

## Ely Echo Editorial

### If Ely were to get a new business...

If Ely were to get a new business, what should it be? A Facebook post by Elizabeth Thunstrom on What's Up Ely this past week quickly generated over 140 responses.

Being Facebook, there were comments from comedians and would be comedians but there were also thoughtful hopes and wishes.

Our unscientific look at this far from scientific poll revealed some commonalities.

Food: Greek restaurant, authentic Mexican, drive through burritos, McDonald's, bringing back A&W and even a business that just served soup but many varieties including chili. Sushi was listed several times including "Drive through Live Bait and Sushi."

Clothing: "A clothing store, middle priced for quality," was one post. Another said a fleet store with clothing for work, semi-casual, scrubs and seasonal. Our favorite was: "Some place to buy socks and underpants."

Daycare: This generated some interesting responses including no one disagreeing on the need. Happy Days has started providing child care services at First Lutheran Church. But one person noted childcare needs to be more than 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. for working parents and that along with housing, child care is a barrier for young families who want to live in Ely. Happy Days could expand its offerings with a person involved noting, "Happy Days will be transitioning to a full childcare center - all ages and expanded hours. Hopeful for summer 2023...We are working really hard to make a full child care center for our community."

Entertainment: There were some interesting suggestions here. Something indoors for young kids like Adventure Zone in Duluth was one answer, brothel was another. But also list-

ed were water park, mini golf, outdoor movies on a floating big screen on Shagawa and a multi-use indoor dome facility

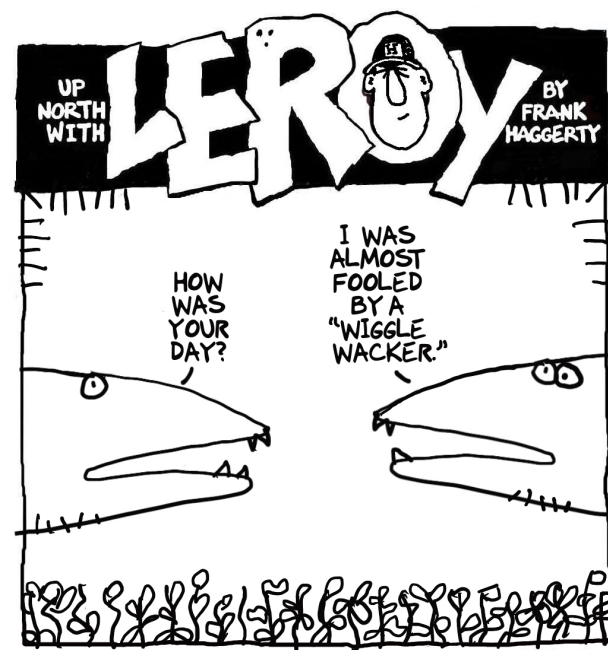
Employment: Mining jobs were the main response, specifically PolyMet and Twin Metals.

Services: There was only one post in this category but it included plumbers, electricians and heating repair. While we have good businesses now in those areas, we've heard plenty of frustrations from people who have been told they would have to wait for weeks or not being able to get their calls returned.

Other: Walmart was mentioned and immediately shot down by one person who said they "destroy small business and downtown areas." There was a reply saying that suggestion was insidious and it was bad enough we have "Welcome to Ely, Dollar Store on your left." Another dentist was mentioned several times. Setting aside the Walmart issue, a home goods store was suggested. One person posted, "Privatized building inspection." And to complete the trifecta, a Moose Center, something Babbitt has discussed in the past to add to our Wolf Center and Bear Center.

We live in Ely knowing it can't be all things and have everything we need. With tourism being so seasonal we just don't have the year-round buying power to attract certain businesses. Providing high paying jobs to extract the minerals located here is an achievable goal to making Ely a better place to live.

Once those jobs are here, the question posed on Facebook may receive far more scrutiny from a different audience: Those who are actually planning to open a new business here.



## Letters to the Editor

...pets are integral parts of any family and bring joy to children as well as adults

Letter to the Editor.

I have a summer cabin on Armstrong Lake in Ely. My permanent residence is in Overland Park Kansas. I attended the 4th of July Parade this year. Which I may add, was excellent!

Anyway, I took my well behaved Labrador to the parade with my family which included two grand kids ages six and eight. After the parade we all went down to the park so that my grandkids could participate in the activities.

I remembered, when I saw signs, that dogs are not allowed in the park. Disappointed, I walked back to my vehicle and left my dog. While walking back to the park, I thought to myself, that is a stupid rule. I personally do not know of any other park except parks where wildlife may be hazardous to the dog, that don't allow dogs. Certainly no parks in the center of town, including Central Park in New York City!

So, I turned around and

put a leash on the dog and walked past the "No dogs allowed" sign and joined my family in the park. I broke the law!! I was armed with plastic bags in the event my dog needed to do her business. Luckily I didn't need them. I couldn't tell you how many children politely asked me if they could pet my dog and how many, adults and children, said they have similar dogs at home. I saw several other dogs that day in the park. As far as I know, there were no incidents or arrests. No one said anything to me regarding the stupid rule!

Let's get real Ely, pets are integral parts of any family and bring joy to children as well as adults.

Yes, dogs need to be on a leash and under control at all times. If your dog messes, clean it up. Plastic bags and disposal bins should be readily available. Heck if you change the rules, I'll buy as many as you want myself and have them installed.

Kirk P Woodward  
Overland Park, Kansas

...a climate change bill must be passed

Letter to the Editor:

It is 11:59 p.m. The younger you are, the more worried you need to be. This is not the time to be patient.

Recently Senator Manchin again found reasons to single-handedly kill a key climate action bill. Over 200 congressional staffers, most of whom helped craft the bill, and mostly young, sent a letter to senate and house leadership urging that a climate change bill must be passed, now.

I have heard candidates for our Minnesota legislature and federal offices comment that addressing climate change will take time. That is not the necessary answer. The time to talk about and seek perfection is over. We need to take immediate and meaningful action, now!

I'm afraid my generation is failing you, the youth, the future of our country and world, and my grandchildren. You can no longer tolerate my generation's dithering.

You must take action, yourselves! Hold all candidates for climate change accountable. Demand that they acknowledge climate change as the number one, single most important issue, whether at state or federal level, facing our future. At political events ask what their sense of urgency is. If the answer is "It will take time," respond with, "Wrong answer! It must be addressed, and action taken, now! Will you commit to that?"

Keith Steva  
Cook, MN

...what a Mr. Wrong might have said

Dear Readers,

Here is a claim about what a Mr. Wrong might have said: "I can't stomach chocolate cake." Here is what Mr. Wrong might actually have said: "I can't stomach

chocolate cake if it has been smothered in mustard." Keep misrepresentations such as this in mind when reading letters from Mr. Banovetz.

Rich Floyd  
Eagles Nest Township

...permits available for Fall Lake & Beyond

To the Editor:

My husband Doug was fishing on Basswood a couple days ago. He said there were no other boats, which was the same thing the week before when he went. (Fishing hasn't been great. Fish bellies are full of mayflies.) Even a poor day fishing is a great day to be on Basswood.

What's interesting is there are permits available for Fall Lake & Beyond. Last week Doug's fishing partner got a permit in permit. All permits were taken within 15 minutes in January, but now there were 10 available!

Is it because of high gas prices that people are turning their permits back in and not coming up? Or is it because of the constant rhetoric and propaganda from the Friends and Save the Boundary Waters? Is their propaganda keeping people out of the Boundary Waters? If not, what is keep-

ing tourists away from the Boundary Waters?

We could make a credible spin against the Friends and Save the Boundary Waters that their unrelenting emails (four today) against Twin Metals' potential of poisoning the waters of the Rainy Lake Watershed with sulfide copper mining is causing a down turn in tourism.

Maybe the Friends and Save the Boundary Waters should come to the table and allow the environmental process to continue for the Twin Metals underground mine project to determine if copper/nickel mining can be done safely. The Eagle underground mine in upper Michigan is only ten miles from Lake Superior. It is not threatening the largest fresh water lake in the world. Why would Twin Metals threaten the Boundary Waters?

Nancy McReady  
Ely, MN

...Just because some people think by removing plaques of the Ten Commandments means they are no longer in our lives is very mistaken

To the Editor:

To Mr. Elton Brown:

Evidently Mr. Brown has forgotten about the Ten Commandments given to the world by God himself to Moses. They are permanent and for everyone! Just because some people think by removing plaques of the Ten Commandments

means they are no longer in our lives is very mistaken. Those laws always remain, you know-permanent.

If women don't want to bear children then they should remain celibate. Procreation is a gift from God. Polls can be swayed anyway they want them. I don't live by polls but by God's guid-

ance which everyone should. Where are the fathers of all these aborted babies. Commandment #5 is THOU SHALL NOT KILL. Very simple and anyone who assists in the action of killing and ending the life of another person is guilty by association as in any crime.

I would say the Supreme

Court Judges have more Christian values than your Methodist Bishop. Punishing the innocent infant by death for something the infant didn't do is inhumane. What are people thinking. The devil works in many ways.

Marlene Marleau  
Town of Fall Lake

...not only does my faith tell me that God is the creator of all life, but we should protect and defend all life at every stage

To the Editor

The Christian people as a whole (I believe) have 10 commandments, #5 being "Thou shall not kill". I believe also that Elton Brown is telling us that his Christian faith does not believe the unborn is a life, so thus we can abort (kill, destroy, eliminate), what ever term is used, it has the same result. Not only does my faith tell me that God is the creator of all life, but we should protect and defend all life at every stage.

Let's look at what the

Bible tells us about life in the womb, Jeremiah 1:15 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you" Or Psalm 139:15 "My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately wrought in the depths of the earth".

Even if I did not believe life begins at conception, science alone tells me that a human is in the womb. I am grateful that I love and want to care for both mother and baby and my Catholic faith

tells me I am responsible to help both. Why is that so wrong? That is love of neighbor. We all know that most women suffer after aborting their child. And many try to bury the grief and it affects them in their lives. We grieve and carry that child with us the rest of our life. I miscarried at 8 weeks one year and I still know and remember that child was to be born in February and I still remember that child. I have friends and acquaintances who had abortions said they did not tell me how hard

emotionally this would be and I would never forget. I know that pregnancies are not always welcomed and some can cause much stress, that is when we as followers of Jesus Christ teach and tell people how much they are loved and that if we allow Him into our lives they will show them Christians that will care for them and their unborn child, Not destroy one of them. We should do what we ought...not what we want.

Diana Moravitz  
Virginia, MN

...There has never been a drug free society in human history

The silent killer.

Addiction is the only disease that tells you that you don't have a disease.

This is a powerful statement about the disease of addiction. The silent voice and inner thinking that goes on with addiction-what is it exactly that makes it so difficult to stop? Those who do not understand addiction often believe that if the addict/alcoholic "just tries hard enough," or "just wants to bad enough," they can stop. Shouldn't their damaging behaviors indicate to the addict/alcoholic that what they are doing to themselves and others is bad enough to make them want to change? This lack of understanding results

in people who have addictive behaviors being considered "immoral," "weak," or even "cursed" with a behavior defect that even incarceration or punishment cannot change. A better understanding of the nature of addiction could correct these damaging misconceptions.

Addiction does not discriminate. It affects people of all ages, races, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, religion, or education.

There has never been a drug free society in human history. Drugs and alcohol have been around for more than 10,000 years. Yet, American society continues to fight a "War on Drugs" that it cannot win. In 2019,

more than 70,000 people died by overdose in the United States. Add to that, about 88,000 Americans die as a result of alcohol every year in the United States, and it is clear that the "War on Drugs" is not the answer. Deaths associated with alcohol, drugs and suicide took the lives of 186,783 Americans in 2020, a 20% one year increase in the combined death rate and the highest number of substance misuse deaths ever recorded for a single year.

The silent killer of addiction is here to stay unless American society re-evaluates its current "War on Drugs." Shouldn't we be focusing more on drug prevention and education? Shouldn't we be focusing our attention on the effects drugs and alcohol can have on the individual, the family, and on society itself? Finally, shouldn't we be focusing on community based services that would allow addicts/alcoholics every opportunity to find treatment for their

addiction, help them with housing, employment, and education in order for them to become active members of their community?

We do not treat other diseases by shaming and incarcerating the people who have them. We treat them with compassion and give them the care they need to get better.

Many of our family members, friends, co-workers, and members of our communities are in the grip of a deadly disease, the silent killer known as addiction. How many more of these people do we need to lose to overdose, alcohol related deaths, and/or suicide before something is done about this matter? I would like to hear your views and opinions on how to better serve those struggling with addiction. I may be reached by letter at 559 W Broadway St., MN, 55987 or by email at gotahavehope38@gmail.com

Mark Jacobson  
Peer Support Specialist  
Winona, MN

#### POLITICAL LETTERS POLICY

The Ely Echo welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed in order to be considered for publication. Political letters supporting or opposing candidates are considered advertising and will be charged regular advertising rates if accepted for publication. Political candidates are urged to contact the Echo's advertising department to set up their advertising plans as early as possible.

NOTE: Political letters to the editor will be printed in the Ely Echo issue of Aug. 6 (subjects pertaining to the Aug. 9 Primary Election) and will be accepted until Tuesday, Aug. 2. Political letters to the editor will be printed in the Ely Echo issue of October 31 (subjects pertaining to the Nov. 3 General Election) and will be accepted until Tuesday, October 27. Keep under 250 words, mark as: Political Letter and email to: elyecho@aol.com. One per letter writer.

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