not in touch with us, we are going to call and email. We're going to ask them how they are doing and where they need help. If a senior tells me that they are overwhelmed, we will adjust. Students are going to need this flexibility," Vukmanich said. "The connection is more important than the content right now. I am trying to keep in mind how I would feel as a senior if I were in this same situation, and I think our teachers are too."



# NorthCountry

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## NO PLACE LIKE HOME

# Eagles Nest couple finally home from cruise

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

REGIONAL - An Eagles Nest Township couple stranded on a cruise ship infected with COVID-19 for nearly a month is finally back home.

Valerie Myntti and her husband, Frank Sherman, boarded the Zaandam cruise ship March 7 for a South American excursion, and within days the couple found themselves,

along with every passenger onboard, isolated in their cabins and stranded at sea as the coronavirus spread throughout the ship.

Their experiences were related in the April 3 issue of the *Timberjay*.

By that day, Frank and Valerie were able to disembark their at-sea isolation chamber in Florida, but their ordeal was far from over.

They had to self-quarantine for two more weeks before

finally being allowed to head for home. They holed up in a family condo.

"We cooked healthy light meals. We had a friendly parrot family living in a mango tree that shaded our balcony and chattered at us all day," Valerie said.

After their 14 days of isolation and before they left South Beach, they both tested negative for COVID-19.

"We felt that we could then drive back to Minnesota without

infecting everyone we met along the way," she said.

"We both love road trips and this was no exception," Valerie said of their trip to northern Minnesota. "We took our time enjoying the scenery."

They stayed in hotels along the interstates, and were surprised that most were open.

"The motel receptionists typically told us they were dis-

See CRUISE...page 2B



## MUSIC

# Angora resident David Morton was an "American original"

by MAIJA JENSON  
Timberjay Contributor

DULUTH- David Kerr Morton was a step back in time, a back-to-the-lander who moved to the beat of his own kazoo. A longtime resident of Angora and Cook, 'Mort' died April 20 of diabetic complications at his home at Aftenro, in Duluth. He was 80 years old.

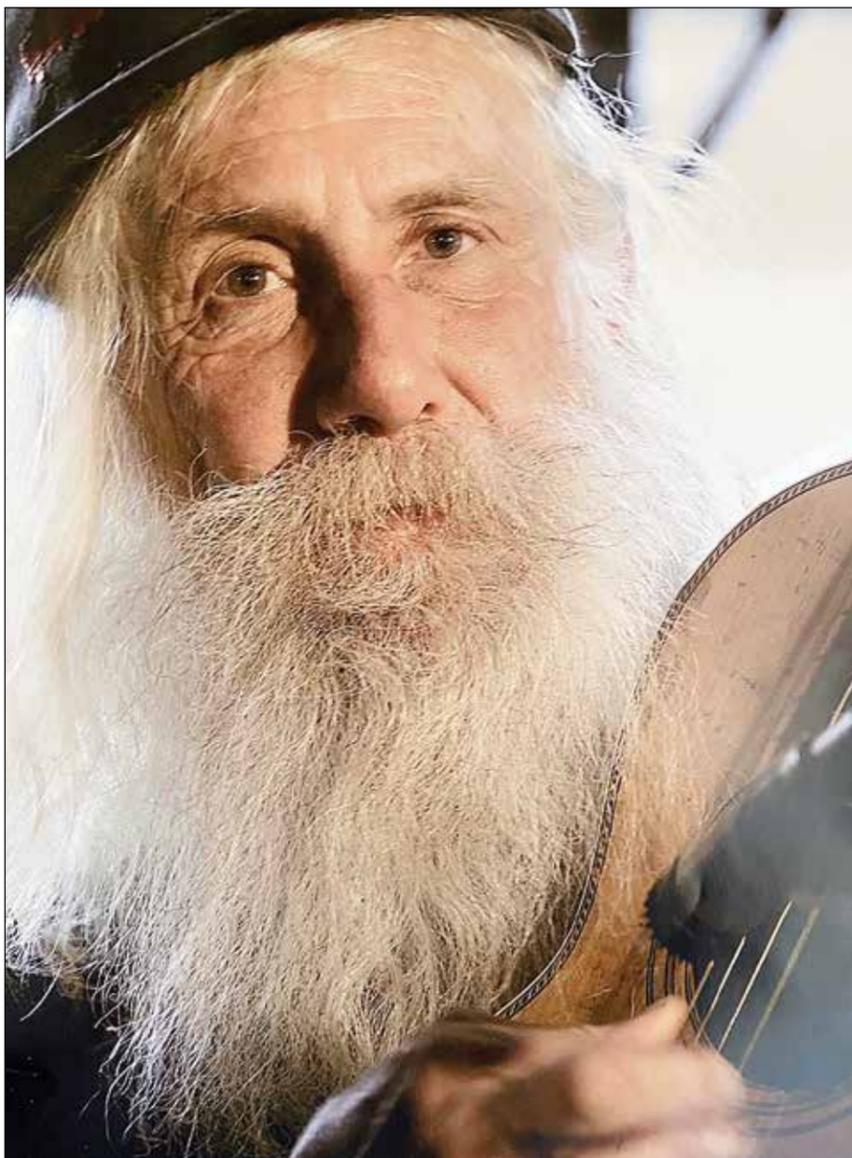
Mort was an anarchist, activist, poet, artist, jeweler and musician. He was an agitator who protested nuclear weapons, segregation and social repression.

"He was a true American original mystic and possibly the most gentle man I ever met," said friend and fellow Iron Range musician Paul Metsa.

Founding member of The New Improved Jook Savages, David Morton brought weird to Angora in 1971. A band formed in the early 1960s, The Jook Savages were "an extremely loose jugband congregation of poets/film-makers/poster artists/musicians/hipsters/and general all round weirdness," writes the *SF Scene*. Their biggest song, written by David Morton, was "Smokin' My Dope."

Morton lived without television, blew his nose into his hand, and stood tall. Born in 1939 in Salt Lake City, Utah, he grew up with Unitarian parents in Berkeley, Calif. and St. Paul, Minn. In 1958 he attended U-High with friends John Palmer and Dave Ray. He was a central figure in the Minneapolis Dinkytown scene, a regular at the 10 O'Clock Scholar, an incubator of Minnesota '60s music. Often interviewed about his old friend Bob Dylan, Morton loved to say, "I don't play Bob Dylan's songs and he doesn't play mine."

He has been recognized nationally for his contributions to civil rights and 1960s counterculture. In 1961, Morton was arrested in Jackson, Miss., and spent time in prison as one of 442 Freedom Riders who were ultimately successful in desegregating interstate bus travel. His contribution to American history is memorialized in a book called "Breach of Peace" and in the Mississippi Civil Rights



Museum. Fifty years later, he received a thank-you letter from President Barack Obama.

Morton's Bay-area jug band, The Jook Savages, is also in the annals of history with band posters in the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

A charismatic radical, he ran with the art crowd printing poetry, posters, collages and zines from the late 1950s

to the early 1970s. From the Greenwich Village beat scene to the California acid test psychedelic music explosion, Morton was a force.

Being on the rolling edge of the 1960s counterculture, many mothers have complained that Morton encouraged their children to turn on and tune out.

"David was like a meteor that

See MORTON...page 2B

# Hit the showers

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

REGIONAL- Following Gov. Tim Walz's order last week to close all state schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Minnesota State High School League immediately canceled all spring activities and athletics, including section and state tournaments.

"As a parent of a high school senior, I understand the tremendous impact of this pandemic," said MSHL board president Bonnie Spohn Schmaltz of Eden Valley-Watkins. "I'm proud of the sacrifices competitors and coaches throughout the state are making to keep others safe."

This cancellation applies to adapted bowling, adapted softball, badminton, baseball, clay target, golf, lacrosse, music, robotics, softball, speech, synchronized swimming, tennis, track and field and visual arts.

League activities and athletics for the spring season have been suspended since March 15.

Will Helms, Ely Memorial High School's boys track coach, took the announcement hard last week.

"It is with a feeling of great loss and sadness that I share with you the news," he said in an email to athletes and families. "Because the team provides us all with a sense of accomplishment, purpose, and belonging, this is heartbreaking news. Of course, the news is especially hard for our seniors, who will miss their last opportunity at subsection, section, and state competition."

Along with the assistant coaches, Helms thanked the track team seniors for their leadership, effort, and inspiring performances.

"As you look back on last year's historic season, keep the memories close in your heart; even as I write this, it seems like an amazing dream

See SPORTS...page 3B

## SUMMER SEASON

# Cautious optimism and safety fuel tourism outlook

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- As "ice out" inches closer and closer on area lakes, and leaves, flowers and bugs re-emerge, the welcome onset of spring is tempered this year by nervous ambiguity about how COVID-19 and its accompanying restrictions will affect the upcoming tourist season.

But business owners and organizations that thrive or wither based on the annual influx of people eager to enjoy the area's many attractions and amenities in the great outdoors haven't been sitting idly by while they anxiously await Gov. Tim Walz's actions to reopen the

economy. While the COVID-19 uncertainty differs from others in the size of its potential impact, for most it's just a matter of degree as they prepare to welcome guests.

"We're in the business of uncertainty," said Josh Gillson, Lake Vermilion Resort Association president. "This is just one more version of the life we live."

However, Gillson acknowledged that the association's 28 members are keenly aware of the gravity of the situation.

"We have dubbed it a crisis, not only for us but around the lake and the area," he said. "It's not just the health and safety of ourselves, our employees,

and our guests, but it drives the economy, the market, and faith in all the above."

### Around the lakes

Gov. Tim Walz canceled the annual Governor's Fishing Opener earlier in April, but fishing season will open Saturday, May 9 as planned. If the current stay-at-home order is lifted next Monday, fishing guide and Trout Lake portage operator Lonnie Johnson said he expects to be busy.

"The way I read it is that if the stay-at-home order expires, at the very minimum I'll be able to open for day fishermen," Johnson said. "I had two phone calls this morning asking if we're going to be there to get people

in. I'm optimistic. I think we'll be hauling boats."

Johnson said he's been pleased to see the coordination between the Forest Service, which oversees Trout Lake, and the Department of Natural Resources to establish common restrictions and guidelines for fishing and camping. As of Wednesday, overnight camping was still prohibited by both.

Trout Lake provides what Johnson called "comfortable camping," with patrons bringing in screened tents, lawn chairs, and canoes.

"I take in families with newborn babies, and 90-plus-year-old people can still get into the Boundary Waters here

at Trout Lake," Johnson said. "I think once we get the OK to be open for day fishermen and campers we're going to be very busy."

Johnson said camping in the Boundary Waters is tailor-made to accommodate social distancing recommendations.

"They only allow nine people per campsite," he said. "Most of the campsites you can't even see each other. Social distancing, that's what the Boundary Waters is. I think they should let them come."

As president of the 14-member Lake Vermilion Guides League, Johnson said

See TOURISM...page 2B

## CRUISE...Continued from page 1B

infecting the rooms more rigorously than normal. We also used sanitizing wipes to wipe down faucets, the remote control, light switches, and door knobs, etc. in our motels/ hotels," she said.

All restaurants were closed for inside dining, but they were able to use drive-thru and take-out services.

"We ate in the car," Valerie said. "We wore masks and gloves whenever we left the car. Many folks we met, in gas stations or grocery stores, looked at us like we were bonkers."

Frank said they were fascinated to experience the different reactions to the virus that were exhibited in different states.

"It ranged from New York-style strict restrictions in South Beach, Fla., with everyone wearing masks and gloves whenever they left home, to a complete lack of taking any

precautions whatsoever. People in northern Florida, Georgia, and Tennessee acted as if the coronavirus had not come to their states," he said.

They made a stop in Duluth to greet Valerie's 96-year-old father from outside the window of his assisted living facility. They arrived home to their little cabin on the lake last Thursday.

"Once we got to Eagles Nest we were positively ecstatic," Valerie said. "No more 'official quarantining' for us after 26 days of isolation—although social distancing is a way of life and an art form here in the north woods."

Looking back on the whole ordeal, Valerie said, "It was very comforting to be with Frank during this challenging time. He is a very steady man with a great sense of humor. The perfect companion with whom to be quarantined in a teensy

windowless state room."

She added, "We were also very fortunate to have a fantastic Captain (Captain Ane Jan Smit) along with an amazing and experienced crew from Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. Captain Smit was a calm, wise, and compassionate leader who was a skilled crisis manager and communicator. We trusted him and were relieved on a daily basis that he was in charge."

Frank commented on the politics of getting back home.

"Seeing the Broward County politicians and the Florida governor initially refusing to let the Zaandam dock at Port Everglades (Ft. Lauderdale), despite having U.S. citizens on board and having very sick passengers who desperately needed medical care was frustrating," he said. "These circumstances and antics were disappointing.

Being with Valerie and having our friends and family in Ely working to let the Zaandam dock and get us home was a great comfort."

Valerie gave "a huge shout-out to our friends and family" who pleaded that their elected politicians get involved in the plight of the Zaandam.

"Their efforts, and those of Reps. Ilhan Omar and Pete Stauber, along with Sens. Klobuchar and Smith and their staffs, to pressure the cruise line, the U.S. State Department, caused the Florida politicians to listen to their better angels and find a humanitarian solution," she said

Will the couple continue traveling when it is possible again?

"I was born with the travel bug," Valerie said. "And nothing will dampen the desire to see

the world. I am happy to travel overland by bus/truck and camp along the way in areas where hotels don't exist."

Frank said he would like a bed and to minimize some of the stress that goes with traveling on their own.

"When we travel together, it will likely be on a cruise," he said. "We are very sad that our Zaandam experience turned so tragic for the five people who died, and for the many who became sick. Traveling during a pandemic was not a wise thing to do, and we take full responsibility. We will never do that again. But when it is all clear again, we will sign up for other Holland America cruises, and we would travel anywhere in the world with Captain Smit."

## MORTON...Continued from page 1B

streamed into the atmosphere, altering course and consciousness," says '60s friend Rochelle Karter.

Richie "Moon" Golfus, a founding Jook Savage, remembers how meeting the long-haired Morton in the Dinkytown days changed his life.

"Dylan's roommate was an old guy, 24, Dave Morton. He was farther out than anyone I'd ever met," Moon said. "Returning from the New York scene with Dylan, Ginsberg and the gang, we started as a rock and roll jug band in Minneapolis, then Los Angeles. Alan Ginsberg was around, came to our rehearsal and taught us to chant and meditate."

The Jook Savages were at the fabled Watts Acid Test in Los Angeles with the Grateful Dead, the one Tom Wolfe wrote about in *The Electric Kool-aid Acid Test*, said Moon. "The Dead, Airplane, the Charlatans, Quicksilver, Big Brother, Country Joe, Blue Cheer were all on the scene and we played with all of them," Moon said. "We were part of the Committee Theater."

"San Francisco was the most exotic event in the world then," said Moon. The band lived up on the hill in Larkspur Canyon, and "tortured the entire area with our music," he recounted, "unquestionably the weirdest thing out there. The Mothers of Invention used to invite us out to

their gigs to 'freak people out'. Elliot, the guitar player, said, 'You guys make us look like the Beach Boys!'"

It was on a Midwest tour in 1966 that David met his life partner, Shirley (Swenson) Morton. Jook Savage Mark 'Reno' Myerson had set up a college tour featuring their protest-performance-art-piece "Vietnam Concerto," which included far-out shows in Duluth, River Falls, Augsburg College and elsewhere. The band played around the Twin Cities and Morton even put on a beatnik-style, acid-test "Happening" at the Firehouse Theater. Shirley ended up joining David and the band going back to California.

Playing on the Walker/Guthrie stage, "We ended the set with 'Smokin' My Dope,'" Carolyn Brown Zniwski remembers. "There had been some concern that the management might step in and turn the sound off if we did, but David said 'so what if they do,' so we went ahead with it. I have the feeling we were finished with the song before the words really registered."

Morton fancied himself a bead-trader and his spaces as galleries. In the '60s he lived in the old West Bank firehouse with Melvin McCosh's bookstore and sold hippie paraphernalia alongside the nascent Electric Fetus. Taught by his father, jeweler

Phillip Morton, he honed his craft through the '70s making popular spoon rings from old silver utensils, selling his hippie flair necklaces and earrings made from silver and foreign-sourced beads at the annual Park Point Art Fair, Last Place on Earth in Duluth and other local art fairs.

When he left the 'scene' behind and moved to Northern Minnesota he never stopped making friends, music or art. He exhibited in the '80s and '90s at the Duluth Art Institute, Mesabi Community College and the Minneapolis Institute of Art's "Foot in the Door" show. He appreciated collective efforts and group shows like "Art Space," a grant-funded traveling exhibit, in 1982.

Music was always Morton's lifeblood; he sang until the day he died. Weekly sauna and jam sessions, often at the Morton family farm in Angora, nurtured a creative community of friendships in the post-Vietnam era, lasting through today. "Everyone can play music," Morton would say. Life was a party.

He was an instigator in the Minnesota Battle of the Jug Bands, playing the first as a benefit concert in Minneapolis for a friend's son's passing, Bobby Crabb. His impact still resonates and the battles live on today. He was "a legend in his own mind" said the late Ron Coon, co-conspirator and

rhythm guitar player with the Jook Savages for 40 years.

Through bold authenticity and artful humor, Morton encouraged people to be unfettered, "to be themselves."

"One of his greatest legacies was his absolute believing in everyone, that everyone had innate abilities, everyone was a shining star, and he empowered and encouraged others to step into their own," said daughter Larkspur Morton.

Morton called himself an "honorary Finn," identifying with the pioneering spirit of the locals, and he was active in the community-minded Alango Unitarian Church. He loved having a farm full of animals with his family, and family of friends. The Mortons raised pigs, sheep, goats, chickens, geese, guinea fowl, cows and even had a pack of wild ponies. Daughters Larkspur and Maija, and wife Shirley, moved out of northern Minnesota by the late '80s but David enjoyed living in the woods, up near Lake Vermilion, until 2017.

A rocket-science, mathematician college drop-out, Morton embraced the starving-artist life. At 35, he "came out of retirement" and made a career in the building trades pouring a million yards of cement. Union forever, he served in leadership and often as a reluctant foreman with Seppi and Lenci.

"All our sheltered little lives were expanded by Dave's friendship and working relationship," Greg Lenci said. "You can't help but love him."

Morton was kind and authentic and shared his encyclopedic knowledge, music and friendship freely.

"Having been on so many jobs over the span of so many decades with (Mort), I can still hear his voice, often triggered by a word or phrase. Always it brings a smile," writes cement finisher and dear family friend Jed Hejda. "At times I just burst out laughing."

"David was a good dad who taught us to fish and fix our cars and be critical and smart instead of judgmental," Maija Jenson shared on Morton's memorial Facebook page. "He was incredible in so many ways. I so loved playing music with him over the years. He was a pure lunatic, which not everyone enjoyed. He was one of a kind."

*About the author: Maija Jenson is a journalist, and faculty at the University of Minnesota Duluth. She is the daughter of David Morton. She can be reached at jenson@d.umn.edu.*

## TOURISM...Continued from page 1B

COVID-19 concerns could cause two signature group events, Take a Kid Fishing Day and Take a Veteran Fishing Day, to be scuttled.

"We're going to talk about it some more and see how it goes this month," he said. "We don't want to be responsible for spreading the virus."

Johnson expressed optimism that the area will be an even more attractive vacation option for people who have been cooped up in their homes but are wary of out-of-state travel. That's a viewpoint Gillson said resort owners hope to capitalize on.

"It's a break," he said. "They didn't go on spring break trips, they didn't travel for Easter. People are going to get stir crazy and they're not going to want to stay inside."

Marketing is critical to their success, Gillson said, particularly because most of the major outdoor shows they would normally participate in leading up to the season were canceled. LVR members have had several conference calls to discuss how to increase their visibility on the internet and social media, Gillson said.

"We're pushing online and we're going to push radio," he said. "We're working with a number of outlets. It's not marketing like, 'Hey, come fish at Vermilion;' it's on faith in traveling, it's going to be safe to come up, safe to go fishing."

Gillson said resort owners have been working with the government to get detailed information about sanitation and disinfecting, and they'll have to

create and post protection plans.

The success of resorts also depends on customers having access to local businesses and activities, Gillson said.

"Fishing is a huge part of our business, but it's not the only thing we do up here," he said. "There's so much that affects our business in the tourism industry. Can they go out to eat? Can they go golfing? Can they go to the casino? It's not just where they stay, it's what they do."

Resorts have seen tough times before, including what Gillson termed "the lost decade" that started with the economic downturn in 2008. While operators are concerned for the 2020 season, history shouldn't drive their anxiety, he said. Overall, he remains optimistic. "I have to think we're going to have a good season. Will it be better than last, or worse? All I can do is try to plan for the best."

### Drawing people in

Activities and festivals have been integral components of healthy tourist seasons past. With the cancellation of major regional festivals such as the Blueberry/Art Festival in Ely, Timber Days in Cook, Land of the Loon in Virginia, and many more local festivities such as Fourth of July celebrations in doubt or already canceled, communities have to be more creative and proactive to attract visitors.

Ely Chamber of Commerce executive director Eva Sebesta said businesses should consider shifting their focus to concentrate on promoting what's right in front of them.

"Stepping back and looking

from a broader perspective, one thing we're known for is our beauty and our scenery," Sebesta said. "That's something that's going to draw folks up. I think businesses can really tie into that concept by focusing on products they carry. For a restaurant, maybe it's offering a picnic lunch for carryout. Clothing stores can focus on clothing that people can wear all day in the outdoors. There are other avenues we're exploring to see how we can support our business community in place of those events and festivals."

Sebesta said a key piece to marketing efforts is to make people comfortable so they feel safe, and that as more information about COVID-19 comes out the better people's confidence levels will be.

The Ely Chamber is hosting two webinars for members, one designed to look at strategies and financial support for reopening, and another focused on how Ely is going to be marketed.

"I think what folks are really latching onto is social media," Sebesta said. "Social media has always been a popular thing, but now folks want to have a virtual experience. Having a virtual hiking experience or canoeing or fishing, there's really opportunity there to promote our area in different ways and connect with a younger population that enjoys that technology."

The Chamber is also exploring alternatives for fun and engaging events that can be hosted safely, Sebesta said.

"We're hoping we can come up with different activities that

won't draw huge numbers of people at one time, but things people can do as a steady stream so you don't get surges," she said.

### Mines and bears

Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park draws thousands of visitors annually who want to go deep underground to explore Minnesota's first iron ore mine or take advantage of the park's campground and recreation activities.

But the park's main attraction also serves as its greatest Achilles heel in the days of COVID-19 and social distancing. Maintaining a six-foot distance from others is impossible when taking the tiny cage elevator down into the mine, and conditions are only slightly better once visitors reach underground touring levels. With tour prices of \$15 for adults and \$10 for children ages five to 12, the park stands to lose a lot more than just visitors if social distancing restrictions remain in place throughout the summer.

"I don't have an answer because I don't know yet," said Kim Pleticha, Department of Natural Resources assistant communications director. "Re-opening our state parks programs, tours, etc. is not just incumbent upon the Stay-At-Home order, but also on social distancing guidelines. Even if the governor lifts the order, that doesn't mean all parks programs, tours, and events will immediately start back up. We have to carefully consider which ones can be accomplished with appropriate social distancing. It

would be very hard to provide the Soudan Mine tour under those circumstances."

Meanwhile, social distancing is on the minds of the people at the Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary near Orr as well. Bears are already making their way into the sanctuary, but American Bear Association Director Steph Horner said it will be a bit longer than usual before people are allowed to visit.

"We for sure will not open May 23," Horner said. "We're hopeful it will be June 1 but we're not sure about that."

The association board decided to postpone until next year all activities related to celebrating the sanctuary's 25th anniversary, but photography sessions and other events such as Breakfast with the Bears are still planned, Horner said.

Past visitors who simply arrived and boarded a bus to get to the sanctuary's viewing platform likely won't be able to repeat that process, as the sanctuary will probably shift to an online preregistration system to restrict the number of visitors and facilitate operational modifications, Horner said.

The observation deck will be marked with social distancing blocks, and all four buses the sanctuary has will be used to transport groups of visitors to allow passengers to sit far apart, Horner said. All staff, interns, and volunteers will be wearing facemasks.

"Fortunately for us we do most of our business through the end of July and into August, so it will be good if we end up being open for that," Horner said.

MINNESOTA AUTHORS

# Spring reading from the University of Minnesota Press

## Fishing, a novel

Sarah Stonich's 2015 novel, *Fishing with Ray Anne*, has been reprinted as a paperback, now titled "Fishing," just in time for this year's



the cutthroat world of fishing tournaments, she starts her own public television talk show, broadcasting from her own lovingly-refinished wooden fishing boat. Her shows feature conversions and actual fishing. The show, surprising just about everyone, is a hit. But there are complicated family relations, an aging grandmother in Florida, and of course, some romance.

A perfect book to bring along on your next fishing trip, or to read while someone else is out on the lake this fishing season.

the cutthroat world of fishing tournaments, she starts her own public television talk show, broadcasting from her own lovingly-refinished wooden fishing boat. Her shows feature conversions and actual fishing. The show, surprising just about everyone, is a hit. But there are complicated family relations, an aging grandmother in Florida, and of course, some romance.

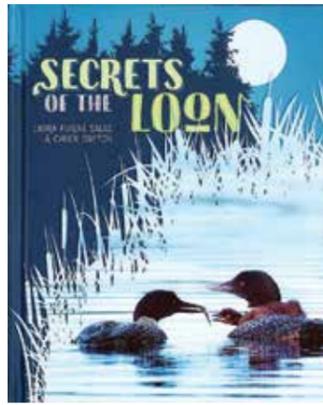
A perfect book to bring along on your next fishing trip, or to read while someone else is out on the lake this fishing season.

## Secrets of the Loon

Laura Purdie Salas and Chuck Dayton have created a new picture book, for ages three to seven, featuring our beloved state bird, the loon.

*Below white pines, at water's edge, in guarded nest of mud and sedge, squeezed inside an olive egg, bill meets wing meets folded leg.*

With these few words, the scene is set for the hatching of Moon Loon. During her first summer with her parents and brother in the northland,



Moon Loon has a lot to learn. Mom and Dad teach essential lessons, like how to catch and eat fish, how to avoid becoming a snack for snapping turtles, and what songs to sing and when. Moon Loon also discovers her secret skills, like how to float, how to dive, and—eventually—how to fly.

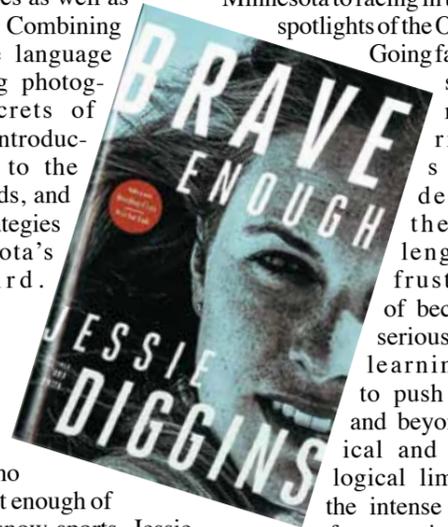
Salas's poetic recounting of a loon's adventurous first summer celebrates the piney northern landscape and features the gradual development and occasional drama that fills Moon Loon's days. Chuck Dayton has spent five

summers photographing loons from his kayak on a northern Minnesota lake, capturing the key moments used to illustrate this story. Supplementary back matter by Dayton highlights fascinating details of loon biology and ecology, gleaned from expert sources as well as observation. Combining imaginative language and striking photography, *Secrets of the Loon* introduces readers to the sights, sounds, and survival strategies of Minnesota's state bird.

## Brave Enough

And for those of us who can never get enough of winter and snow sports, Jessie Diggins has a new biography. Diggins is Minnesota's premier female cross-country skier, winning a gold medal in the 2018 Olympics, the first gold medal

in cross-country skiing in U.S. history. Diggins reveals the true story of her journey from the American Midwest into sports history. With candid charm and characteristic grit, she connects the dots from her free-spirited upbringing in the woods of Minnesota to racing in the bright spotlights of the Olympics.



Going far beyond stories of races and ribbons, she describes the challenges and frustrations of becoming a serious athlete; learning how to push through and beyond physical and psychological limits; and the intense pressure of competing at the highest levels.

## SPORTS...from page 1B

that we would excel meet after meet and send two relays and three athletes in individual events to the state meet," he said.

"It seems impossible that Luke (Olson) would finish the year as state champion and be denied an opportunity to defend his title this June," Helms said. "You have every right to grieve the loss of your season, but you should feel proud of the mark you've left on the Ely program. With sincerest gratitude, I thank Henry, Nate, Luke, Raif, Ethan, James, Eric, Andy, and Eli for their hard work and joyful spirit. You are all champions, and you will be missed."

Ely girls track coach Jayne Dusich also addressed her student athletes in an email.

"I feel for every athlete for not having that sense of accomplishment of participating and competing in track this year whether it was running, jumping or throwing," she said.

"From the girls in eighth to 12th grade who dreaded the hard workouts but liked the rewarding feeling of finishing it, to the seventh graders who were looking forward to learning and being part of that team, many of you had goals set in your minds of what you wanted to do to improve from last year or what you wanted to try this year," Dusich said.

She had a special message for the Class of 2020.

"It is hard to see you leave without closure of track and everything else that makes your senior year exciting. Sorry, Brielle won't be able to compete in the State Meet as I'm sure she would have made it and drove me crazy. Ana, Sarah, Brielle, Isabelle and Brooke you missed out on this ending but you have exciting years to look forward to. Look back on your memories of the great things you have accomplished not only this past year, but the years before. I will miss you."

Dusich added, "I'm looking forward to having a cross country season. Hoping."

The League will continue to communicate with and assist member schools during the cancellation of athletics and fine arts activities.

## Anonymous gift surprises Soudan family



Soudan- A family in Soudan was the recipient of an anonymous gift of \$100 cash, mailed to them at their Soudan Post Office Box. Amy Heglin said she opened up the card, which had no return address, was signed "your neighbor", and was postmarked in Minneapolis and was amazed to find two \$50 bills.

Heglin is a paraprofessional and bus driver at Vermilion Country School in Tower, and lives with her husband and school-age daughter in Soudan. The money, she said, was a wonderful surprise and really helped boost the mood of her family. She was not quite sure how it would be spent, but was sure they would find a way to spend it that would also end up helping others in the community. Heglin had seen a story on KARE11 from the Twin Cities on someone mailing anonymous cash gifts, but didn't know if this was the same person, or someone who simply also adopted the idea.

submitted photo

## Essentia Health to increase testing for COVID-19

REGIONAL- In accordance with Minnesota Governor Tim Walz's request, and to better control the spread of the coronavirus, Essentia Health has expanded its testing criteria to include all patients who have symptoms of COVID-19. This change is effective immediately at all of our sites in Minnesota, Wisconsin and North Dakota.

If you are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19, including fever, cough or shortness of breath, and the recently added symptoms of chills, repeated shaking

with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell please start an E-Visit at [EssentiaHealth.org](https://www.essentialhealth.org). E-Visits are free for patients with COVID-19 symptoms. You also can call our hotline at 833-494-0836. An Essentia provider will evaluate your symptoms and, if necessary, refer you for a test.

Previously, testing was limited to specific groups of people, such as first responders, health care workers, patients over 65, and those with underlying health conditions. But that will change as Gov. Walz calls

for health care providers to ramp up capacity to as many as 20,000 tests per day statewide. At Essentia, we are poised to meet this challenge.

It's important to note that Essentia's testing sites are only for patients who have first obtained a medical order for testing through an E-Visit or the COVID-19 hotline.

Patients won't be billed for costs related to COVID-19 testing. This includes balances after insurance is billed, such as co-pays or deductibles. It also includes uninsured patients.

**Ely Community Health Center**

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## Obituaries and Death Notices

### Patricia J. McCabe

Patricia Joan "Pat" McCabe, 86, died peacefully on Saturday, April 25, 2020, at Vermilion Senior Living, her much-loved residence in Tower. An outdoor memorial and celebration of life will be planned at the time of burial in May. In lieu of flowers, please support the local neo-natal unit at a hospital near you, because Pat loved babies, or the Mesabi Humane Society, for whom Pat passed aluminum cans for years. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her sister, Rae (Woodrow) Carlstedt; numerous nieces,

nephews, grand-nieces, grand-nephews, great-grand-nieces and great-grand-nephews.

### Lorna S. Mattila

Lorna Sue Maki Mattila, 77, of Virginia, passed away on Friday, April 24, 2020, at Edgewood Vista Memory Care. She will be interred at West Pike Cemetery on Friday, May 1. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorials are preferred to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church or to Edgewood Vista Memory Care. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by step-children, Shirley Mattila of Excelsior, Donna (Tim)

Thomas of Watertown, Ronald (Krista) Mattila of Duluth and Paul Mattila of Virginia; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

### David K. Morton

David Kerr Morton, 80, of Angora, moved on to the next realm at 5:50 a.m. on Monday, April 20, 2020. He passed his own space at Afternro retirement home in Duluth. Musical tributes from friends and family carried him home into the wild universe. David had a wonderfully comfortable three years at the non-profit retirement home. Please consider a donation to Afternro in David's name.

David Morton Memorial Tribute is a

public site on Facebook where anyone can contribute to the Incredible Expanding World of Dave Morton. No funeral services are planned. Sing a song for Mort, play the kazoo, too, if you have one.

David is survived by his only grandson, Maxwell Kerr Jensen; daughters, Maija Jensen and Larkspur Morton and their mother, Shirley Morton; sisters, Penny Williams and Rebecca Jensen; and many more spouses, nieces and nephews. Love to you all from the Morton Swenson Jensen Morton Williams Gibbs Harper Shaw Kerr family.



# Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION

## LCCMR funds threatened by legislative impasse

Many environmental and recreational projects in the region could be left unfunded without a resolution

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — A dispute over the use of tax dollars dedicated to outdoor and environmental projects in Minnesota is putting more than \$61 million in funding for a wide range of outdoor recreation and environmental projects at risk, including

millions of dollars earmarked for projects here in the North Country.

The funds in question come from the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources, which failed to pass a funding recommendation over the disagreement. The package of funding that the LCCMR board had expected to approve

includes \$3.1 million for the Crane Lake-Voyageurs National Park campground and visitors center, \$1 million for further development of the Mesabi Trail, and \$575,000 for wolf research at Voyageurs. It also includes \$440,000 for a University of Minnesota researcher working to develop a biological control for the fungus

**Right: Funding to help complete the popular Mesabi Trail is currently threatened by a dispute between lawmakers.**

that causes white-nose syndrome in bats and \$198,000 for Grand Rapids-based Northern Community Radio

See LCCMR...pg. 5B



RECREATION

## Ancient cedar trail planned

Remarkable forest stand will showcase “forest primeval” within Tower city limits

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER — The ribbons are being hung as part of the plan to build a long-anticipated trail here later this summer through a large and spectacular stand of old growth upland white cedar that dates back to about 1880.

To be known as the Ancient Cedar Forest Trail, the initial 1.5-mile long loop will traverse this remarkable site, which forest ecologists from the Department of Natural Resources believe most likely originated following a fire a few years prior to the opening of the Soudan Mine and several years before the founding of the city of Tower. The ecologists believe the site has never been logged, making it unusual, particularly for land located within the incorporated limits of a city.

The Wagoner Trails Club, the non-profit Friends of Vermilion Country School, and the Tower Economic Development Authority are teaming up on the project both as a recreational option for local residents as well as a destination for visitors.

“This project has a number of benefits,” noted Jodi Summit, who heads Friends of Vermilion Country School. “It’s economic development, it’s environmental education, and it’s great recreation.” The most recent Tower-Breitung Comprehensive Plan listed a community desire for more recreational opportunities, particularly trails, so the project is consistent with that community vision, notes Summit.

While white cedar aren’t uncommon



**Top: Wagoner Trails Club President Mary Shedd hangs flagging along the expected route of the trail.**

**Above: A view through a stand of cedar.**

**Right: A view of Lake Vermillion from a trail overlook.**



photos/M. HelMBERGER

See TRAIL...pg. 5B

### Wildflower Watch

This week’s featured flower  
**ROUND-LOBED HEPATICA**



The **Round-lobed Hepatica**, *Anemone americana*, is one of the earliest wildflowers every spring, and can often be found appearing with a little snow still on the ground. You’ll need to pay attention to find these diminutive blossoms, which can range in color from white to violet. They stand typically no more than 1-3 inches above the forest floor.

While they can be found in almost any forest setting in the North Country, I most often spot them in rocky areas, most often under pine.

They’re a member of the Buttercup family.

photo courtesy V. Ranua

### Outdoors in brief

#### Fire restrictions in effect within Superior National Forest

REGIONAL — Spring season has arrived and with it, warm and dry sunny days. With the snow now mostly melted across the North Country, and with the recent string of dry days and relatively low humidity, the dead grass and leaves left behind can pose a dramatic fire risk, which is why fire officials on the Superior National Forest are asking the public to take special care right now to prevent wildfires. Forty percent of the wildfires in Minnesota result from debris burning, and campfires contribute to many additional fires this time of year.

The Superior National Forest enacted fire restrictions in mid-April, which prohibit campfires, and even charcoal grills or gas camp stoves until further notice. The Minnesota DNR has also restricted open burning in all northern Minnesota counties in and surrounding the Superior National Forest. The state will not issue burning permits for brush or yard waste in these counties until restrictions are lifted.

According to a Forest Service release, these burning and campfire restrictions will reduce demands on limited wildfire response resources at this critical time, helping to ensure that wildland firefighters can respond effectively to those wildfires that do occur.

**TRAIL...**Continued from page 4B

in Minnesota, they often grow in wet areas, making them less accessible to the general public. But Tower's cedars grow in an upland area, making it easy to walk through the extensive grove, which covers more than 100 acres. The dense canopy created by the cedars gives a primeval feel to the stand, which is primarily open underneath since most underbrush doesn't grow well in the deep shade.

While the trees are old, they aren't as large as one might expect given their age. Cedar are slow-growing, long-lived trees, known to live up to 800 years. And in this relatively dry, rocky upland site near Tower, they're even slower to grow. In this case, it's the density of the cedars that is the most impressive characteristic of the site.

Wagoner Trails Club President Mary Shedd said she's looking forward to the convenience of having such a resource right in town.

"Across the area, we have a lot of great hiking trails, but what's so amazing about this is how close it is to town. It's literally right out our back door and it's such a unique and special place. You don't even have to get in your car for that kind of experience."

The wilderness-type trail won't cost much to build or maintain, since it will be little more than a narrow footpath along most of the route. But the first few hundred feet of the trail is consistently wet, so the trail developers plan to build about 500 feet of boardwalk through the wet area. Lake Country

Power's Operation Round-Up donated \$2,000 toward the project in late February and the organizers are seeking about \$4,400 more from the North St. Louis County Trails Task Force to help pay for the remaining materials to build the boardwalk. The request also includes funding for some interpretive and directional signage so people understand the significance of the site and how to find it. The task force committee will decide on the funding request later this month. The project would get underway most likely in July, with volunteers set to build and maintain the boardwalk as well as the rest of the trail.

The trailhead is tentatively set to be located about 300 feet south of the junction of the Mesabi Trail and the Iron Ore snowmobile trail. That's about three blocks from the city's historic train depot.

While much of the trail is relatively flat, a portion of the trail will run along a rocky ridge that offers scenic views of portions of the city of Tower and Lake Vermilion. The initial loop trail will eventually include spur trails and additional loops to scenic overlooks and other interesting features.

While many people will likely explore the trail in summer, Shedd said she thinks the site is even more spectacular in winter and she expects it will get plenty of use from snowshoers.

"When you see the snow draped on the trees and the cliffs, you know you're in a pretty fantastic place," she said.

**LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST**

from NOAA weather

Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday			
<b>66 43</b>				<b>64 34</b>				<b>55 28</b>				<b>56 29</b>				<b>55 28</b>			
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.
04/20	40	26	0.00	04/20	40	24	0.00	04/20	40	23	0.00	04/20	41	25	0.00	04/20	40	25	0.00
04/21	43	18	0.01	04/21	43	17	0.00	04/21	42	18	0.02 0.3"	04/21	37	18	0.01	04/21	43	18	0.00
04/22	39	19	0.00	04/22	39	17	0.00	04/22	38	18	0.00	04/22	46	30	0.00	04/22	38	19	0.00
04/23	40	25	0.00	04/23	42	24	0.00	04/23	41	25	0.01 0.2"	04/23	59	27	0.00	04/23	38	23	0.00
04/24	56	27	0.00	04/24	57	27	0.00	04/24	57	26	0.00	04/24	63	28	0.00	04/24	57	25	0.00
04/25	64	28	0.00	04/25	63	23	0.00	04/25	63	27	0.00	04/25	63	27	0.00	04/25	62	25	0.00
04/26	62	27	0.00	04/26	62	27	0.00	04/26	63	27	0.00	04/26	63	27	0.00	04/26	61	26	0.00
Total 1.99 94.7"				YTD Total 2.50 65.4"				YTD Total 3.00 77.1"				YTD Total NA NA				YTD Total 2.16 64.4"			

**LCCMR...**Continued from page 4B

to engage more Minnesotans in phenology.

The legislation that includes these funds was also supposed to extend \$600,000 in funding for the second phase of trail work around the city of Tower's harbor, as well as a technical change to allow the city to modify the project from the original proposal. LCCMR Director Becca Nash said she's hopeful that legislation to extend the deadline for all remaining projects by a year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will be approved by the Legislature this session, but that legislation likely won't include the technical change that Tower needs. "So Tower may get an extension but they couldn't spend it on what they need to spend it on," said Nash.

The dispute over \$1.5 million in funds for wastewater treatment would seem to be a small sum in a total package worth over \$61 million. Sen. Tom Bakk, DFL-Cook, called the dispute "silly" and voiced sympathy for the Senate lead on the LCCMR, Bill Ingebrigtsen, GOP-Alexandria, who had pushed for the inclusion of wastewater funding. According to Bakk, the provision that established the funding stream overseen by the LCCMR allows up to five percent of the funds to go for wastewater infrastructure. "Frankly, I think we probably should do that," said Bakk.

The situation, however, appears to be a bit more complicated. For thirty years, a state statute prevented any of the LCCMR funding from going to municipal wastewater treatment projects. But when voters

approved a constitutional amendment to dedicate lottery proceeds to natural resource projects, the amendment allowed for up to five percent of the proceeds to go toward loans for wastewater treatment projects. Then, two years ago, the Legislature passed a new law, allowing for use of LCCMR funds for wastewater grants.

The inconsistency has generated the dispute, with one camp arguing that the state's constitutional provision that limits LCCMR funds to loans, rather than grants, supersedes any statute. The other camp argues that the statute is controlling.

"It's tricky," says Nash. To date, those who oppose funding wastewater projects have held sway, but now the other camp is making its point by holding all the LCCMR projects in limbo. In a recent letter to his House counterpart, Rick Hansen, DFL-South St. Paul, Ingebrigtsen upped the ante on the dispute by informing Hansen that the Senate won't pass any LCCMR appropriations this year.

**Grantees concerned**  
That prospect has alarmed many project organizers and researchers who rely on the LCCMR funding. In a letter to Ingebrigtsen, University of Minnesota Associate Professor Joseph Bump, who heads a research project on gray wolves in Voyageurs National Park, said the research project, and those it supports financially, would be in jeopardy if the funds are not approved this year. "With LCCMR support we employ college students,

hire technicians, rent boats and trucks, purchase equipment, gas, and lodging— within Minnesota, and mostly in rural Minnesota," wrote Bump in his April 23 letter to the senator.

The impasse also threatens further delay in completing an already delayed section of the Mesabi Trail between McKinley and Biwabik. "Everyone keeps asking when we're going to get that one built," said trail director Bob Manzoline. The LCCMR was to contribute \$1 million toward that effort, and failure to approve the funds will delay that project at least another year. "That would not be a good thing," said Manzoline.

That's a view that's widely shared by other potential grantees. LCCMR director Becca Nash said she's been inundated with emails expressing concern.

**Compromise?**

While the situation is upsetting organizations and researchers who rely on the LCCMR funds, Bakk thinks a solution is likely to be found. While Ingebrigtsen's letter implies he'd prefer to grab the LCCMR dollars for the state's general fund, Bakk said that's not really the intent. "I think in the end they'll broker a deal," predicts Bakk.

"There's just too much time left in the session. People generally don't cut bait until the very end and I think both will have to give something, but it will get done."

Nash is less certain given the bigger issues that both sides feel are at stake. "There's even a lawsuit over this," she said.

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

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<https://oncare.org/>
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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### FIELD TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF MEETING

The May Field Township Board Meeting will convene May 12, 2020 at 6 p.m. at the Field Township Cemetery for cemetery inspection, followed by township road inspection.

When the inspections are completed the meeting will re-convene at the Field Town Hall.

Pat Chapman/Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, May 1, 2020*

### CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

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

Assumed Name: Warrens Welding/Construction/Instructing  
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 7097 Stockland Rd., Virginia, MN 55792  
NAMEHOLDER(S): Warren Marolt, 7097 Stockland Rd., Virginia, MN 55792

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

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

Dated: April 22, 2020  
SIGNED BY: Warren Marolt  
MAILING ADDRESS: 7097 Stockland Rd., Virginia, MN 55792

*Published in the Timberjay, May 1 & 8, 2020*

### CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

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

Assumed Name: Cramer Construction  
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 114 W Conan St., Ely, MN 55731  
NAMEHOLDER(S): Gregory A. Cramer, 114 W Conan St., Ely, MN 55731

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

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

Dated: February 26, 2020  
SIGNED BY: Gregory A. Cramer  
MAILING ADDRESS: 114 W Conan St., Ely, MN 55731  
*Published in the Timberjay, May 1 & 8, 2020*

### CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

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

Assumed Name: Everett Bay Lodge  
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 1820 Everett Bay Rd, Tower, MN 55790  
NAMEHOLDER(S): Everett Bay Lodge Operations, LLC, 1820 Everett Bay Rd, Tower, MN 55790

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

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

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

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

### GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS

THE LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION for Greenwood Township will meet on:

Wednesday, May 6, 2020 10 – 11 a.m.  
at the Greenwood Town Hall,  
3000 Hwy 77 Tower MN 55790

This meeting will be held with board members only in attendance, and county representatives attending remotely.

**PLEASE NOTE: GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP WILL ONLY ACCEPT WRITTEN APPEALS**  
The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

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

Sue Drobac, Greenwood Township Clerk,  
Greenwood Township, 3000 County Rd 77  
Tower MN 55790. 218-753-2231

*Published in the Timberjay, May 1, 2020*

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Resided
- 6 Things
- 11 Demosthenes or Cicero
- 12 Cancel out
- 14 Ubiquitous fastener
- 15 Early spring bloom
- 16 Feedbag tidbit
- 17 – the manger
- 19 Owns
- 20 Press
- 22 Ballet step
- 23 – song (cheaply)
- 24 Force measures
- 26 Decorum
- 28 Quite some time

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	
11								12				13
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47			48					49		50		
51								52				
								54				

- 30 Actor Stephen
- 31 Went sour
- 35 Contents of some trays
- 39 Responsibility
- 40 Court
- 42 Story
- 43 Donkey
- 44 Impostor
- 46 Sudden turn
- 47 Traditional usage
- 49 Love apple
- 51 Medical prioritization
- 52 Portuguese island group
- 53 Stationery brand
- 54 Is inclined (to)
- 9 He-men
- 10 George Washington portraitist
- 11 Egg-shaped
- 13 English composition
- 18 Leg, slangily
- 21 Must have
- 23 Banquet (Abbr.)
- 24 Tennyson title
- 5 Cavalry unit
- 6 Canine's neighbor
- 7 Sea bird
- 8 Id counterpart
- 33 Neighbor of Georgia
- 34 Female deer
- 36 Risk
- 37 Cheers up
- 38 Some lilies
- 41 Lash – (berate)
- 44 Comic strip possum
- 45 Nap
- 48 Body art, for short
- 50 Calendar abbr.

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## EMPLOYMENT

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--	---

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[humanresources@cookhospital.org](mailto:humanresources@cookhospital.org)

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Apply with a letter of interest by email by May 7, 2020 to [clerk.treasurer@cityoftower.com](mailto:clerk.treasurer@cityoftower.com).

*Published in the Timberjay, May 1 & 8, 2020*

### POSITION OPENINGS Ely Public Schools - ISD No. 696 2 Science Teachers

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

### JOB OPENING

#### USFS LACROIX RANGER DISTRICT

The Superior National Forest – LaCroix Ranger District in Cook, MN is seeking candidates to fill a permanent full-time year-round Customer Service Representative position. Seeking highly motivated individual with excellent people and computer skills. A vacancy announcement will open in May on USAJobs and individuals wishing to apply must create an online profile in USAJobs at <https://www.usajobs.gov/> and then search for the location Cook, MN. Responsibilities include providing visitor information, answering phones, issuing permits and passes, and completing general administrative duties. Schedule will be full-time year-round Monday - Friday, 8-4:30. Call 218-666-0050 for exact dates of vacancy opening.

*Published in the Timberjay, May 1, 2020*

### King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

D	W	E	L	T		I	T	E	M	S				
O	R	A	T	O	R		N	E	G	A	T	E		
V	E	L	C	R	O		C	R	O	C	U	S		
O	A	T		D	O	G	I	N		H	A	S		
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D	Y	N	E	S		M	O	D	E	S	T	Y		
		E	O	N		R	E	A						
C	U	R	D	L	E	D		A	S	H	E	S		
O	N	U	S		W	O		T	A	L	E			
A	S	S		P	S	E	U	D		Z	A	G		
C	U	S	T	O	M		T	O	M	A	T	O		
T	R	I	A	G	E		A	Z	O	R	E	S		
	E	A	T	O	N		T	E	N	D	S			

### Super Crossword

Answers

D	I	S	C	E	R	N		U	N	S	T	E	A	D	Y		E	B	B	S			
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W	H	A	T	I	S	T	H	E	N	A	M	E	O	F	A		B	L	U	E			
S	A	L		N	E	R	O		E	N	U	F		T	A	L	C						
E	L	A	N		N	E	W	R	E	A	L	I	T	Y	S	E	R	I	E	S			
R	E	G	A	L		S	I	L	L			A	L	K	A	L	I						
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		R	E	I	D						O	A	T			I	F	A		O	D	A	Y
				J	A	M	N	O	W		W	O	L	F	S		T	A	K	E			
S	T	R	U	G	G	L	I	N	G	T	O	C	O	M	P	L	E	T	E				
I	R	A	N		N	I	N	E		R	N	A		Y	S	E	R						
G	A	M	E	T	E			V	O	I	L	A		W	I	N	O	S					
H	I	S	A	S	S	I	G	N	E	D	T	A	S	K	S		C	A	P	P			
	L	I	R	E		M	O	O	R			A	R	A	B		T	I	A				
F	I	N	N		T	H	E	H	O	W	I	E	D	U	T	Y	S	H	O	W			
A	N	T	E		A	I	R	I	N	E	S		P	E	R	T	A	I	N				
O	G	O	D		U	P	S	T	A	T	E	S		A	D	D	E	N	D	S			

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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## HAIR CARE

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

## HOSPICE

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

## BUSINESS SERVICES

T & T STUMP GRINDING- Stump grinding, clean-up and debris removal. Call for your free estimate. 218-780-6278. tfn

## WANTED

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## SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## JOB SCREENING

## Super Crossword

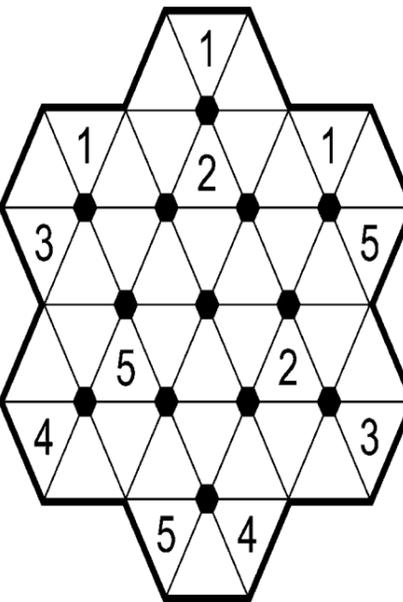
- ACROSS**
- 1 Perceive
  - 8 Wavering
  - 16 Dies down
  - 20 One of the Great Lakes
  - 21 CD from Eminem or Jay-Z, say
  - 22 Marshland
  - 23 Start of a riddle
  - 25 Teal, e.g.
  - 26 Mineo of films
  - 27 First-century emperor
  - 28 Sufficient, in dialect
  - 29 After-bath sprinkle
  - 30 Zest
  - 32 Riddle, part 2
  - 38 Majestic
  - 40 Inane
  - 41 High-pH compound
  - 42 Sticky, viscous stuff
  - 45 Previously called
  - 46 "— have to wait"
  - 49 ESPN's Hersher
  - 50 Riddle, part 3
  - 55 They often elicit groans
  - 56 "Suffice it — ..."
  - 57 Chinese zoo mammals
  - 58 "Thou — lady": King Lear
  - 59 Hotel's kin
  - 60 Young dog
  - 61 Sews an edge around
  - 65 Riddle, part 4
  - 73 Tara of "American Pie"
  - 74 Granola bit
  - 75 "— Man Answers" (1962 film)
  - 76 Jazzy Anita
  - 77 Irritated reply to "Are you awake?"
  - 81 Devours, with "down"
  - 83 Accept
  - 84 Riddle, part 5
  - 90 Gulf nation
  - 91 Good diving score
  - 92 Genetic letters
  - 93 Flanders river
  - 94 Ovum, e.g.
  - 96 "There it is!"
  - 98 Souses
  - 102 End of the riddle
  - 108 Al who drew Li'l Abner
  - 109 Old Italian coins
  - 110 Tie down, as a ship
  - 111 Sheik, e.g.
  - 113 Actress Carrere
  - 114 Mark Twain's Huck
  - 115 Riddle's answer
  - 120 Poker cost
  - 121 Ethereal quality
  - 122 Relate (to)
  - 123 Prayer opener
  - 124 Northern parts of New York and New Jersey
  - 125 Numbers used in sums
  - 11 In a docile way
  - 12 1985 Kate Nelligan film
  - 13 In re
  - 14 "Dallas" actor Patrick
  - 15 Singer Sumac
  - 16 Begin, as a journey
  - 17 — ball (pool hall item)
  - 18 "Fists of Fury" star
  - 19 Get sight of
  - 24 "— the weather?"
  - 29 Phone no.
  - 31 Port of Japan
  - 33 Actress Lisa
  - 34 Poem of lamentation
  - 35 "Hick" actor Baldwin
  - 36 Hayek of Hollywood
  - 37 Window ledge
  - 39 Parking —
  - 43 — left field
  - 44 Tine
  - 46 Repeated statement in Windows ads
  - 47 Plating metal
  - 48 Kind of PC monitor
  - 50 Rage
  - 51 — nous
  - 52 "There — 'I in team"
  - 53 Musical piece
  - 54 Racket-raising Arthur
  - 55 Rover's foot
  - 60 Fruit discard
  - 62 Arcane
  - 63 Annoyed with
  - 64 Boa, for one
  - 66 "Right, bro"
  - 67 0% of the people
  - 68 Biker's bike, colloquially
  - 69 Largest city on Hawaii
  - 70 "Get — back!"
  - 71 Abrades
  - 72 Coloring substance
  - 78 Dance great de Mille
  - 79 Ovid's 1,051
  - 80 Diarist Anais
  - 81 Took the prize
  - 82 Florida city
  - 84 Breathe loudly
  - 85 Bringing up the rear
  - 86 Collides with
  - 87 Not deserved
  - 88 Tramped (on)
  - 89 "Holiday" actor Ayres
  - 95 Mao — -tung
  - 96 Romeo and Juliet's town
  - 97 "It's — state of affairs"
  - 99 Lane of Broadway
  - 100 Narcotic
  - 101 Generates
  - 103 Beatnik's "Got it!"
  - 104 People on the move
  - 105 Like a well-pitched inning
  - 106 "Sing, Sing, Sing" drummer
  - 107 Totally filled
  - 112 Longtime West Virginia senator
  - 114 —
  - 115 Sorority letter
  - 116 Humid
  - 117 Suffix with colour
  - 118 Ar-tee link
  - 119 Honored Fr. woman

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
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114										115			116	117	118			119	
120										121						122			
123										124						125			

## SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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



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

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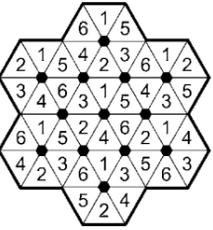
## Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

## SNOWFLAKES

solution





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