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# The **TIMBERJAY**



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## THE ECONOMY

# Mike Motors 'winding down' in Ely

Car dealership to shutter this summer

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
 Ely Editor

ELY – The economic downturn in Ely due to the coronavirus pandemic is forcing the only automobile dealership in town to shut its doors. After serving the community for over 75 years, Mike Motors of Minnesota announced this week that they will close its Ely deal-

ership operations later this summer. Vice president Charlie Hilligoss, of Hibbing, confirmed the report to the *Timberjay* on Tuesday.

"Basically, the problem is the cost of running a dealership versus the amount of traffic that were able to get," Hilligoss said. "Along with the uncer-

See...ELY pg. 7



Ely's lone car dealership is currently staffed by 10 full-time employees. The business will be closing by the end of July. photo by K. Vandervort

## TOWER

# EMS building security tops city agenda

Council hopes to eliminate more intrusions, possible sabotage

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
 Managing Editor

TOWER— Fire and ambulance hall security was on the city council agenda here on Monday in the wake of apparent vandalism to department vehicles earlier this month.

Council member Dave Setterberg has been gathering quotes on both a new door locking system as well as security cameras that city officials hope will discourage future attempts to disable emergency vehicles.

The recent incident at the hall remains under police investigation.

Setterberg said it appears that the combined cost of both security measures could be up to \$10,000, but Mayor Orlyn Kringstad compared it to an insurance policy. "What we're protecting is not only personnel but a lot of very expensive equipment," he said.

Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua asked about criteria for selecting among several options, but the council left it up to Setterberg, Ranua, the fire chief and interim ambulance director to make the determination. Ranua also noted that the expense for the security items was not in the city's 2020 budget, but she said she figured there was room elsewhere in the budget to cover the cost. Council members also suggested some grant possibilities that they would explore.

The new door locks will record each entry and the identity of the individual entering either the fire or ambulance hall. And Setterberg said he wants a secu-

See...TOWER pg. 8

## COOK COMMUNITY



# Ready to go

New Zup's Market opening Wednesday

by DAVID COLBURN  
 Cook/Orr Editor

COOK- The new Zup's Market will open its doors to eager customers on Wednesday, May 20, a year and a half after a fire devastated the former grocery store.

Workers were rushing around Monday to complete final construction items, and one person in particular had some extra family incentive to make sure his portion of the job was done just right.

See...ZUP'S pg. 7



Brent Richards, above, a sales representative for Our Family Foods, organized a display Monday at the new Zup's Market in Cook. John Gerzin, of SCR, calibrated the cooling system for the new building. The new facility is set to open May 20. photos by D. Colburn

## CORONAVIRUS

# COVID-19 hits Ely

One Dairy Queen employee tested positive for virus

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
 Ely Editor

ELY – The coronavirus has hit Ely. An employee of the Dairy Queen store here tested positive for COVID-19 on Sunday, May 10.

According to owner Paul Ivancich, the employee had not been in the local restaurant since May 4.

"All of our 14 employees were tested just this morning at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital and we will have full results in two or three days," he told the *Timberjay* on Monday, May 11.

Test results came back on Tuesday, May 12, and all the other Dairy Queen employees have tested negative.

The store has been closed to the public for indoor seating since Gov. Walz issued a state-wide stay-at-home order in March. Only the drive-thru at the fast-food restaurant has remained open.

In an email, Ivancich said, "On Sunday night, May 10, we were notified that one of our employees has tested positive for COVID-19. The employee's last shift was on May 4. As of 10:45 a.m. on Monday morning, all employees have been notified and tested for COVID-19 locally with the help of EBCH and Essential Health."

"The restaurant was immediately closed for deep cleaning. Our highest priority is the health and well-being of our employees and guests and we are following CDC and MDH guidelines," Ivancich said.

Since the state closure order, all Ely DQ employees have been required to wear gloves and face coverings.

"We change our gloves every half hour and wash our hands hourly," Ivancich said. "Our goal has been to be as safe for our community as possible."

The Ely DQ Grill and Chill will reopen upon

See...VIRUS pg. 8



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Contact The Timberjay

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## Community notices

### T-shirt design contest for students now open in Ely

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

Students are encouraged to submit an original design and/or slogan promoting the book club, in a pdf format, to [storyportage@gmail.com](mailto:storyportage@gmail.com) by Monday, June 1. The first twenty submissions will receive a complimentary T-shirt. The selected design winner will receive a \$50 gift card from Front Porch Coffee and Tea Company. Students should include their email address, phone number, home mailing address, and T-shirt size with their entry.

### Vermilion Dream Quilters June meeting canceled

TOWER- Harsh reality is setting in and we need to accept that we will not be able to safely meet in June. We will continue to be prudent and patient, reassessing as the summer progresses. We miss your faces, lively chatter, laughs, and fabulous fabric creations. While we are being cautious with health protection, we challenge you to be outrageous risk takers with your quilting. Try a new color or technique or difficult pattern. Give yourself a pat on the back and know you can always return to comforting familiar tasks when overwhelmed. We can have a wonderful time of sharing when we can finally meet together again.

### Lyric Center for the Arts continues annual Open Water art exhibit

VIRGINIA- Each May since 2006, the art gallery at the Lyric Center for the Arts has featured work by local artists to celebrate ice-out on our local waterways. This year, due to COVID-19, sees a slight change. Artwork has been hung in the front windows of the gallery to be viewed from the sidewalk, and art sales will be handled on-line. The gallery is at 510 Chestnut Street in downtown Virginia. Participating artists include Jim DeVries, Cheryl Doran, Spencer Hahne, Margie Kent, Sandra Markovich, Mary McReynolds and Jane Wertanen. Artwork depicts Northland lakes, spring flowers, birds and nature scenes.

### AmeriCorps Emergency Response Initiative accepting applications

REGIONAL- To help communities in northern Minnesota respond to the COVID-19 crisis, North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity and the Salvation Army will be participating in the AmeriCorps Emergency Response Initiative this summer. This initiative will help AmeriCorps members serve in critical roles such as supporting food shelves, assisting homeless individuals, providing childcare, assisting older adults, and other important roles.

AmeriCorps members receive a modest living stipend, health insurance, and a post-service education award they may use to pay down student debt, further their schooling, or pass on to a child or grandchild for their higher education costs. They also receive valuable job experience in high-need areas.

"By participating in this initiative, AmeriCorps volunteers have an opportunity to make a real impact on our community as we respond to this crisis in the next several months," said senator David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm).

More information about the program, its benefits, opportunities to serve, and applications are available at <https://www.servetogrow.org/response>. Applications are being accepted until Saturday, May 20. Accepted AmeriCorps members will serve from Monday, June 8 to Monday, Aug. 15.

# Baytree Field 4-H creates artwork for area senior citizens



Left: Sara proudly displays the fishbowl she colored. Right: 4-H club students handcrafted 54 unique pieces of spring-themed art. submitted photos

COOK- An inspired group of local 4-H members shared creative drawings and coloring pages with those unable to be outside. The Baytree Field 4-H Club can't meet in person but their pledge to serve the community led them to a crafty idea. During an online meeting they decided to create uplifting art for residents of the Cook Hospital Care Center, Carefree Living in Cook, and

Carefree Living in Orr. This small group of students created 54 pieces of art that were delivered safely by an adult volunteer and brightened the residents' day.

Next on the 4-H club's list is hosting a virtual pet show. Baytree Field 4-H usually hosts the Timber Days Pet Show. With the in-person event canceled this year, the club will partner with Cook's Timber

Days Committee to post local pet photos on social media. For each entry, the club will make a donation to the Cook Area Food Shelf, earmarked for pet supplies. For more information about 4-H, please contact Nicole Kudrle, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development North St. Louis County, at [vande422@umn.edu](mailto:vande422@umn.edu), or 218-471-7265.

## Studio North dance recital, May 15 and 16

ELY - Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Studio North was forced to cancel their live dance shows this spring, but a virtual dance event will be held online on Friday, May 15 at 7 p.m. and on Saturday, May 16 at 2 p.m. Check the Studio North Facebook page for more information.

"While the dancers won't be performing at Washington Auditorium, that does not mean they worked any less throughout their season," Nicole Boitz said. "We are putting together a virtual recital tribute to honor and recognize their efforts. It will be ready to view this weekend." The 21st annual



Studio North Dance Recital will be held in a virtual setting. This season

Studio North celebrated Life, Love and Dance! Dancers from ages three through 90 practiced from September through May. "Great music, beautiful costumes, and amazing talent will entertain you as we celebrate virtually. While this is not how we planned to wrap up our season, we kept on dancing. We finished our last few weeks practicing through online classes. We worked out, we danced, we had fun, we made memories and we pushed through it. We are so proud of all of the dancers. They danced through a pandemic! This is definitely a season we will never forget."

## Advocacy and leadership skills training offered for Minnesotans with disabilities

REGIONAL- The comprehensive advocacy training course, Partners in Policymaking®, is now taking applications from Minnesotans with disabilities and parents of young children with developmental disabilities. Applications are due by Friday, July 10. There is no cost for this program. Starting in September, the nationally-recognized leadership training is presented in eight sessions over nine months.

Sessions cover the history of disability and advocacy movements, inclusive education, supported living, and customized employment. Individuals consider how to influence county, state and federal legislative processes. The monthly

two-day sessions are held on Fridays and Saturdays, from September to May (with no session in December). The March session is on a Sunday and Monday, when participants prepare for and then meet with their state legislators at the Capitol.

Costs for the Partners program are covered by a federal grant. Childcare and respite allowances are given, and overnight accommodations are provided for those who travel from outside the metro area to attend. Mileage is reimbursed and meals are provided. Sessions are held at the Crowne Plaza Aire, at 3 Appletree Square in Bloomington, near Mall of America and the Minneapolis-St. Paul International

Airport. Limited to 40 Minnesotans, participants are selected by a panel of Partners graduates and representatives of the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities. The first weekend session for the 2020 to 2021 program year is Sept. 11-12.

Those selected to participate in the program must attend all sessions and complete homework assignments. For further information, or to get an application form, go to <http://mn.gov/mnddc/partnersinpolicymaking/class38/index.html>, or contact Brenton Rice at [brenton@together.com](mailto:brenton@together.com) or 651-242-6589.



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<b>Fairview Range Phone Triage</b> Nurse triage line: 218-362-6682 Staffed hours: 7:30 am – 5 pm	<b>MHealth Fairview:</b> <a href="https://oncare.org/">https://oncare.org/</a>	<b>St Luke's:</b> <a href="https://slhduluth.zipnosis.com/">https://slhduluth.zipnosis.com/</a>
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10 Fifth Street SE,  
Cook, MN 55723



ELY SCHOOL BOARD

# Ely school officials consider graduation

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

Class of 2020 ceremony will be held in social distance format

ELY — As the Class of 2020 from Memorial High School embarks on an uncertain future later this month, school officials are hoping to give the 45 graduates a memorable send-off amid concerns over the coronavirus.

While state officials are recommending that graduating seniors stay home to celebrate their rites of passage, officials with the Minnesota Department of Health joined state education commissioners for K-12 last week to announce guidelines encouraging schools to host virtual graduation ceremonies for the class of 2020.

In spite of school being closed since mid-March and distance-learning protocols put

in place because of COVID-19, ISD 696 administration officials briefly toyed with the idea of using the city's historic baseball stadium for a hybrid outdoor ceremony.

That plan resulted in a strike out.

The guidelines say schools are not allowed to host large, in-person gatherings on football fields or in stadiums. Students, parents and staff are advised that the safest and most strongly recommended practice is to stay home, and that all indoor ceremonies are prohibited.

Events such as car parades or parking lot ceremonies are permitted by state officials provided they follow detailed

strict rules, while emphasizing that stay-at-home ceremonies remain the safest option.

State Education Commissioner Mary Cathryn Ricker said her department's public health decisions were made with guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health.

"Right now, we are definitely saying that the safest way to observe graduation and commencement is for everyone to stay home and to create a virtual ceremony for everyone with equity and access in mind," Ricker said in a press release.

However, Ely is exploring its options. Graduation is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Saturday,



Principal Megan Anderson hands Dalton Schreffler his cap for the 2020 commencement ceremony. photo by K. Vandervort

May 30. "Right now, we are looking at a drive-up ceremony or a virtual graduation. See GRADUATION...pg. 5

BREITUNG POLICE

## Breitung PD downplays possible sabotage

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

Statement fails to address primary evidence of foul play

TOWER — A press statement released Wednesday by the Breitung Police Department appears to dismiss suggestions of sabotage to one of the city's two ambulances. At the same time, the release blames a dead battery on the city's main fire engine on "operator error," but does not explain how the department came to such a conclusion or why it was the subject of investigation. The dead battery was not reported to Breitung police as possible sabotage.

The press statement does not address the primary evidence in support of sabotage, namely that a power strip

that's attached nearly eight feet up on a wall to the fire hall was switched off sometime between Monday and Tuesday, April 28 and 29.

As the *Timberjay* previously reported, fire department staff had addressed the dead battery on Monday, April 28, finding that the circuit breaker that powered the truck's automatic charger and air compressor had been tripped. Fire officials did not report that incident to law enforcement since there was no evidence of sabotage at that time. Fire department staff reset the breaker, which restored charging and restarted the air

compressor.

But the following day, when interim ambulance director Dena Suikhonon spotted what appeared to be blood inside one of the city's ambulances, she did contact Breitung police as well as Fire Chief Paige Olson.

When Olson responded, she said she was able to start the primary engine but noticed that the air compressor was no longer operating. City maintenance staff came to the scene as well and that's when maintenance assistant John Harju noticed that the power strip had been turned off. The strip is not easily accessible,

and it would have been very difficult for anyone to have turned it off accidentally.

Contrary to the Breitung police report, the fire engine battery was not reported to be dead on Tuesday, when they arrived at the scene, since Chief Olson was able to start the vehicle.

The Breitung police report that they did submit samples of the possible blood found at the scene for analysis. No results have been reported to date.

Breitung police did not respond to emailed questions seeking clarification of some of its conclusions as of presstime.

Briefly

## Birch Point home destroyed by fire

GREENWOOD TWP — A three-bedroom Lake Vermilion residence was destroyed in an early morning blaze last Saturday morning. The report of a chimney fire at 2215 Birch Point Road came into St. Louis County dispatch at 3:16 a.m.

County records indicate the home is owned by Linda Trampusch, and residents were in the home at the time of the blaze but evacuated in time. Firefighters also evacuated neighbors as the fire began to spread to the adjacent dry woods. Firefighters reported the house was fully engulfed by the time they arrived.

Responding agencies included the Greenwood, Tower, Breitung, Cook, and Pike-Sandy fire departments, the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office and the Department of Natural Resources.



## Photo Contest!



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Contest Details at [NorthStarCreditUnion.org](http://NorthStarCreditUnion.org)

## In Honor of the North Woods Graduating Class • 2020



### Community-Sponsored Social Distance Parade

**Thursday, May 21 • 7 PM**

**Downtown Cook**  
(Route - North River Street to Second Avenue Southeast-held rain or shine)

- Student lineup at 6:30 PM by Lakes Gas.
- Students are encouraged to be escorted by or to drive in a personal vehicle.
- Spectators are asked to watch from a side street or within a 6 ft. safe distance location and encouraged to wear a mask (Gov. Walz orders).
- Please be considerate and follow all driving rules.
- Students and spectators are asked to show school spirit and decorate vehicles, homes and businesses.

*On behalf of all the North Woods Grizzly community,  
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COVID-19 Updates

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**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.

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www.ScenicRiversHealth.org

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# OPINION

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OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;"

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

## Editorial

### Stay vigilant

Summer could bring an influx of COVID-19 cases to the North Country

"What I don't think has sunk in yet, is this thing is going to be with us at least until we get really good therapeutics, or we get herd immunity, or we get a vaccine." Those were the words of Gov. Tim Walz at a recent press briefing and they come at a time when those of us in northern Minnesota are increasingly at risk from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As we saw with last week's fishing opener, Minnesotans are eager to escape the confines of home, where most of us have been holed up for nearly two months. With Memorial Day weekend approaching, it's the start of summer and traffic into this area will only increase as the weather warms.

While that traffic is normally welcome for the revenue it provides to our local businesses, we need to understand that, this year, a certain percentage of our visitors will be bringing more than their wallets.

For the most part, up until now, our area has managed to avoid any serious effects from the COVID-19 outbreak. While St. Louis County has a sizable caseload, it's mostly found in Duluth. Here in the North Country, we've experienced relatively few cases, but that's likely to change.

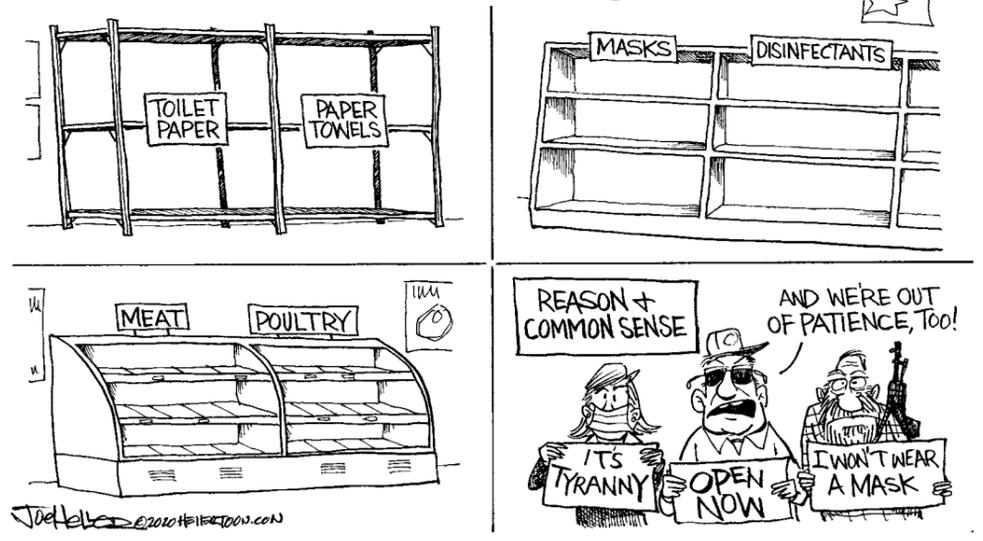
Don't be fooled by the leveling off of the growth in new cases nationally. Most of that change reflects the fact that the virulent spread in New York City has been reduced significantly in recent weeks. In many other states, including Minnesota, the rate of growth in new cases is actually increasing. In Minnesota, it has increased dramatically in the past two weeks, in part due to some major outbreaks centered on large meat processing facilities, as well as an increase in the amount of testing. Areas that attract large numbers of tourists are likely to be among the next hot zones for viral outbreaks. The North Country's splendid isolation in March and April served us well, but we're not so isolated

any more as the traffic over last weekend's fishing opener made clear.

We need to keep in mind that some of the more optimistic projections issued last month have proven to be inaccurate. As we reported at the time, one highly touted projection from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation had predicted in April that Minnesota's caseload would peak on April 26 and that no more than 600 Minnesotans would likely die, as long as we followed appropriate guidelines. That projection has since been revised as Minnesota's death toll has already surpassed 600 and state officials expect that number will top 1,000 by the end of May. And there's little reason to expect that those numbers won't continue to increase at a steady pace throughout the summer, particularly if Minnesotans begin to backslide on social distancing and the use of masks when in public. Anecdotal, it appears that is already happening with many residents of our area. That's unfortunate, because we're not heading into a safer season when it comes to COVID-19. We're heading into the highest-risk period we've experienced to date.

Unfortunately, the appearance of the virus in our area won't be apparent until people start getting sick—and, by then, it will have already spread widely. This isn't the flu and there's no evidence that it will fade away now that warmer weather has arrived. Public health experts say the threat from COVID-19 will continue until there's a vaccine, and that could still be a year or more away. In the meantime, all of us here in the North Country need to ramp up our vigilance to head off the kind of outbreak we're now seeing in many other states that escaped the worst of the first wave of this disease. We're not out of the woods on this by any means and we all need to act accordingly.

### In Short Supply



## Letters from Readers

### Thank you for saving us and our home

On Friday night, May 8 at 3:30 a.m., my family was awoken by a fire fully engulfing our neighbor's cabin. I would like to extend a sincere thanks to the BIA police officer who quickly alerted us to evacuate because of the closeness of the fire. I didn't get his name but his calm, reassuring manner allowed us to settle our nerves and helped us to quickly evacuate four adults, five grandchildren under six, and five dogs to the Greenwood fire house. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the volunteer firemen from Tower, Greenwood and Cook, the St. Louis County Sheriff, DNR and other numerous volunteers who assisted with the fire. They saved my family, my cabin and property by their quick response and skilled training to contain the fire in such dry conditions. Everyone was extremely helpful and reassuring; my family would like to thank everyone again for your service. To my neighbors, my deepest condolences on the loss of your cabin.

**Cathy Roseland and family  
Greenwood Twp.**

### LVCC project is underway and needs your patronage

The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center would like to thank the *Timberjay* for the nice coverage given to us in last week's paper concerning the siding of our auditorium on the side facing Hwy. 169. Even though we have to put the rest of the windows in and add the main entry, the progress which we have made is exciting and has brought many wonderful comments after your article appeared.

We especially want to thank Clayton Halunen for his additional generosity in making our recent project so attractive. His ongoing patronage has been crucial in the progress on the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center.

I misspoke when I said that the next project, finishing the

roof, was three-quarters funded. It is actually only one-quarter funded, with some grants being applied for. Thus, our big push now is to raise the \$100,000 plus that is necessary to finish insulating and shingling the roof for the entire complex.

We welcome all donations because our funds are short this year since we have had to cancel Midsummer, our annual fundraiser, as well as a trip to Scandinavia, which brings in much-needed funds. We appreciate that so many of our neighbors are stepping up to the plate with their tax-deductible gifts to the LVCC, Box 659, Tower, MN 55790.

**Mary Batinich  
President, Lake Vermilion  
Cultural Center**

### Are things really that bad?

I did some checking and this is what I found out.

Imagine you were born in 1900. When you were 14, WWI began. During it 20 million died and 21 million were wounded, which includes about 10 million civilians. It lasted from July 1914 to November 1918. 116,516 Americans died; 204,002 were wounded. Total: 320,518.

In 1918 during the last months of the war, the Spanish Flu pandemic broke out affecting 500 million worldwide (1/3 of world population) resulting in 50 million deaths. An estimated 675,000 Americans lost their lives to it in 1918-19. It was so severe that in 1918 it reduced the American life expectancy by 12 years. (One of my uncles and his oldest son almost lost their lives from it.)

When you were 29, the Great Depression hit. Aided by the Dust Bowl, it lasted until the late 1930s. By 1933, 25 percent of the work force was unemployed. Economists and historians often cite the Great Depression as the most catastrophic economic event in the 20th century.

WWII broke out when you were only 39 years old and lasted until you were 45. It was the deadliest conflict in world history and an estimated 70-85

million people perished. 407,000 Americans died in WWII. In the waning days of the war a stealthy killer was invading America on the home front: polio. It began in the 40's and peaked in 1952 with 57,879 cases in America. My brother was one of them.

A deadly smallpox epidemic hit when were in your 40s. When you turned 50 the Korean War started, taking the lives of 36,000 and wounding another 100,000.

When you turned 55 the Vietnam War started and 58,220 American lives were lost. The war lasted for 20 years and a total of 3,091,000 lives were lost. Then there was the 45 year-long (1946-1991) Cold War between Russia and the U.S. with the Cuban Missile Crisis taking place in October 1962. That was a tense 13-day standoff over the installation of Soviet nuclear-armed missiles in Cuba, a short 90 miles off the American coastline.

As you turned 75, the Vietnam War finally ended.

Stop listening to reports that do nothing but put fear into you. We can keep informed without constantly hearing how bad COVID-19 is. Use common sense; think for yourself and put a perspective on it! Our parents and grandparents lived through a lot, we can do the same. We have only been asked to stay home.

**Marilyn Mueller  
Tower**  
*Mueller collected information from National Geographic, Britannica, and Google.*

### We welcome your letters

The *Timberjay* encourages letters to the editor. You can submit letters by mail at PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790, or email letters to marshall@timberjay.com.

Letters are subject to editing, primarily for length and clarity.



# The true story of Mother's Day

Last week mothers all over the country were honored, or to the chagrin of some, overlooked by their children. Grandmas and great-grandmas and first-time mothers and many-times



**BETTY FIRTH**

over mothers received cards, flowers, candy, presents, and even breakfast in bed. A lot

of those gift-givers and gift-receivers had no idea about the real origins of Mother's Day. Some think that it's a holiday that started when Anna Jarvis decided to honor her mother in 1908. Some believe it was a holiday that Hallmark invented, but Hallmark's first Mother's Day card wasn't printed until the 1920s. In fact, Mother's Day was started in the 1870s by women determined to gather their voices

and their forces in the name of peace. Appalled by the carnage of the Civil War and the Franco-Prussian War, the women felt they needed to gain power to change the culture of war created by men.

As happened in World War II, during the Civil War women had to step up and take over many jobs that men usually did. They worked on farms and in war industries while also raising money for the war effort, nursing soldiers, and raising children. They liked being involved and had no intention

of stepping back, but their hopes of getting the vote through the 14th Amendment were dashed when only African-American men were granted citizenship in 1868.

In 1869, women organized the rival National American Woman Suffrage Association and the American Woman Suffrage Association to promote women's rights. Julia Ward Howe, who gained fame as the author of The Battle Hymn of the Republic early in the Civil War, was a key activist with the women's group. She was moti-

vated less by a belief that women had a right to be equal to men than by her belief that women had a special role to perform in the world. She asked, "Why do not the mothers of mankind interfere in these matters {of warmongering} to prevent the waste of that human life of which they alone know and bear the cost?" She wrote an "Appeal to Womanhood throughout the World," saying they should not praise their men for "mutual murder" nor allow "our sons to be taken from us to

See **WOMEN...** pg. 5

## Letters from Readers

### Hats off to the Timberjay

Thank you for printing Sally Zamlen's "Leave Eveleth-Gilbert out of Virginia's consolidation plan" letter to the editor. It is because of the *Mesabi Daily's* refusal to print letters on topics that don't reflect their slant that I chose to subscribe to your paper. Jerry Burnes could easily adopt a "Ranger-type" slogan for his publication: "We choose the news for you!" It is a pleasure to read a newspaper with grammatical and spelling correctness. The *Mesabi* could take a lesson from the *Timberjay*. Thanks, again.

**Frances Kovatovich  
Eveleth**

### The national debt doesn't matter, until it does

Should we be worried about our rapidly escalating national debt? As of May 4, the United States debt was \$24.9 trillion, or more precisely, \$24,848,700,917.37.

Further increases in the debt are already anticipated: more subsidies for economic disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic, for state governments, and for infrastructure caused by age deterioration and by likely destruction due to climate change.

There is no constitutional limit on the size of the federal debt. (States by statute, however, have to balance their budgets.) Some economists say that servicing the debt diverts investments

from vital areas, such as infrastructure, education, research and humanitarian operations at home and around the world.

The U.S. dollar is considered the world's reserve currency. Many world trade payments are made in U.S. dollars. If the ability to redeem U.S. Treasury securities is ever in doubt, it could cause a major disruption in the global economic system.

Though most of the U.S. debt is held domestically, 37 percent is from foreign sources. China holds more than a trillion dollars of U.S. securities. A sudden sale of securities would disrupt global finances and might trigger further sales from other foreign sources.

The national debt can be lowered by generating a greater amount of federal revenue than the total expenditures. The revenue can be increased by raising current tax rates or adding

new taxes such as a carbon tax, a value added tax (VAT), and or a national sales tax.

Reducing federal expenditures is another method of shrinking the debt. It is politically difficult to either raise taxes or reduce expenditures. Much of the expenditures are "mandated," such as Social Security, medical programs and interest payments. The so-called discretionary spending amounts to 30 percent of the budget, but most of it is practically mandated, such as defense, education, transportation and, in reality, there is very little variance or discretion.

Another factor that devalues the debt is inflation. Currently, the Federal Reserve seeks to establish a two-percent inflation target rate per annum. If they were able to obtain a rate of four-percent inflation for ten years, it would reduce the value of the total national debt by half

due to the declining value of the dollar. The Treasury should also extend the average maturity date of the Treasury securities and consider issuing 50-year or more maturity bonds.

Long-term inflation can produce dramatic results. For example, the World War II national debt rose to \$241.86 billion in 1946, a huge amount at that time. If we repaid that \$241 billion in today's dollars, it would be "a drop in the bucket" relative to our greatly expanded economy. Bill Gates and Jeff Bezos (pre-divorce) could pay for all the debt incurred from World War II. The downside of inflation is that wages may not keep pace with the rate of inflation.

In summary, an economist enigmatically stated, "The debt doesn't matter, until it does."

**Gerry Snyder  
Ely**

### ENGAGED CITIZEN

## No one is above the law — maybe no longer?

by KEITH STEVA  
Timberjay Contributor

On May 11, the United States Supreme Court began hearing arguments in three cases about whether President Trump can block subpoenas issued to his banks and accountant to hand over personal information in connection with investigations of potential crimes. The investigation is being conducted by a state grand jury looking into businesses Mr. Trump owns. The financial documents requested include his tax returns as well as numerous financial and communications documents.

Mr. Trump argues that because he is president not only can he not be investigated, but also his businesses cannot

be investigated. "I have an Article II, where I have the right to do whatever I want as president." That is the assertion the president made last year and has followed it up with actions that historically would have been blocked by Congress or the Courts. These include blocking witnesses called or subpoenaed by the House of Representatives, failure to act to protect and enforce laws passed by Congress, spending funds for uses not authorized by Congress, and his administration taking Congress to court declaring Congress has no right to go to court to enforce subpoenas of executive branch officials.

The Supreme Court has ruled in cases since 1882 that civil cases can be filed against



the President while he is in office. As recently as July 24, 1974, a unanimous Supreme Court ordered President Nixon to turn over Watergate tapes to a federal jury even as the tapes were confidential recordings. Another unanimous Supreme Court on May 27, 1997, allowed Paula Jones' civil sexual harassment lawsuit against President Clinton to proceed while he was in office which led to President Clinton's impeachment. In the Whitewater inquiry a Republican Congress issued subpoenas to President Clinton's personal accountants

and for Hillary Clinton's law firm's billing records.

Under our legal system the state (including, for example, Congress) generally "has a right to every man's evidence", meaning that in the absence of a recognized privilege such as client-attorney privilege or shielding defendants from compelled self-incrimination, we are all obliged to respond. Grand juries have authority to investigate to determine whether "probable cause" exists. Finally, courts have long recognized that Congress has broad authority to investigate and compel both the testimony of witnesses and the handing over of documents — including from Facebook, a state police department, or the executive branch.

This case is being watched very closely by courts, legal historians, constitutional experts, lawyers, and politicians with a great deal of interest. Even foreign nations have taken an interest. Given President Trump's inclination to not recognize any limits or bounds on his power, this case as decided by the United States Supreme Court will stand as a clear, direct statement that either the founding fathers' "no one is above the law" still stands, or that we now find our country for the first time since the Constitutional Convention of 1787 with a President without any limits or constraints on his civil or official behavior.

### WOMEN...Continued from page 4

unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy, and patience.

Her impassioned plea really spoke to me, as I have often wondered how mothers, and fathers too, could bear to send their sons or daughters to war. How could their hearts not break when their children leave to fight, and again when they don't return, or when they do, damaged in body and mind? How could they send their children off to kill other mothers children? I remember feeling anguished when boys I grew up with were drafted into the Vietnam War, for I knew they had been brought up to be thoughtful, sensitive human beings. How could these smart, caring young men obey orders blindly that they felt to be wrong? How could they just shift personas and kill people and not be altered forever? One classmate knew he couldn't and left for Canada, unable to return

for many years. Another friend did go in the army, but went AWOL when bayonet drills were begun. He was 6'6" tall, and the height of his bayonet was right in the faces of shorter men. He couldn't do it, and he headed for the border, also.

Julia Howe spoke to that feeling 100 years before I did in her Mother's Day Peace Proclamation: "We, women of one country, will be too tender of those of another country, to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."

She proposed to have Mother's Day on June 2 when the weather was more benign, so women could gather. She put out the plea to women to "then solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each bearing after their own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God." She

had a vision for an international congress of women gathering "to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace."

She changed her focus when she realized that scheme was too grand, and started at a grassroots level with women's clubs to encourage activism and united action. She was successful in launching a Mother's Day in the spring, dedicated to peace activism by women, but companies like Hallmark have done their best to gloss over the true origins of the holiday, changing the apostrophe to denote the single mother.

Mother's Day is celebrated in many countries with its own flavor. In Mexico, flowers are a tradition as well as a day full of music, food, celebrations, and often a morning serenade of

the song "Las Mananitas" from mariachi singers.

In the former Soviet Union, mothers were celebrated on International Women's Day on March 8, a date that has since become an internationally-observed day to honor women and the goal of gender equality.

In the 20th Century, Japan honored the Empress Koujun's birthday, but Mother's Day has since been moved to the second Sunday in May, when the Japanese give their mothers lots of gifts, primarily flowers.

Beginning in the 16th century, the U.K. observed a day called Mothering Sunday on the fourth Sunday in Lent, when families came together to attend church. In the early 20th century, the day which had evolved into a tradition of spending family time at home was fused with the Hallmark-card-giving American holiday, but it has retained its

traditional name and date.

Underlying the many ways that mothers are remembered and honored is the awareness, I'm quite sure, that women are the people who create households with love, strength, and commitment to their values, who give unstintingly to their families and to the broader community, weaving together the actions, the caring, and the building of relationships that are needed to keep families and communities strong.

We're still working for that elusive equality in the workplace and the pay packet, but few would question the worth of the women in their lives. So let's honor all those women and elect a whole lot more of them to offices throughout our state and nation and make Julia Howe's vision come alive.

### GRADUATION...Continued from page 3

tion posted online," 6-12 Principal Megan Anderson told school board members Monday night. "Nothing is set in stone right now. That's all I can share at this point."

According to Minnesota Department of Education guidelines, participants can't walk to the ceremony or participate outside of their vehicles. Windows need to be rolled up if parked next to another vehicle or parked six feet apart if windows are rolled down. Graduation events must be brief, and no objects can be passed physically between households.

Some schools on the Iron Range, including ISD 2142, are planning for drive-thru graduation ceremonies.

"I know your hands have been tied until last

Friday when you received some direction from the state," said school board chair Ray Marsnik. "Those directives ruled out a traditional commencement. I want to thank the entire administration team for working so hard. This has been difficult. I'm sure you are hearing things from the community, I know I have."

"This has been really hard for parents. It has been a struggle and very emotional for a lot of people," School board member Rochelle Sjoberg said.

Anderson concurred. "It has been very difficult. At this point, we have the (MDE) guidance and that is what we will work from. I would like to do as much as we can for the kids. We are all longing for togetherness and socializing, but right

now we can't."

Marsnik added, "We are going to work on providing the best possible graduation ceremony that we can for our students under the guidelines that we have."

A senior awards event was held Wednesday night in a virtual setting. Seniors picked up their graduation caps and gowns on Tuesday.

### Other business

In other business, board members:

► Formally adopted a resolution, on a 6-0 vote, calling for a special election on Tuesday, Aug. 11 regarding the issuance of \$10 million in general obligation bonds to be used for the district's facility renovation project.

► Heard from Superintendent Erik Eric

that a revised 2019-2020 budget, including the awarding of \$87,000 in federal stimulus funds, will be presented at a special meeting on Tuesday, May

26, and the 2020-2021 budget will be presented on Monday, June 8.

► Received a notice of intent to negotiate a contract renewal with the Ely

Principals Association.

► Accepted the retirement of bus driver John Lahtonen effective May 28, the same day he will retire as Ely's police chief.



### 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**



**Week of May 18**

**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 18**  
Monday- Pulled Pork Sandwich  
Tuesday- Hamburger Gravy Over Mashed Potatoes  
Wednesday- Buffalo Chicken Sandwich  
Thursday- Cheeseburger Pasta  
Friday- Italian Meatball Sub.

**Tower Food Shelf open by request**

TOWER- Any households who missed the regular food shelf day 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.

**SPREADING JOY  
Tower Power cakes honor essential workers**



**Staff at Scenic Rivers in Tower were surprised with a custom-designed cake last week.** photos by J. Summit

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

**REGIONAL-** If the community of Ely comes out of the stay-at-home order a bit rounder, it might be due to the amazing decorated cakes made by Susan Laine. Laine, who recently moved her operation into a commercial kitchen, has become well known in Ely and Tower for her amazing frosted creations. [Our readers might remember a story about her in the Dec. 27, 2019, *Timberjay* titled "I'll make the cake," <http://timberjay.com/stories/ill-make-the-cake,15833?>]

While everyone but essential workers was stuck at home, Laine decided to donate a cake in recognition of the essential workers at the Ely School. Laine said she has gotten to know many of the students at the school after baking their birthday cakes and wanted to honor the staff there. She was pleasantly surprised to find out the staff had shared the cake with the children of essential workers who are attending day care at the



**Above: The Scenic Rivers Tower Power cake.**

**Left: Susan Laine drops off the cake in Tower. She isn't usually able to deliver her cakes, and does make sure she is following social distancing guidelines.**

school during this time. She coined the phrase LovELY to describe the effort, and in a blink, the idea spread. "You can't have lovely without love and Ely," she said.

The second LovELY cake went to G-Men and was paid for in part by allowance money donated by two area children, who figured the trash pickup crews were very busy with all the extra garbage being generated at homes right now.

And from there, the idea just blossomed.

In the last month, Laine has decorated over 70 cakes in honor of essential businesses and workers, with over a dozen more in the queue.

The cakes have all been sponsored (paid for) by someone who wishes to recognize that business. Her goal, she said, is to deliver at least 100 cakes, which she is on track to do before June rolls around.

And now the recognition is spreading to Tower. Last week, Laine delivered a cake to Scenic Rivers Medical and Dental, in honor of Nurses Week. The cake was donated by a staff member at the clinic.

Each cake comes with a handwritten note.

"Thank you to all the nurses, especially as we are celebrating nurses this week. And thank you to the entire staff for keeping Tower safe and

healthy."

Laine is naming this outreach effort, "Tower Power, energizing Tower with the Power of Love."

The *Timberjay* received a cake this week, and is planning to pay it forward to another essential business in town, and hopefully the kindness will continue.

You can find out more about what businesses were recognized on the Lov-Ely CAKES page on Facebook, though new cake orders are not being taken at this time.



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

**Watch out for pedestrians**

Area residents are reminded to keep an eye out for pedestrians in the crosswalks on Tower's Main Street. There have been several incidents reported where drivers are not slowing down for adults and children in the crosswalk.



**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/, by sending an email to vhhpdirector@gmail.com, or by calling 218-780-5423. Individual and family memberships, as well as donations, are tax deductible.

**Food Drive set for Friday, 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.

Donations can either be dropped off on Friday, May 22 at the AEOA building in Virginia, at Super One Foods South, or Zup's grocery stores. You can also schedule a pick-up by calling 218-749-7120 or emailing lantzts@stlouiscountymn.gov. Deadline to schedule a pick-up is Friday, May 15. Nonperishable food items will be placed in the Rutabaga Project's Little Free Pantries.

Monetary donations will be donated to NE MN Food Shelves. Make checks payable to Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency and mail them to Kelsey Gantzer, AEOA, 702 Third Ave. S, Virginia, MN 55792.

## 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.

## EWHS Museum remains closed

ELY - The Ely-Winton Historical Society office and museum is closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It hopes to open once social distancing is ended. In the meantime, anyone with items to donate, questions, or information to impart is asked to contact the manager at her home email and phone number. They are: mugsfranny@gmail.com; 218-827-2386. Anyone wanting to donate items is asked to contact the manager and set up an appointment.

## Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



seeds ready to plant  
rake, shovel, tiller at hand  
a garden is planned

Subscribe to the **TIMBERJAY!**  
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# WINDOW INTO YESTERDAY From Junior College to VCC

by DAVID KESS  
Ely-Winton Historical Society

With the Vermilion Community College now closed to the public due to the coronavirus pandemic, there is no opportunity for a new display of local history. For the usual Window into Yesterday, here is an updated version of a feature article from 2012.

When William Folwell came from Pennsylvania to the frontier state of Minnesota in 1869 to become the first President of the University of Minnesota, he came with a master plan for a state school system. He was the first to propose that local school districts be given the authority to establish two-year junior colleges, but the legislature was skeptical of the idea. It was not until 1915, nearly a half century later, that the first junior college was established in Rochester.

In Ely, Independent School district 696 established Ely Junior College in 1922. There were twelve students. For the next 42 years, the local school board granted Associate in Arts degrees. Superintendent of Schools, Mr. J. H. Santo, was also the first Dean of the Junior College.

From the beginning, the college here was designed for seamless transfers to other institutions of higher learning in the state.

The junior college was housed on the top two floors of the old high school, although some classes—such as those needing lab spaces—met in the Memorial High School building. Back in those days, underground tunnels connected all the buildings on the campus.

Mr. Santo was Dean for 13 years, followed by Sigurd Olson. Mr. Olson had begun teaching in both the high school and college in 1923 and he served as the second dean until 1946. He was followed by Harold Stubbins and William Currier.

In 1954 Miss Idelia Loso was appointed Dean. She had the singular honor of being the first woman college dean in Minnesota. It was another 20 years before another woman college dean was appointed in Minnesota. Miss Loso, affectionately known as “Mother” was a very involved administrator. She served in this capacity until 1966. There were a number of



Clockwise from upper left, Julius Santo was the first Dean of the Ely Junior College; the two top floors of the old Ely High School building housed the Junior College; the JFK school building was the home of the Junior College starting in 1961. photos courtesy of the Ely-Winton Historical Society

other deans, who were later called presidents and then provosts. The present Provost of VCC is Shawn Bina.

A large bell hung in a rooftop belfry located on the roof of the Old High building. When the building was demolished in the 1960s the bell was removed, and was put up for auction in 1975. It was purchased by local attorney Willard Domich and donated to the historical society. It is now on display in the administrative lobby at the VCC campus on East Camp Street.

The Old High also boasted four larger than life statues. One, Teddy Roosevelt, became the property of the historical society. It is currently being restored by the art department. The whereabouts of the other three statues remains a mystery although an article published in the 2009 Ely Summer Times by Mike Hillman said that the statues had been stored in one of the underground tunnels between the school buildings. Because there was so much damage they were eventually disposed of.

In 1961, the “J.C.” (as we all called it then) moved into new space in the JFK building, still a part of the local district. The state of Minnesota assumed operations in 1964 and it was then called Ely State Junior

College. Enrollment then was 191. By 1972 with enrollment at 450, a new campus consisting of three buildings was opened and the college became known by its present name of Vermilion Community College (VCC).

In 1980 the Fine Arts wing, which included a theater and museum, was opened. President Ralph Doty and a number of local citizens and public officials had lobbied hard and long for this facility. It is much used by the entire community. Dormitories were opened in 1988.

Tuition was next to nothing for the years that the mining companies were operating here. The first class of graduates in 1924 numbered seven. Enrollment dropped considerably during the Depression as many young men had to take whatever work they could to help support their families. During World War II, the college was almost all female.

Sports, particularly basketball and football, were always a big part of the college scene. For many years, there were no such opportunities for women. Eventually basketball and volleyball were added with the volleyball team winning a national championship.

In academics, provision has always been made for fulfilling the requirements of a part of a four-year college program.

In more recent years the college has made great strides in providing specialized training for career programs and special individual needs. A new veterinary tech program has been added in recent years. Non-traditional students also comprise a large part of the student body. One hundred and fifty students in the Class of 2020 were scheduled to graduate this week.

Other Arrowhead region community colleges include Hibbing (1916), Itasca (1922), Mesabi Range – Eveleth (1918), Mesabi Range – Virginia (1921), and Rainy River (1967).

Minnesota’s community colleges now number 18 and VCC is now a part of the five campuses comprising the Northeast Higher Education District. Our state was the first in the country to establish junior colleges. It was followed by Texas and California. Ely’s college was one of the first of its kind in the nation and it remains a vital part of the community as well as a respected part of the state’s system of higher education.

Questions for the historical society office may be directed to Director Margaret Sweet by calling her at 218-827-2386 or emailing to mugsfranny@gmail.com.



**the TIMBERJAY**

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## OUR COMMUNITY

# New owner for Garden Lake Resort

ELY - After 43 years in business at Garden Lake Resort, Mark and Dianna Ellerbroek, at right, recently retired and sold the resort. They had owned and operated the resort since Oct. 1, 1976. Late last month they passed the torch to the new owner, Timothy Schuck, who recently sold his business in Minneapolis to begin a new chapter in his life.

“He is super excited to jump in and get started and we are committed to helping him get off to a great start,” the Ellerbroeks said. “We are incredibly grateful as we reflect on all the amazing friendships we have made at Garden Lake. It truly is bittersweet to say goodbye to such a wonderful



place.” The couple plan to continue living in the Ely area. The Garden Lake Resort’s telephone number remains the

same, 218-365-5498. The resort’s mailing address has changed to P.O. Box 63, Ely, MN 55731.



Above: Band teacher Peter Micholic waves a sign of encouragement as graduates circle through the parking lot.



Top right: Senior class advisor Kandi Olson augments her Grizzlies spirit attire with coordinated mask and gloves as she passes out caps and gowns.

Bottom right: Attired in her cap and gown for a picture opportunity, senior Cecelia Martinez reacts with glee as she catches a tossed diploma.

Photos and story by D. Colburn

# Seniors drive by school for graduation attire pick up

FIELD TWP- In what might have been a mini dress rehearsal for graduation, North Woods School seniors drove through the school parking lot last Friday to pick up their caps, gowns, and regalia.

"It's pretty different compared to what I thought it would be like at the end of my senior year, but I guess you have to make the best of it," senior Kylie Parson said. "I understand the gravity of the situation, but it's kind of sad not to be able to go talk to my teachers and classmates."

"It's weird," senior Macy Vita said. "I like that my teachers are all here to support me. It's a little different seeing everybody through glass."

Cars circled through

one of two lines as enthusiastic teachers and staff waving pom-poms and signs passed items to students through open car windows with gloved hands.

"I have to admit it's emotional to see them because we're so excited," teacher and class advisor Kandi Olson said. "The rest of the advisors and myself have a huge connection with them."

As seniors left the parking lot they lined up their cars along the road to get out briefly for photos wearing their caps and gowns.

## Drive-in baccalaureate May 27

Seniors, their immediate families, and community members are invited back to the parking lot at North Woods at 6:30

p.m. Wednesday, May 27 for a drive-in baccalaureate service conducted jointly by Pastor Erika Foss of Trinity Lutheran of Cook and Pastor Liz Cheney of Immanuel Lutheran of Tower. The service will be broadcast to vehicles over the radio. All those attending must remain in their vehicles throughout the service.

## Commencement

According to North Woods Principal John Vukmanich, the school is considering another drive-in event for its commencement ceremony on May 29. The state department of education recently issued strict guidelines for districts considering that option. Vukmanich said specific details would be available soon.



# NWFA canvas sale is outside Saturday

COOK- In order to protect the health and safety of both volunteers and patrons, Northwoods Friends of the Arts will be selling canvases outside the gallery Saturday, May 16 and Saturday, May 23 for its "A Canvas and You" promotion.

As the gallery remains closed, volunteers will be selling \$10 canvases outside the gallery at 210 S River St. and curbside from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., weather permitting.

Exact change or a check payable to NWFA is requested. Buyers are

asked to wear masks and maintain six feet of distance between themselves and others. There will be no admission to the gallery or public restrooms.

Alternatively, a volunteer will deliver canvases upon request. Call Shawna at 218 780-6510 or Judith at 219-750-4304 for information or to plan an appointed time.

Complete information about "A Canvas and You" is available online at [www.nwfamn.org/art-events](http://www.nwfamn.org/art-events) and the NWFA Facebook page.

# Stroke victim is raising donations

ANGORA- A stroke he suffered eight years ago couldn't stop Carl Antus of Angora, and the 67-year-old won't let something like COVID-19 restrictions keep him from raising money and awareness for stroke survivors, either.

The annual "Strides for Stroke" walk this Saturday, May 16, sponsored by the Minnesota Stroke Association, won't be a group event this year, but participants and supporters will still walk around their own neighborhoods and connect virtually through social media posts.

Antus is captain of the "Masked Marvels,"

so named as "a nod to the reality of the pandemic and Captain Marvel, the superhero," said his daughter, Carly Antus Wilk.

"I hope the walk creates awareness," Antus said. "People should do what they can. The road to rehabilitation is a very long road."

To learn more about Antus and The Masked Marvels, and to donate, visit [www.classy.org/team/294049](http://www.classy.org/team/294049), or contact Wilk at [carlyantus@hotmail.com](mailto:carlyantus@hotmail.com).

(Information for this article was taken with permission from an article in Mesabi Daily News by Linda Tyssen.)



Retired and clearly beloved Cook School educator and one-time Cook mayor Wally Refsdal hauls in a big catch of cards and gifts as a huge parade of well-wishers in cars, trucks, and emergency vehicles drives past his home Sunday in celebration of his 80th birthday.

B. Smith photo

## 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.

Donations can either be dropped off on Friday, May 22 at the AEOA building in Virginia, 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. Nonperishable food items will be placed in the Rutabaga Project's Little Free Pantries.



## the *TIMBERJAY*

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COUNTY SCHOOLS

# School board wrestles with spring coaching pay

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- For the time being, it's the \$104,000 question without an answer: What will ISD 2142 pay its spring sports head and assistant coaches for seasons altered and cut short by coronavirus restrictions?

During a virtual working meeting Tuesday, school board members were told by finance manager Kim Johnson that \$104,000 is what it would cost to pay all coaches in the district their full stipends for the aborted seasons. Johnson provided the figure right after revealing that the district's income from athletic and student fees has dropped by \$29,000.

After almost 45-minutes of discussion, the only clear consensus among board members was for Johnson to draft multiple scenarios to be considered at the next formal board meeting on May 26.

More than half of 253 athletic directors who responded to a statewide survey two weeks ago reported that their districts were paying coaching stipends in full, North Woods Athletic Director John Jirik told the board.

"There are 128 that

are going full pay for all coaches," Jirik said. "There are 43 in the state that have committed to partial pay. Some weren't committed on how they were going to pay. There were zero schools that were not paying at all."

Gov. Tim Walz temporarily suspended school on March 18, then implemented distance education before declaring April 23 that school facilities would remain closed through the end of the school year.

The Minnesota High School League followed suit, prohibiting training, practices, scrimmages, and contests for sports and other curricular activities beginning March 18.

But conditioning and practices for spring sports were already underway. Track and field and girls softball teams were authorized to begin March 9; golf and baseball started March 16.

However, while school-based activities were suspended, coaches were permitted to maintain individual contacts with athletes via technology and provide guidelines for optional individual workouts until MHSL officially canceled all seasons on April 23.

Board member Chris Koivisto voiced support for giving head coaches

full pay. He argued that head coaches work with their sports throughout the school year, and that while school-based activities were suspended, they continued to coach by providing training regimens. He also advocated for assistant coaches to receive their full stipends.

"Even assistant coaches scheduled their lives around work," he said. "I understand that assistant coaches getting paid less is an option, but I put myself in their shoes and wonder how they would have changed their lives around."

Board member Christine Taylor cautioned the board that they should have a clear rationale for any decision regarding pay.

"What is the reason we would pay?" she asked. "Is it because we're trying to make people whole? Is it because they rendered a service? Is it because we want to do the right thing? I'm not in favor of paying full stipend, period. I'm much more inclined to pay partial. What is the purpose of a full stipend?"

"They're into it and obligated to do that work, and it's not on them that they didn't work," Koivisto responded.

"To pay them for what they haven't done

doesn't make sense if the (rationale) is to pay them for what they have done," Taylor said.

Board President Dan Manick's remarks drew on his own experience coaching baseball and softball, noting that those teams hadn't played any games when school was suspended.

"The majority of the season is once the games start," Manick said, going on to describe torturous away-contests that could involve as much as 12 hours for preparation, competition, and travel. "There's no way you would have 50 percent of your time put in before the first game."

Koivisto countered a suggestion by Taylor that partial payments should be calculated using March 18 as the season end-date.

"We can't say it's shut down until the MHSL shuts it down," he said.

"People get paid for anticipation, then?" Taylor responded.

"At what point did we tell our coaches to stop working?" Koivisto replied. "We never told them to stop working."

Johnson cautioned that any decision the board makes regarding pay for coaches could have implications for other staff members whose jobs were

disrupted by COVID-19 restrictions, such as bus drivers who would have been paid for sporting and activity trips that were canceled. Their loss of anticipated income would also have ripple effects into the next school year, she said.

With members still far apart on what would constitute fair compensation for coaches, board member Pat Christensen recommended, and board members concurred, that Johnson should develop financial scenarios for partial pay to be considered for action at the May 26 meeting.

## Graduations

Superintendent Reggie Engebritson reported that district schools were moving ahead with plans to hold drive-in graduation ceremonies at 7 p.m. on May 29. While the state department of education recommended virtual graduation ceremonies as being the safest option, it also provided detailed guidelines for drive-in ceremonies that the district is using for planning, Engebritson said.

One possible variance from the state guidelines that has been proposed but not yet decided would be to let seniors leave their cars one at a time to have their pictures taken in caps and

gowns. Engebritson said that she believed this activity would provide more than the six feet of social distancing recommended for safety.

Other items discussed but not acted upon included:

► An invitation from Hibbing Public Schools to form a cooperative football team that would play home games in a remodeled Cheever Stadium in Hibbing was distributed by Engebritson prior to the meeting, and she indicated that because Cherry was in the midst of installing a new football field, the district had no interest at this time. Board members left the door open for future discussion of other sports collaboratives.

► A review of the revised budget for 2019-2020 presented by Johnson showed the various effects distance learning and other adjustments have had, with the net result being that the district remains in sound financial condition to finish out the year. However, Johnson cautioned that reserves in some funds had been significantly reduced, which could have implications for next year's budget, depending on what future actions are dictated by the governor.

## ELY...Continued from page 1

tainty of everything going forward, it got to a point where we are unable to keep the doors open. We have operated the dealership through many difficult periods, and we have always tried to keep the dealership operating and employees working over many years. Unfortunately, current economic conditions and uncertainty has forced ownership to make the difficult decision to close."

He could not provide a final date of when Mike Motors will close.

"No formal closing date has been announced, but it is anticipated that the dealership will close near the end of July," he said. "The store will continue with sales and limited service appointments, in accordance with current government regulations, as the dealership winds down operations."

"Our goal is to keep

everyone employed and keep their health insurance going," he said. "We'll be offering (Ely) employees an opportunity to stay with the company. If we have jobs available, they will be the first ones on the list, for sure."

The Hilligoss family also owns Ranger GM in Hibbing and Grand Rapids GM, and they are partners with Ford of Hibbing. Mike Motors sells and services

new Chevrolet, Buick, Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, and RAM vehicles as well as pre-owned vehicles.

Mike Motors manager Al Nap said Tuesday that Mike Motors currently has 10 full-time employees.

"We are in a wind-down mode, but I don't know when that is going to be," he said. "As of the end of this month, we will no longer be a Chrysler dealership, but how long we continue after that, I

don't know."

Nap was set to meet with Hilligoss on Thursday.

Ely Mayor Chuck Novak responded to the changes in the Ely business scene due to COVID-19.

"This just compounds the issues being caused by the shutdown in the state," Novak said. "It is frustrating because it is a one-size fits all mentality."

"We feel horrible

having to shut the doors," Hilligoss said.

The Ely store is owned by Cindy Hilligoss, who took over ownership following the death of her husband Don Hilligoss in August 2017. The Hilligoss family owned the dealership from 1998 through 2004 and then repurchased the dealership in 2009 to keep the business going after the 2008 recession.

## ZUP'S...Continued from page 1

John Gerzin, of SCR, a St. Cloud commercial refrigeration company, was busy calibrating the building's cooling system, and while his last name might not be familiar to many in the Cook area, his grandfather's certainly is.

"My grandfather is Leonard Zupancich," Gerzin said. "He and his brothers built a lot of the stores back in the day."

And while Gerzin is proud of his grandfather's business accomplishments, he also takes pride in another connection to him.

"My grandfather went to school for refrigeration right after WWII," he said. "That's kind of cool."

Store manager Matt Zupancich was scooting back and forth between the new store and the mini mart he's operated for the

past several months. That store will close Friday so dry goods can be moved to the new facility. Other items will be distributed to customers and employees, he said.

"That way we're starting fresh here," he said.

Zupancich appeared both excited and relieved with the impending opening of the store.

"We're ready," he said. "It's a lot to do in the next eight days. But we've got the right people in place, so I'm pretty confident."

The encouragement and interest he's received from customers has been nearly overwhelming.

"It never stops - that's why I don't go anywhere in public," he laughed.

An essential element to the store's success will be his employees, a mix

of old and new, Zupancich said.

"We've got a good strong crew, and we've got a majority of our people back," he said. "I wouldn't have any hair if I didn't have them. We're missing a few key people, but we're going to be alright."

The store's larger footprint will allow for more variety throughout, but Zupancich emphasized the "fresh departments" will be what makes the store stand out.

"Our meat department is why people come - that's our backbone, and it has been for over 100 years," he said. "We prioritize the important things.

To me it's the deli, it's the meat department, it's the produce. That's where we'll be really strong."

Opening in the midst of the novel coronavirus pandemic, Zupancich said health and safety are uppermost in his mind.

"We're going to have to operate differently than before," he said.

Like other Zup's locations, the store will provide curbside delivery, and Zupancich is planning an extra twist.

"Some of the resorts have contacted us about delivering out there, and we're going to do that twice a week," he said.

Those steps will be

complemented by frequent cleaning and disinfection routines throughout the store.

"We're going to keep our customers and co-workers safe," Zupancich said. "We have to. If we're going to be open for business we've got to be smart and safe."

Plans for a grand opening are on hold for the time being, said Zupancich. Right now, it will be enough to get the doors open for customers who've been coping

with lack of a full-service grocery and the challenges of COVID-19 restrictions.

"It's just a strange feeling to be getting to the point we want to celebrate after the last year and a half, but you feel guilty about it almost, with everything else going on. We'll come back to that one (grand opening) later in the summer. There will be plenty of opportunity for the community to get in here and visit us."

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# VIRUS...Continued from page 1

consultation of medical providers, he said.

“We thank you for your support during this difficult time.”

According to a press release from Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, the facility assisted in testing 15 asymptomatic employees of the Ely DQ Grill and Chill.

“To reduce the hardship on families and eliminate the need to travel for testing, EBCH was able to quickly formulate a plan to collect the samples safely and confidentially at our facility and send them out for analysis,” Communications Director Jodi Martin said.

“Although EBCH does not currently have an established COVID testing clinic, it was vital for us to meet the needs of the community during this isolated incident,” she said.

The Minnesota Department of Health will follow-up on all positive cases and use their tracing protocols, according to Martin.

“The critical thing to remember at this time is to follow all of the ongoing safety precautions. Should you experience COVID-19 symptoms such as cough, fever, and shortness of breath, you should contact your primary care provider for further instructions,” she said.

According to Jon Erickson, executive director of the Ely Community Health Center, the coronavirus continues to spread around the world.

“We now have over 4.2 million reported cases worldwide with over 288,000 reported deaths as of Tuesday morning,” he said. “In Minnesota we have had almost 12,500 reported cases with 614

reported deaths. In Saint Louis County we have had 96 reported cases, with 12 reported deaths, including the one reported case here in Ely.”

## Prevent the spread

The COVID-19 virus is extremely contagious, Erickson said.

“Thus it is extremely important that you follow the basic advice from the CDC which is always wear a face mask when out in public, especially where physical distancing is not possible or reasonable,” he said.

➤ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds several times a day or use a hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol if soap and water are not available.

➤ Disinfect frequently touched surfaces in your residence including things like door handles.

➤ Avoid close contact

with people who are sick.

➤ Stay at home if you have symptoms except to get medical evaluation or treatment.

➤ Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the inside of your elbow.

“Remember we are in the current Stay-at-Home executive order until May 18, unless the executive order is extended or modified by Gov. Walz,” he said. “This means you should only leave your house for essential services like grocery shopping, medical care or exercise. The dreaded second wave may strike all too soon.”

Many states are starting to reopen their economies, hoping to ease the economic pain brought on by pandemic-fighting restrictions.

“Doing this before meeting even minimal criteria for a safe reopening as prescribed by the

CDC is a recipe for disaster,” Erickson said. “As a result, the much-feared second wave of infection may not wait until autumn, which is what many scientists had been forecasting. Premature, scattershot reopening by states without coordination between various regions may instead bring on a storm of a wave breaking unpredictably across the country complicated by the normal seasonal outbreak of the flu.”

## Tracking the spread

To halt the spread of COVID-19 as states reopen, a network of contact tracers will be required.

“People are trained to track and notify possibly infected individuals and map their exposures to others,” he said.

The goal of tracking and tracing the contacts

of every infected person remains very far out of reach in the U.S., Erickson said.

“To keep up, the country would need 30 or 40 times as many trained contact tracers it has now,” he said. “We are going to be seeing and hearing a lot about contact tracers in our community in the near future and there may be opportunities for you to help volunteer to assist the county with this important activity.”

“As you will see, the importance of people sharing who they have been in contact with and following up with the county public health department is critical to our controlling this virus,” Erickson said.

For questions or comments, contact Erickson at director@elycommunityhealth.org or 218-365-5678.

# TOWER...Continued from page 1

city camera system that is high enough resolution to be able to distinguish faces or read vehicle license plates.

In other hall-related business, Setterberg lauded the city’s maintenance staff for work they’ve done at the hall in recent days to replace a number of lights that had gone out over time and had not been replaced.

In other emergency services action, the council established its process for the hiring of a new ambulance director. Council member Mary Shedd will take the lead in establishing a hiring committee to review the applications, conduct interviews and background checks and, ultimately, make a hiring recommendation to the council. Council member Rachel Beldo, who also serves on the Ambulance Commission, volunteered to serve on the committee, but it will be up to Shedd to select other members of the panel.

The city has received three applications for the

part-time position, which currently pays \$24,000 a year.

In other ambulance discussion, Ranua noted that the month’s claims included a \$10,291 bill from the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust in additional charges for worker’s compensation as a result of the 2018 shift to paid on-call staffing. Ranua noted that the worker’s compensation expense is based on payroll and the shift to paid on-call more than doubled the wage costs for the ambulance service. The expected additional cost for worker’s compensation was among the issues raised by the *Timberjay* in 2018 when the previous city council and former ambulance director Steve Altenburg approved the shift to paid on-call without a clear understanding of the costs involved.

In other business, the council approved drafting a trail agreement with the Wagoner Trails Club, the Friends of Vermilion

Country School, and the Tower Economic Development Authority, which are partnering on the development of the Ancient Cedar Forest Trail, located just south of the East Two River, near the Mesabi Trail. The groups already have trail agreements with St. Louis County and private landowners in the area.

The trail is set for construction this summer, funded by outside grant dollars and volunteer labor. The trail will traverse an extensive area of primary forest, dominated by white cedar, dating back to approximately 1880. Besides deep forest, the site includes rugged topography, fern-draped rock faces, and scenic overlooks of both the city of Tower and portions of Lake Vermilion.

“It’s really a unique resource when you go back in there,” said Shedd, who is also president of the Wagoner Trails Club.

While the bulk of the trail is upland, the initial 500 feet of the trail

will include a boardwalk through a wetland area located on city property. Shedd and Ranua both noted that the trail is consistent with the Tower-Breitung Comprehensive Plan, which cited the desire of residents for more recreational opportunities, specifically hiking trails.

In other business, the council:

➤ Approved preparing a bid solicitation for construction of a new 40 by 40-foot heated storage building at the city airport for snow removal equipment. The city spent almost \$60,000 on design of the building last year, but the council had held off on approval of construction due to the estimated construction cost of \$350,000. While the Federal Aviation Administration was slated to pick up 95 percent of that cost, the city’s share of \$17,500 was still a concern given the city’s financial situation. But as a result of stimulus funding in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the FAA has announced it will now fund

100 percent of the cost of construction of such facilities. Council member Sheldon Majerle called the project “a no-brainer” and motioned to approve. Council member Dave Setterberg joined others in approval, but not before expressing his sticker shock at the price. “\$350,000 is a lot of money for a heated garage,” he said.

While the FAA is providing 100 percent of the funds, Ranua noted that the grant operates on a reimbursement basis and that it could present a cash flow issue for the city depending on the timing of the project. The city faced a severe cash flow crunch last year as a result of mismanagement of an LCCMR grant for trails work around the harbor, which forced the city to borrow funds to meet its operational needs.

➤ Approved a possible presentation of a new trail agreement for the Prospector Loop ATV Trail for the next council meeting. Shedd, who

oversees the city’s ski trails, asked that council members be given a copy of the agreement at least several days in advance to review. “I would like a couple councilors and the lawyer to look it over,” said Shedd. “We want to make sure it protects the city’s interests, like the ski trails.”

➤ Discussed but took no final action on a possible special meeting later this month to go over the city’s 2019 audit with Devin Ceglar, with Walker, Giroux, and Hahne.

➤ Approved a water conservation ordinance, as is now required as part of its water appropriations permit from the Department of Natural Resources. The measures would only take effect in the event of a declared state water emergency.

➤ Approved reports and this fall’s city deer hunt as part of the consent agenda.

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Presenters:

Jeffery Jackson, MN DNR Regional Firewise Specialist  
 Todd Armbruster, Lake and Cook County Firewise Coordinator  
 Gloria Erickson, Dovetail Partners – St. Louis County Firewise Coordinator  
 Ryan Miller, Vermilion Community College – Natural Resource instructor

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## SHIFT TO RENEWABLES

# LCP's electricity supplier to shift away from coal

### Great River Energy announces it will shutter all coal-based power production by 2022

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The power supplier to thousands of North Country residents will soon be eliminating entirely its use of coal for the production of electricity, relying instead primarily on wind and natural gas.

Great River Energy announced this past week that it would close one of its two remaining coal-fired power plants, both located in North Dakota, and convert the other to natural gas. It will also shift new investment to

cleaner, more affordable wind power to the benefit of the rural electric co-op member-owners it serves. Wholesale power costs are expected to drop 12-13 percent as a result of the change, while carbon pollution will be reduced by 95 percent. GRE serves 28 rural electric cooperatives, including Lake Country Power, which serves much of northeastern Minnesota.

“With this announcement, GRE has given up its historic ranking as one of America’s dirtiest electricity generators and sets a new standard

as perhaps America’s cleanest,” said Duane Ninneman, Executive Director of CURE, a nonprofit that focuses on issues related to rural electric cooperatives. “GRE co-op members across Minnesota will benefit from this decision. Our members and our rural co-op neighbors applaud GRE for this historic action.”

Under the plan announced this past week, GRE will shutter its 1,151-megawatt (mw) Coal Creek power plant near Underwood, during

See **GREAT RIVER...**pg. 2B



Great River Energy's Coal Creek Station, near Underwood, N.D., has been the primary supplier of electricity to 28 rural cooperatives in Minnesota.

## PLANS DELAYED



# Ready & Waiting...

### Ely's newly-remodeled State Theater idled for now by COVID-19

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – Coming soon to a very local theater near you: “The Wizard of Oz,” “The Philadelphia Story,” “Rebel Without a Cause,” “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.” Those classic movies are “coming soon” to this town’s new movie venue.

The projector is warmed up. The movie screen is down. The popcorn is ready to be popped, and the lights are on at Ely’s Historic State Theater. Their website, [www.elystatetheater.org](http://www.elystatetheater.org), went live this week welcoming movie buffs of all ages.

The only fly in the ointment is the coronavirus pandemic.

According to David Wigdahl, chair of the non-profit board of directors that runs the new entertainment facility, a potential June 1 grand opening date is in limbo because of the stay-at-home orders put in place by Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz over an abundance of caution over COVID-19.

The last pieces of the movie venue were put in place this spring, according to Wigdahl, including a 4K projector and giant movie screen.

“All that is left to do is calibrating the equipment,” he said late last week, as he toured the facility with a visitor, “and we will be ready to open our doors as soon as it is deemed safe and we clear that last hurdle.”

The height of that hurdle is unknown.

“It is kind of bittersweet right now as we get ready to open for our movie fans,” he said. “We built it, but will they come?”

A plan will be ready to implement once health officials give the go-ahead for movie theaters to begin operating across the state. Peter Schamber, manager at Ely’s Historic State Theater, said the health of customers, volunteers, and staff will be taken very seriously. “We believe everyone has the right

“It is kind of bittersweet right now as we get ready to open for our movie fans. We built it, but will they come?”

**Peter Schamber**  
Theater manager

to enjoy our facilities equally, and it is our promise that we are taking every precaution to ensure a comfortable yet safe movie-viewing experience during these difficult times,” he said.

Wigdahl said he is looking at a seating plan of 25-percent of capacity to start.

“That may be just 44 seats or so,” he said. “People will likely self-select to come and will do so when they feel it is safe to do so. We will be



ready when the community is confident that it is safe.”

“Transparency is the key to safety,” Schamber said. “To that end, we have made public our rigorous plan to address all of the recommended practices for reducing the spread of COVID-19, including socially-distant reserved seating, closed food and drink containers, single-direction traffic flow, enhanced cleaning procedures and personal protective equipment.”

To reduce direct contact between customers and staff, the theater will be conducting all sales of tickets and concessions strictly online.

“To facilitate this, we have created ticket/concession bundles for you to purchase,” Schamber said.

Popcorn will be sold in sealed one-gallon plastic bags. All popcorn will be popped and packaged in advance while the concession area is empty. All drinks will be sold in their original cans. All concession items will be handed to customers by gloved staff members.

“It is not practical to consume food and beverages while wearing a face mask,

and so we will not require face masks for our customers,” he said. “However, we strongly encourage customers to wear face masks while entering and exiting the theater for the safety of those around them.”

“My goal is that all of our customers understand what we are doing to keep them safe,” Schamber said. “It may be overly cautious at the moment, but I would prefer to start cautious and loosen the requirements than try to go the other way.”

Additional safety plan details are available on the facility’s website.

Work continues on the adjacent Salerno Building renovation where a smaller theater will be built. A dedicated concession area is also under construction.

“We just had our liquor license approved by the city council,” Wigdahl said. “We will be booking first-run movies and second-run movies once we are up and running.”

#### Seat sponsorship plaques

Fans of Ely’s Historic

See **THEATER...**pg. 2B

## SPORTS & COVID-19

# Ely Legion baseball out for the season

### Coach still holds out hope for summer action

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY - For the first time in decades, there will be no American Legion baseball season here or in Minnesota this summer.

Legion baseball officials announced last weekend that they canceled the 2020 season out of safety concerns for players, coaches, umpires and fans amid the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 350 teams for players ages 13-19 had registered to take part.

While the cancellation affects teams across the state, Ely Legion coach Tom Coombe said Monday that he is holding out hope for some form of America’s pastime being played at Veterans Memorial Stadium.

In addition to coaching the Ely team, Coombe is also the director of the Legion’s 8th District. “The national and state organizations, of course, dictated what was going to happen this summer,” he said, “but the cancellation of the season doesn’t necessarily mean there will be no baseball in Ely this summer.”

Coombe said that several youth baseball programs are exploring options for players to take the field when and if public health circumstances improve and stay-at-home restrictions are lifted or modified.

“I am hopeful there will be baseball here in Ely this summer,” he said.

Minnesota Legion organizers had held off on making the decision for weeks as many other states canceled their Legion baseball seasons. Team insurance was no longer available through the national program. The American Legion World Series was canceled.

On Friday, national officials cut all support for state programs this year. Minnesota officials announced their decision on Saturday.

“It’s just another heartache that people are having to deal with, with this virus,” said Legion baseball state director Randy Schaub of Danube. “I keep wanting to think that it’s just a nightmare and I’m somehow going to wake up and it’s not going to be there. And unfortunately, it hasn’t played that way.”

The Minnesota Legion baseball tournament had been held every year since 1926. According to program officials, Minnesota was one of only three states with that unbroken record.

Minnesota Public Radio contributed to this report.

BOOKS

# Book recalls historic Ojibwe settlement

REGIONAL— A little more than a hundred years ago, one mile east of Grand Marais, you would have found a bustling village, known as Chippewa City, which was home to as many as 200 Anishinaabe families.

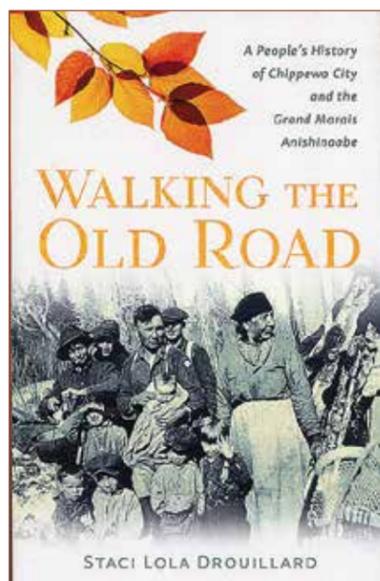
Today, the only reminder of that former community is St. Francis Xavier Church. In a new book, *Walking the Old Road*, published by the University of Minnesota Press, author Staci Lola Drouillard takes readers through the history of that lost community, reclaiming for history the Ojibwe voices that disappeared over

the years. Drouillard, a descendant of the Grand Portage Band, whose family once lived in Chippewa City, draws on memories, family history, historical analysis, and testimony passed down through generations to describe the many changes to the Ojibwe experience brought on by early European contact, government land allotment, family relocation, and eventual assimilation. Infused with a powerful sense of place, this engaging history connects the Ojibwe of today with the traditions of their ancestors who called Chippewa City home.

Drouillard lives in the Grand Marais

area, where she serves as development director for WTIP Community Radio based in that North Shore city. For many years, she produced two original radio series, *Walking the Old Road: The History of Chippewa City and the Grand Marais Chippewa and Anishinaabe Way*, an exploration of contemporary Ojibwe life through interviews and storytelling.

The 272-page book includes 98 black and white photos and three maps. It's available in paperback from the University of Minnesota Press for \$21.95.



VOTING

# Ely AAUW encourages absentee balloting

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

REGIONAL - Although there is statewide advocacy to move to an all-by-mail vote in the fall, individuals already have the option to vote by mail by requesting an absentee ballot. The Ely branch of the American Association of University Women is encouraging voters to secure absentee ballots to ensure a safe procedure to cast votes.

Minnesota allows voters to apply for absentee ballots any time except for the day of the

election, according to Caroline Owens, AAUW Public Policy chair.

An application is available for downloading at [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us). That application can be completed and mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to the appropriate county election office. Individuals may also obtain applications by calling or emailing the appropriate county office.

Residents are encouraged to apply early to allow time for completion of the application, verification of voting status, then mailing and the return of the subsequent ballot.

All ballots must be received at the election office on or prior to the day of each election.

In St. Louis County, the address is St. Louis County Auditor, 100 North 5th Ave. West, RM 214, Duluth MN 55802-1293. The fax number for completed applications is 218-725-5060, and the e-mail address is [elections@stlouiscountymn.gov](mailto:elections@stlouiscountymn.gov). The county elections office is not currently open to the public because of the stay at home order; however, an individual can call or e-mail the office and ask them to mail the ballot application to any address in the county.

In Lake County, the address is Lake County Auditor, 601 3rd Ave., Two Harbors MN 55616. The phone number is 218-834-8473; the fax is 218-834-8358; and the e-mail address is [LakeCo.Elections@co.lake.mn.us](mailto:LakeCo.Elections@co.lake.mn.us). The office is open now for individuals to pick up a ballot application, or a person may call or e-mail and have the application mailed to them.

Applications may also be available at local clerk offices that are open for regular hours. In Ely, individuals may request a ballot application for curbside pick up at the public library after

May 18.

Absentee ballots will be mailed 46 days in advance of the election except in the case of local elections which will be mailed 30 days prior to the election, or following the receipt and verification of the application.

Persons who serve as an individual's power of attorney may not vote for them. Information for persons needing assistance in securing applications or in voting is available online at [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us). The website also contains the necessary information to complete a voter registration.

## GREAT RIVER...Continued from page 1B

the second half of 2022, although the utility is willing to consider opportunities to sell the plant to a new operator. At the same time, the utility plans to add 1,100-mw of wind energy to its portfolio, convert its 99-mw Spiritwood Station to natural gas, and install a one-mw long duration battery demonstration system. GRE renewable capacity is projected to grow from approximately 660-mw in 2020 to more than 1,760-mw by the end of 2023.

"We are building a

power supply portfolio that will serve our member-owner cooperatives for decades," said David Saggau, Great River Energy President and Chief Executive Officer. "We are taking advantage of cost-competitive renewables and reliable access to market energy while fostering innovation as the technology of our industry evolves."

GRE's decision most likely will leave the Coal Creek Station closed permanently in a little over two years, affecting about

260 workers in addition to coal miners working in the adjacent lignite mine. Company officials have indicated a willingness to transfer ownership of the facility but aren't optimistic that another operator will come forward. "They see the exact same economics that we currently see," said Saggau.

While many cooperative members served by GRE are likely to be pleased with the changes, given the anticipated cost savings, state officials in North Dakota have said

they'll try to keep the Coal Creek plant operational, possibly through tax subsidies for a new owner.

According to a statement issued by CURE, GRE's decision comes with mounting pressure from rural electric co-op members and advocates in the clean energy community for GRE to move away from coal to cleaner electricity generation. "The move also comes with some urgency as the faltering economics of coal power generation burdens co-op members

with unnecessarily high costs. Now, with the steady decline in the price of clean renewable energy and GRE's shift to more wind, co-op members served by GRE will reap the benefits," read a statement from the group, which is based in Montevideo.

According to Erik Hatlestad, Energy Democracy Program Director at CURE, "Rural co-op members will now buy electricity that is cleaner and cheaper, and GRE's shift to build new wind generation in rural

Minnesota's will directly benefit our local communities." Hatlestad went on to say, "We're also hoping that GRE's new business plan will evolve over time to include more local distribution co-ops' member-owners playing a larger role in generating local power. Co-op member-owners should share directly in the benefits of the new clean energy economy."

## THEATER...Continued from page 1B

State Theater can support the restoration project by purchasing an engraved silver nameplate for one of the facility's historic seats.

The original cast iron "end standards" have been refinished with new theater seat parts custom made to fit them. The work was finished by Michigan-based Irwin Seating Company.

According to the company's website, for more than a century Irwin Seating Company has designed and manufactured theatre seating for some of the world's most prestigious venues, including New York City's Broadway district. Closer to home, Irwin Seating Company created and installed all of the seats for the Vikings'

US Bank Stadium.

For a donation of \$400, a nameplate will be engraved with 12 characters of text on three lines.

"About 120 nameplates have been sold and we have about 130 seats remaining," Wigdahl said. Seat plates will also be available to purchase in the State Theater's adjacent, smaller venue that is still under construction.

If you wish to donate online via Paypal, be sure to mail in a form or download and email it to [info@elystatetheater.org](mailto:info@elystatetheater.org). EHST is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

For more information, go to [www.elystatetheater.com](http://www.elystatetheater.com).

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COMMUNITIES IN ACTION

# Community Care Team: COVID-19 assistance

REGIONAL- A new COVID-19 Resource Team is addressing gaps in services facing the Ely, Babbitt, and Tower area during this pandemic. The team is spearheaded by the Ely Community Care Team and Pathways to Wellness in collaboration with numerous health care providers, non-profits, and public health agencies in the greater Ely area.

The goal of the fund is to provide needed resources to meet basic needs for our Ely-area neighbors during social distancing, shelter-in-place and quarantine orders, and to provide follow-up care for individuals who become ill with COVID 19. To date, efforts have focused on handmade masks, communication, and education.

A significant effort so far has been a coordination of homemade masks and face shields. The Covid-19 Resource Team's efforts are focused on providing protective supplies for healthcare workers and high-risk individuals. This includes continuing the cloth mask-making effort begun by Wintergreen Designs and distributing the masks made by Heart of the Woods Quilters. Mask creation and distribution have increased every day with generous donations of supplies and time by many community members resulting in over 2,600 masks created by local dedicated volunteers. This is a tribute to our communities' sense that "we are all in this together." Businesses and individuals looking to purchase masks can reach out to the volunteer run Masks for Ely Facebook group

**Staying home will save lives.**  
Leave home only to:

 <b>Get essential items</b>	 <b>Seek health care</b>	 <b>Care for others</b>	 <b>Spend time outside</b>	 <b>Provide critical services</b>
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or request a list of local options to purchase masks from [elymaskdonations@gmail.com](mailto:elymaskdonations@gmail.com).

Other PPE (personal protection equipment) production efforts are proving effective. 3D printers around town are creating and donating clear face shields and ear protectors (for face masks that have elastic over the ears) for frontline personnel.

Community-wide communication and education efforts are also underway. The contributions from St. Louis County Public Health staff and local healthcare staff ensure reliable resources are being shared. "Covid-19 Info Kits" providing regular safety information and tools for citizens who live in public housing are being distributed in multiple-unit housing in Ely, Tower, Soudan, and Babbitt. The first kits delivered on May 13 focused on local resources and using masks to stay safe - particularly in public spaces such as apartment halls. Kits will be distributed regularly.

Next the COVID-19 Resource Team will address coordination of resources that support community members who become ill in the

coming weeks or months. Gaps under discussion include providing a daily hot meal, delivering medications, quarantine support, and/or technology to individuals who are diagnosed with coronavirus or other chronic illness that make them vulnerable to exposure.

A large financial goal was set to allow for growing needs in these uncertain times. To provide financial support for these efforts, please learn more and contribute at the GoFundMe: <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/ely-area-covid-19> or by googling : GoFundMe/ely-area-covid-19. If you would like to share a concern for the Covid-19 Resource Team to consider, please email [info@elycct.org](mailto:info@elycct.org)

*This article was submitted by Maria Paschke, Executive Director of Well Being Development; Lisa Porthan, Executive Director of Northwoods Partners; and Jodi Martin, Marketing and Communication Team Leader for Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital. They are providing oversight of the Ely Area Covid-COVID-19 Fund.*

## County launches 336-HELP phone line to access community resources

REGIONAL- St. Louis County has launched a new help line to give people access to a variety of community resources and services that are available and needed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The phone number is 218-336-HELP (218-336-4357) and will be answered by Public Health and Human Services staff Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

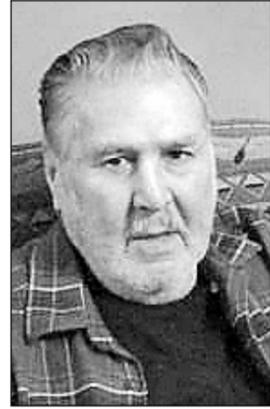
The phone number is for citizens county-wide and will connect them to the services available closest to them. These resources can also be found in the online community resource guide at [stlouiscountymn.gov/covid19resources](http://stlouiscountymn.gov/covid19resources). It includes assistance for senior citizens, plus information on accessing food, housing and employment services, as well as mental health and substance abuse treatment resources and more.

"We continue to work hard to serve our citizens, many of whom need our services now more than ever," said Commissioner Patrick Boyle, who chairs the Health and Human Services Committee. "This new phone line is another way we can help people - especially during this time when we are trying to minimize face-to-face contact."

"We want this help line to be exactly that, a help line that makes it easier for people to access services," said Dusty Leticia, St. Louis County Economic Services and Supports Division Director. "We have dedicated a number of employees to help with this, so in most cases, callers will be greeted by a friendly voice, not a recorded message."

The 336-HELP phone line is to connect people with resources in their community. It is not intended as a general county information line or for COVID-19 health-related questions. Anyone seeking county services should continue using existing contact information.

## Obituaries and Death Notices



### William Day Sr.

William "Bill" Day Sr., 87, of Nett Lake, passed away on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, with his loving family by his side. There will be a private family service at his home for immediate family members who reside in Nett Lake on Friday, May 15. Casket bearers are Tanner LaDuke, Darian Morrison, Tristan Day, Eric Murray, Gordy Adams III and Angelo Kingbird. Due to the Coronavirus restrictions, please join us through live streaming that will be made available for the community and other family members who reside out of town. It is with regret that the COVID situation has impacted our lives and necessitated this change for your safety as well as ours. Thank you for understanding. Information on how to log on to the YouTube service will be posted on the Mlaker Funeral Home

### Mesabi Trail open for walking, biking, and running

REGIONAL- The Mesabi Trail is now open for biking, running and walking. 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.

web page on Thursday, May 14. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Bill was born on Oct. 16, 1932, to John and Effie (Goodsky) Day in Cloquet. He grew up in the Nett Lake and Sugar Bush area and attended school in Nett Lake and Orr. Like many young men in those days, due to the recession, Bill left school early in order to help work and support his family. Always determined to make his own way, Bill was a self-employed logger for most of his life. He was an avid hunter and trapper and found these means as a way to help support his family. Bill enjoyed the outdoors and spent many days camping and living off the land.

In his younger days, Bill loved to play baseball and was a pitcher who was scouted by a professional ball team at one point. Bill loved cars and you could always find him under the hood in his spare time. He had a talent for wood-working and made cedar paddles and knocking sticks for family or for sale.

All his projects were made with pride and his children learned that "If you are going to do something, do it right." Bill loved his family and was a good provider. In his later years, his favorite pastimes were fishing and watching the Twins on TV, or watching his grandchildren play league baseball.

Bill is survived by his children, Doris (Pete) Isham, Marilyn (Terry LaDuke) LaRoque, Patsy (Jones) Adams, John Day and Bradley (Kim) Day; sister, Celia Gonier; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Effie; wife, Twyla Drift Day; five children, Teresa Day Morrison, Bernard Day, Bill (Swish) Day, Connie Day and Belinda Day; and siblings, Ruth Day Connor, Katherine Day Boshey, Vera Day, Margorie Day, Jane Villebrun, Clyde Day, Jones Day and Earl Day.

### James R. Johnson

James R. "Jim" Johnson, 53, of Duluth, died suddenly on Tuesday, May 5, 2020, at St. Luke's in Duluth. Private family services will be held. Arrangements are with Dougherty Funeral Home of Duluth.

Jim was born on April 23, 1967, in Ely, to Hugo and Delores Johnson of Soudan. He was raised in Soudan and Virginia and graduated from Mt. Iron High School. He worked in customer service at CenturyLink and Goodwill. Jim enjoyed art and drawing, watching

Nascar, the Minnesota Vikings and the UMD Bulldogs, tinkering with electronics, and being outdoors.

Jim is survived by his sisters, Linda Tezak, Cecelia (Peter) Prijatel and Jeri (John) Dickinson; girlfriend, Deb Dewey; nephews, Jim (Tracy) Tezak and John (Kim) Dickinson; nieces, Melisa and Jesica Prijatel; great-nephews, Kaleb Dickinson and Easton Tezak; great-niece, Mikaela Christenson; uncle, Tony Pecha; aunts, Rosemary Pecha and Margaret Pecha; and numerous cousins.

He was preceded

in death by his parents, Hugo and Delores; brother, Greg; niece, Sheila; and brother-in-law, Ed Tezak.

### Paul H. Savela

Paul Henrik Savela, 60, of Angora, passed away on Sunday, May 10, 2020, in Duluth. A gathering for the celebration of Paul's life will be held at a later date.

He will be missed by his mother, Rauha; son, Colton; cousins, Leo, Larry, Timo and Esko; and many other family members and friends.

## Ely Young Life

### 15th Annual Sweet Spring Auction Recognition

We want to express our heartfelt thanks to our generous donors and bidders for making our 2020 auction more successful than we ever imagined, especially as we maneuvered into a new world of going online.

We are continually astounded by the support from our community, from both businesses and individuals, and Ely Young Life would truly not exist without you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for supporting the youth of our community with your endless generosity.

- |                              |                             |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Aaron Tody Customs           | Forest Concrete             | Olson, Brenda                     |
| Ace Hardware                 | Fortune Bay Resort          | Orcutt Guide Service              |
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| Anything by Austin           | Gene Hicks Coffee           | Piragis Northwoods Co.            |
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| Berme, Anthony               | Great Lakes Aquarium        | Rock Country Masonry              |
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| Cache Lake                   | Johnson, Peter              | Soderberg, Barb & Kurt            |
| Campbell, Deb                | Kahle, Sarah                | St. Paul Saints                   |
| Canoe Country Outfitters     | Keller, Mike                | Stony Ridge Resort & Cafe         |
| Chernak, Sue                 | Kidd, Kris                  | Subway                            |
| D & D Accounting             | Kondos Outdoors             | Superior Portage Pads             |
| Dairy Queen                  | Kottke, Carrie              | Swanson Excavating                |
| Daybreak Pottery             | Krista Krekelberg Cleaning  | Tara Kay Photography              |
| Disney World                 | L & M Fleet Supply          | Target                            |
| Donahue, Dave                | LaTourell's Resort          | Today, Dave                       |
| Dorothy Molter Museum        | Lefebvre, Nick              | Tony's Towing                     |
| Ely Chiropractic Clinic      | Legacy Toys                 | VanDusen, Bud                     |
| Ely Fire Department          | Levar, Sarah                | Vermilion Club                    |
| Ely Flower and Seed          | Low Impact Excavating       | Voyageur Brewing Company          |
| Ely Golf Club                | Lucky Seven General Store   | Wetzel, Becky                     |
| Ely Memorial Senior High     | Lutsen Mountain Resort      | Wetzel, Tom                       |
| Ely Northland Market         | Mase, Dayna                 | Zupancich, Deb                    |
| Ely Vision Center            | Mealey's Gift & Sauna       | Zup's of Ely                      |
| Ely's Historic State Theater | Mischke, Larry              | Zup's of Babbitt                  |
| Erzar, Debbie                | Moran, Brian                |                                   |
| Faltesek, Evan               | Norman, Chris               | Financial and other support from: |
| Fisher Maps                  | North American Bear Center  | Ely Credit Union                  |
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# Outdoors

Our lives in the  
Northwoods

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

# COs face challenge from increased use of ATVs

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

The machines are more popular than ever in the region

REGIONAL—As ATV use is increasing, it's keeping area conservation officers busier than ever. And that's never been more true than this spring, according to Anthony Bermel, DNR conservation officer based in Babbitt.

"There has absolutely been an increase in traffic this year," said Bermel, who attributes much of what he and other COs are seeing in

the woods right now to the restrictions put in place on so many other activities as part of the effort to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

"It seems people are looking for any excuse to be outdoors," he said. "Beaver trapping is up. Turkey hunting is up." And fishing license sales were up 48 percent over last year just ahead of this year's opener.

Yet it's more than just the unusual circumstances of the current pandemic, notes Bermel, who has been focused on ATV enforcement work for much of the spring. He's not alone. The DNR's weekly report from COs across the state is full of evidence of the growing enforcement challenge that ATVs are posing. For the most part, it's a numbers game.

Fifteen years ago, there were more registered snowmobiles in Minnesota than ATVs. Today, while the number of registered snowmobiles has dropped to below 200,000, the number of registered ATVs reached nearly 310,000 as of 2019.

"ATVs are getting more popular in general here,"

See **ATVs...** pg. 5B



2020 FISHING OPENER

# Chill makes for slow bite

Plenty of anglers turned out on Vermilion; other lakes saw less attention

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— It could have passed for an average fishing opener on Lake Vermilion this year, despite the travel restrictions and closures put in place to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus in Minnesota. Public boat landings were full to overflowing. Local bait sales were close to average. And chilly water temperatures made for a sluggish bite.

"I'll bet we missed 200 fish," said Cliff Wagenbach, of Tower. Wagenbach, a longtime Lake Vermilion guide, fished with family both Saturday and Sunday, working depths of 21-26 feet in Big Bay. They caught limits both days, using jigs and minnows, but had to work for them as water temperatures in the mid-40s kept the walleye moving slowly.

Traffic, at least on Vermilion, seemed typical compared with previous years. The Hoodoo Point public launch parking lot was full, with fairly typical overflow and trucks and trailers parking along the roadside. While bait sales on Saturday and Sunday were slower than average at Vermilion Fuel and Food, owner Terry Wagoner said early bait sales, beginning about Wednesday, made up for it. Wagoner said he suspects last year's bait shortage may have prompted many anglers to buy their rainbows and shiners well in advance.

Out in the deeper water, Wagenbach's group pulled in plenty of smaller fish, which they tossed back. Still, they filled stringers with plenty of fish in the 13-14-inch range, said Wagenbach, and at least one 19-1/2-inch walleye that fell just short of the protected 20-26-inch slot.

While the deeper water held some potential, Wagenbach said most reports he's heard suggest the bite was generally poor in the dark, shallow waters of Pike Bay, where anglers

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



Top: Anglers work the Pike Bay Narrows on Lake Vermilion.  
M. HelMBERGER

Above: Fletcher Chopp, 6, of Ely, helped his Dad, Jason, reel in a nice 22-inch walleye on Saturday while fishing Basswood Lake. submitted

Anglers work along the shore in Vermilion's Head-o-Lake Bay.  
D. Colburn



## Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower  
**MARSHMARI GOLD**



Of all our spring wildflowers, the **Marsh Marigold**, *Caltha palustris*, is the one that's the hardest to overlook. In May, these spectacular wildflowers can make ash swamps, alder thickets, or wet ditches appear to glow even on a cloudy day.

The blooms of the Marsh Marigold are a brilliant golden yellow, measuring as much as an inch and a half across. The basal, heart-shaped leaves, range from two to six inches across.

As their name suggests, these plants are invariably found in wet areas and are especially common under black ash here in the North Country.

They are members of the Buttercup family.

## Outdoors in brief

### Wolf Center adds new live webcams

ELY - Two new live webcams featuring the pack of ambassador wolves at the International Wolf Center here are now featured on explore.org.

The Explore.org nature cam network and documentary film channel website features hundreds of live streaming cameras focused on nature and animals across the world. The International Wolf Center maintains a pack of ambassador wolves at its Ely interpretive center.

"Our followers passionately observe our pack through webcams on our website, so we know there's a great interest in this 24-hour access," said the Center's Executive Director, Grant Spickelmier. "By adding two cameras to the explore.org network, we expect we'll be able to educate even more people about the natural behaviors of wolves." Spickelmier noted that it can be extremely challenging to track wild wolves. "Cameras like these make it possible for anyone, anywhere, to watch our ambassador pack and learn about wolf behavior."

A microphone is also part of the experience, making it possible for viewers to hear the wolves howl. "We're appreciative of the work that the explore.org team has done to make this partnership happen," Spickelmier said. "Without their generosity and their expertise, this wouldn't have been possible."

**ATVS...**Continued from page 4B

notes Bermel, who said he expects that trend to continue as area groups add more miles of ATV trail in the region. On a recent weekend, Bermel said he talked to three or four people out in the woods who had just purchased ATVs for the first time.

As with many inexperienced riders, there's a learning curve when it comes to safety as well as the rules of the road. And that's where COs are running into problems and issuing plenty of citations. Outdated registration is always a common issue, said Bermel, and it's one on which he's been providing a little more understanding than usual given the difficulty that some may be having completing registrations with most license bureaus closed for now.

Other frequent violations, however, are of greater concern to public safety and protection of resources. "I can tell you from what I and other officers deal with, youth helmet violations are a real concern." Under state law, anyone on an ATV under age 18 is required to wear a helmet, notes Bermel, and violations of that law are all too common. While many riders recognize the hazards inherent in a traditional ATV, Bermel said it seems many riders feel safer in the increasingly popular side-by-sides, where kids are frequent riders, too often without helmets.

Bermel says the side-by-sides are just as dangerous as traditional ATVs because they typically don't have seatbelts. That means riders can easily be thrown or crushed if a vehicle tips or rolls. "If they overturn, they don't have the protection," said Bermel. "The ATV fatality outside of Cook recently was an example. It seems it always these machines rolling over, causing head injuries."

Kids aren't only at risk as riders. Bermel notes that they are often the operators of ATVs, and may not recognize some of the risks involved. That's one reason why the state requires that all recreational operators complete a safety course before getting on an ATV. State law also requires that youth under age 15 be accompanied by an adult with a valid driver's license, but that's another rule that's often flouted, notes Bermel.

At the same time, Bermel said he's seeing too many ATV riders operating in areas that aren't open to off-road use. While conditions have dried considerably across much of

the area as the snow has melted, Bermel said some forest roads or trails remain closed for now to prevent rutting. "Those closures are put in place for the protection of the trails," he added. He also noted that he sees frequent violations along the paved portion of the Mesabi Trail in Tower, which many people continue to use as an ATV trail despite the fact that it's closed to such use.

And, perhaps not surprisingly, driving under the influence continues to be an enforcement issue. On a recent Saturday night, Bermel said he arrested an ATV driver who blew a .177 on a field alcohol test. And the driver was operating on a closed trail at the same time.

"ATVs are really similar to snowmobiles in that they really don't mix well with alcohol," said Bermel.

While those who drink and operate an ATV can expect little sympathy from a CO, in most cases, enforcement is a way to help the public better understand what's expected. While COs will often use warning tickets as an educational tool, Bermel said that becomes difficult to justify when they see multiple violations with a single operator.

On a recent weekend, Bermel estimates he made contact with 40-50 ATV operators. "I wrote about ten warnings and six citations. That's a pretty high violation rate, but it was kind of par for the course for those types of contacts."

Once word gets out about enforcement, Bermel said COs will often see behavior begin to change. "People do come around with enforcement," he said. "It's a learning curve, but can be greatly shortened if people learn what they're supposed to do."

**LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST** from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
<b>65 40</b>					<b>66 39</b>					<b>69 42</b>					<b>73 51</b>					<b>76 54</b>				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
05/04	45	30	0.00		05/04	46	26	0.00		05/04	43	28	0.00		05/04	55	21	0.00		05/04	46	26	0.00	
05/05	52	29	0.00		05/05	52	27	0.00		05/05	54	28	0.00		05/05	61	28	0.00		05/05	54	28	0.00	
05/06	60	28	0.00		05/06	59	25	0.00		05/06	58	31	0.00		05/06	61	34	0.00		05/06	58	26	0.00	
05/07	62	29	0.00		05/07	61	25	0.00		05/07	60	31	0.00		05/07	48	28	0.00		05/07	61	27	0.00	
05/08	47	22	0.00		05/08	48	20	0.00		05/08	46	23	0.00		05/08	45	21	0.00		05/08	48	22	0.00	
05/09	43	23	0.00		05/09	44	20	0.00		05/09	43	23	0.00		05/09	52	27	0.00		05/09	43	20	0.00	
05/10	51	27	0.00		05/10	52	32	0.00		05/10	50	30	0.00		05/10	45	34	0.00		05/10	51	30	0.000	
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"				



**Anglers sit amid sparkling water on Pelican Lake, near Orr, during Saturday's fishing opener. Results were generally mixed as chilly water temperatures made for a sluggish bite.**  
D. Colburn

**OPENER...**Continued from page 4B

typically gather for opener. This year was no exception, although few of those who filled the Pike Bay narrows or the mouth of the Pike River seemed to be reeling in fish.

"Most of the guys I talked to said it was a bust in Pike Bay," said Wagenbach.

Wagoner, who was among those trying his luck in Pike Bay on Saturday, said he picked up two first thing, around 6:30 a.m., before the bite shut off for the rest of the morning. Wagenbach said he expects the bite to pick up later in the month once the water temperatures warm a bit.

If the opener was fairly typical

on Vermilion, traffic on many other area lakes appeared less than usual. This reporter spent nearly an hour in Eagles Nest Township looking for anglers on Armstrong or the Eagles Nest lakes, without spotting a single boat on the water. Wagoner said he stopped by Echo Lake, north of Buyck, on Sunday, and found the boat launch parking lot empty.

In the Ely area, usual numbers of anglers gathered in some of the typical places, like Silver Rapids, but many other lakes saw limited traffic. Ely area conservation officers reported less than stellar results as well. "Angling success was overall poor, which was made worse

by cold weather conditions," noted CO Sean Williams. Ely CO John Velsvaag reported similar results, although he noted that some anglers did very well in certain spots.

Babbitt CO Anthony Bermel reported that while fishing was generally slow, he was busy addressing a laundry list of violations, including fishing with an extra line, fishing without a license, fishing without a trout stamp, using live minnows in a designated trout lake, taking fish in a closed season, expired boat registration, and failure to have life vests on board.

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

## ORDINANCE NO. 88 CITY OF TOWER, MINNESOTA

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING NONESSENTIAL WATER USAGE UPON CRITICAL WATER DEFICIENCY AS AUTHORIZED BY MINN. STAT. § 103G.291, SUBD. 1 AND 2.

Under Minnesota Statute section 103G.291, cities are required to adopt and enforce water conservation restrictions when the governor declares a critical water deficiency.

The City Council of Tower, Saint Louis County, Minnesota ordains:

**SECTION 1. PURPOSE.**  
This ordinance establishes water conservation restrictions; and the plan will be in effect at any time the governor declares by executive order a critical water deficiency, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 103G.291.

**SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.**  
2.1 Clerk in statutory cities means the person assigned duties pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 412.151; or the city manager pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 412.601 - 412.751 or in charter cities as determined by city charter.

2.2 Department means the city water department.

2.3 Emergency means the declaration of a critical water deficiency by the governor.

2.4 Irrigation means the watering of shrubs, trees, sod, seeded areas, gardens, lawns, or any other outdoor vegetation, except outdoor vegetation utilized for agricultural purposes.

2.5 Notification to public means notification through local media, including interviews and issuance of news releases.

2.6 Public water supplier means the city or other entity that owns, manages, or operates a public water supply,

as defined in Minn. Stat. § 144.382, subdivision 4.

2.7 Reclaimed water means water collected from rooftops, paved surfaces, or other collection devices and all water utilized more than once before re-entering the natural water cycle.

2.8 Water recirculation system means any system which enables a user to reuse water at least once prior to returning the water to the natural water cycle.

**SECTION 3. APPLICATION.**  
3.1 This ordinance applies to all customers of public water suppliers who own or control water use on any premises.

3.2 No person shall make, cause, use, or permit the use of water received from a public water supply for residential, commercial, industrial, governmental, or any other purpose in any manner contrary to any provision in this ordinance.

3.3 Mandatory emergency conservation measures shall be implemented based upon the declaration of a critical water emergency by the governor.

**SECTION 4. DECLARATION OF CRITICAL WATER DEFICIENCY.**  
Upon the declaration of a critical water deficiency by the governor, the public water supplier shall immediately post notice of the emergency declaration at the usual meeting place of the city council, or the official city bulletin board. The city shall provide notification to the public as quickly as possible or through established water supply plans emergency response plans or procedures.

**SECTION 5. MANDATORY EMERGENCY WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES.**  
Upon declaration of a water emergency and notification to the public, the following mandatory restrictions upon nonessential water use shall be enforced:

(1) Outdoor irrigation of yards, gardens, golf courses, parklands, and other non-agricultural land, except for those areas irrigated with reclaimed water, is prohibited.

(2) Washing or spraying of sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, tennis courts, patios, or other paved areas with water from any pressurized source, including garden hoses, except to alleviate immediate health or safety hazards, is prohibited.

(3) The outdoor use of any water-based play apparatus connected to a pressurized source is prohibited.

(4) Restaurants and other food service establishments are prohibited from serving water to their customers, unless water is specifically requested by the customer.

(5) Operation of outdoor misting systems used to cool public areas is prohibited.

(6) The filling of swimming pools, fountains, spas, or other exterior water features is prohibited.

(7) The washing of automobiles, trucks, trailers, and other types of mobile equipment is prohibited, except at facilities equipped with wash water recirculation systems, and for vehicles requiring frequent washing to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

**SECTION 6. VARIANCES.**  
The City Clerk or their designee, is authorized to grant variances to this ordinance where strict application of its provisions would result in serious hardship to a customer. A variance may be granted only for reasons involving health or safety. An applicant may appeal the denial of a variance within five (5) days of the decision by submitting a written appeal to the City Clerk. The City Council shall hear the appeal at the next City Council meeting. The decision of the City Council is final.

**SECTION 7. VIOLATION.**  
7.1 Violations shall be determined and cited by the City Clerk or his/her designee. A violator may appeal the citation within five (5) days of its issuance by submitting a written appeal to the City. The City Council shall hear the appeal at the next City Council meeting. The decision of the City Council is final. Violators may be granted an administrative waiver if evidence is provided that equipment failure was the cause of the violation. A letter from a qualified vendor or equipment invoice will be required to show proof of equipment failure.

7.2 Upon discovery of a first violation, the violator shall be issued, either personally or by mail, a warning letter that sets forth the violation and which shall describe the remedy and fines for future violations.

7.3 Upon subsequent violations at the same location, the violator shall be issued, either personally or by mail, a citation that sets forth the violation and shall describe the remedy. Fines shall be added to the monthly water bill of the owner or current occupant of the premises where the violation occurred. The imposition of the fine shall in no way limit the right of the City to pursue other legal remedies.

**SECTION 8. ENFORCEMENT.** The City Clerk or his/her designee is authorized to designate city employees or law enforcement personnel to enforce the provisions of this ordinance.

**SECTION 9. SEVERABILITY.** If any provision of this ordinance or the application of any provision to a particular situation is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining portions of the ordinance and the application of the ordinance to any other situation shall not be invalidated.

Published in the Timberjay, May 15, 2020

**Advertisement for Bids**  
**Snow Removal Equipment (SRE) Building**  
**Tower Municipal Airport (12D)**  
**Tower, Minnesota**  
**FAA AIP No. 3-27-0148-14-20**  
**MnDOT SP 6918-32**  
**SEH No. TOWER 152656**

Notice is hereby given that sealed Bids will be received by the City of Tower until 2:00 PM Wednesday, June 3, 2020, by mail or at the Tower City Hall, 602 Main Street, Tower, MN 55790, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud via videoconference, for the furnishing of all labor and material for the construction of Snow Removal Equipment (SRE) Building.

Major components of the Work include: Construction of a 40'x40' Snow Removal Equipment Storage Building, site preparation, and associated utilities, mechanical and electrical components.

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

The Bidding Documents may be viewed for no cost at <http://www.sehinc.com>

by selecting the Project Bid Information link at the bottom of the page and the View Plans option from the menu at the top of the selected project page.

Digital image copies of the Bidding Documents are available at <http://www.sehinc.com> for a fee of \$30. These documents may be downloaded by selecting this project from the PROJECT BID INFORMATION link and by entering eBidDocTM Number 7083684 on the SEARCH PROJECTS page. For assistance and free membership registration, contact QuestCDN at 952.233.1632 or [info@questcdn.com](mailto:info@questcdn.com). In addition to digital plans, Paper copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from Docunet Corp. located at 2435 Xenium Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55441 (763.475.9600) for a fee of \$125. A pre-Bid conference will be held via videoconference on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 2:00PM. Representatives of Owner and Engineer will be online to discuss the Project. Bidders are encouraged to attend and participate in the conference.

Pre-Bid videoconference login information: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/404524277>. Access Code: 404-524-277. Call-in number:

+1 (571) 317-3112  
Bid security in the amount of five (5) percent of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

A Contractor responding to these Bidding Documents must submit to the City/Owner a signed statement under oath by an owner or officer verifying compliance with each of the minimum criteria in Minnesota Statutes, section 16C.285, subdivision 3. This Work shall be subject to minimum wages and labor standards in accordance with US Department of Labor and the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.

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

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

John Burgess  
Airport Manager  
Tower Municipal Airport

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

## EMPLOYMENT

### SCRAMBLERS

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## EMPLOYMENT



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### 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](mailto:david.worshek@usda.gov).

Published in the Timberjay, May 8 & 15, 2020

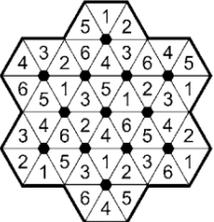
### Super Crossword

#### Answers

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

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Choice

PITON

Remove

SPEEDO

Extent

PECOS

**TODAY'S WORD**

\_\_\_\_\_!

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	5			1		8	
		9		2		3	
3	8		4				9
		4		7			3
	2		1		6		4
1				8		5	2
	6				3		4
		7	2				1
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

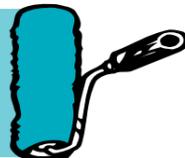
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