

COVID-19 scammers

As Americans pull together to battle the COVID-19 pandemic, there is one group we do not have to worry about—scammers.

Local police officers and sheriff's deputies say scammers are alive and well. In Cottonwood County, plenty of residents have reported attempted telephone and online scams related to the coronavirus.

There is no single formula with these scams and they don't always mention the virus. Sometimes callers say they are overseas, in dire straits. In other cases, they prey on our generosity and concern for charities.

The goal is always the same—to separate us from our money, or our personal information, such as a social security number, or bank routing number.

According to the FBI, common schemes involve one or more of these elements:

- People claiming to be U.S. service members stationed overseas or U.S. citizens quarantined abroad asking residents to send money on behalf of themselves or a loved one battling COVID-19.

- People claiming to be in the medical equipment business asking you to send money.

- People claiming to be affiliated with charities asking you to send money.

We will add another common one, the relief check scam. Area

NEWS & NOTES

- Scammers often claim to be in trouble overseas and say that they need money.

- So-called charities are also common scams.

- Beware of any calls related to federal relief checks. Do not give out Social Security numbers, or checking account routing numbers.

residents are getting calls from "officials" claiming they need a checking account routing number in order to deposit federal relief checks. These are scams.

The Federal Trade Commission recently offered this advice about relief checks: "There is nothing to sign up for. Anyone calling (or using e-mails) to ask for your personal information, like your Social Security number, PayPal account, or bank information is a scammer, plain and simple."

Lastly, watch out for scammers who target jobless Americans. If an "employer" asks you to receive funds in their personal bank accounts and then "process" or "transfer" funds via wire transfer, Western Union, or some other method, it's a scam.

We can all make a difference. If you are targeted, or know of a scam, report it to authorities.

— Rahn Larson

LETTERS

Coach Jack Kelly: Basketball legend

The first game I remember seeing Jack Kelly coach was the District 7 final in 1975 at Worthington with his great team, which would go on to place 3rd in the State in 1976. In the '70s, Jack Kelly-coached Windom teams were the Duke of Southwest Minnesota basketball and the dominant team. As a kid, watching the 75' team with the tall and talented pair of 6'9 Ken Warner and 6'6" Dan Carpenter, they inspired us all to play the game. Later, I saw many Windom games in the late '70s and played against Jack's great teams in the '80s.

A natural builder, Jack Kelly built the Windom program to be the standard for high school basketball. He did all the details, right from his famous pre-game routines and innovative defenses to his relentless intensity and well-prepared teams. Going to Windom games when we could I would marvel reading the Eagle program on the accomplishments of Jack Kelly-coached teams.

One of my favorite players was his son, Kent, who was one of the basketball greats in the area. I remember all the big games in the Windom gym, including the '79 Windom-Worthington overtime game, which was one of the best high school games I ever saw.

A coach is a teacher first, and Jack's coaching style reflected his teaching with detailed planning, and superb execution. Playing against a Jack Kelly team was a challenge. He and his excellent coaching staff scouted all teams well, and always designed a game plan, which made it difficult to score. Representing Jack's character, his teams were tough, disciplined and always competitive. An outstanding athlete himself, starring at Pipestone and St. Cloud State, Jack led his teams

with a competitive spirit that his players adopted.

Jack was a gentleman and was always encouraging student athletes in the area. He would ref many football games at Westbrook and it was reassuring when he was on the field since he was such a professional. Jack was also willing to help other coaches and would graciously share his basketball knowledge.

Coach Kelly was a true legend in Minnesota high school basketball, and he made us all better.

— Col. Mark Kjorness, U.S. Army

Stockholders should get vote on Co-op plan

I want to get other people's feelings about Country Pride's sale of the Cenex station to another big business.

I have nothing against Kwik Trip. It's a nice, clean convenience store.

But I feel what Windom will be losing is a place to get service on vehicles, which will be really missed, especially when it's at a time when you really need service and you need it now—a time when every hour of every day counts (such as planting time). A flat tire can come at the worst time.

It is also a place where our neighbors and friends work to earn a living and support their families. A station without service is another "Walmart," closing out all of the other small businesses.

If the sale goes through, where is the big money going to go?

I feel Country Pride should be open. Its customers and stockholders should get some vote on the future of its Co-op.

Bigger isn't always better.

— Doug Lohse Windom

OUR READERS RESPOND

As we battle the COVID-19 pandemic, what message do you have for the local public?

Scott Peterson

■ WINDOM POLICE CHIEF



"We are hoping that people follow those directions laid down by the state and federal government regarding social distancing. The more people work to do this, the quicker we will get out of this."

Dominic Jones

■ WINDOM MAYOR



"Continue with positive thinking and acts of kindness! Working together, our community is doing great."

Wayne Wormstadt

■ WINDOM SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT



"Stay calm, keep your social distance while staying home as much as possible and we will get through this."

Kevin Stevens

■ COUNTY COMMISSIONER



"Be patient, stay positive. Our employees are doing their best under these uncertain circumstances."

Thanks for your time, Jack

I don't entirely remember my first meeting with Jack Kelly. I know it was during the Windom Boys Basketball Holiday Tournament in the Gold Gym. That was the very first event I covered for the Cottonwood County Citizen when I took over as sports editor in late December 1983.

And I'm pretty sure Jack and I sat down after the Eagles' 57-47 semifinal victory over Ceylon, and a night later following the Eagles' eight-point loss to a pretty good Heron Lake-Okabena club. So, in the span of two nights, I met Jack after a win and after a loss.

As you can see, my early memories of Jack — and like everyone else out there, I've got a ton of memories and stories about him — were concerning basketball. That's the venue in which I dealt with him during his coaching career.

I remember when I first saw him, he had a commanding presence, a stern, fatherly demeanor. It seemed to me that if he had a "wrong side" you didn't want to be on it. Thusly, I feared I might need to tactfully ask questions after a tough loss.

But as I quickly learned during countless post-game interviews, it was sometimes difficult to tell whether he was talking about a win or a loss. He always had an even keel about him — maybe a tick upbeat after a victory, or a tick downtrodden after a defeat. Maybe.

But when it came to talking about his team's performance in a game, he was all business. He broke down the game — what his boys did well and what they struggled with. He was quick to take the blame if he felt there was something that he didn't communicate to his players well enough.

He always was complementary of his players, even off the record. If a key player had a bad game in a loss, he pointed out that they're high school kids; they're going to have bad games. I don't know how many times I heard him say, "When that happens, we need others to step up and (in a loss) that just didn't happen for us tonight." The operative



DAVE FJELD
REPORTER
davef@windomnews.com

word there is "us." He was all about team. He coached some great players over the years, but he always talked from a team standpoint.

The one thing I do remember during one of my first post-game sit-downs with Jack was that he really only had one request of me: that I not interview players after a game. Now, that flew in the face of what my publisher, Ken Anderson, wanted from me. He thought player quotes spiced up a story — and he wanted them.

I was always leery of interviewing players, mostly because I was awkward at it. And, admittedly, they were, too.

I think Jack was more concerned that they might say something that I would print that then became "bulletin board material" for an opposing team down the road.

I always honored Jack's request and, over time, Ken relented on wanting player quotes. However, as Jack became comfortable with me as a writer, he also relented on asking me not to interview players. When I did, I always got the OK from him first.

Jack Kelly was class! I know for a fact — at least over the nine years I covered him as a basketball coach and I'm pretty sure throughout his 25 years on the varsity bench — Jack never coached a game in anything other than a suit and tie. He was, without question, one of the finest dressed coaches in all of Minnesota. It seemed to me that game night to Jack was the equivalent of a presentation to the board by a high ranking executive.

I always looked forward to our post-game interviews, something he always wanted to do after a game — whether it was a win or a loss. And if it was a Tuesday night and I didn't make it to the game, Jack usually stopped in or at least called with information on the game.

And when our work was done, I tried to remember to say, "Thanks for your time, Jack." That line has a much broader meaning now.

Next week: A few more memories.

QUICK HIT

Trevor Slette
Publisher



Coach will be missed

As you have read in the last couple of editions, Jack Kelly passed away recently. I was fortunate to have him as a basketball coach from 1989-1991.

I have way too many memories to list, but the few that stick in my mind are the endless film-watching sessions he had, also free throw practice before school. During these practices he usually brought us Mix Bakery rolls and milk.

At the time, as a teenager, I didn't grasp the important life lessons he was teaching us, both on and off the court.

One day, I arrived home from work and my then 8-year-old son Cullen said he was shooting baskets outside and Coach Kelly pulled over in his truck and gave him shooting tips. That's what made him great, always coaching, finding ways to make kids better, in both life and the game.

Thank you for everything, Coach, you will be missed!

EMAIL DIRECTORY

- **Trevor Slette**, Publisher
trevors@windomnews.com
- **Rahn Larson**, Editor
rahn@windomnews.com
- **Joel Alvstad**, Sports Editor
joela@windomnews.com
- **Dave Fjeld**, Reporter
davef@windomnews.com
- **Sue Frederickson**, Advertising Consultant
suef@mtlakenews.com
- **Jen Walinga**, Advertising Consultant
jenw@windomnews.com
- **Dawn Luitjens**, Composition Manager
dawnl@windomnews.com
- **Tammy Holt**, Circulation Manager
tammyh@windomnews.com
- **Cory Malakowsky**, iCitizen Tech Support
corym@windomnews.com
- **Lucas Marsh**, iCitizen Tech Support
lucasm@windomnews.com

CITIZEN STAFF: Ronald Alm, Joel Alvstad, Dave Fjeld, Sue Frederickson, Tammy Holt, Rahn Larson, Dawn Luitjens, Cory Malakowsky, Lucas Marsh, Cory Regnier, Michelle Rihl, Trevor Slette, Andy Stage, Jen Walinga.

YOUR VOICE COUNTS

We welcome letters to the editor of up to 300 words on any topic. Letters must be typed and may be edited for clarity and length and must include your name, address and daytime phone number. The deadline for letters is noon on Mondays.

MAIL TO: **Citizen Publishing Co.**
P.O. Box 309
Windom, MN 56101
EMAIL: citizen@windomnews.com
ONLINE: www.windomnews.com

Cottonwood County
CITIZEN
(USPS 134 140)

Citizen Publishing Company
260 Tenth St., Windom, MN 56101
507-831-3455 or 800-658-2510
FAX 507-831-3740
email: citizen@windomnews.com
www.windomnews.com

The Cottonwood County Citizen is published every Wednesday with subscription rates of \$49 per year in Cottonwood and surrounding counties and \$65 per year elsewhere in the U.S. This publication is entered at the post office in Windom, MN 56101 as periodical postage. Send address changes to Citizen Publishing Company, P.O. Box 309, Windom, MN 56101. All subscriptions to the Citizen are transferable but non-refundable. eEdition alone is available for \$32.

Minnesota's effort to combat coronavirus impact

I hope this message finds you healthy and safe.

We are in the midst of the "stay-at-home" order issued by Governor Walz in an effort to combat the coronavirus pandemic. While most businesses must remain closed, many essential businesses—including those food and agricultural businesses critical to our food chain—remain open for business. Additionally, many local bars and restaurants remain open for take-out and delivery services.

It is more important than ever that we support our local businesses!

As we navigate these unprecedented times, both the state and federal government are acting quickly to provide some relief. Here's what you need to know:

State government actions

Last week, the Minnesota Legislature passed a third COVID-19 response bill, which appropriates an additional \$331 million to aid Minnesotans during the coronavirus

pandemic.

Previous COVID-19 bills passed by the legislature allocated \$221 million in funding for medical needs, bringing the total to \$552 million this year to address the coronavirus pandemic in Minnesota.

We know that we need to be ready for an increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations and there are significant costs to government agencies to prepare and respond.

Most recent bill

The most recent bill we passed establishes a dedicated "COVID-19 Minnesota Fund," which can only be used for expenses incurred during the COVID-19 peacetime emergency as declared by the governor's executive order.

Examples of increased costs

would be additional healthcare and staffing needs in prison facilities, staffing and overtime for direct care, treatment and resources for activities by the Minnesota National Guard in response to COVID-19.

Child care, college

Additionally, the bill includes \$30 million in Child Care Aware grants during the peacetime emergency to make sure our essential employees — educators, health care workers, and emergency responders — have access to childcare.

The legislation also includes provisions to make sure college students receive work study pay and that financial aid is not affected by our mitigation efforts.

Temporary powers granted in the bill allow the Commissioner of Higher Education to waive rules



BILL WEBER
GUEST COLUMNIST

Setting priorities

Just a few weeks ago, the Windom City Council debated whether it was a good idea to schedule a meeting to talk about long-range planning for the city.

The reason for hesitation was the fact that this is an election year. Some council members reasoned the entire makeup of the council could change in six months.

"Maybe it would be better to do planning in January, so any new council members could be involved," one council member said.

After batting the topic back and forth for several minutes, the council decided it is better to begin planning now, despite the potential changeover.

We believe that was the correct decision. Our city council has the time to tackle this effort now. Who knows if that will be the case in January?

The last time our city council spent any length of time working on long-range planning was in 2012. Overall it was a well-conceived plan. And while we might quibble with the priority placement of some goals, it seemed to create a fairly good road map for future councils to follow.

The council identified the fire hall and swimming pool as two top priorities to address. However, there were other key needs also identified in the process.

NEWS & NOTES

■ On July 28, the Windom City Council will hold its first long-range planning meeting since 2012. At the time, a fire hall and pool upgrades were priorities.

■ The goal is to get a better handle on what challenges lie ahead and how the council can help meet those challenges.

■ We urge area residents to be engaged in the process.

Of course, funding was seen as a big hurdle in trying to meet all of the cities needs.

Among the funding ideas tossed out at an early meeting were: a local option sales tax, storm water fee, street light fee and a small utility fee designed to pay for equipment, such as motor graders and fire trucks.

As we know the fire hall has been addressed, but needs, such as a new swimming pool, remain on the back burner. And we should note that the city and townships still have not met their obligation to provide dependable fire trucks.

The council's planning meeting is set for July 28. Now is the time to pull a council member aside and offer your two cents.

— Rahn Larson

A shortage of N95 masks?

Remember in March, when we heard reports that a major shortage of protective gear put hospital doctors and nurses at risk?

Boy, I'm glad that's over.

Or is it?

I was absolutely stunned to see multiple recent reports that nurses are reusing N95 masks for weeks at a time. And, it's not only a mask shortage. Gloves, gowns and face shields are also in short supply.

When the shortage occurred in March, we heard people from state and federal government saying, basically, "We'll get right on it." Yet, here we are, three months later, still seeing shortages.

How does this happen?

I almost hate to raise the question because folks almost immediately turn it into a political football. People immediately want to cast blame on anyone connected to the other party.

There was an era not so long ago when people would have set politics aside and focused on the safety of our doctors and nurses. Sadly, that is not our America anymore.

We are quickly eroding into a country that focuses virtually all of our energy on politics, distrust, anger and this insane "we" against "them" mentality.

During World War II, the people of this country pulled together like champions sacrificing time, equipment, materials and, yes, even lives. At the time, Americans would have been 100% united to solve a problem such as a mask shortage. It would have been a true team effort.



RAHN LARSON
Editor
rahn1@windomnews.com

Whatever happened to that country?

Cemstone delay

On another topic, I have received quite a few questions about the Cemstone housing project lately.

I learned at a recent Windom Economic Development Authority meeting that the Cemstone project will not be included in the city's efforts to land pandemic-related federal grant funds.

Apparently, Economic Development Director Drew Hage was told by someone from the Federal EDA office in Chicago that the Cemstone grant effort would be a longshot at best.

"His recommendation was not to spend time on Cemstone," Hage said. "That is unfortunate, but it is his recommendation."

So where does that leave the city's lakeshore housing project? Well, Cemstone is getting its own estimates on site work, etc.

"It is not dead, but it is an expensive project and we have to make sure it cash flows," Hage said.

NEWS & NOTES

■ Readers of windomnews.com and our Twitter (@CitPub) feed will receive up-to-the-minute updates on filing through Aug. 11.

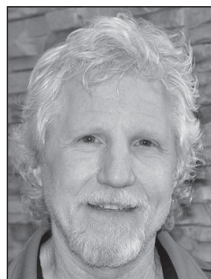
■ Tesla Crowell, a local dispatcher and 2020 graduate of Minnesota West, has been hired as a part-time Windom police officer.

OUR READERS RESPOND

What is the best business-related advice you have ever received?

Joel Higley

■ HIGLEY FORD



"My Grandfather Arnie told me: 'You are only as good as the people you have working for you.'"

Reid Johnson

■ JOHNSON HARDWARE



"My grandfather, Harold M. Johnson, used to say, 'Buy low, sell high. That's the best business advice I can give anyone.'"

Steve Beihoffer

■ SCHWALBACH HARDWARE



"Howard Schwalbach once told me, 'Just be patient. Be patient with customers, supplies and fellow employees, especially.'"

Tami McMenimen

■ SMITH APPLIANCE SERVICE



"Another store owner once said to me, 'Don't be afraid to try something new.'"

QUICK HIT

Cory Regnier
Composition



Annual ritual

Once a year (I wish it were more), I take a solo paddle board ride on my favorite quiet lake. I head to the far end and let the wind and current float me back to where I started.

I use this time to just bask in the silence, clear my head of distractions and reflect about life.

I acknowledged the many good things I have, come to terms with my worries and try to make a game plan on what direction I see life taking both my family and myself.

If you don't have a ritual like this, that's OK. But I strongly suggest finding some way to take a little time to truly reflect on what's important to you.

COVID-19 by the numbers

I'm going to be the first to admit that talking about the novel coronavirus pandemic is something far down on my priority list. But in a week when I'm scrounging for a topic to discuss, I've circled back around to it — simply because of the numbers.

For starters, I'm not a fan of the mainstream and national media when it comes to reporting on the coronavirus. Virtually everything I see on national network newscasts is gloom and doom and the Twin Cities isn't much better. Reporters highlight the worst cases and that ICUs are swamped in the hardest-hit states in the south, including Florida, Texas and Arizona. Those states have averaged 10,000 or more cases a day.

But what about us here in Minnesota and, largely, the Midwest? Minnesota is averaging anywhere from 400-plus to 900-plus cases a day, while deaths have dropped to single digits per day.

We're managing and I think a majority of the nation is doing as well as can be expected.

That doesn't mean we should let down our guard. We should continue to social distance and, if you feel so inclined, wear a mask.

The fact of the matter is, it's not all gloom and doom, folks, and the numbers prove it.

State and county

Have you ever really looked at the numbers that are posted each day by the Minnesota Department of Health?

If you break down the numbers, I think they'll surprise you. And these are numbers that mainstream media, for whatever reason, doesn't point out.

According to Monday's statistics from the MDH, there were 47,107 cases in Minnesota from 867,410 tests — that's 5%.

Of the 47,107 that have contracted the virus, 1,545 have died, or 3%. Let's break that down a little further: Of the 1,545 deaths, 1,187 have been in long-term care or assisted living facilities. That

means that less than 1% of Minnesotans who die from the virus are NOT in long-term care or assisted living facilities.

Here's another interesting number: There have been a total of 3,649 cases in the 18-county region of Southwest Minnesota, according to Monday's statistics. That makes up about 8% of the state's cases.

There have been 22 deaths — 1% of the state's deaths.

In Cottonwood County alone, there have been 148 confirmed cases. According to Wikipedia's 2018 population count of 11,277 for the county, that's about 1% of Cottonwood County residents who have had the virus.

Oh, by the way, there have been no deaths in the county.

Let's compare this sector of Minnesota with Minnesota's seven-county metro area, where there have been 29,346 confirmed cases and 1,311 deaths. That's where you'll find 62% of all positive tests and where you'll find 84% of the state's deaths related to COVID-19. Just 16% of deaths have occurred in the other 81 counties.

Again, we should not let down our guard and continue to social distance and, if you choose, wear a face mask. But, folks, the numbers in greater Minnesota are not as alarming as the mainstream media wants you to believe.

What's ahead

Ask me what's ahead for dealing with COVID-19, I have no idea.

Should schools start in person, at home or a hybrid? Our governor will let us know next week.

I have no idea what's right and wrong when it comes to starting school or whether everyone should be wearing masks when in public.

What I do know is what these numbers tell me — it shouldn't be the same for every county or region in the state of Minnesota.

What's good for the metro area is not necessarily what's good for outstate and I hope our governor remembers that when he issues his next executive order.



DAVE FJELD
Reporter
davefj@windomnews.com

EMAIL DIRECTORY

■ **Trevor Slette**,
Publisher
trevors@windomnews.com

■ **Rahn Larson**, Editor
rahn1@windomnews.com

■ **Joel Alvstad**, Sports Editor
joela@windomnews.com

■ **Dave Fjeld**, Reporter
davef@windomnews.com

■ **Sue Frederickson**
Advertising Consultant
suef@mtlakens.com

■ **Jen Walinga**
Advertising Consultant
jenw@windomnews.com

■ **Dawn Luitjens**
Composition Manager
dawnl@windomnews.com

■ **Tammy Holt**
Circulation Manager
tammyh@windomnews.com

■ **Lucas Marsh**
iCitizen Tech Support
lucasm@windomnews.com

■ **General Office**
citizen@windomnews.com

■ **Composition**
composition@windomnews.com

CITIZEN STAFF: Ronald Alm, Joel Alvstad, Dave Fjeld, Sue Frederickson, Tammy Holt, Rahn Larson, Dawn Luitjens, Lucas Marsh, Cory Regnier, Michelle Riihl, Trevor Slette, Andy Stage, Jen Walinga.

YOUR VOICE COUNTS

We welcome letters to the editor of up to 300 words on any topic. We strongly encourage letters to be typed/emailed and may be edited for clarity and length and must include your name, address and daytime phone number. The deadline for letters is noon on Mondays.

MAIL TO: **Citizen Publishing Co.**
P.O. Box 309
Windom, MN 56101

EMAIL: citizen@windomnews.com
ONLINE: www.windomnews.com

A look at the region's unemployment surge

Since March 16, the start of the COVID-19 emergency order, until early July more than 840,000 Minnesotans have applied for unemployment benefits.

This is more than seven times those that applied during the great recession of 2009. The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development reports that the unemployment rate rose to 9.9% in May, the highest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate recorded in Minnesota.

The U.S. unemployment rate is currently at 13.3%. Cottonwood County is faring much better with an unemployment rate of 4.9%.

In fact, the whole Southwest Minnesota region has the lowest unemployment rate in the state, while the Northeast region has some of the highest with unemployment rates of 12.7% in Cook County. It is estimated that nearly 30% of the 2019 annual labor force in the Northeast region has applied for unemployment insurance. Occupations most impacted by the shutdown include food and beverage servers, cooks and food prep workers and construction trade workers. This is truly an unprecedented time.

The unemployment insurance office at DEED has been overwhelmed by applicants. The best way to apply for UI or follow up with questions is through its website at www.uimn.org.

You can also apply by phone, although wait times can be long. Interpreters are available upon request.

UI is requesting that new applicants apply on their assigned day to ensure the system can handle the increased activity. For more information, you are encouraged to go to the aforementioned website.

If you are receiving unemployment and an employer calls you back to work, you are likely required to return. An employer has a right to raise an issue if they



CARRIE BENDIX
Guest Columnist

believe you should not be eligible for benefits.

The federal CARES Act authorized an additional \$600 per week payment for unemployment recipients — but that extra payment is scheduled to end at the end of July per federal law. This will certainly make a dramatic difference in families' incomes — and DEED is encouraging Minnesotans to plan ahead for this change.

CareerForce is available to help people find a job now. Services are provided over the phone, via email and in-person, by appointment, to help people find the right work for them as quickly as possible. Job search assistance, resume writing help, interview prep, networking advice and much more are available. Your local CareerForce location knows who is hiring and what occupations are in demand.

People who have been laid off and are receiving unemployment benefits may be eligible for specialized employment and training services through the Dislocated Worker program to help prepare for their next job. This could include funding for post-secondary schooling for in-demand careers (like nursing, IT, mechanics/machine maintenance, and trade programs), funding short-term training certificates (CNA, welding, commercial driver's license), providing childcare assistance and coordinating on-the-job training opportunities.

If you, or someone you know, has been impacted by unemployment, you are encouraged to take advantage of the free employment and training resources available. Check it out by calling your local CareerForce at (507) 295-5020, or online at www.careerforcemn.com.

Carrie Bendix is the executive director of the Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council, Inc.

Cheers and Jeers

Farmers are busy and spring planting continues to surge forward on schedule as the May edition of Cheers and Jeers goes to press.

What a difference a year can make. Last year at this time winter was still fresh in our minds.

While the spring planting picture looks far better this time around, we wish the same could be said for other aspects of our daily lives. Our hearts go out to folks who face daily hardships brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jeers go out to the state officials who routinely schedule Minnesota's fishing opener to coincide with Mother's Day weekend.

Granted, the opener occurs on a Saturday, not during the official Mother's Day. And, we are aware that many mothers are fishermen and benefit from a state rule allowing moms to fish without a license on opening weekend.

Still, we also know that even fishing moms often would rather not fish on Mother's Day. And, for those moms who don't fish, they too often settle for celebrating a shortened, or postponed Mother's Day as their husbands and children take in one of the Minnesota's most grand traditions—"The Opener."

In 2012, lawmakers tried to move the fishing opener one week earlier, to avoid the Mother's Day conflict. The effort failed, mainly due to concerns that an early opener could hurt the fish.

For years, the opener was held the weekend closest to May 15. While that's not ideal for resorts, maybe it's worth another look.

Cheers go out to Windom Superintendent Wayne Wormstadt who was named Administrator of Excellence by the Minnesota Association of School Administrators.

Wormstadt who was nominated by his fellow superintendents, received the award based on his leadership, concern for students and active involvement in professional and community affairs. Not surprisingly, Wormstadt, who has been Windom's superintendent for 12 years, gave credit to the school board and staff.

Of course we know Wormstadt has been instrumental in leading the district through proven educational advancements such as Professional Learning Communities and 1-to-1 iPad technology for grades K-12.

LETTER

We need to hold a March for Jesus in Windom

It is good to reminisce. How about if we look back at June 25, 1994, "A Day to Change the World?"

On that day, there was a global March for Jesus. Christians in many cities around the world proclaimed their faith in Jesus Christ and honored Him as Lord.

In 1993, 2 million people marched in 47 countries. It was a global March for Jesus.

QUICK VIEWS

■ For years, the state's fishing opener was held the weekend closest to May 15. Maybe it's time to go back to that tradition.

■ Wayne Wormstadt was a worthy choice as Administrator of Excellence.

■ The new EDA loans provide up to \$5,000 to local businesses at 0% interest.

"Excellence" is a word that perfectly fits what Windom's School District stands for, thanks to Wormstadt, the staff, school board and public.

Cheers go out to the Windom Economic Development Authority for its unanimous decision to provide loans of up to \$5,000 at 0% interest to local businesses.

Drew Hage, executive director of the EDA, said the board sees this as a good way to help local businesses through a tough time. So far, two businesses have been approved for loans and several others have expressed interest.

Hage said there also has been interest in the federal government's Paycheck Protection Program, which offers low-interest loans that can become forgivable. He added that the EDA loans, which are available immediately, can be used to cover the time spent waiting for the PPP loans to come through. Now, more than ever, we need to do everything in our power to support our businesses.

Cheers go out to this country's hard-working teachers as we recognize National Teacher Appreciation Week.

Given what families work through as they assist their children with distance learning, it seems appreciation for our teachers is at an all-time high. And, as many teachers will confirm, the appreciation goes both ways.

Many parents had not expected to be so heavily involved in teaching, but their efforts have not gone unnoticed. Teachers, students and parents often work well into the evening because some students don't start their learning plans until 5 p.m., when their parents get home from work.

Especially in these tough times, teachers impact countless lives.

— Rahn Larson

I marched with my husband, Leo, (who has since passed away) in the Mankato march from 10 to 11 a.m., at the MSU-Mankato campus. The event concluded with a time of prayer from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Windom did not have a big march, but my notes say we had a concert of prayer here for all who marched that day for Jesus.

We need a March for Jesus 2020 in Windom. We need to come back to God and the Bible.

— Clara Nelson
Windom

OUR READERS RESPOND

Do you wear a face mask in public?

Virginia Cook

■ WINDOM



"To protect myself and everybody else."

Kaleb LaCanne

■ WINDOM



"Sometimes. I wear one when I'm delivering flowers for my parents, but when I'm out in my leisure time, I prefer not to."

Keith Schadt

■ WINDOM



"I do when I'm in businesses; I don't when I'm out walking, but I don't get near anyone when I'm walking."

Jesse Asher

■ RAMSEY



"No. If everybody else has one on, I figure I don't need to. But I'll wear one if a business requires it."

A different 'Mom's Day'

Happy Mother's Day to all the moms out there, especially my mom, Lila, living in Primghar, Iowa, and my wife, Donna.

On Sunday, my mom will enjoy her 59th year as a mom. I was a week shy of four months old when she had the privilege of officially celebrating her first mother's day. Since then, I've been on hand for most of her next 57 and will be with her when we celebrate No. 59 Sunday.

Unfortunately, this Mother's Day is going to be different from the rest. We'll visit, but we'll likely have to maintain that six-foot distance — for safety's sake. The elderly are especially vulnerable when it comes to COVID-19, and because people can be asymptomatic with this virus, it's better to keep your distance than get too close. If I am asymptomatic — of course, you have no way of knowing at this point — I certainly don't want to run the risk of passing the virus to someone else, least of all mom.

Consequently, we probably won't sit in Mom's house, but hopefully, if it's a nice day, we'll sit outside in our own lawn chairs. We may have to resort to the garage.

Those are minor concessions. We'll make it work. We've already been talking about how to make it work.

There may have to be a big concession on my mom's part. She enjoys hosting her family and she especially enjoys making food for special occasions. Better yet, we enjoy eating her food — especially her bars. She makes some of the most delicious bars.

But we can skip that this one time.

We'll still be able to do what we've always done: enjoy each other's company, catch up on what's happening in our lives — even though we converse on the phone a couple times a week — and reminisce about days gone by, especially days growing up in Primghar. Spending time together and

celebrating our moms is what Mother's Day is all about. Stay Home orders or not, no one can stop us from getting together with family. I know this may come as a shock to some of our state leaders, but we can do this smartly and safely — just as I know many of our small businesses can, but aren't given the opportunity to do so.

Mom's or Mother's Day?

When you say or write the holiday, "Mother's Day" just seems correct. That's how we've always known the holiday.

Now, there are probably people out there who call their mothers, "mother." It was probably the expression used in their household and it just stuck.

But I'm willing to bet there are many more of us who refer to our mothers as "mom." At least for me, "mom" is a little more casual, homey and affectionate. It's natural. My mom always has been known to me as "mom."

Have you ever looked up the words "mom" and "mother" in the dictionary?

"Mother" can be used any of four ways (one of them being quite archaic). But the primary definition according to Meriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary is defined as "a female parent; a woman in authority; the superior of a religious community of women; an old or elderly woman."

No one said a dictionary was required to make its definitions endearing. Fortunately, it does offer another definition: "maternal tenderness or affection." That's the one most of us subscribed to when we think of mother or "mom."

Speaking of "mom," the dictionary's definition is simply "mother." So, should we change "Mother's Day" to "Mom's Day?" Probably not, but when I think of Mother's Day, it really is "mom's day."



DAVE FJELD

REPORTER

davef@windomnews.com

Soybean issues deserve support, even in a pandemic

As I write this, Minnesota has begun its "stay-at-home" order.

The sun is setting here at my farm in west central Minnesota, my neighbors are grilling outside and the kids are on their bikes. Much of my view looks like a perfect spring day, so it is hard to reconcile how quickly our world has shifted.

Final St. Paul visit

During the 2020 legislative session, the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association was the last ag group to visit the Capitol before it was closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Each year, we visit the Capitol in St. Paul for our annual "hill visits."

On March 11, MSGA directors began a series of personal visits with legislators in St. Paul. MSGA Treasurer Darin Johnson (a Wells farmer) and I started the day with an important appointment with House Majority Leader Melissa Hortman. Speaker Hortman had just come from a COVID-19 briefing.

Although texts and emails were lighting up her phone, she tried very hard to concentrate on our legislative priorities, with Section

179 tax conformity at the top of the list. Farmers and small business owners who traded equipment in 2018 are now staring down an unplanned state tax bill that has a very real due date of July 1.

At that meeting and throughout the day, we were assured this was the top priority for both parties. And then news started trickling in about the first Minnesota COVID-19 diagnoses. Everything seemed to change that day.

With tough pandemic-related decisions being made by our national and state government, I naively assumed that MSGA's lobbying agenda would be put on pause—but I was wrong.

Promoting soybean issues

Even in the face of a pandemic, MSGA's nonpartisan mission to advocate for farm-friendly legislation continues. Promoting and defending the needs and opportunities for soybean farmers hasn't stopped, can't stop, won't stop. However, it

requires more creativity and perseverance.

MSGA lobbyists and staff have continued working for Minnesota's nearly 28,000 soybean farmers. Without them, how do you feel agricultural interests will be reflected into emerging legislation when all members of the state legislature are working behind closed doors—or when a state board delegates

its powers to a single state agency employee?

There are times when the reality of the COVID-19 crisis takes a back seat to other interests. Without representation through MSGA, I am confident the interests of Minnesota soybean farmers most assuredly will not take priority.

An MSGA membership also supports legislative lobbying at the national level through the American Soybean Association. ASA representatives (led by President and Worthington farmer Bill Gordon) have been hard at work incorporating funding for locks and bridges and the expansion of aquaculture



JAMIE BEYER

GUEST COLUMNIST

QUICK HIT

Cory Regnier
Composition



A breath of fresh air

This past weekend saw temperatures in the 70s, low humidity, few bugs and was a great opportunity to get outside.

While it was only the first weekend in May, it certainly felt much more like a gorgeous summer weekend.

It was nice to get out of the house and to stay outside of the house for a change.

My family was able to mow the grass, grill out, set up the patio furniture and go for walks and bike rides. The kids even ventured to play in the sprinkler.

I'm looking forward to more days like this to help combat the current state of affairs.

The nice weather is a breath of fresh air and gives me a much sunnier disposition — both literally and figuratively.

EMAIL DIRECTORY

■ Trevor Slette, *Publisher*
trevors@windomnews.com

■ Rahn Larson, *Editor*
rahnrl@windomnews.com

■ Joel Alvstad, *Sports Editor*
joela@windomnews.com

■ Dave Fjeld, *Reporter*
davef@windomnews.com

■ Sue Frederickson
Advertising Consultant
suef@mtlaknews.com

■ Jen Walinga
Advertising Consultant
jenw@windomnews.com

■ Dawn Luitjens
Composition Manager
dawnl@windomnews.com

■ Tammy Holt
Circulation Manager
tammyh@windomnews.com

■ Cory Malakowsky
iCitizen Tech Support
corym@windomnews.com

■ Lucas Marsh
iCitizen Tech Support
lucasm@windomnews.com

■ General Office
citizen@windomnews.com

■ Composition
composition@windomnews.com

CITIZEN STAFF: Ronald Alm, Joel Alvstad, Dave Fjeld, Sue Frederickson, Tammy Holt, Rahn Larson, Dawn Luitjens, Cory Malakowsky, Lucas Marsh, Cory Regnier, Michelle Rihi, Trevor Slette, Andy Stage, Jen Walinga.

YOUR VOICE COUNTS

We welcome letters to the editor of up to 300 words on any topic. Letters must be typed and may be edited for clarity and length and must include your name, address and daytime phone number. The deadline for letters is noon on Mondays.

MAIL TO: Citizen Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 309
Windom, MN 56101

EMAIL: citizen@windomnews.com

ONLINE: www.windomnews.com

Cottonwood County
CITIZEN
(USPS 134 140)

Citizen Publishing Company
260 Tenth St., Windom, MN 56101
507-831-3455 or 800-658-2510
FAX 507-831-3740
email: citizen@windomnews.com
www.windomnews.com

The Cottonwood County Citizen is published every Wednesday with subscription rates of \$49 per year in Cottonwood and surrounding counties and \$65 per year elsewhere in the U.S. This publication is entered at the post office in Windom, MN 56101 as periodical postage. Send address changes to Citizen Publishing Company, P.O. Box 309, Windom, MN 56101. All subscriptions to the Citizen are transferable but non-refundable. eEdition alone is available for \$32.