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# the TIMBERJAY



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## SULFIDE MINING

# New legal challenge in mineral lease battle

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

### Trump reinstatement critical to Twin Metals project

REGIONAL — A coalition of Minnesota business owners and environmental groups has filed a new legal challenge to the Trump administration's decision to reinstate two federal mineral leases critical to the proposed Twin Metals copper-nickel mine

near Ely.

It's the second legal challenge mounted by the same group of plaintiffs against the 2018 decision by the Trump administration to reinstate mineral leases that had been canceled in waning days of the Obama

administration.

"Nothing about the Twin Metals lease renewal process has been normal," said Tom Landwehr, former Minnesota DNR Commissioner, who now serves as the executive director of the Campaign to Save the

Boundary Waters. "And the environmental review of the lease renewal is no exception."

According to Landwehr, "the federal agencies conducted the most superficial of reviews and, by their own admission, did not even consider the impacts of

mining in renewing the leases. Such shoddy analyses on a proposal as devastating as allowing sulfide-ore copper mining on the edge of the Boundary Waters is unconscionable."

The four-count lawsuit specifically alleges that the U.S. Forest Service acted in an

See...MINING pg.11

## HER SPECIAL DAY

# Mother's Day will prevail

### Families, facilities find alternatives to celebrate in the age of COVID-19

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Mother's Day is traditionally that one day of the year when every mom can expect a little TLC. Hugs and kisses from their kids, fresh flowers, and a visit to their favorite restaurant. Yet, in the age of coronavirus restrictions, that tradition has been turned upside down.

Nowhere is that more keenly felt than in the area's assisted living facilities and nursing homes, where residents have essentially been quarantined from contact with all but their care providers since early March.

On a day when mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers would normally be picked up by family members to wait in line for a special meal out to celebrate the day, the closest they'll come to a loving touch will be by pressing hands up against a closed window that keeps them separated from family on the other side but safe from possible exposure to

See...MOM pg. 10



With cupcakes and cell phone in hand, Elsie Dahl looks out the window at Edgewood Vista in Virginia as family and friends outside sang "Happy Birthday" to mark her 91st birthday on April 23. submitted photos



## LAW ENFORCEMENT

# Chad Houde set to lead Ely Police Department

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY — After six hours of interviews and deliberations and six rounds of voting, Ely City Council members selected Sgt. Chad Houde, a 15-year veteran of the city's police department, as the city's new police chief, pending a contract agreement.

He would replace John Lahtonen, who is turning in his badge after a 26-year career with the EPD.

Houde was picked over fellow Ely patrol officer Adam Borchert in the sixth round of voting on a 4-3 vote by council members. Ely police sergeant George Burger led after the first round of voting with three votes but failed to gain a majority in subsequent voting and was eliminated after the fifth round.

Virginia police lieutenant John Swenson was eliminated after the second round.

Council members Angela Campbell, Al Forsman, Paul Kess, and Heidi Omerza ultimately voted for Houde. Borchert was supported by members Ryan Callen, Jerome Debeltz and Mayor Chuck Novak.

Houde was hired as an officer at the department in 2005 and was promoted to sergeant

See...ELY pg. 9



Chad Houde

## CITY OF TOWER

# City Attorney: Rose RV Park project can move forward

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER — For five years, prospective recreational vehicle park developer Dave Rose has fought against city officials here who refused to issue him a conditional use permit for his

plan to construct a 30-35-unit seasonal RV campground along the East Two River.

Now, according to City Attorney Mitch Brunfelt, Rose has actually had his conditional use permit, by law, since at least 2015, even though some now-former city officials argued

otherwise.

But even as Rose now intends to move forward with his plan, it's apparent he doesn't yet have everything in place to begin construction — and he could still face additional hurdles.

The turnabout led to a lengthy discussion at the city's

planning and zoning commission, where commission chair Steve Altenburg continued to insist that Rose had to complete a long list of tasks before he could actually receive a conditional use permit from the city.

Yet it was the conclusion of the city attorney that held sway

with the commission.

In an April 28 letter addressed to Rose, Brunfelt informs the New London RV park developer that he has had his conditional use permit, or CUP, since shortly after he applied in

See...TOWER pg. 9



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## Community notices

### Mesabi Trail now open

REGIONAL- The Mesabi Trail is now open for biking, running and walking. With over 135 miles of paved trail between Grand Rapids and Ely, the Mesabi Trail offers an outstanding recreational opportunity with plenty of safe social distancing. Mesabi Trail Club memberships and money from wheel passes support the maintenance of the Trail. Riders 18 and older can purchase a \$15 annual wheel pass at one of the vendors in towns along the Trail. Go to [www.mesabitrail.com](http://www.mesabitrail.com) for membership, wheel pass and trail information.

### North Star Credit Union annual meeting postponed

COOK- North Star Credit Union will postpone its annual membership meeting due to COVID-19. We will reschedule at a later date. We sincerely miss our members and look forward to a time when we can celebrate together.

### Embarrass roadside cleanup has started

EMBARRASS- Embarrass residents are asked to help clean up the roadsides between now and Saturday, June 6. Bags can be picked up at the town hall. Please call the clerk's office at 218-984-2084 to sign up.

### National Sauna Day canceled

EMBARRASS- Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Sisu Heritage has canceled this year's National Sauna Day, which had been scheduled for Saturday, June 6. The Diane Jarvi concert scheduled for Sunday, June 21 at the Finnish Apostolic Church has also been canceled and will be rescheduled for June 2021. The opening of the Nelimark Homestead Museum will tentatively be on Thursday, July 2, but this date may need to be changed. Sisu Heritage events later this summer and fall are still being planned, as are the Christmas at the Nelimark weekends in November and December.

### MDHA Sturgeon River May meeting canceled

REGIONAL- Due to the current virus precautions, the Wednesday, May 13 meeting of the MDHA Sturgeon River Chapter has been canceled.

### 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.

### United for Veterans Cash Raffle Virtual Drawing Party, May 13

REGIONAL- United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN) is holding a cash raffle to raise funds for their local United for Veterans program. Tickets are \$100 each; only 300 tickets will be sold for a chance to win the jackpot of \$6,000. One in every 10 is a winner. Call 218-215-2422 or email [elizabeth@unitedwaynemn.org](mailto:elizabeth@unitedwaynemn.org) to purchase your ticket today. Tune in on UWNEMN's Facebook Live at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13 to find out if you're a big winner at the United for Veterans Cash Raffle Virtual Drawing Party broadcast live from the Hibbing Elks Lodge. All raffle proceeds benefit local Iron Range veterans through United for Veterans. Tune into the party at <https://www.facebook.com/UnitedWayOfNortheasternMinnesota/>.

## LOCAL MUSIC SCENE



# WDSE rebroadcasting DSSO concerts on Fridays in May

REGIONAL- Symphony Hall is coming to your living room. Starting on Friday, May 8 at 9 p.m., PBS North will rebroadcast some of our favorite Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra concerts. We can't wait to have you back in the hall with us when it is safe to do so, but for the time being we're bringing the hall to you. All showings will be on Fridays at 9 p.m.

► **Toward the Heavens**, May 8  
Original concert date: April 13, 2019  
The concert opens with Tchaikovsky's playful Symphony No. 2. The symphony is based on Ukrainian folk melodies and, since Ukraine was called Little Russia in Tchaikovsky's day, it received the nickname Little Russian. The second half of the program features Mendelssohn's seldom-performed masterwork, The Hymn of Praise.

► **Sailing North**, May 15  
Original concert date: Oct. 6, 2018  
After a jazzy opener, Three Dance Episodes from On The Town by Leonard Bernstein, Sailing North features the DSSO's first performance soniChroma, a concerto for two percussionists and orchestra, written by the DSSO's very own principal percussionist and UMD percussion professor Gene Koshinski. In the second half, enjoy the amazing sound world of Jean Sibelius with his gripping Symphony No. 1.

► **Reformation**, May 22  
Original concert date: Nov. 18, 2017  
The DSSO celebrated the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's historical achievements. Written for the 300th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession, another key document of Lutheranism, Mendelssohn's

Symphony No. 5, called the Reformation Symphony, provided the perfect opener. We follow this with Johannes Brahms' German Requiem, one of the pillars of the choral repertoire and a work that truly embraces the spirit of Luther's new way.

► **Mahler Resurrection Symphony**, May 29  
Original concert date: April 1, 2017  
Mahler's Symphony No. 2 is one of the great achievements of the human spirit. Subtitled the Resurrection Symphony, the work explores the entirety of human life, from childhood to adult life, from suffering to joy and happiness. Mahler's work culminates in the entrance of the chorus that proclaims eternal life through resurrection.

## YOUR THOUGHTS WANTED

# County seeks public input on COVID-19 priorities

REGIONAL- St. Louis County is receiving a special allocation of funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to address the current COVID-19 pandemic and is seeking public input on how to prioritize its use.

The special allocation includes \$1.6 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV) funds, and nearly \$579,000 through the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV) program. The funds were approved as part of the CARES Act passed by Congress to provide assistance in preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19.

The St. Louis County Planning and Community Development Department requests community input on local needs in regards to COVID-19 from residents, community representatives, and non-profit agency representatives from throughout the county outside of Duluth. (The City of Duluth receives separate COVID-19 funding.) County staff has developed an online survey to collect citizen input. A link to the survey is available on the county's website at [stlouiscountymn.gov/communitydevelopment](http://stlouiscountymn.gov/communitydevelopment). The deadline to complete the survey is Friday, May 22.

Public input regarding needs

and priorities will guide the Citizen Advisory Committee as it reviews project applications and makes recommendations on the award of the special COVID-19 funds. While the county is interested in all community development needs, HUD COVID-19 funding is restricted on what types of projects may be funded.

Anyone with questions or who would like to request a paper copy of the survey or provide public input, can email [communitydevelopmentinfo@stlouiscountymn.gov](mailto:communitydevelopmentinfo@stlouiscountymn.gov) or call 218-749-7103.

# North St. Louis County Food Drive, May 22

REGIONAL- The North St. Louis 4-H County Ambassadors and the Youth In Action program invite YOU to join them as they partner with St. Louis County Extension, the Rutabaga Project and AEOA for a Food Drive

on Friday, May 22.

Looking for a great way to "pledge your hands to larger service" and help north St. Louis County communities? Here's how to help.

Donations can either be dropped off on Friday, May 22 at the AEOA building in Virginia, 702 Third Ave. S (drop donations by the back door on parking lot side), at Super One Foods South,

or Zup's grocery stores. You can also schedule a pick-up by calling 218-749-7120 or emailing [lantz@stlouiscountymn.gov](mailto:lantz@stlouiscountymn.gov). Deadline to schedule a pick-up is Friday, May 15. Pick-ups can be scheduled in all areas of north St. Louis County (Hibbing, Virginia, Ely, Cook, Tower, Aurora, Hoyt Lakes, Buhl, Biwabik, Babbitt, Mt. Iron, Chisholm, etc.). Nonperishable food items

will be placed in the Rutabaga Project's Little Free Pantries.

Monetary donations will be donated to NE MN Food Shelves. To give a monetary donation, please make checks payable to Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency and mail them to Kelsey Gantzer, AEOA Food Access Manager, 702 Third Ave. S, Virginia, MN 55792.



COVID-19 Updates

### Medical and Behavioral Health Updates

Scenic Rivers Medical Clinics are open for patient care needs. Telehealth services are also now available! Call for details.

### Dental Updates

Scenic Rivers Dental Clinics are open for Emergency Visits (Visits for pain, swelling, trauma, broken tooth, etc.) Call your clinic to set up an appointment.

### Always call your clinic before coming in!

Symptoms or questions about COVID-19?

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### Cook Medical

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### Cook Dental

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### Tower Medical and Dental

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COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

# Spring clean-up by the truckload

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

Community pitches in for tidy-up days in Tower and Soudan

TOWER-SOUDAN- The canister site in Soudan got some extra business on Monday, May 4. The first of two community-wide clean-up days in Tower and Soudan meant truck and trailer-loads of “spring cleaning” were moved from yards to the canister site.

“We collected a lot of stuff,” said Breitung Maintenance Supervisor Dale Swanson. “But we are not done by any means.”

Swanson said they were continuing to do pick-ups for residents who called the clerk’s office asking for pickups during clean-up week. He said the township maintenance crew had to spend some time on Monday replacing a leaking fire hydrant, and also needed to find time this week to get the main dock in at McKinley Park in time for fishing opener.

“There really was some civic pride shown today.”

**Tower Mayor Orlyn Kringstad**

One of the biggest benefits of such clean-up days, Swanson said, is assisting residents who are not able to get larger items, like broken appliances, to the canister site by themselves.

The crew in Soudan made good use of the township’s front-end loader, which they were using to easily transport old appliances to the canister site.

“That works out really well,” he said.

In Tower, they used old-fashioned muscle power to remove the

**Right: Charlie Carlson has his work cut out for him as he begins to load a huge collection of old appliances and other junk for disposal along South Second Street in Tower.** J. Summit

countless old appliances that were lining city streets and alleys.

“We were using a ramp and dolly to get the appliances onto trailers,” said Tower Mayor Orlyn Kringstad, who helped lead a crew of about a dozen volunteers on Monday. City maintenance staff in Tower concentrated on removing brush and yard waste which was taken to the city’s brush-burning pit.

“I am really pleased with how it went,” Kringstad said. “There

See TIDY-UP...pg. 5



CITY OF ELY

# Mulch tops brief agenda for Ely council

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY—City Council members here returned to their chambers for their regular meeting Tuesday night after a several weeks of virtual gatherings due to caution over the coronavirus pandemic.

“Boards and commissions can also meet here now,” said Mayor Chuck Novak, “and social distancing is the rule.”

A short agenda allowed the council to spend just 30 minutes together in the same room.

Answers were provided to a major concern of many residents over the last couple of weeks, that being the status of the city’s

yard waste mulch pile.

Over the winter, city residents endured the relocation of the recycled material bins because of the trailhead building development and road extension construction project on the west end of town, but questions remained on the status of the yard waste disposal area that was in the same location but also shut down.

As everyone now knows, the recycled material bins have been relocated to the entrance of the softball field complex on the other end of town, but residents were getting antsy as winter turned to spring and no information was disseminated from

city hall on what they should do with all of their grass clippings, leaves and tree branches.

The much-anticipated memo from the Clerk-Treasurer’s office was finally revealed this week.

“We are proposing to allow city residents to dispose of brush, leaves and grass clippings at the old dump site on Look Out Ridge Road,” Harold Langowski said. He noted that city officials had toyed with the idea of having a more centralized collection area. “With this COVID-19 that would be very difficult to do. In lieu of that we proposed using the old city dump.”

Hours of access will be limited, for now, to just four days

for the next two months.

“In an effort to ensure the site does not become a dumping area for trash, appliances and furniture, we propose to have (the new mulch pile) staffed and open on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month for May and June,” Langowski said.

If city residents use the area only for its intended purpose, officials may look at opening the mulch pile for additional days this summer.

Langowski pointed out that no one is allowed to just dump their trash and unwanted items in any vacant or out-of-the way area.

“Just two weeks ago we had

a recliner dumped behind Rural Living Environments,” he said. “It is unbelievable that people will dump where they think they can get away with it.”

The new mulch pile location at the former city dump site will be gated and staffed by a city employee on four Saturdays, May 9 and May 23, and June 13 and June 27, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

“We’ll take brush, grass clippings, leaves and pine needles and nothing else,” Langowski said.

No plastic bags will be accepted, and nothing that can’t be composted will be allowed.

See COUNCIL...pg. 5

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# OPINION

“CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW...  
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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

## Editorial

### The business of EMS

Tower Council takes key first step in getting ambulance service back on track

The Tower City Council took an important step forward when it approved the development of a business plan for the city-run ambulance service. It's critical information not just for the future financial success of the service, but to restore confidence among township officials in the department's leadership.

It's been a challenging period for the ambulance service as its expenses skyrocketed with the shift to paid on-call staffing. It appears last year's record number of runs helped the service post a modest profit margin in 2019 despite those higher costs, yet it's highly unlikely the service will achieve that number of runs this year. That was true even before the recent decision to halt non-emergency transfers for the time being. A decline in runs, in part related to the COVID-19 closures and stay-at-home orders, combined with the cost of paying for a new ambulance later this year, will almost certainly push the service's budget deeply into the red in 2020.

The business plan, which is expected to include a cost-of-service analysis, utilization rate analysis, a monthly profit and loss analysis, and a cash flow, should, for the first time, give city and ambulance officials a clear understanding of the financial status of the service as well as critical guidance for future decision-making. City officials, without question, should have demanded that kind of information before approving the shift to paid on-call staffing in 2017.

The financial impact of that change will certainly be a key component of the business planning effort. While we have not opposed the use of some paid on-call staffing, the approach adopted by the former ambulance

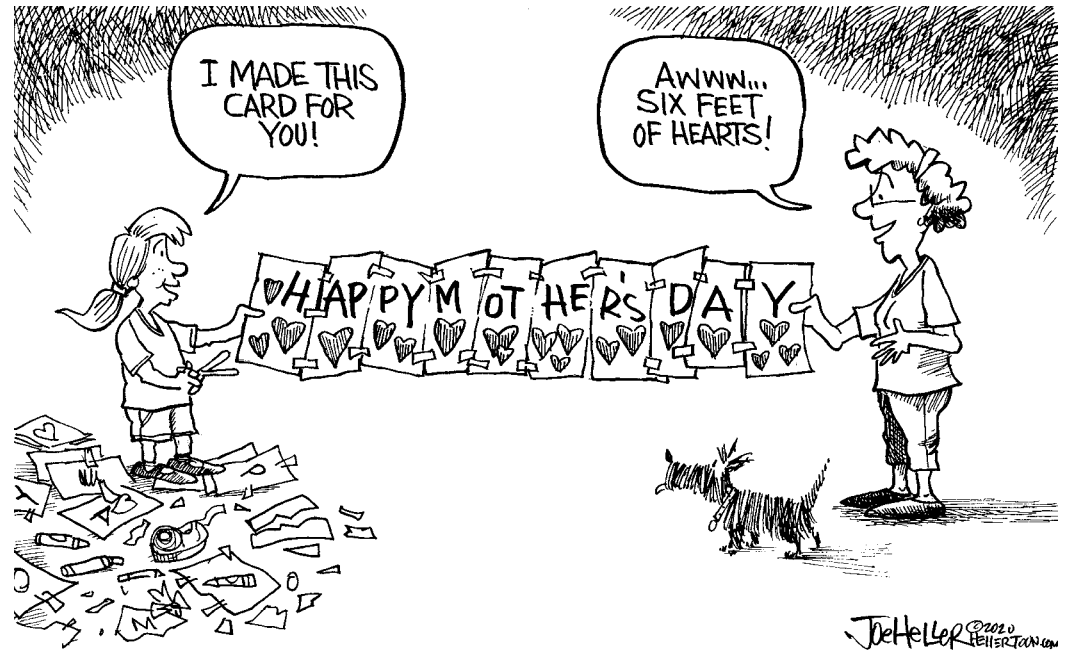
director was far more costly than necessary. Neighboring small ambulance services, like Cook and Orr, pay their paid on-call staff a modest stipend, around \$2-\$4 an hour, which is far less than Tower pays. The high wage paid by Tower is among the many reasons that the city would almost certainly lose a complaint under the Fair Labor Standards Act for failure to pay overtime.

The former city council approved the paid on-call staffing plan and pay scale based on promises made at the time that non-emergency transfers would easily cover the costs and generate even higher profits for the service than before. That never happened, largely because the non-emergency transfers proved to be not as lucrative as expected.

As a recent analysis by Tower Council Member Dave Setterberg revealed, those transfers generated about one-third the profits that had earlier been projected—and those profits disappear entirely once the depreciation cost on the ambulances is factored into the equation.

That's where business planning comes in. If private individuals want to risk their own money on ventures without doing the hard work of truly understanding their revenues and expenditures, that's their right to gamble. But when we're dealing with public funds and the future of a critical city service, there's no room for guesses or wild-eyed optimism.

The good news is, there is still time to turn things around, but only if the city starts making well-informed decisions about the future direction of the ambulance service. Developing a solid business plan is the first critical step down that path.



## Letters from Readers

### A solution for the Greenwood cameras

In a letter to the *Timberjay* on May 1 concerning the cameras at the Greenwood Township office, Treasurer Rodgers ends it with: "I question why the clerk have [sp?] a problem with the cameras—is she hiding something?" I suppose Rodgers will blame the *Timberjay* for the improper word usage. But she can't avoid the improper accusation against the clerk. It's ridiculous.

There are three cameras. One is outside of the office door and points down the sidewalk toward the highway. That's fine. Another is in the outer office, viewing the public computer, the outside entryway, and the door to the clerk-treasurer office. That's fine. The third is in the rectangular office that the clerk and treasurer share. It points at the clerk as she sits at her desk and covers the room including the backside of the treasurer as she sits at her desk at the opposite end of the office. That being described, I believe that there is a simple solution that will make everyone happy and still provide more than enough "security". I feel the same as Clerk Sue Drobac does, in that I wouldn't want to have a closeup camera constantly surveilling me

while I am working at my desk and possibly being transmitted to township supervisors' homes, as has been mentioned. I suggest that the office camera be re-focused to exclude viewing the clerk working at her desk. Most folks will agree with that. The camera can still view the rest of the office, including the treasurer if that's her preference.

Finally, if there is a true concern for the clerk and treasurer's security and physical well-being, include a provision in next year's budget to fund an alarm system which would include strategically placed alarm buttons that would immediately alert the County 911 system of an emergency situation taking place at the Town Hall. That would be more likely to save a life or prevent injury as opposed to recording the daily events.

Lee Peterson  
Greenwood Twp

If the board has concerns they should express them openly

Surveillance cameras. That's what they are, contrary to the Greenwood Township Treasurer's description of them as security cameras. They are not

connected to a 24-hour manned remote monitoring site, and there is no panic button which could contact police should the clerk be attacked. The cameras simply record video which, at a later date, could assist in the apprehension of a criminal and that in itself defines a surveillance system.

The board's discussion on buying a camera system was focused on protecting the clerk/treasurer, but thinly veiled their intent borne out by their actions to surveil and intimidate the clerk. If the board thinks the clerk has something to hide, as Treasurer Rodgers suggests, then stop being mealy-mouthed and state the assertion openly.

Clerk Drobac was recently described by one of our township's citizens as being "Minnesota Nice". I think it will be a long time before we hear such an unsolicited description for any of the other board members, including the treasurer.

JoAnn Bassing  
Greenwood Twp

### Short and sweet

In response to last week's letter from Pam Rodgers...

Really???

Sue Drobac  
Elected Greenwood  
Township Clerk

## COMMENTARY

### Reasons for hope in a dark time

We are living in a difficult time. Our country and its communities are deeply polarized; many Americans distrust one another as well as the government and other institutions. The novel coronavirus has deepened our problems in a way none of us imagined.

The number of Americans who have contracted COVID-19 has surpassed a million. Tens of thousands have died, and record numbers have lost their jobs. No wonder, then, people are disheartened, even discouraged.

This is a stressful and challenging period, when we and our representative democracy are being tested.

But there are reasons to be hopeful. I think of a speech the Rev. Jesse Jackson gave with the theme of "keep hope alive," and that's what we must do. Hope is a precious commodity in human endeavors, including government and politics. We need it now as

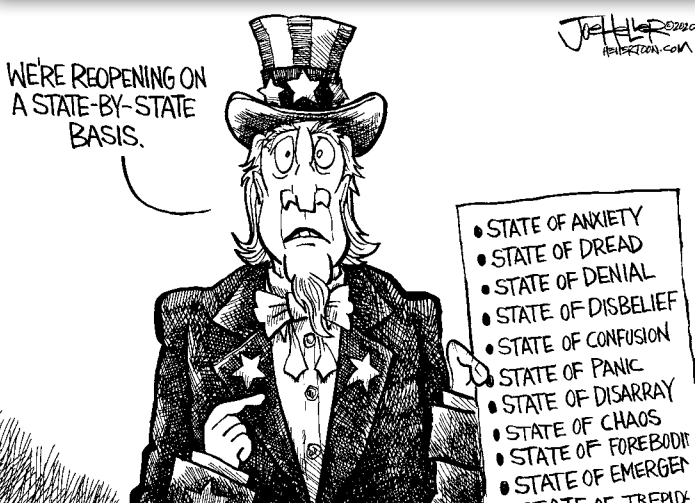
much as ever. What gives us hope today? First, the United States remains the world's preeminent power.

We may not stand astride the world as we once did, but we are still a global leader. People in other nations look to us for leadership. I've experienced this scores of times, in international meetings where delegates looked to see what the U.S. would do.

The fundamentals of the U.S. economy are strong. After recovering from the 2007-08 recession, we experienced a remarkable period of economic growth. The pandemic has brought a setback, of course, but there is strength and growing vitality in America.

Even with all our problems, a strong strain of optimism is part

See HOPE...pg. 5



## Mining deep in the time of pandemic

One of the delightful benefits of the social lockdown is that I'm periodically having longer phone conversations with my children. This week I received a call from my older son. It came after a busy day in the garden. John and I had spent the last few days hauling cow manure and decomposing straw from my



KATHLEEN MCQUILLAN

neighbor's farm. We do this every year in a long-standing bartering arrangement that has proven to be a valuable part of the household budget — our home-grown food supply.

As may be the case for others, manure and straw are key components for keeping our gumbo clay soil rich and tillable for growing

things. After successfully getting our onions in the ground last weekend, our eyes were now on the prize — peas and spinach planted before the "forty days and forty nights" of rain, like those that have set us back the past two springs on our gardening timeline. It was a long day of spreading, tilling, tilling again, and tilling one more time to break down our homemade compost and thoroughly mix it in. Aah! The perfect seedbed, fertile and ready to deliver abundantly.

Around seven o'clock, after

indulging in a simple meal and straightening up the kitchen, I sat myself down for some quiet time checking Duffy for ticks. His hair has grown considerably these past four months and he's become a magnet for "phoo-phoos" — things like burrs, sticks and yes, ticks. An hour combing through his gnarly locks has become part of our nightly ritual. The phone's ring startled me. But what a joy to hear my son's voice. He phones less often now since being called back to work the afternoon shift. He brought

me up to date on family life in "old" Mountain Iron. They too have been preparing their little garden spot, a source of happiness and inspiration. According to Nick, "mostly Bobbi's thing." But believe me, it's much more than Bobbi's "thing". It's her work of art!

We went on to discuss the joys and challenges of homeschooling a 14-year-old, trying to decipher "virtual" lectures and assignments prepared by teach-

See PANDEMIC...pg. 5



## Paid Letter to the Editor

# Leave Eveleth-Gilbert out of Virginia's consolidation plan

## To the Editor:

I am a taxpaying citizen in the Eveleth-Gilbert School District. For over two years now the *Mesabi Daily News* has catered to the Eveleth-Gilbert/Virginia Collaboration/Consolidation propaganda. These full-page ads are supposedly full of "FACTS". The Fact is this information is NOT TRUE.

Who is paying for this propaganda and why won't the *Mesabi Daily News* print letters to the editor with opposing views?

Dr. Schmidt's latest "Guest Column" again warns of "Skullduggery".

Definition: Underhanded or Unscrupulous Behavior.

Nowhere in that definition does it say "someone else's opinion"!

Fact: There were several bids written up over the years to determine what needed to be fixed in the Eveleth-Gilbert Schools and how much it would cost. In the end, a bid was given to Kraus/Anderson who promised they could offer "more" for the money.

Kraus/Anderson works VERY closely with the IRRB. The Iron Range's savings account. The IRRB was organized to collect tax dollars from the taconite companies for economic development and city projects because of the cyclical nature of the mining industry. Apparently, the IRRB and Kraus/Anderson now want this fund to be used for the economic demise of the Iron Range.

FACT: IRRB Commissioner Mark Phillips was formerly employed by Kraus/Anderson. Tom Bakk's son-in-law is currently employed by Kraus/Anderson.

Don't worry, no matter what happens, Kraus/Anderson will take their cut off the top and I mean millions. Dr. Schmidt please tell the people how much Kraus/Anderson will be paid.

Dr. Schmidt asks if residents want to cooperate together and consolidate all their services and systems; or do they want to keep some of the alliances and allegiances the same as before World War I. WHAT IS THAT?

Dr. Schmidt, no one knows what you're talking about because in your quest for a better education, World War I AND World War II were never taught. The grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the Greatest Generation do not have a clue about how Germany used propaganda, burned books and gassed millions of innocent people to try and take over the world!

FACT: There were election violations in the May 2019 election found after an investigation by the St. Louis County Attorney.

FACT: Neither Superintendent notified the board members or the public in any public meetings.

FACT: There was a violation in the proposal sent to the Commissioner of Education. This was reviewed by the Legislative Auditor.

FACT: The schools still DO NOT have a SITE. They have purchased (how many) millions of dollars of land? It was not stated in your proposal to the Comm of Ed to buy land and EVICT an established Charter School.

FACT: "Our kids need 21st Century Education." What is that EXACTLY?

And if you know, then

why did you send teachers to Colorado and Wyoming three times to figure out how to teach? The teachers don't know what is expected of them, but they know they need bigger rooms.

FACT: Dr. Schmidt you insist that Eveleth-Gilbert and Virginia need to get along, HOWEVER, YOU, YOURSELF are creating a very hostile environment not only between cities, but between neighbors and FAMILIES.

FACT: John Huenink, K/A, came to the Eveleth-Gilbert board meeting and stated that if the board did not sign the "intent to consolidate" paperwork that they were just handed, Virginia would MAKE ALL THE DECISIONS!

Sounds like a threat...

FACT: Dr. Schmidt you keep insisting that the districts will "need more money" if not consolidated. Have you told the public of your plans to hire 32 ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATORS? Have you told the public HOW MUCH YOUR SALARY WILL BE? Have you told the public that Supt Jeff Carey will be in charge of overseeing the project? Sounds like a job for an engineer...

So, when Kraus/Anderson packs up and moves on to the next victim, with the blessing of the IRRB; will the crumbling walls, and shattered windows be Mr. Carey's responsibility? Kraus/Anderson took NO liability in the "new county schools crumbling." Their main function is to get paid a lot of money for "a positive outcome for a vote", setting up phone trees, setting up Facebook to bash people, brainwash the weak and identify the opposition. Look at the positive outcome

gained in creating the new Miner's Memorial Complex. Yes, Kraus/Anderson was the master of that project too. Now, because of the economy and the Virus, Virginia is broke. Will this "OUT OF TOWN" company come back and help?

FACT: Ehlers Corp (the Bond People) did provide a booklet of outcomes and one of the pages stated that "if the STATE and IRRB are unable to fulfill their obligations, the burden will fall on the taxpayers." OOPS! Lucky me, my home value would increase.

"Sadly, rumors will be started." YOU have been printing outright lies and covering up data for years! "Inundating residents with false information at the last minute before the vote". Even creating an almost IMPOSSIBLE voting situation in Eveleth in 2019.

Dr. Schmidt you are correct. YOU are using people's worst fears against them. YOU came from outside the Range, YOU hired people (K/A) to come to the Range to "deliberately and intentionally destroy local communities by working in the shadows with last-minute fabrications and misleading data." Then, after they are gone, a 'community is in tatters.'

NO, WERE REALLY DON'T WANT YOU OR ANYONE ELSE FROM OUTSIDE THE RANGE TO DECIDE OUR FATE!

HOW DARE YOU refer to anyone you don't personally know as ideological anti-public school, anti-government and anti-career academies followers!!"

Dr. Schmidt, there is a vocational technical school in the area that is designed specifically for "academy style"

learning. The Range is very proud of the Mesabi Range College.

Dr. Schmidt how do you know there is no "other plan". You and Mr. Carey don't allow FREEDOM OF SPEECH at board meetings without being cut off. YOU don't allow the *Mesabi Daily News* to print any thought-provoking articles on the subject.

Dr. Schmidt it's time for YOU "to bury the hatchet". Eveleth-Gilbert and Virginia were getting along just fine till you strolled in!

Tell the truth, just this once, the Virginia High School is falling down. It was twelve years ago, but because your district has a severe spending problem, all of the levying and re-levying still couldn't put a new roof on the building. Virginia had no other option than to tap into Eveleth-Gilbert tax dollars.

They tried this trick in 2013 with Mt. Iron-Buhl and Eveleth-Gilbert, but sadly Kraus/Anderson wasn't there to go for the jugular. Ask Tim Riordan, he tried as hard as he could!

Take your referendum money, that the Virginia residents voted on, and build your castle. But leave Eveleth-Gilbert out of it!

The best thing we can teach our children and grandchildren is how to live within their means and beware of an outsider with a "once in a lifetime" (80-percent free money) deal that's too good to be true!

Shame on you and shame on your hostile little lambs!

**Sally Zamlen  
Eveleth**

## PANDEMIC...Continued from page 4

ers unaccustomed to the novel method informing and motivating students from home. My son provided an inside glimpse of the experience, "a mixed bag of failures and breakthroughs".

I can't recall the exact course of rapids and eddies that carried us down our thought stream, eventually getting us on this topic of "failure" and "success", but somehow that's where we landed. After diving deep into Nick's recollections of being a high school student, identifying which teachers held his attention, transferred knowledge effectively, and laid the groundwork for his current appreciation for history and math, he

also identified those who hadn't. "I regret that I didn't pay more attention in English class. Times when I really want to send a clear, well-constructed text using the right grammar so the other person gets my point. That's when I wish I'd taken Mr. Bartovich more seriously." I had to laugh. I recalled all those times Mr. Bartovich met me in the principal's office because Nick wasn't taking him "more seriously". We agreed, some teachers really were special. True successes at their jobs!

Nick then shared a recent conversation he'd had with an older man he knew well. It was about the question of how to define "success". The

man was doubting some of the choices he'd made during the course of his life, and also some he'd "failed" to make. He began comparing himself to his siblings, a sister who was an accomplished and somewhat "driven" physician, and his brother, a successful businessman who lived "the high life". Nick walked me through the man's self-examination — not passing judgment, just highlighting certain aspects he thought were worth discussing. The man said the doctor often worked eighty hours a week, relying on nannies to help raise her children. Nick queried the man, "How often does she see them now, since they've left home?" The man

replied, "Not that often." Nick continued, "And the brother who's the high-roller entrepreneur? You told me his main goal was making lots of money, and proving that he knew more about everything than anybody else? Is he a person you've enjoyed hanging around with?" The man answered, "Well, not really." Nick summed up his thoughts. "Then maybe their lives aren't all that great."

I listened, reflecting on my own life. I chimed in. "Ya know, I've asked myself those same questions.... Maybe we all do sometimes." "Yea," Nick responded. "You're probably right."

We agreed that comparing ourselves to others

usually leads us down a rabbit hole — unless we stop and ask ourselves, "How do we measure 'success'? Is it how much money you make or status you acquire? Is it what we produce... Something we have to 'show' for our lives? Who's defining success and setting the standard?"

Then Nick asked, "So, if we are brave — or crazy — enough to go our own way, aren't we all just trying to be happy?" With that, there was a long pause in the conversation.

At this point, Duffy had been thoroughly inspected. While traveling to the "outer limits" and back, I had discovered two ticks, shooed away the bunny that's been

chewing my porch, and finished two cups of tea. I asked Nick, "Hey, what time is it, anyway?" I was shocked when he said 1 a.m. With no clock in the room, we had mined below the surface for three hours. We are two people who have chosen our own paths, and for the most part, we're happy! Not all the time, of course. But enough to know that joy and satisfaction might be the best measures of success around!

With that, we shared thanks for our marathon chat, then wrapped it up with a sweet "Good Night".

## HOPE...Continued from page 4

of the national character. We may not agree about politics, our leaders or the direction of our country, but dig beneath the surface and most Americans are appreciative of our history and proud to be Americans. They do not want to trade places with the citizens of any other country.

Moreover, Americans are talented and resilient.

I've traveled across this country many times, and I've met with countless groups and individuals; and in those meetings I've been repeatedly impressed with the wealth of talented people I've encountered. You find them in all walks

of life: academia, business, labor, and the worlds of sports, arts and culture. In unexpected settings, I've met knowledgeable citizens who can argue the finer points of domestic politics and foreign policy.

Energetic discussion and deliberation on issues of public concern is a defin-

ing feature of American life. With the internet, all Americans have access to vast amounts of information about topics that interest them, and they use that information skillfully.

Finally, our system of federalism is again showing its strength. In the current public health crisis,

governors and mayors have stepped up to lead. And it's not just government where this occurs: individuals and community groups of all kinds, public and private, are meeting our challenges.

Progress is never linear, and the COVID-19 pandemic reminds us

that there will always be setbacks. But they will not override our hopes and actions.

Nearly two hundred years ago, de Tocqueville wrote that Americans had "a lively faith in the perfectibility of man." That faith may be tested, but it endures.

## TIDY-UP...Continued from page 3

really was some civic pride shown."

Kringstad estimated the Tower volunteers made at least 30 trips to the canister site, plus additional trips to the city's brush pile.

Charlie Carlson, co-owner of Ubetcha

Antiques, made good use of his time off due to his store being closed to make 11 trips to the Soudan canister site.

"We got a lot of stuff," he said.

Kringstad said there was some confusion

because he initially had been told they were allowed to bring construction-type debris to the canister site with their special clean-up days permit issued by St. Louis County.

"We did end up buying punch tickets for some

of the stuff we picked up which wasn't permitted for free," he said.

But overall, Kringstad said his volunteer crew, which included Kevin Norby, Tim Mickle, Dave Broten and Lynn Scott, along with city mainte-

nance and office staff, did a great job wrangling with all that had been left for pick-up, and the crew all planned to be back helping out on the second clean-up day on May 6.

The city is still looking into options for residents

who would like to get old vehicles towed away.

The next step, Kringstad said, would be getting a group of volunteers to pick up trash along the city's bike trails and other roadsides and alleys.

## COUNCIL...Continued from page 3

"We will have people directing folks to put (their materials) in a pile," he added. "We had folks up there just recently who dumped a pile right in the middle of the road. I don't

know why they can't seem to understand that there is a pile to (add to)."

Brush and grass clippings are also accepted at the St. Louis County transfer station located

off Highway 21, about halfway to Babbitt.

"They also take old lawn furniture and other garbage, so that option is there," Langowski said. "We will give this a try for

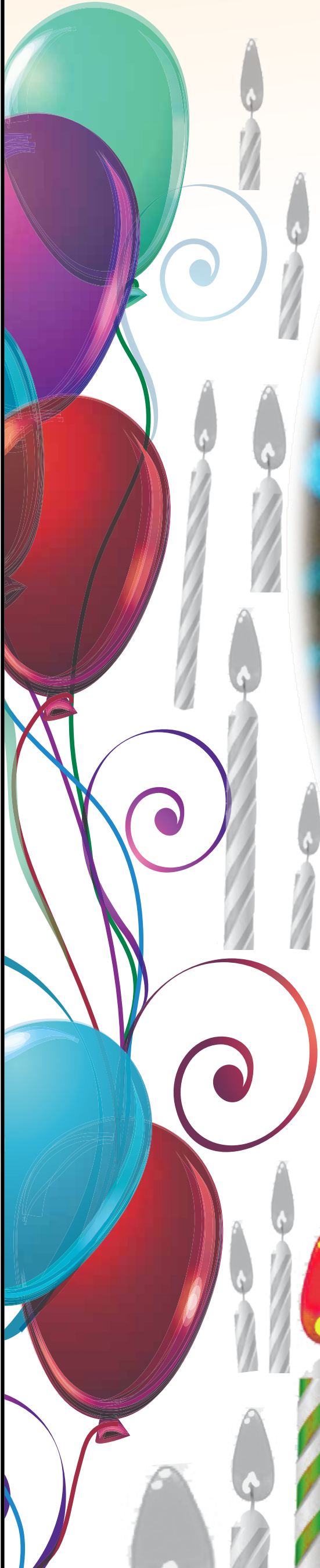
May and June and look at expanding (hours of operation) after that," he said. Hopefully this COVID-19 will change and allow us to adjust to what we are envisioning."

Langowski reinforced that users should drive slowly on the gravel road at the site. Any complaints from residents will surely shut down the city service, Langowski warned.

In a related matter, the annual city-wide cleanup is likely to be put on the shelf this year due to the coronavirus. The city's sanitation committee remains silent on the issue.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



**Marilu**

**Jeff**

**Jenny**

**James**





# BIRTHDAYS

## WALLY

- *Husband*
- *Father*
- *Grandfather*
- *Friend*
- *Educator*



Jake

Louie

Bob

Jason



Week of May 11

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.

Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. on May 11, meeting virtually, see cityoftower.com for information to log in.

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.

Greenwood Town Board- 6 p.m. on May 12. Meeting will be by call-in only, contact clerk@greenwoodtownshipmn.com or call 218-753-2231 to get log-in and agenda information.

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.

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. Free delivery of meals is offered to seniors in Tower and Soudan proper.

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.

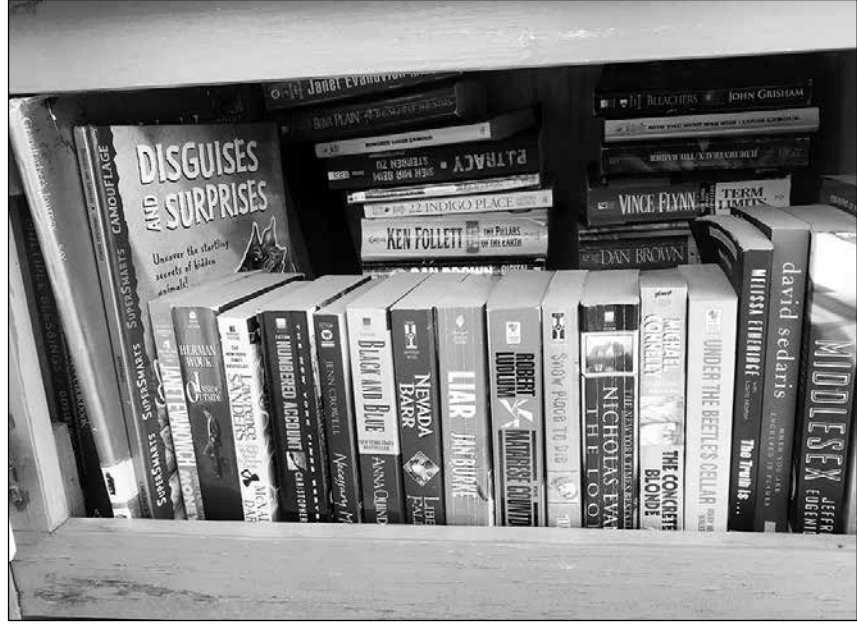
- Week of May 11
Monday-Breaded Pollock, Tater Tots
Tuesday-Spaghetti, Meat Sauce
Wednesday-Chicken Fried Rice
Thursday -Pork Roast Dinner
Friday-Pizza Burger

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.

ATTENTION READERS

Little Library now restocked with books



Take a book, or leave a book, or both!

TOWER- The Tower Little Library that is located on the porch of the Timberjay building on Tower's Main Street has been restocked with books and is ready for summer reading opportunities. The Little Library was "snowed-in" over the winter. Everyone is free to take a book, or leave a book (general interest, child or adult, fiction or non-fiction).



Cruising in Soudan...

Above: Strong spring winds over the weekend didn't stop Paxton Goodsky Jr. and his dad, Paxton, from going for a "drive" on Saturday afternoon.



Right: Cousins Royce Stewart and Levi Clemenson played on Levi's new playset.

photos by S. Ukkola

the TIMBERJAY
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Sharing pantry opening at St. Martin's

TOWER- The St. Martin's Sharing Pantry will be opening starting on Wednesday, May 13.

Church and community members will be stocking the garage (in the downstairs of the church) with items such as nonperishable food items, personal care items, books, games, puzzles and more. If you have a need, please come and take what you need. If you have items to share, donations are appreciated. St. Martin's members said they would like to do what they can to help, especially during this difficult time.

Tower-Soudan Historical Society, Sisu Heritage receive grants

REGIONAL- Two area organizations have received grants from the Minnesota Historical Society's small grant cycle this winter. Each of their project's will preserve and enhance Minnesota's cultural and historical resources. All grants are competitive and awarded according to program guidelines and criteria, as well as professional standards.

Sisu Heritage Inc., of Embarrass, was awarded \$9,000 for Finnish Apostolic Lutheran Church National Register Evalu-

ation. The grant will allow them to hire qualified consultants to evaluate the 1906 Finnish Apostolic Lutheran Church for possible inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Tower-Soudan Historical Society was awarded \$9,850 to allow the revision of architectural drawings for the Tower Fire Hall. The grant will allow them to hire a qualified consultant to develop architectural drawings for reuse of the Tower Fire Hall, built in 1895 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Minnesota Historical Society received a legislative appropriation of \$12.85 million for the 2020-2021 biennium for the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage ("Legacy")

Grants: \$5,846,000 for FY2020 and \$7,004,000 for FY2021.

Grants are available for history and historic preservation projects in two funding tiers. Small grants of \$10,000 or less are awarded quarterly. The next small grant application deadline is July 10, 2020. Large grants of more than \$10,000 are offered once a year. All grants are administered through a competitive process using professional standards and criteria.

For more information on the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants program, including application deadlines, visit www.mnhs.org/preservation/legacy-grants.

ATTENTION
STUNTZ BAY ASSOCIATION
Both Meetings Spring & Fall CANCELED
Officers will meet to conduct business as needed.
Call 218-969-6374 or 218-290-1264

BRANDT'S Greenhouse
9149 Hwy. 135 • 2 miles south of Tower
OPENING FRIDAY • MAY 8
Hanging Baskets, Bedding Plants, Perennials, Annuals • We fill cemetery baskets
\* GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE \*
OPEN Daily: 9 AM-6 PM
2 miles south of Tower on Hwy 135
We Accept Credit & Debit Cards



# Libraries

## Ely library

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

## Babbitt library

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

## Support groups

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



Dozens of trees lining several blocks of James Street were cleared last week by Fenske Tree Service and Mesabi Bituminous to make way for a major reconstruction project this summer. The project was scheduled to start this week with the establishment of a temporary waterline from Central Ave to Third Avenue. More information on the project can be found on the city of Ely website at [www.ely.mn.us](http://www.ely.mn.us) - 2020 James Street Project. photo by K. Vandervort

## Threat made to Ely school

ELY –ISD 696 received a threat to the Memorial School Building Tuesday morning. The threat was received via email, according to ISD 696 Superintendent Erik Erie. He informed district families. “The Ely Police Department was notified of the threat, and checked the building,” Erie said. The EPD reported that the school has been deemed safe for occupancy and there is no imminent threat. Child care was moved to the Washington Elementary School on Tuesday as a precaution. All staff on and off site was notified.

The Ely science teachers salvaged their spring tulip fundraiser by giving dozens of plants away on Tuesday. For a nominal donation, gardeners received tulips ready for planting directly into pots or gardens just in time for Mother’s Day. Todd and Heather Cavalier, with help from their kids Emory and Oliver, distributed the plants within a couple of hours.

photo by K. Vandervort

## OUR COMMUNITY



## Ely License Bureau adjusts to COVID-19

ELY - The Ely License Bureau is working within the rules set forth by the Minnesota Division of Vehicle Services (DVS) during the state’s stay-at-home orders because of the coronavirus pandemic. All DVS exam stations and driver’s license agent offices remain closed until May 18 to follow Gov. Tim Walz’s executive order for Minnesotans to stay home and slow the spread of COVID-19. More than 100 deputy registrar offices are providing limited motor vehicle services. No face-to-face transactions or driver services are available. The Ely License Bureau can process registrations and titles. Mail proper documents and payments to them or use their night drop box at the office, located at 17 E. Chapman Street in Ely. They will process the form and mail it back to you. If customers need a quicker turnaround, wait outside and office personnel are able to pass back thru the night drop. No customers are allowed in the office. The office is open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

### Guidelines

1. Put phone number on everything
  2. Provide the full renewal sheet and write the insurance info at the bottom
  3. Cash or checks only
  4. If you wait outside, keep six feet apart
  5. Fill out title completely. Check seller’s signature (two owners require two signatures). Fill in date of sale and odometer (if less than 10 years old). No alterations. Complete and sign both the buyer information and the application portion. On the back, write purchase price and insurance information. If there is a bank lien, you must have a lien release
  6. Non-titled trailer and DNR transfers must have a signed bill of sale. Boats over 16 feet are probably titled.
  7. Mail to: Ely License Bureau, 17 E Chapman St, Ely, MN 55731. Phone: 218-365-6262
- Road tests and vehicle inspections are unavailable while DVS exam stations are closed. Residents whose driver’s licenses or ID cards expire during the peacetime emergency will have two months after the month the peacetime emergency ends to renew. DVS staff continue to work remotely during this time, processing previously-submitted applications and answering public questions. More information is available on the DVS website. For more information: <http://ow.ly/QEwk50zb552> Find an open office: <http://ow.ly/pxNG50zb554> Find online services: <http://ow.ly/6WSI50zb553>

## Ely AA groups to meet by phone

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



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A distance learning flower garden project is taking place at Washington Elementary School. “We welcome families and students to participate in a fun activity: Sprouting Apart – Blooming Together,” said K-5 Principal Anne Oelke. “Although we are apart, we are growing as learners together.” Students and families can help pollinators by planting their favorite flowers at home. They will have an opportunity to transplant the flowers to the school garden at the end of the school year.

photo by K. Vandervort

## Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



dabs of bright yellow dot the drab garden stillness an awakening

## Women Who Care donates to Ely Area Food Shelf

ELY – The 100+ Ely Women Who Care organization last week delivered \$7,765 in donations to the Ely Area Food Shelf. The in-person presentation event was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. The group’s giving circle continues to support Ely’s nonprofits that need help now more than ever.

This was the seventh 100+ Ely Women Who Care event. They hold two events each year, and welcome participation even for those who cannot attend.



# Golfer Olson signs with William Penn University

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- If North Woods girls golf coach Kandi Olson wants to watch her kids play collegiate golf, she's going to have to put double the miles on her car now that her daughter, North Woods senior Coley Olson, has signed a national letter of intent to play golf for William Penn University in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

Son Tate, a 2018 Grizzlies graduate, plays golf for the University of Jamestown in Jamestown, N.D.

As Tate was finishing out his high school career, Coley, a five-time state tournament qualifier, was beginning to garner interest from collegiate coaches. She said William Penn came calling first.

"They were actually the first school that talked to me about playing two years ago," Coley said. "It's kind of crazy that I ended up going there."

Just because William Penn was first didn't mean playing for the Statesmen was a foregone conclusion.

"She had some really nice scholarship offers from many different types of schools," Kandi said.

Each option was weighed carefully with an eye toward academics as well as sports, and a decision was made more tedious because Coley had to settle for making virtual visits to colleges that had been shut down in response to the coronavirus, including William Penn.

"After looking at everything each of the colleges had to offer, William Penn really stood out," Kandi said.

Competing in the

Heart of America League in the National Association for Intercollegiate Athletics, William Penn's women's golf program has become a consistent presence in top-25 polls and championship tournament competition, and the team's head coach, Bailey Rimes, was an integral part of building the program's success.

"(She) was a top individual player in the nation as well," Kandi said. "I'm definitely confident in her ability and with the progress the team has continued to make she's doing a great job with the program as well."

Coley said she's looking forward to honing her skills under Coach Rimes.

"I'm excited to see how different it will be because I haven't been coached by anyone who's not in my family for golf," she said. "It'll be very different not having my Mom as a coach, but I know a lot of the players there call the coach 'mom.' She's young and super excited, too, and that's just awesome."

Now that she'll be able to set aside volleyball and basketball and focus exclusively on golf, Coley is hoping the added practice time will translate into more consistency in her game. It's exactly the advice Tate would give her to make a successful transition to the college game.

"Just try to outwork everyone," Tate said. "When it comes to college golf you have to become more and more consistent every day."

However, Coley is confident she can contribute right away to a team that attracts players from all across the country to Iowa.

"Hopefully I'll be

able to contribute with my leadership skills and bring my energy," she said. "Mom talks about how a couple of teammates and I have this crazy energy all the time and hopefully I'll carry that with me to Iowa."

Kandi noted those same qualities when talking about Coley's positive influence at North Woods.

"From the time she was a freshman she really became one of the team leaders and tried to get the team to work a little harder than they had been," Kandi said. "She did it in a motivational way, she encouraged everyone to be a better athlete. She's a kid who has an extra bounce in her step as she's walking down the course and that rubs off. She kind of said 'Come join me on this ride,' and they did."

Olson is the second Grizzlies golfer tabbed by a collegiate program. Kristen Lilya, a 2017 graduate who competed four times at state, moved on to play for the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, but the circumstances surrounding their signings were quite different.

The North Woods campus has been closed since mid-March as the coronavirus forced schools across the state to turn to distance education, and with stay-at-home restrictions it wasn't possible for a customary signing ceremony with family, teammates, and coaches present.

Kandi nonetheless found a way to make the signing special by coordinating a Zoom conference with Coley's teammates as she signed the paperwork in the presence of her family.

"It was really special," Coley said. "I just



Coley Olson's golf "family," her North Woods teammates, look on remotely as she signs a national letter of intent to play golf collegiately next fall for William Penn University.

Submitted photo

haven't seen them in so long. It was awesome to have them there because they were the highlight of my whole high school career."

Kandi said she was sad the team, including Coley's close friend and co-captain Kylie Parson, didn't get to play this spring, but that they understood the gravity of the situation and that she was proud of the way they have responded.

There was one silver lining to be found from the coronavirus's impact on sports. Tate Olson's season at Jamestown was cancelled along with classes, so he was able to be at the signing in person with the rest of his family.

"I tell people that those two are best friends," Kandi said. "When big events happen in their lives they can't wait to share it with each other. This event is one Tate probably couldn't have been able to be in on, so it was actually pretty exciting."

Tate said he was glad to have been a part of the signing, and believes his sister has a bright future.

"She hasn't peaked yet," he said. "She's going to get better with more time to practice."

Meanwhile, Coley started communicating with her future teammates right after signing, and they're already talking about meeting up,

when conditions allow, for golf outings in Arizona and Minnesota.

"It's cool to be going to a college program that's so much bigger and successful at a different level," Coley said. "It's super exciting."

**Read It HERE**

## Hospice launches membership drive

COOK- Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners has gotten innovative with its annual membership campaign as it seeks to counter fundraising constraints caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

With its annual spring fundraising event canceled due to coronavirus restrictions, VHHP is instigating a Membership Campaign Challenge. Current members are encouraged to invite friends, family members, and neighbors to sign up for VHHP individual and family memberships by sharing why they support VHHP and how hospice care has touched their lives.

Last year's membership campaign generated over \$2,600 in

memberships and memorial donations, according to program director Becca Bundy, and adding new memberships in addition to renewals is vitally important to the continuing support VHHP provides to the patients and families they serve.

Bundy said funding requests continue to come in, and COVID-19 has changed the nature of some of them. One example is the recent purchase of a tablet for a patient in a nursing home to be able to communicate with family, friends, and hospice staff.

Memberships and donations may be used to cover patient medical supplies and equipment, bereavement and grief support,

patient support in the form of massage, family visits, and last wishes. Contributions also provide scholarships for two graduating high school seniors from the Cook, Orr, Nett Lake and Tower attendance area, as well as a current college student.

Memberships include spring and fall newsletters, a copy of the annual report, and an invitation to the VHHP annual meeting.

A membership form is available at [vhhp.org/memberships/](http://vhhp.org/memberships/), by sending an email to [vhhpdirector@gmail.com](mailto:vhhpdirector@gmail.com), or by calling 218-780-5423. Individual and family memberships, as well as donations, are tax deductible.

## Cook Public Library offering curbside pickup

COOK- The Cook Public Library began curbside pickup services Monday to provide patrons with access to books, audio books, DVDs and puzzles from the library's collection.

Librarian Crystal Phillips said people can search the Cook collection online at [www.alslib.info](http://www.alslib.info). If they aren't sure what they'd like to request, they can contact the library with examples of authors, movies, or genres they like and staff will find similar items.

No requests from other libraries are available at this time.

Curbside pickup is available Monday through Friday by appointment between 10

a.m. and 4 p.m. Orders will be placed in plastic bags and delivered outside the library.

Due dates have been extended while the library is closed, and patrons should use the outdoor book drop for returns. Returned items are quarantined for seven days before they can be checked out again.

Wi-Fi service is available outside the library 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Hotspots are not available for check out at this time.

Assistance and additional information is available by calling the library at 218-666-2210, or by emailing Phillips at [crystal.phillips@alslib.info](mailto:crystal.phillips@alslib.info).

## NWFA to open two days for canvas sales

COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts is getting rolling on their "A Canvas and You" home art project, by making canvases available for sale to prospective participants.


Everyone is welcome to purchase a canvas at the NWFA Gallery on consecutive Saturdays, May 16 and May 23, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Each canvas costs \$10, and artists may purchase multiple canvases. The gallery is located adjacent to Dream Weavers Salon at 210 S River St. Social distancing rules will be followed.

Volunteers also will deliver by appointment. Call Shawna at 218-780-6510 to arrange a de-

livery time or for more information. Payment in cash (exact change) or by check should be placed in an envelope.

"A Canvas for You" is an opportunity for artists to express their creativity in whatever way they wish, choosing their own designs. Creations can be painted, drawn, sewn, carved, glued, woven, and more. Canvases will be exhibited for sale at the gallery in July and August. Proceeds of the sale will be split 50-50 between the artists and NWFA.

Additional information is available online at [www.nwfamn.org/art-events](http://www.nwfamn.org/art-events) or at [www.facebook.com/northwoods-friendsofthearts/](http://www.facebook.com/northwoods-friendsofthearts/).



**the TIMBERJAY**

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**ELY...**Continued from page 1

in 2019. He is a 1998 graduate of Irondale High School in New Brighton. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in natural resources law enforcement from the University of Minnesota - Crookston in 2002 and attained a law enforcement skills certificate that same year from Hibbing Community College.

During his interview, Houde told the council that in the last year in his temporary role as a police sergeant he gained lead-

ership and management skills.

"I would say I am more a participative leader and prefer to lead by example," he said. "I wouldn't want to tell my guys to do something that I am not capable of doing. This is a working chief position. I'm not afraid to ask for advice."

Houde spoke of increasing the department's involvement with community groups, especially the Vermilion Community College's law

enforcement program.

"We should work with their cadets and gain perhaps more internships," he said.

He noted the importance of having a good relationship with the city's hospital, the school district, and the city's senior citizen population.

He also talked about expanding the annual public safety night model to become involved in the "national night out" program.

"I like the idea of

getting out to learn who our neighbors are," Houde said, "and maybe we can have more (neighborhood) street dances. There are a variety of events like this we could do."

Houde said that he has matured during his tenure with the EPD and admitted that he wrote more tickets earlier in his career. Today he "would rather educate" than issue a citation. "You get a lot more accomplished by having conversation with

someone," he said.

As they took their votes and narrowed the field, several council members agreed that they would be supportive of any of the candidates.

"From my perspective, I pay attention to their responsiveness to the questions," Novak said.

Heidi Omerza said she also paid attention to the body language of the candidates.

"One person in the interview did not look

me in the eye once during the entire interview, and I find that very disturbing," she said. "I was beyond ecstatic with the way (Sgt.) Houde answered the questions and leads by example. It was a breath of fresh air."

Houde, who must still negotiate a contract agreement with city officials, indicated in his application for the position that he desired a salary of \$80,000 to \$85,000 for the promotion.

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

2015. That's because city officials, including former Zoning Administrator Linda Keith and commission chair Altenburg had failed to abide by a state law that requires governmental bodies to approve or reject a conditional use permit within 60 days of the date of application. In the case of Rose, wrote Brunfelt, the city accepted his original application for 27 RV campsites, held the required public hearing, but never issued a determination. While governmental bodies can apply for a 60-day extension, city officials never did so and, in either case, any such extension would have expired years ago.

By accepting his application and \$100 fee, the city was "on-the-clock" according to Brunfelt, and when the planning commission failed to either vote yay or nay on the request within the 60-day timeline, the commission forfeited its rights and the CUP was approved "automatically."

By failing to abide by the timelines set in

state statute, the city also forfeited its right to place conditions on Rose's project that might have helped to address concerns from neighbors on Mill Point about potential disturbance from the development. Rose has since submitted other CUP applications to the city, with slightly higher numbers of RV units than his original proposal.

Despite the turn of events, it's not clear that Rose's development faces smooth sailing. He still needs to determine how to address the wastewater discharge from the facility, and that's an issue that has become increasingly difficult in the wake of the city's 2017 decision to connect the Hoodoo Point Campground to the Tower-Breitung wastewater system, which consumed much of the city's remaining treatment capacity.

According to Tower-Breitung Wastewater Manager Matt Tuchel, the municipal system can only safely accept an additional 3,000 gallons

per day based on recent calculations he has done. Last year was significantly wetter than average and that boosted the flow to the system's sewage ponds nearly to capacity, according to Tuchel. While the average annual flow is determined by a three-year average, Tuchel said the exceptionally high flow in 2019 was high enough that it will likely keep the system's average flow at very close to capacity for the next three years.

Tuchel had informed the joint wastewater board of the situation at their meeting in April. "I'm trying to be proactive," he said.

Based on a typical allocation of 160 gallons per day for a seasonal RV camper, that would appear to allow Rose just 18 sites, which is considerably fewer than the 30-35 sites he has proposed most recently.

According to John Thomas of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Rose's project will likely

require a sewage extension permit from the MPCA to connect to the Tower-Breitung system. That permit would also require the approval of the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board and the city of Tower.

Tuchel said he would advise against approving anything more than an extra 3,000 gallons per day. "I would certainly recommend that they consider the ramifications," he said.

Rose has insisted in the past that he already has permission to connect to the Tower-Breitung wastewater treatment system, but Tuchel said any actual permit request would need to come before the wastewater board for formal approval.

Rose said the situation won't stop his project. He's already researching the option of using holding tanks to service the RVs, although the cost of regularly pumping those tanks could be substantial,

depending on the volume.

Rose said he's unlikely to go with a septic system because it would consume a substantial amount of his limited space for RVs. He currently has just over ten acres to work with for his project. He's currently working with Benchmark Engineering to finalize his site design.

**Implications for the future**

The situation with Rose's proposed RV park demonstrates the limit to growth in Tower-Soudan posed by the sewage treatment capacity. The situation would have imperiled the planned town home project at the harbor, except for the fact that that project has already been issued a permit by the MPCA, the wastewater board, and the city of Tower. Should that project move forward, however, it will add further strain to the city's system.

Tuchel said the sit-

uation argues for more attention to the system's longstanding problem with inflow and infiltration, or I and I. The communities' aging sewage collection lines receive a tremendous amount of freshwater I and I most years, which consumes valuable treatment capacity. The wastewater board briefly considered options for expanding capacity, but Tuchel said virtually every option imposed huge costs, both for construction and operation. "With the numbers, it's really hard to fathom how we could afford an expansion," said Tuchel.

City officials have known about the I and I problem for years and Tuchel said he hopes the current situation will focus attention on the need to "get serious" about addressing the issue.

"We've got to keep it in the limelight," he said. "Otherwise, it's too easy for it to be out of sight, out of mind."

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**NORTHEAST RANGE Nighthawks**


**ALL NIGHT GRAD PARTY!**

In keeping with tradition, during these unfamiliar times, an All Night Grad Party is still being planned for the Northeast Range Class of 2020. Typically, this event is a substance-free party held following graduation at the Northeast Range School, and is an overnight lock-in for the senior class with a variety of planned activities. In the morning, each senior who attends receives a gift package. It is a night for them to gather one last time as that year's graduating class. Due to COVID-19, this is another one of many things that needs to be nontraditional for them. As mentioned, the All Night Grad Party Committee is still planning something special for the 20 students who make up the class of 2020.

If you would like to donate, in any way, please feel free to contact Chandra Koivisto at 218-290-5920 or donate to the Go Fund Me Facebook post "NER Yard Signs". Your donation to the All Night Grad Party is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

**Northeast Range All Night Grad Party Committee**



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ISD 696

# School on track for facility referendum

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – A \$20 million bonding referendum for the Ely School District building renovation project appears to be on track for later this summer despite questions over safe election procedures and when students and teachers will be allowed back into classrooms.

ISD 696 school board members appear to be set to adopt a resolution to move forward at their regular board meeting on Monday. A public hearing will be required prior to taxpayers voting on the measure on Tuesday, Aug. 11.

With a \$7 million commitment from Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation and another half-million-dollar state grant, school board members also considered the state of the economy during a recent study session.

Superintendent Erik Erie highlighted a review and comment application that was to be submitted to the Department of Education last Friday.

“This is an extensive

document and there is a lot that goes into it, including an executive summary, facility deficiency list, detailed financing sources, project description, district obligations, enrollment studies and more,” he said.

Gary Cerkvenik, principal member of the Costin Group, the district’s lobbyist, was asked by board chair Ray Marsnik to comment on the fact that some state school districts are postponing bonding referendum votes because of uncertainties surrounding the coronavirus pandemic.

“I think the difference in Ely that you have, over the other places that may be postponing or even canceling their referendums, is that you have \$7 million (from IRRR), and no one else in the state has that. You have something very unique to present to voters,” he said.

He noted that the district has until the end of the year to conduct a bonding referendum and still qualify for the IRRR grant.

“The only other date to have a vote would be on the Nov. 3 general election,”

he said. He noted that the risk of taconite plants shutting down across the Iron Range due to the slowing economy could mean a long-term decrease in taconite production taxes that fund IRRR programs.

“The longer the downturn exists, the less money that flows into their various funds,” Cerkvenik said, and ISD 696 could lose the \$7 million grant.

“My sense is, you should probably stick to your present course. You should weigh that the situation could get worse than you see today going into the fall or next spring,” he said.

Marsnik agreed.

“I am in favor of moving forward with our timeline,” he said.

Costin Group member and Ely alum Jeff Anderson added that last month in Wisconsin, 54 of 57 school bond referendums were passed for just under \$2 billion of taxpayer funding.

“In Minnesota, on April 14, there were two referendums voted on and one passed and one failed,” he said. “In the middle of this pandemic situation there still appears to be an

appetite by voters to pass these.”

Anderson also noted that a major construction project for Ely could be an economic advantage for the area.

“It would bring business to motels and restaurants, hardware stores, convenience stores and more businesses as this project commences. I think we have plenty of time to educate voters. At the end of the day, if they say yes, we have \$7 million for this project. That’s a ‘for sure’ if voters pass this in August,” he said.

Property tax impact scenarios have shown that a \$10 million bond would result in a tax increase of about \$60 per year, for the next 20 years, for a residential property appraised at \$100,000 in the Ely school district. Commercial properties would face a larger property tax impact.

A referendum defeat in August could still leave time for the district to ask voters to reconsider the question, with modifications to the dollar amount or project scope, in November, according to Erie.

## Teacher contract

In a special meeting following the April 27 study session, the board ratified a contract renewal with the Ely Education Association through the 2020-2021 school year on a 5-1 vote.

Board member James Pointer, who was on the board’s negotiating committee, voted against the agreement.

“I know our teachers do a lot and it would be nice if we could pay them what movie stars and athletes make, but unfortunately we can’t,” he said. “As a member of the negotiating committee there were a number of things I did not necessarily agree with and I still don’t agree with them.”

Pointer declined to go into detail.

“Two years ago when we negotiated a contract, we gave up a lot of money to get something and now we’re giving it right back to them, and that made (negotiations) very frustrating.”

He referenced a recent finance committee meeting.

“We are going into deficit spending for the

year with a lot more deficit coming based on other potential expenses. There is a lot of uncertainty out there right now with everything going on. I had a hard time with this contract,” Pointer said.

According to a negotiations summary, the master agreement with the EEA calls for a two-percent salary increase in 2019-2020 and a 2.5-percent increase in 2020-2021. The cost increase to the district over the two-year term is just under \$400,000.

“I’m not disputing James’s concern,” said board member Rochelle Sjoberg “From a budget perspective, I don’t think anything approved by the negotiating team put the district in jeopardy. At the end of the day, it brought the morale and some peace back over concerns from the last contract.”

In other business, the school board accepted the retirement of long-time science teacher Bo DeRemee, effective Aug. 28.

## MOM...Continued from page 1

the virus.

As RN regional operations manager for Carefree Living facilities in Cook, Orr, Babbitt, Silver Bay, and Ely, where she also has been helping out as an RN, Kasey Kiefler oversees services for about 150 residents as she attempts to strike a tenuous balance between remaining upbeat and weathering the strain felt by residents, staff, and families alike from nine weeks of lockdown.

“We’re doing the best we can to make things normal, but it’s not normal,” Kiefler said. “People are struggling. The only way we can have family members in our facility is if someone is actively dying. It leaves me in tears every day because I don’t want to see these people struggling.”

Staff have been doing what they can, often even when they’re off duty, to keep residents connected with their loved ones, Kiefler said.

“We’re all using our personal phones to do Facetime,” she said. “I did buy a tablet. Does it replace hugging your loved one? Absolutely not. But it does help.”

Like many of her staff, Kiefler is a mother, too, now sharing the challenge of homeschooling her two children with her husband, who works full-time. The exhaustion from work means weekends are devoted to catching up on school assignments rather than catching some needed down time.

“It’s almost impossible to do,” Kiefler said. “It gets to a point where burnout is a real thing.”

Still, Sunday is Mother’s Day, and Kiefler said she and the Ely staff are “doing as much as we can to make the weekend joyful” for residents.

Activities director Carolyn Schiltz has arranged silk corsages for all of the mothers, gift bags, and a special treat of strawberries dipped in white chocolate, and mimosas. Kiefler is adding her own personal touch.

“I make cupcakes on

the side,” she said, “so I’ll be making about 75 cupcakes.”

And to celebrate her own motherhood?

“A little peace and quiet would be nice,” Kiefler said.

## Being present

Foreshadowing what will undoubtedly be a common and emotional scene this weekend, brothers Allen and Rick Dahl brought together about a dozen family and friends on April 23 to fete their mother, Elsie, on her 91st birthday outside of Edgewood Vista in Virginia.

Elsie stood inside at a window, holding a cell phone and cupcakes Allen had brought, as the crew outside waved decorative posters and flags, singing “Happy Birthday.” Family friend Mary Shedd had her own cell phone on speaker to facilitate communication with Elsie.

“It’s tough when you can’t hug your mother on her 91st birthday,” Allen said.

He recommended that families who want to do something similar for Mother’s Day should let staff know ahead of time and affirmed that such visits are well worth the effort.

“It may be that a lot of people are doing it, so set it up in advance,” Allen said. “They’re happy to see you even if you can’t give them a hug. She talked about that for days afterward.”

Orr Carefree Living resident Syvilla Shermer hasn’t lacked for family contact during the quarantine. The 96-year-old matriarch of the Shermer clan has nine children, most of whom live in the area with their families, daughter Kay Cornelius said.

“One of my sisters probably goes up daily,” she said. “I’ll try to go three to four times a week and do window visits. We call her ahead of time so she doesn’t need to rush.”

For someone who normally has an active social life in the community, being cooped up has put

a big crimp in Syvilla’s routine.

“Mom likes to go out,” Cornelius said. “She has a better social life than I do. We usually take drives in the spring. We just travel around looking at old bridges, waterfalls, places where Mom and Dad had farms. She really misses that.”

Still, Cornelius said her mother’s strong Christian faith has helped her to keep a positive attitude throughout confinement.

“She said, ‘I survived World War II and everything in between; I’ll survive this,’” Cornelius laughed.

Past Mother’s Days have been celebrated at Syvilla’s home in what Cornelius termed “open house” fashion, with family dropping in throughout the day. She envisions a similar scenario on Sunday, albeit outside at Carefree Living.

Cornelius said Syvilla is glad that she lives at the facility in part because with the state-imposed visitation restrictions she doesn’t have to say no to family visits herself to protect her health.

“I think it’s good she doesn’t have to feel that pressure,” Cornelius said. “She always finds a positive.”

## Flowers and food

Flowers and Mother’s Day go hand-in-hand, and Sandy Lakner, owner of Bloomer’s Floral and Gift in Ely, has been gearing up to spread a lot of floral joy.

“Because they can’t get together with their moms this weekend, I am

anticipating a very busy week and weekend,” she said. “They’re going to want to acknowledge them in some way and flowers is a wonderful way to do that.”

Lakner said that this week she has decided to go beyond the delivery service she has been offering to open the store for shoppers from Wednesday through Sunday, limiting the number of people who can be inside for social distancing.

“The governor has deemed us essential, I believe, for mental health,” she said. “A large majority of my business on holidays like Mother’s Day is walk in and see. So I’m opting to open the doors.”

Lakner got emotional as she talked about the help she’s receiving.

“My employees that have been laid off have volunteered to come in and help me just so we can keep the doors open,” she said.

Lakner has two delivery drivers enlisted full-time for the weekend to shuttle flowers, greenhouse plants, blooming plants, and balloons around the area, including to Babbitt and Tower. She said she has a good variety of options.

“It’s looking pretty good,” she said. “Certain colors of flowers are not available. We’re getting a lot of flower orders.”

Meanwhile, whether quarantined in a facility or living under stay-at-home orders, moms and families won’t be invading food establishments this Sunday, but several restaurant owners are making

plans for offerings to make Mother’s Day special.

Among them is Bobbi Malecha, co-owner of The Dam Supper Club and Restaurant south of Orr. She’s been serving take-out on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, and recently added Wednesdays as well.

Her upscale Mother’s Day special will be steak and shrimp kabobs with rosemary potatoes, salad, and a dessert. She said she’s considering offering it as a meal to cook at home or to have prepared by the

restaurant.

Malecha said she’s looking at how her previous specials have sold to gauge how much food to order for Mother’s Day. This week’s family-size lasagna special on Wednesday could be a sign demand will be brisk – it sold out on Tuesday through pre-orders.

“It’ll go, it’ll be busy,” Malecha said. “We’re trying to keep people interested in what we’re doing.”

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COVID-19

# Like everywhere else, economic downturn hits Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – Economic development activity in the city of Ely these days is much like it is across the rest of the nation.

“In the first three months of the year, we had normal activity, and then the world changed,” said the city’s economic developer John Fedo.

For only the second time this year, he provided an update to the Ely Economic Development Authority last week and highlighted discussions early in the year with at least three local businesses with expansion projects in mind.

However, in April, economic development changed dramatically.

“Since then we have been helping businesses, for the most part, just

survive,” Fedo said. “The activity around Ely is not much different than that around the country.”

Local restaurants and bars have been closed for almost two months, although some curbside food pick-up service is available. Most other retail businesses remain closed as travel is limited due to caution over the coronavirus.

The summer tourist season remains in limbo as the extent of re-opening the state remains unknown. The city’s largest tourist event, the Blueberry/Art Festival, has been shelved this year, in addition to many other warm-weather events and services.

Fedo did not directly answer a query from EEDA commissioner Ryan Callen on how many struggling businesses reached out to

Fedo for help.

“Specifically, in terms of what we can do to help, rather than generate access to information (on available state and federal stimulus programs), since we have no access to dollars, rather we encourage them to work with their local lenders. We don’t have any specific money other than our traditional loan program for capital expenditures. The survival monies don’t go through us.”

Fedo indicated that many businesses have qualified for and taken advantage of the federal Paycheck Protection Program.

“We are hopeful over the next few weeks, that dollars being allocated will be more effective to those with the most need, so they can not only survive, but stay in

business,” he said.

EEDA president Heidi Omerza defended the city’s economic development arm in not being able to lend more assistance to local entrepreneurs.

“It is my understanding that we were not part of this loop. It has more to do with the businesses and their relationship with their bank,” she said. “And if they (the bank) are not an SBA (Small Business Administration) loan provider, they are at more of a disadvantage.”

She attributed her insight to the fact that she is married to the president of the local Frandsen Bank and Trust, Tom Omerza.

“They are working around the clock trying to help the businesses in Ely, and we don’t talk about that,” she said. “So, I don’t know what’s

going on there, other than he’s there a lot to make sure that Ely is being helped, which I’m grateful for, to be perfectly honest. Every day is a new adventure for them and an adventure for us. We all want Ely to open up safely.”

Omerza also requested more information from Fedo on the status of what other economic development organizations are doing for their communities.

“I feel like we are caught in this awkward position. We want to help. We definitely have tools to help. We just don’t know how to use them,” she said.

Fedo informed the authority that there have been “no specific” requests for business loans in Ely in the last month or more. “There

was one pending that (involved) a structural issue for a main street program to pair with an IRRR loan but that pretty much shut down when businesses were literally told they could no longer operate,” he said.

City Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski indicated that the city of Ely is available to help businesses through the storefront rehabilitation loan program. “We have resources available on our EEDA website,” he said.

“We are trying to be as diligent as possible on what is being sent our way. We want to help our businesses access the various funds. Many are all in the same boat and trying to figure out what is going to happen next. We are here to help. We don’t want to operate in a vacuum here,” he said.

## MINING...Continued from page 1

“arbitrary and capricious” manner when it failed to insist on changes to the new leases issued by the Bureau of Land Management, or BLM, to address environmental concerns about the proposed mine that the Forest Service had documented in a 2016 report.

“The Forest Service did not withdraw its December 14, 2016 findings that developing a mine would pose ‘unacceptable . . . inherent potential risk,’” argue the plaintiffs. “Nonetheless, the Forest Service included no stipulations to the leases to prevent those risks and even worked with the [BLM] to add stipulations that would limit the Forest Service’s ability to withhold consent...”

Plaintiffs argue that the Forest Service’s action “directly contradicts its previous position,” and violates federal law that requires Forest Service consent for any mineral development in the

Superior National Forest.

“The Forest Service has offered no justification for its policy reversal, which ‘rests upon factual findings that contradict those which underlay its prior policy,’” conclude the plaintiffs.

The suit also alleges that the BLM violated the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, by failing to prepare an environmental impact statement prior to renewing the Twin Metals mineral leases. Renewing the leases in an open-ended way, without an environmental impact statement, does not retain the agency’s ability to restrict mine development on the affected lands.

“The EA did not evaluate the impacts of the associated proposed mine, nor did it meaningfully consider lease stipulations that would have mitigated the impacts of the mine,” argue the plaintiffs in their brief. “By failing to prepare an EIS, which

would have taken a hard look at the environmental impacts of a mine on the doorstep of the pristine Boundary Waters, in the context of a decision that could prevent or reduce that impact, the Bureau violated NEPA.”

In addition, the plaintiffs argue that the BLM violated NEPA by failing to consider the cumulative impacts associated with a mine on the edge of the Boundary Waters as part of the more limited environmental analysis, or EA, that the BLM actually completed on the lease renewal.

Finally, the plaintiffs contend that the BLM failed to consider alternatives to the proposed mine leases and mine, as required by NEPA.

“This alternatives analysis is the ‘heart’ of NEPA review,” wrote the plaintiffs in their brief. “Consideration of reasonable alternatives is necessary to ensure that the agency has taken

into account all possible approaches to, and potential environmental impacts of, a particular project. These alternatives must include a ‘no-action’ alternative.”

The new court action, filed Wednesday, comes as the coalition prepares to appeal a federal district court ruling last month that found in favor of the administration and Twin Metals on a separate legal argument over whether the Trump administration acted legally when it reinstated leases that had already been denied by the previous administration. A federal judge appointed by President Trump had rejected that argument and that case is now headed to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.

A Twin Metals spokesperson stated that the company remains firm in its belief that the renewal of the leases was done lawfully and in full compliance with all environmental laws.

“The lease renewals reaffirm the mineral rights that Twin Metals and its predecessors have held in good standing since 1966,” stated Kathy Graul, public relations manager for Twin Metals. “No mining can occur under the leases prior to the approval of a mine plan. Any proposed mine project, like the one submitted by Twin Metals in late 2019, will be subject to thorough environmental review by federal, tribal and state governments and will include multiple opportunities for public participation.”

### Under review

The proposed Twin Metals mine plan, which the company submitted to regulators last December, is currently in the early stages of environmental review. The federal review is being overseen by the U.S. Forest Service, while the Minnesota DNR is conducting its own separate review of the mine plan. There is no timeline for when such a review

might be completed, yet the refusal of the Trump administration to share relevant data with the DNR could well slow the state’s review efforts.

### Critics see special interests at work

Environmental critics of the administration’s actions have called the Twin Metals lease renewal a “give-away” to a foreign billionaire, Andronico Luksic, who controls the Chilean copper giant Antofagasta, which owns the Twin Metals project. Luksic purchased a Washington D.C. mansion shortly after Trump’s election which he then rented to Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner.

“This is just one in a series of handouts to a Chilean mining company seeking to profit off the destruction of one of America’s most treasured landscapes,” said Landwehr. “We simply can’t and won’t let this go unchallenged.”

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NUTRITION AND PROTECTION

# Bois Forte band distributes ham and masks

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

TOWER - Ham was the hook, and protection and connection were the goals as the Bois Forte tribal government sponsored several giveaways this past week while also collecting information for a tribal emergency notification system.

The band received a donation of 5,000 pounds of ham from the Mille Lacs Band, left over from their own giveaway, and Bois Forte staff and volunteers have been busy distributing the windfall to band members.

Hams were passed out in Nett Lake, Vermilion, and Indian Point last week, according to Robbie Goggeley, who is involved with the tribe's emergency operations center, through both drive-up and door-to-door delivery, but about 250 hams remained.

On Tuesday morning Willie King, who works as a maintenance technician for the Nett Lake tribal government offices and also is on the fire department, was in the parking lot of the Y Store passing out hams to band members.

"We came out today to hand them out to the residents who couldn't get to us," King said. "It's something new due to the virus. We're looking into getting our community members more food and do anything we can to help them out."

Additional distribution points were operating Tuesday in Orr and Mt. Iron.

While all band members were eligible for the giveaway, King said one group in particular was important to reach.

"Our greatest concern is for our elders," he said. "They're the ones most susceptible to the virus. We like to try to take care of our elders. We care for each other and lend a hand when we can."

Along with hams, King was also handing out handmade masks.

"We've had a thousand masks donated from our community members who have been making them for us," King said.

The tribe had implemented a "red zone" restriction to protect against the virus being brought into reservation areas. People living inside the red zone were asked to quarantine themselves for 14 days if they traveled outside of that boundary, and people coming into the red zone from outside were also asked to self-quarantine. That restriction was lifted last Friday, King said, but handing out masks is one way to encourage people to continue to practice social distancing and remain vigilant.

"There's always a worry," he said. "Fishing opening, netting opening, there's a lot of worry about that part, people coming from out of state."

In addition to the masks made by community members and distributed to individuals and homes, Goggeley said they had just received an order of 7,000 N95 face masks.

"We'll take a look at

**Bois Forte maintenance worker Willie King hands a ham to Katy Laitinen in the Y Store parking lot Tuesday as part of the band's ham giveaway to support tribe members.**

photo by D., Colburn



where they're needed and determine where they'll be distributed," he said. "Some for sure will go to the fire and ambulance departments."

King also was passing out forms for people to provide contact information for a new emergency alert system the band is implementing for all members, no matter where they live.

"It's an instant notification that can come across as a text message, voice mail, or email," emergency director Nikki Irving said. "Our employees have been using it for four or five months. We just wanted to get it out to the community members so we can get notifications out as soon as possible rather than mailing something."

Goggeley said that the tribe is working on bringing in an additional couple of truckloads of food to distribute and commended the work of all of those involved in this first distribution.

"It's gone really well," he said. "The people that have been willing to step up, we're so grateful for their help. All the people that have received a ham so far have been very appreciative and grateful we were able to do that."

HIGHER EDUCATION

## VCC hosts virtual commencement

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY - The COVID-19 pandemic has created an unfortunate situation for the Class of 2020 where spring commencements will not be held in their traditional setting. To assure the safety of students, faculty and staff, all Minnesota State Colleges and Universities canceled all on-campus graduation ceremonies.

"Although we know our students understand that these are extraordinary times, Vermilion Community College shares in the disappointment of the graduating class of 2020," said VCC Provost Shawn Bina.

A virtual commencement ceremony will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12. Directions to view the ceremony were emailed this week to all ceremony participants, and posted on the college's homepage this week, according to VCC officials. For more information, go to [www.vcc.edu](http://www.vcc.edu).

The online commencement ceremony

site will open at 6 p.m., on Tuesday May 12, for prelude entertainment by Joey Kenig and a slideshow. The ceremony will begin promptly at 7 p.m.

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

The virtual ceremony will include:

- Processional "Pomp and Circumstance March" by Edward Elgar performed by the Minnesota Orchestra,

- Congratulatory message by Devinder Malhotra, Chancellor of Minnesota State,

- Welcome by Provost Bina,

- Greeting Dr. Michael Raich, interim president of the Northeast Higher Education District,

- Recognition of VCC faculty, staff, and advisory and foundation boards by Provost Bina,

- Remarks by Abigail Nordstrom, Student Senate

president,

- Presentation of the Class of 2020 by Provost Bina,

- Presentation of Degrees and Certificates by Rita Koch, Faculty President,

- Special Music, "Give Yourself to Love" by Kate Wolf, 1982, performed by Joey Kenig,

- Conferring of Degrees by Dr. Raich, NHED interim president,

- Recessional, "Victory March," arranged by John Wasson and the Dallas Brass.

Contact Michelle Zupancich at 218-235-2169 or email her at [m.zupancich@vcc.edu](mailto:m.zupancich@vcc.edu) for questions, or additional details.

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## ARTS ON MAIN STREET

### Cultural Center building one step closer to finished

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- The south side of the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center is sporting a new exterior of freshly painted wood siding. A difficult construction season last year delayed the siding job, but volunteers got the siding painted over the winter, and the contractors got it installed in late April.

The next steps include the construction of the front entry door and porch, and the installation of two of the original leaded stained-

glass windows on either side of the porch. The main door to the St. Mary's section of the building is being moved to the west to allow expansion of the seating area inside the auditorium. The front porch will have outdoor seating.

"Then the next big step is the roof," said LVCC President Mary Batinich. Three layers of old shingles need to be removed from the original roof, and then that roof and the roof of the new lobby will be connected and finished.

"That roof is the focus of our funding this year," said Batinich,

who estimates the cost at around \$150,000. About three-quarters of that amount has been raised in either donations or pledges, so Batinich expects to be able to complete the roof this year.

Other work for this year includes siding the rest of the building and installing two more stained glass windows on the west side in the Halunen lobby.

"We will need volunteers to help paint siding this summer," she said. Volunteers have been painting

See CENTER...page 2B



## SCHOOL DAYS



**Above: John Meyer sits at their home-based learning table with his two daughters, Etta and Sova.**  
Submitted photo

**Right: The Larsen children, Rylee, Kayla and Logan, have been experiencing distance learning at their home since March 30. They will continue the practice though the end of the school year.**  
Submitted photo

**Below: Ely physical education teacher Chelsea Blomberg in her teaching space at home.**  
Submitted photo



said. "It is important to remember that notion, 'We are all in this together.' That includes parents, students, teachers, and schools across the country."

### Missing out

In the traditional classroom Meyer said he enjoyed seeing how students respond to what they are learning.

"That instant feedback is so valuable," he said. "Some things go over well and student responses allow for great engagement to explore concepts. Similarly, we can see what isn't working as well and change our instruction accordingly."

He added, "I miss seeing student reactions in real time, then being able to target support for students who need help or provide more challenge to others. That becomes tougher in this (distance learning) environment, but I think we are all still thriving for that."

The Ely fourth-grade teacher said some students have

See NORMAL...page 2B

### Ely medical resources ready to re-open

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – As the North Country cautiously progresses toward re-opening businesses and the rest of society in the weeks and months ahead, the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital is partnering with various organizations to make the transition through the coronavirus pandemic as safe as possible.

"We have a multi-level approach and are operating in stage one of our preparedness stage," said EBCH Communication Director Jodi Martin.

She spoke during a virtual town hall meeting last week, hosted by the Ely Chamber of Commerce. The meeting, Opening Up Ely, Part 1, included speakers from the chamber, Hospitality Minnesota, the Northeast Minnesota Small Business Development Center, and EBCH, and featured information on reopening businesses, small business funding, and COVID-19 information.

"We have had no confirmed positive cases (of COVID-19) in Ely that we know of," Martin said on Thursday. "We are still open. You should still come in to see us if you have emergency medical needs. Statewide, we are seeing a decrease in (emergency room) visits. We know there are people out there who could have potential health issues. It is important for the community to know that we are still here for them."

See ELY...page 2B

### Area hospitals get go-ahead to resume elective procedures, specialist visits

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL- Ely-Bloomenson and Cook Hospital are both getting ready to resume outpatient services now that Gov. Tim Walz has signed an executive order setting up guidelines for safety and permitting elective surgeries. The new rule allows hospitals, along with dentists and veterinarians, to begin offering procedures which can treat chronic conditions, prevent and cure disease, and relieve chronic pain.

"These guidelines allow us to ensure our patient and staff safety and strictly monitor our PPE supply," said a spokesperson from Ely-Bloomenson. "As coordinating schedules with providers and patients can take some time, we can expect to start slowly and be working back at full capacity within two to three weeks, with the time-sensitive procedures being a priority."

Ely-Bloomenson has already scheduled specialist visits with

See HOSPITALS...page 2B

# The new normal

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY - Washington Elementary School teacher John Meyer, like nearly all educators across the state, had his world turned upside down in March when the coronavirus pandemic forced him to teach from home.

The family's school-age children - Etta in first grade, and Sova in fourth grade - were also pushed out of their classrooms and told to stay at home. So Meyer was joined by his two student daughters who also brought their classrooms home with them.

"This is certainly unprecedented and has required adaptability and creative approaches to education," Meyer told the *Timberjay* last week.

He said he was impressed with ISD 696 administration's leadership and the flexibility of the staff in transitioning to a teaching from home and distance learning environment.

"In a matter of a few days, plans were made, adjusted, and implemented to serve hundreds of students while taking into account so many variables," he said. "Some families had solid internet and available devices at home, while others had neither of those. Some families suddenly had economic variables they hadn't foreseen and many others were forced to work from home or required to plan for childcare needs that weren't anticipated."

Understanding that Ely students and families were in many different situations, not as uniform as in the classroom, has been crucial for Meyer.

"We want to provide access and opportunity for standards-based education, but how that plays out can be different from home to home and we have had to be flexible," he



## CENTER...Continued from page 1B

the siding in the basement of the building before it is installed, and volunteers can work in small groups and keep adequate distance from each other, she noted. The work restoring the 132-year-old building has uncovered surprises, some delightful, but other creating complications for the project.

The arch-shaped window frames for the stained-glass windows are all in excellent shape, so they do not need to be replaced. The floor joists are mostly solid, Batinich said, which is amazing because the joists were open to the elements since the building was not on a basement.

Complications include the design of the planned balcony. "The old entryway was added onto the original church," she said, which was not expected. "This will make it harder to expand the auditorium and

put a balcony above that space because there are no proper supports," she said.

The board is working with the architects to try to solve that problem, Batinich said, "but time will tell."

The main goal right now, as it has been since the project began, is raising funds. Interior work, including installation of a permanent heating and air conditioning unit, and interior walls, will all need to be completed before the building can be used as the envisioned cultural center.

The IRRR granted \$278,000 to the project, and several others have made larger gifts. The board's main fundraising event, the annual Midsummer Dinner and Concert scheduled in June, has been postponed due to the coronavirus, and a new date is yet to be set.

"Many groups have been asking when they can start using

the building," said Batinich, who said they expect to see family events like weddings, lectures, book clubs, club meetings, and even dances in the lower level, once the building is completed.

"Northern Lights Music Festival is also interested in using the LVCC for concerts," she said. The acoustics in the building are exceptional, due to the all-wooden interior and the bandshell-shaped east end, the apse of the old St. Mary's Church.

The lobby and gallery space will be available for art shows and exhibits.

"The building will be very affordable to maintain," she said.

The LVCC board wishes to thank to Brian Maki, President and CEO of Lakehead Constructors Inc., for his generous donation of \$10,000 which brings them closer to their goal. A lifelong ranger, Brian's philanthropy is



**Contractors removed the old siding, installed new basement windows, did repairs and insulating, and then the new siding was ready to go up. The west side and north side siding should be ready to go up this summer.**

photos by J. Summit

felt in many of the area communities.

Checks can be mailed to LVCC, PO Box 659, Tower,

MN 55790, or donate online at [vermilionculturalcenter.org](http://vermilionculturalcenter.org).

## NORMAL...Continued from page 1B

shared some of their rewards in learning with their families.

"I see evidence of learning from students each day and that is really motivating. That spark of discovery or that new confidence realized - those are some of the joys of being in the classroom. It is just experienced differently now," Meyer said.

"We laugh a lot in class and try to have fun," he said.

He related the robot and coding work he presented to his students before the shutdown.

"The last week before we left school we were doing distance and angle measurements using robots," Meyer said. "The students wrote code and programmed the robots to drive certain distances and turn at given angles. It was really fun

to see them learning. I really miss those STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) projects and hands-on learning activities. And I miss all the smiles, of course."

Sova and Etta Meyer are learning at home as their father teaches from home.

"Both our girls have fantastic teachers. We feel really fortunate for both of them," he said. "Both teachers have reached out to our kids to encourage and clarify things."

The girls miss friends and classmates, according to Meyer.

"But they seem to understand we are all adjusting to a new normal. We are all grateful for good health and this extra time together. While things are different and new challenges

present themselves, we try to be mindful of the added joy of more time with family."

### Into a routine

With three school-age kids in their family, Logan, in Kindergarten, Kayla in third grade and Rylee in seventh grade, Tara and Brad Larsen were thrust into the distance learning way of life.

"We've had rough days, like I'm sure everybody else, with getting used to the new procedures, but we've had more good days as we balance things out and get into a routine that works for us," Tara said.

Brad, continues to work full-time at his auto body repair business, while Tara, a professional photographer, is not taking any

clients during the state's stay-at-home order due to COVID-19, and is overseeing the family's distance learning.

Tara has experienced many rewarding aspects in watching her children learn.

"They used to come home from school and all of their work was already done and I could see the end result, but now I see the (learning) process and watch them grow, even in the last couple of weeks. It has been an eye-opener to see what goes on in my children's everyday life at school. It has been rewarding to be the one who is helping them learn."

Learning at home has not just been study worksheets and book work for the Larsen kids. "Our teachers encourage the kids

to get out and play for up to an hour every day," Tara said. "They encourage lots of movement. Their school physical education teacher (Chelsea Blomberg) sends videos to help them get their little bodies more active. They have recess time."

The Larsen kids also keep up with the chores on the family's hobby farm outside of Ely. "We have goats, chickens, cats, a hamster and even a new hedgehog," Tara said. "And Rylee said she wanted ducks this year, so she's our little mother duck taking care of our new additions here on the farm."

## ELY...Continued from page 1B

Martin offered training for area businesses by hospital staff concerning the proper use of personal protective equipment.

"We could also offer a training for business owners who then go back and train their own staff," she said.

She suggested implementing a frequently-asked-questions information packet for resort owners and other tourist businesses highlighting the capabil-

ities of EBCH.

"We would like everybody to have the right information so you are able to help with any anxieties that guests may have about coming to the area thinking that our hospital might not be able to handle a medical emergency."

"We have (COVID-19) testing supplies," Martin said. "They are available. We have plenty of (personal protective

equipment). We have ventilators available should that become a need for somebody. We are able to transport people to a higher level of care if needed."

EBCH is working with the Essentia Health Clinic, Boundary Waters Care Center, Ely Area Ambulance Service, Ely Police Department, Ely Community Health Center, and other organizations to implement visitor policies, screening tools

for staff and customers and other preparations for reopening.

"We are also working closely with the Ely Community Care Team to determine the needs of the community and to help fulfill those needs as we progress toward the next tier to enact plans," she said.

The Entrepreneur Fund, Northspan Group, and Northland Foundation are working with businesses to provide support

services. The State of Minnesota DEED also provides details on safely returning to work, according to Chamber Executive Director Eve Sebesta.

For more information, the Ely Chamber of Commerce provides a link at [www.ely.org/covid19](http://www.ely.org/covid19).

## HOSPITALS...Continued from page 1B

Orthopaedics on May 13, Podiatry on May 15, and Urology on June 1.

Patients will be required to follow strict safety guidelines, including wearing a mask, completing a brief questionnaire, and having a temperature check before seeing the specialist. Cook Hospital is also working on plans to resume colonoscopies and endoscopies on their regular twice a month schedule. The hospital's outreach director is working with specialists to begin rescheduling appointments, according to CEO/Administrator Teresa Debevec.

Executive Order 20-51

will allow hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, and clinics, whether veterinary, medical, or dental, to resume many currently-delayed procedures once facilities have developed criteria for determining which procedures should proceed during the COVID-19 pandemic and provided a plan to maintain a safe environment for facility staff, patients, and visitors.

"Minnesota has made significant progress in building up critical resources to combat COVID-19," said Governor Walz. "We're proud that this progress will allow our medical pro-

fessionals to safely resume certain procedures to keep Minnesotans healthy and improve their quality of life."

"We remain committed to preserving and acquiring protective equipment to protect our front-line employees from COVID-19," said Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan. "But health conditions haven't been put on hold during this pandemic. This action will help Minnesotans get care for chronic pain, treat and prevent disease, and address their health concerns."

Non-essential and elective surgeries had

been put on hold statewide, following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This allowed health care facilities to preserve resources and reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Since these Executive Orders were issued, Minnesota has made and continues to make significant headway in securing additional personal protective equipment and improving testing and hospital surge capacity, Walz said.

### Briefs

#### Woman dies in ATV accident near Cook

COOK- A Duluth woman died Sunday night after being thrown from an ATV she was driving near Vermilion Dam, northeast of Cook, according to the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office.

Pamela Lou Benson, 53, of Duluth, was reportedly driving an ATV southbound in the 3200 block of Randa Rd. (a gravel road) at approximately 9:20 p.m. when the ATV suddenly swerved to the right. Benson was thrown from the ATV, which rolled several times.

When deputies and first responders arrived, they found Benson lying in the roadway next to the overturned ATV and being tended to by local residents. Resuscitation efforts by emergency personnel were unsuccessful and she was declared dead at the scene.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

St. Louis County Rescue Squad, Cook Ambulance, Cook Fire Department, Virginia Ambulance, and LifeLink Air Medical responded to the incident.

#### Two Harbors weekly newspaper shutting its doors on May 22

REGIONAL— The longtime voice of Two Harbors will be permanently silenced on May 22. That's when the 130-year-old *Lake County News-Chronicle* will print its last edition, joining a growing list of newspapers that have disappeared as a result of financial pressures in recent years.

The *News-Chronicle*, in a front page story in its May 1 edition, said the added financial pressure posed by the COVID-19 pandemic is what ultimately prompted its parent company, Duluth Media Group, to make the decision to cease publication.

The handwriting had been on the wall for a while. Duluth Media Group had shuttered the *News-Chronicle's* Two Harbors office in 2017 and covered the community with staff from the *Duluth News-Tribune*. Some Two Harbors coverage will continue in the *Duluth News-Tribune*, although *News-Chronicle* publisher Neal Ronquist acknowledged that some of the coverage that the community has come to expect will disappear.

## NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





COUNTY SCHOOLS

# Jirik leaving North Woods to lead TS Elementary

by David Colburn  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- When the 2020-21 school year kicks off, John Jirik will have to take a new route to work, as the ISD 2142 school board on Tuesday approved hiring him as full-time assistant principal for Tower-Soudan Elementary School.

Jirik has been dean of students, activities director, and football coach at North Woods, but is leaving all those behind to devote his full attention to overseeing Tower-Soudan, said Superintendent Reggie Engebritson.

Tower-Soudan has had a part-time shared principal arrangement with either Northeast Range or North Woods for many years, Engebritson said, with that individual coming to Tower-Soudan one day a week. Engebritson said she felt the school would benefit from a full-time administrator.

“Having an administrator there every day can provide more support to the staff and students,” she said. “There are a lot of needs at Tower-Soudan and the staff are very close knit and do an awesome job. They all have full plates and having an administrator there every day will help provide additional support.”

Engebritson said Jirik was

among five people who interviewed for the position and came out on top because of his experience at North Woods, his ties to the area, and his established relationships with some of the staff at Tower-Soudan.

“John’s presence here at North Woods will certainly be missed,” Principal John Vukmanich said. “In addition to his several roles, he also had a wealth of experience in working with teachers as a peer coach, bringing with him his knowledge from being a former social studies teacher. What I’ve appreciated most about him is his ability to show extreme patience in working with students.”

Vukmanich gave a nod to Jirik’s long service to the district, beginning at Orr in 1991, and to his success as football coach at North Woods.

## Distance learning

Gov. Tim Walz’s announcement last week that schools would remain closed and distance education would continue through the end of the year was anticipated, but ISD 2142 board members remotely attending Tuesday’s regular meeting were interested in getting an answer about what ongoing COVID-19 accommodations could mean for the summer.

As part of Walz’s then-temporary order March 15 to close classrooms, he also

directed schools to continue providing meal service and to offer child care to children of healthcare workers, first responders, and other essential workers. Superintendent Reggie Engebritson told board members those special accommodations could continue.

“There’s a rumor out there that we may be having to provide childcare and food throughout the summer,” Engebritson said. “It’s just rumblings or implications, but no final word from the governor.”

Board member Chris Koivisto questioned how the programs would be paid for, asking whether money for the programs would come from the state or the district’s coffers. Business manager Kim Johnson said the district would receive money based on the number of Title I students the district serves for COVID-19-related expenses since the beginning of school closures, but it isn’t known at this time if those funds would be used to cover summer expenses or if the state will step in.

Johnson also said that while the district stands to lose some revenue from things like canceled sporting events, those would be offset by other savings resulting from the move to distance education, such as not having to pay for substitutes.

“Our finances are in pretty

good shape,” she said.

Board member Chet Larson raised a concern about the county holding back funds they send to the district. Johnson responded that she had communicated with the county to let them know that the district needed the transfer by July to accommodate district bond payments. She also said that the district wouldn’t be receiving \$150,000 to \$160,000 in tax forfeiture money because of a change in the county’s accounting practices.

Engebritson talked about upcoming graduation ceremonies, all but ruling out traditional commencements in gyms. An alternative being considered is to have a “drive through” graduation, she said. Students would drive up to receive diplomas and be recognized individually and then line their vehicles up in a fashion that would allow them to step out of the cars and collectively toss their caps while remaining at a safe distance. She also said they were looking into possibilities for broadcasting the ceremonies by radio to be heard by those attending.

“We’re doing our best to provide something that’s memorable and special and still apply the safety rules,” Engebritson said.

## Other business

In other business, the board:

- Approved personnel

actions to administratively terminate 15 full and part-time probationary teachers and place five additional part-time teachers on unrequested leaves of absence. The actions are an annual end-of-the-year procedure related to specific funding sources and certification requirements, Engebritson said. As funding is renewed and enrollment determined for next year, staff dismissed now are eligible to be considered for re-filling similar positions next fall.

►Hired Crystal Scofield as a full-time secretary at North Woods.

►Heard a progress report on construction at Cherry presented by Nathan Norton of ICS Consulting.

►Approved agreements with the teachers union for increased compensation of up to \$2,000 per year for Tower Elementary teachers who are assigned to teach two grades of students during a single class period; to permit a pilot program at South Ridge for elementary prep time for teachers; and to modify the involuntary transfer procedure to accommodate remote conferencing due to the novel coronavirus.

►Took no action on the second reading of proposed wellness and unpaid meal charges policies.

## Obituaries and Death Notices



### Thomas F. LeTourneau

Thomas F. “Tom” LeTourneau, 87, of Greaney, passed away on Friday, May 1, 2020, after a short, courageous battle with cancer. He was surrounded by his children. Services will be planned and communicated at a future time. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook.

Tom was born on March 9, 1933, in Greaney. He graduated from Orr High School in the class of 1951. He served in the U.S. Army as an Artillery Specialist during the Korean Conflict. After the military, he returned to the United States and worked at Erie Mining Company as a surveyor, retiring as the Assistant General Foreman (AGF) in 1994. His oral history can be found at the Iron World Discovery Center.

He created the Saturday Night Country Live Show with Karen LeTourneau. They supported music programs in many local high schools with the proceeds. He owned and operated Uncle Tom’s Cabin restaurant when he was a resident of Biwabik. In Orr, Tom owned and operated a gravel pit, and ran a regular garbage route in Cook.

Tom lived in Virginia, the Lakeland area, Biwabik, and the Gheen/Greaney/Orr area throughout his life. However, he was the quintessential “Greaney guy”. He was born there and chose to live in that area after retirement.

Tom was an avid hunter of deer, elk, moose,

caribou and bear well into his 80s. He participated in Ducks Unlimited. During hard winters when deer herds may have had difficulty finding food, he took time to support herd health by going out and making sure they were fed.

His greatest life accomplishment, besides his children, was 50 years of being a friend of Bill W. He started numerous meetings between Biwabik and Orr, and was a U.S. Delegate on behalf of AA. He was a great inspiration to many attendees throughout his 50 years, providing guidance and motivation to those who sought a positive life change. Many participants have shared that his speaking literally saved their lives, providing the opportunity to thrive in a new life of strength, hope and support.

Tom will always be remembered as a man who lived his life, on his terms, without apologies. He was always dapper, and was often seen about his local stops in his trademark Western attire. He was quick-witted, loved a great joke (or sometimes not great!), and had an exuberant laugh that showed his love and appreciation for the good in life. He enjoyed singing, dancing, and the company of good friends and family. The world has lost a treasure, and we will miss our friend, companion, father, brother, mentor and inspiration.

Tom is survived by his daughters, Therese (Terry) LeTourneau of Mesa, Ariz., and Rene’ Moehlenbrock of Gilbert; sons, Guy (Sherry) LeTourneau of Biwabik, Thomas (Lori) LeTourneau of Zumbrota and Kelly (Traci) LeTourneau of Loogootee, Ind.; six grandchildren, Elle Sammartano of Atlanta, Ga., Jennifer Sammartano of Gilbert, Ariz., Jay (Jaime) Moehlenbrock of Aurora, Guy (Audrey Curfman) LeTourneau of Mt. Iron, Joshua (Laura) LeTourneau of Biwabik and Jenna LeTourneau of Loogootee, Ind.; eight great-grandchildren,

Jazmine Sinclair, Haley Bufka, Isabella Taylor, Casey Moehlenbrock, Kiarra Moehlenbrock, Sean Moehlenbrock, Mason LeTourneau and Keuper LeTourneau; sisters, Bernice Quinn, Mildred Merritt and Rochelle LeTourneau; brother, Roger LeTourneau; estranged spouse, Karen LeTourneau of Eveleth; longtime companion, Diane Stillson; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas Marquette LeTourneau and Lillian Lehman Engstrom; and sisters, Lucille Nelson, Marilyn Skraba, Jean Gunderson and Janice Vidor.



### Frank J. Pliml III

Frank John Pliml III, 72, originally of Cook, passed away in the early morning hours of Thursday, April 30, 2020, after battling Parkinson’s disease for many years and cancer for the last few. Memorial services will be held at a later date.

Frank, affectionately known as “Buzz” by family and friends, was an avid outdoorsman and native Northern Minnesotan. In his youth Buzz was a recreational runner, holding the mile record at Cook High School for many years. He was a union electrician for more than 40 years, living in Minnesota, New York, Colorado and California throughout his career. After retirement, he could be seen riding his beloved Harley motorcycle or on the local green of the Vermilion Fairways in the

summer and at the poker tables of Fortune Bay in the winter.

Buzz had that easy way about him with an unrelenting sense of humor. He was friendly with everyone he met and made many friends wherever he was.

He will be missed by his three daughters, Tonia (Joe) of Saylorsburg, Pa., Jodi (Steven) of Oceanside, N.Y., and Lindsay (Sunil) of Toronto, Ontario, Canada; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; brothers, Richard (Susan) of Burnsville, Michael (Kris) of Inver Grove Heights and George (Robin) of Cook; sister, Mary Lou (Terry) Germ of Inver Grove Heights; special cousin, Janet McDowell of Duluth; and many beloved cousins, nieces and nephews, friends and confidantes.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Frank John II and Vivian; wives, Geraldine Polasky and Darlene (Bort) Pliml; brother, John; and sister, Roseanne.



### Keith B. Baker

Keith B. Baker, 64, of Northbrook, Ill., and Lake Vermilion-Tower, passed away on Thursday, April 30, 2020, after a year-long battle with lung cancer. Due to the pandemic and out of concern for extended family and friends, services are private. Donations in Keith’s honor can be made to support lung cancer research at <https://lungevity.donordrive.com/campaign/Keith-B--Baker-Tribute-Fund>.

For information or to leave condolences, contact Shalom Memorial Funeral Home in Arlington Heights at [www.shalom2.com](http://www.shalom2.com).

Keith was the son of Beverly and the late Russell Baker, and grew up in Chicago and Skokie with his sister, the late Hollis Baker. He received his Bachelor of Science in Accountancy (CPA) and Juris Doctor in Law from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Keith met the love of his life and wife for 34 years, Maurine, at the University of Illinois in 1976. They were married in 1985 and raised three beloved children, Jordan (Aneliese), Lauren and David. Most recently, Keith relished the newest addition to his family, grandson Jack, the son of Jordan and Aneliese.

Keith was a loving husband, father, grandfather and friend. He made friends wherever he went and had a knack for bringing people together. Passionate about his work as a lawyer and CPA, Keith provided clients with sound advice, both financial and existential. His adventurous spirit led him to northern Minnesota where he and his family

created lasting memories at his favorite spot, their Lake Vermilion home. He will be missed by family and friends and loved forever.

### Miriam V. Pucel

Miriam V. Heikkinen Pucel, 95, of Ely, peacefully passed away on Thursday, April 30, 2020, at Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely. Her last days were spent surrounded by her loving family. A memorial service will be held at a future date. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

She is survived by three daughters, Charlotte (Will) Ridley of St. Louis, Mo., Linda (Ronald) Jacobs of Buffalo and Diane (Wayne) Orth of Babbitt; grandchildren, Scott (Adrienne) Jacobs, Caroline Ridley (Frank Wong), Nathan (Ari) Ridley and Adam Orth; great-grandchildren, Calvin, Adela, Colton, Hollis and Liam; and many nieces, nephews and friends.



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

## Area Solid Waste Facility site hours

<p><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</p>	<p><b>Aurora Transfer Station</b> 5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora Hours Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am–4pm Tue, Wed: 10am–4pm Sat: 8am–noon</p>
<p><b>Embarrass Canister Site</b> 7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass Hours Sat: 12:30–4:30pm Thu: 10am–5pm</p>	<p><b>Soudan Canister Site</b> 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan Hours Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun: 8am–5pm</p>
<p><b>Household Hazardous Waste Facility</b> 5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Tues and Sat: 8am–1pm</p>	<p><b>Regional Landfill</b> 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon–Fri: 8am–4:30pm Sat: 8am–3:30pm</p>

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)







# Outdoors

Our lives in the  
Northwoods

THE CHANGING SEASONS

## Area lakes clear of ice right on time

Vermilion clears May 1, most other lakes were ice-free between April 25-30

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

**REGIONAL** — Despite a colder-than-average April, most area lakes have cleared of ice pretty much right on schedule— which means anglers won't be skirting ice floes during Saturday's fishing opener.

Lake Vermilion cleared of ice officially

on May 1, based on the reports from Tower Airport Manager John Burgess, who regularly checks ice conditions from the air as the ice is fading. Significant ice remained on portions of Big Bay as of Friday, May 1, but that ice had cleared as of 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 2. Based on the longstanding policy for Lake Vermilion, that

**Right: Open water returned to Lake Vermilion on May 1 this year.** M. HelMBERGER

puts the official ice out as May 1, since the lake was called ice-free before noon on May 2.

A May 1 ice out is just one day later than the long-term average of April 30 for Lake Vermilion.



Other area lakes largely followed suit, clearing within a day or two of their long-term averages.

A number of area lakes

cleared of ice on April 28, including both Pelican Lake and Ash Lake, near Orr. That's two days later than Pelican's long-term average of April 26 and

three days later than Ash Lake's average of April 25. Fall Lake, near Winton, cleared of ice on April

See **ICE OUT...** pg. 5B



2020 FISHING OPENER

## Ready, set, fish!

The Minnesota tradition lives on despite pandemic

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

**REGIONAL**— While so much about life in Minnesota has changed in recent weeks, the state's most cherished tradition is still set to get underway, as usual, this Saturday — and anglers should find the fish waiting in their usual early season haunts.

"I think it's going to be a good opener, that's for sure," said Lake Vermilion-area fishing guide Rob Bryers. That's despite the fact that Bryers, like every other fishing guide in the state, won't be in business mode for opener since guiding fishing is among the activities currently prohibited by Gov. Tim Walz's Stay-At-Home order intended to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Bryers said his business has taken an early season hit as a result of the pandemic, but he's not going to let that stop him from getting out for opener. Like many local guides, he won't spend much time in the shallower waters of Pike Bay. He'll be searching for walleye in the deeper waters, working sandy bottoms in 25-30 feet of water.

Vermilion guide Dave Schaeffer said he'll be in the deeper water as well. "On Vermilion, there will always be a lot of walleye in 30-35 feet with a mud bottom this time of year," he said.

Even so, Schaeffer expects there will still be plenty of fish in shallower waters given the cool water temperatures. "I know there will still be a lot

See **OPENER...** pg. 5B

**Top: Shore fishing around sunset is always a good bet in the North Country during opening weekend.**

**Below: The Minnesota fishing opener is always a family affair. Three generations in a boat is hardly unusual!**

file photos/M. HelMBERGER



## Fishing license sales up sharply over last year

**REGIONAL**— As anglers head out on the water for the 2020 fishing opener, they may well find more company out there than in some recent years. According to data from the state's Department of Natural Resources, fishing license sales are up this year. In fact, they're way up— a total of 48 percent over sales at this same time last year. "That's great news!" said Jenifer Walz,

spokesperson for the DNR's fish and wildlife division.

The sales this year have dramatically reversed a long-term trend of declining sales for both hunting and fishing licenses in Minnesota. It's also consistent with hunting license sales so far this year, which have also been on the rise.

While it's tough to know for sure why Minnesotans appear to be more interested

in outdoor pursuits, Ely-area conservation officer Anthony Bermel said he thinks the current response to the COVID-19 pandemic is playing a role, since people are increasingly feeling cooped up at home. "I think right now, people are looking for any excuse to get outside," said Bermel.

The increase is also partly due to the fact that license

sales in 2019 were the lowest in nearly 20 years. Wical notes that cold and wet springs can discourage folks from purchasing fishing licenses early in the season. She notes that 2019 was exceptionally wet, with a lot of flooding that likely discouraged the fair-weather anglers.

But Wical doesn't dispute that the current unusual cir-

See **SALES...** pg. 5B

## Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower  
**BEAKED HAZEL**



You'll have to look closely to see this tiny, but remarkable, early spring wildflower.

**The Beaked Hazel, *Corylus coruta***, is so ubiquitous in our region that it's easy to overlook. But this time of year, it's worth taking a look along the upper branches of these common shrubs for the bud-like flowers, tipped with feathery, bright crimson styles.

These are the female flower parts on these shrubs. The male flowers, called catkins, are producing large amounts of pollen right now, which fertilizes the tiny female flowers.

Both the male and female flowers are found on the same plant, meaning that hazel, like most woody plants are *monoecious*. Some woody plants, like aspen, which are either male or female, are known as *dioecious*.

## Outdoors in brief

### Anglers are key to halting AIS spread

**REGIONAL**— This weekend's fishing opener comes with a reminder to always follow Minnesota's laws to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Along with taking care to follow social distancing guidelines while fishing and boating, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources said it's also important to take a few minutes for invasive species prevention every time a boat comes out of the water.

Lt. Col. Greg Salo, DNR Enforcement Division assistant director, said that's true every time, whether or not an enforcement officer or watercraft inspector is present.

"All anglers and boaters in Minnesota are required to take three simple steps: clean, drain, dispose," Salo said. "It's not only the best way to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, but it's also the law in Minnesota."

People must clean aquatic plants and debris from watercraft, drain lake or river water and keep drain plugs out during transport, and dispose of unwanted bait in the trash, not in the water.



RESTRICTIONS EASING

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
58 23	47 25	43 23	47 23	51 25

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.
04/27	57	30	0.20		04/27	58	38	0.18		04/27	60	28	0.43		04/27	64	37	0.38		04/27	59	36	0.40	
04/28	64	33	0.12		04/28	65	31	0.17		04/28	64	36	0.03		04/28	57	37	0.00		04/28	65	34	0.00	
04/29	51	37	0.00		04/29	50	33	0.00		04/29	54	36	0.00		04/29	61	36	0.00		04/29	53	32	0.00	
04/30	61	28	0.00		04/30	61	25	0.00		04/30	57	32	0.00		04/30	70	27	0.00		04/30	60	26	0.00	
05/01	67	30	0.00		05/01	na	na	0.00		05/01	66	32	0.00		05/01	66	43	0.00		05/01	67	36	0.00	
05/02	67	43	0.17		05/02	67	43	0.17		05/02	67	44	0.15		05/02	55	45	0.42		05/02	67	43	0.19	
05/03	63	33	0.00		05/03	46	31	0.00		05/03	57	32	0.00		05/03	43	30	0.00		05/03	62	32	0.00	
Total			2.48	94.7"	YTD Total			3.02	65.4"	YTD Total			3.61	77.1"	YTD Total			NA	NA	YTD Total			2.75	64.4"

Forest Service reopens BWCAW to day use

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is now open for day use, including hiking and canoeing, but will remain closed to overnight use at least through May 17. That's in order to comply with Gov. Tim Walz's Stay-at-Home order, which extended the current travel restrictions until then. The governor implemented restrictions back on March 27 as part of the fight to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

of an effort to discourage unnecessary travel by people from outside the area. According to a Forest Service statement, the loosening of access for day use is consistent with the governor's request that people recreate close to home and avoid unnecessary travel. By allowing day use of the wilderness, the Forest Service is providing some additional opportunities for local recreation and businesses.

While most day use of the Boundary Waters is subject to self-issuing permits, users must still apply and pick up day use motor permits. In order to reduce the risks associated with permit pick-up for both the public and Forest Service personnel, the Forest Service has modified its procedures for pick-up. For additional information on this process, please visit the Superior National Forest's website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/superior/specialplaces/?cid=fse-prd555184>.

ICE OUT...Continued from page 4B

30, two days later than its average of April 28.

Despite cool temperatures in April, other factors contributed to the relatively typical ice out dates. "We had the right ingredients for clearing ice," said Minnesota State Climatologist Pete Boulay. For one, notes Boulay, April was dry, with relatively little new snow. Fresh snow on lake ice reflects a lot of the sun's energy and helps insulate the ice from milder temperatures above the snow. Plenty of cloud-free days this past April allowed the sun to work on the ice, even on days that were relatively cool. Keep in mind, the sun is as high in the sky by late April as it is in mid-August, so when it isn't blocked by clouds it can be remarkably effective at melting ice. And while April is often windy, this past month was windier than usual, notes Boulay, and that helps to break up ice already weakened by other factors.

Other area ice out dates include: Bear Head (April 28), Clear (April 29), One Pine (April 28), White Iron (April 30), and Garden (April 25).



Left: With many residents looking for things to do during the current COVID-19 restrictions, sucker sparring has been particularly popular this year. Pictured are Max Posey, Rich Posey, and Austin Erickson on the East Two River in Tower.

photo by M. HelMBERGER

OPENER...Continued from page 4B

of fish in Pike Bay," he said, where he predicts anglers will do well trolling crankbaits, like rapalas, or working the usual jig and minnow or lindy rig.

That's always the best bet this time of year, says Rob Nelson, of the Ely Fishing Guide Company. Nelson will be fishing with family on opener, and says he'll be using rainbows or shiners on his jigs or lindy rig — and looking for current. "The warmest water temp I've heard of is 51 degrees, and most places are still in the 40s, so they'll be in the current," predicts Nelson, who will be focusing his attention on the White Iron chain of lakes.

Some of his guides also traditionally take clients into Basswood on opener, but the current ban on guided fishing as well as overnight travel in the Boundary Waters have nixed those plans for now. Despite those bans, and the uncertainty of the season ahead, Nelson remains optimistic.

"I think there will be a lot of people out there and it will be a good opener," he said.

If there's a question mark for this year, it could come from the somewhat lower-than-average walleye numbers on Vermilion right now. While the numbers are still excellent compared to most

Minnesota lakes, Vermilion has had such strong walleye numbers for so many years, that the dip in test net results the past two years has some anglers concerned.

Bryers said people will need to adjust their expectations this year, particularly in Vermilion's eastern basin, where the dip in walleye numbers has been most pronounced, mostly as a result of a disappointing 2017 year-class which would normally be coming into prime time for anglers. A stronger 2018 year-class should improve the numbers of "eater-sized" walleyes by later this summer as those smaller 2018 fish fill out over the next several months.

SALES...Continued from page 4B

cumstances may be playing a role. "The opportunity to still get out during social distancing is wonderful," she said.

If you haven't already purchased your license, the DNR is reminding the public that you can buy your license online at [www.mndnr.gov/buyalicense](http://www.mndnr.gov/buyalicense).

You'll be sent a text or email with your license, which you can save to your phone or print at home.

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- Trash unused bait



**DRY**

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### KUGLER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF MEETING

The Kugler Town Board will meet on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at 6 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall. Social distancing will be practiced.

Julie Suihkonen, Town Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, May 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: 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*

## EMPLOYMENT

### We're Hiring!

Are you looking for a flexible schedule while working at a meaningful job? We are hiring a full-time or part-time licensed insurance agent at our growing business in Cook, MN. This position would provide individuals, families, and small businesses with coverage options, focusing primarily on property and casualty insurance.

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Send in a resume to [HR@NorthStarCreditUnion.org](mailto:HR@NorthStarCreditUnion.org) or apply on Indeed. Open until filled.

## EMPLOYMENT

### Superior National Forest Seeks Volunteer Hosts

The Laurentian and LaCroix Ranger Districts are looking for volunteer hosts for the following campgrounds: Pfeiffer Lake and Echo/Jeanette Lakes. We are also looking for volunteer hosts for the Lake Leander Beach/Picnic area. Duties would include such things as toilet and site cleaning, light maintenance, visitor monitoring, and posting reservations. The Forest Service would provide a camping spot and a monthly expense reimbursement. We would like Volunteers to start around May 22 and end around September 8. For more information and applications please contact Dave Worshek at 218-229-8819 or at david.worshek@usda.gov.

*Published in the Timberjay, May 8 & 15, 2020*

### HELP WANTED

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

### City of Tower ZONING ADMINSTRATOR Volunteer Position

Full job description at [www.cityoftower.com](http://www.cityoftower.com)

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*

## King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

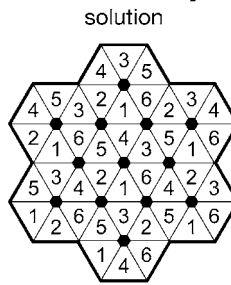
### SCRAMBLERS

solution

- Caress; 2. Alert;
- Refuse; 4. Ether

Today's Word

FATHER



## FUNERAL SERVICES

### Range Funeral Home



Virginia  
741-1481

Hibbing  
263-3276

"Friends Helping Friends"

## Super Crossword

Answers

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

### SCRAMBLERS

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

Touch SCARES

Sharp LATER

Debris UFREES

Cosmos HEETR

"You're lucky, I have to put up with him AND his \_\_\_\_\_!"

TODAY'S WORD

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- Kills, slangily
- Make up your mind
- Padlock fastener
- Polio vaccine pioneer
- Born
- Sheltered, at sea
- Reacted to sun glare
- Hot dog holder
- Sugar suffix
- Charged bit
- Chin indentation
- Kreskin's claim
- Montana or Namath
- Baghdad resident
- Feast
- Frill for Fonteyn
- Bear hair
- Radius neighbor
- In need of laundering
- Bishop's headdress
- Present
- Corral
- Engine
- Fish's flipper
- Fire residue
- Pinnacle
- Hotel chain
- Enticement

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19				20			
				21				22				
23	24	25			26				27	28	29	
30					31				32			
33					34				35			
				36				37				
38	39	40			41				42	43	44	
45					46				47			
48					49				50			
51					52				53			

- Ostrich's kin
- A bit too tight
- Doctrines
- "Gosh!"
- Skillets
- DOWN
- buco
- Webpage list, often
- Chimney channel
- Tackle the slopes
- Winning
- Hammerhead
- Sluggo
- Williams
- Buffoon
- Lotion additive
- Ego
- Hide
- Unless, in law
- Opposed
- They occur in March and September
- Pickle container
- "Monty Python" opener
- Trench
- standstill
- Unopened flower
- Last: Abbr.
- Away from WSW
- Pitch
- Only a small number
- Neither mate
- Carte
- Fit of resentment
- Neighbor of Niger
- Piece of work
- Expression
- Notoriety
- Actress
- Paquin
- Dazzle
- Crones
- Journey segment
- AOL, for instance

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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## 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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## Super Crossword

## TWO-CHANNEL CONNECTION

**ACROSS**  
1 Old Glory, for one  
5 Up in smoke  
11 Refluxes of tides  
15 Ankle-knee connector  
19 I, to Greeks  
20 "Speak up!"  
21 Ark captain  
22 Chipotle item  
23 "Great job, play more!"  
25 Be sweet on  
26 Wilson of film  
27 One half of a 45  
28 Eat  
29 Stingy type  
30 Get a B, e.g.  
31 Mauna —  
33 Sharp rise in new findings?  
36 Napoleon's birthplace  
40 Gem, e.g.  
41 Writer — Jackson Braun  
42 — out (supplement)  
43 Ice melter  
45 — word (coinage for one occasion)  
48 Throbs  
49 Perpetual pampering?  
53 Country singer Evans  
55 Born, to Gigi  
56 Gridiron gp.  
57 Repulsive  
59 Fiennes or Macchio  
62 Fishermen, often  
65 "Hear No Evil" star  
67 Really move on the dance floor  
71 Round of applause all for oneself?  
73 Company symbol on a container of breathing gas?  
75 Capital of Croatia  
76 Scrape the bottom of  
78 Flushes  
79 Antipasto bit  
81 Loved by  
83 "— Beso" (1962 hit)  
84 56-Across stats  
87 Old phone part  
89 Distinctive feature of blasting material?  
93 Is on hold, say  
96 Spanish for "silver"  
98 Draft-eligible  
99 Item in a pod  
100 Congenital  
102 Bands of three  
105 Most morose  
107 Quaint theater where everyone hung out?  
111 Post-it note abbr.  
112 Soccer immortal  
113 Change formally  
114 Slugger Willie  
116 Evade artfully  
120 "Woe is me"  
121 — de foie gras  
122 Alternate title for this puzzle  
124 Madison Avenue prize  
125 Hens and cows  
126 Bright-shining  
127 Appellation  
128 Composer Jerome  
129 Acoustic pair  
130 Pint-size  
131 Otherwise  
**DOWN**  
1 Small lies  
2 Actress Singer  
3 Just slightly  
4 Judges' mallets  
5 Bar drink  
6 Cherished  
7 Intelligible  
8 Hunky guy  
9 Most scant  
10 Before, to Kipling  
11 Spices up  
12 Idaho city  
13 Cake creator  
14 Singer Crow  
15 Cork up, as a bottle  
16 Maui native  
17 Emulate Tara Lipinski  
18 "Baloney!"  
24 Certain woodwind player  
29 Early hi-fi format  
32 Berry rich in antioxidants  
34 See eye to eye (with)  
35 Sis, say  
36 Frame of a cartoon  
37 Japanese island  
38 Calling the shots  
39 Nearly  
44 WJM anchor  
46 Pop singer  
47 Chunk of history  
50 Animal at "una corrida"  
51 East — (Asian nation)  
52 Spotted, as money  
54 Playwright Edward  
58 Ad catchphrase  
60 Little lake  
61 Texas — (poker game)  
62 Singer Scaggs  
63 Stunt legend Knievel  
64 Very zealous player  
66 Put out  
68 Freaks out  
69 Tunes out  
70 Canon — Rebel  
72 Best possible  
74 Bad-pun responses  
77 Keep waiting  
80 Mr. Big  
82 However, briefly  
84 Pair of identical products sold as a unit  
85 Writer Steel  
86 "Babbitt" author Lewis  
88 White Rabbit's woe  
90 Tree flutterer  
91 New royal of 1981  
92 Kit —  
94 Confronts  
95 Canonized Fr. woman  
97 Walked (on)  
101 Slip away  
103 Electrical resistance measure  
104 Subject to legal action  
106 Singer Warwick  
108 Large city in Nebraska  
109 Ward off  
110 Ordinance  
115 Withered  
117 "You're on!"  
118 Mouth parts  
119 Lightish sword  
122 Salary ceiling  
123 Actor Bruce

**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

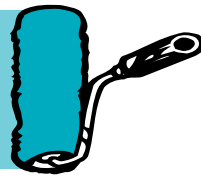
6	5	2	8	7	9	3	1	4
7	1	4	5	3	6	8	9	2
3	9	8	1	2	4	5	6	7
5	4	1	9	6	8	2	7	3
2	8	6	7	4	3	1	5	9
9	7	3	2	1	5	6	4	8
8	2	5	4	9	1	7	3	6
1	3	9	6	8	7	4	2	5
4	6	7	3	5	2	9	8	1

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