

“ Ely Echo Editorials

Helping your neighbor with shoveling fulfills the Golden Rule

The snowstorm that buried Ely Tuesday night left with a rush of Arctic air behind it. For those with sidewalks and driveways that needed to have snow cleared there were multiple opportunities to fulfill the Golden Rule.

Used in many religions, the simple maxim of, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” is as true now as it was over 2,000 years ago.

So how do you follow the Golden Rule? By helping without being asked, by shoveling or snowblowing or dropping your plow to clear a sidewalk or driveway. One of the nicest things to see when you look out your window is your walkways free of snow.

There was plenty of that going on in Ely this

past week. Neighbors helping neighbors makes Ely, Minnesota and even this planet we call home a little better place to live.

We would even throw in another option. If your driveway is already plowed, how about checking to make sure the fire hydrant by your house has been cleared of snow.

We’ve had our share of house fires over the past two months. The Ely fire chief even remarked some of the new hires might think every house fire is fought in below zero temperatures with icy conditions and freezing hose lines.

Follow the Golden Rule and we can all make this a better place to live.

First of three meetings on land withdrawal is on Wednesday

A 20-year ban on mineral leasing will be the topic Wednesday in the first of three online public meetings held by the Bureau of Land Management and United States Forest Service.

If approved the feds would withdraw 225,378 acres on the Superior National Forest from mineral exploration and mining development – proposals that could cripple the future economies and communities of northeast Minnesota.

Make no doubt about it, this is to kill projects like Twin Metals Minnesota is proposing and make sure there are no other projects or even exploration activities. It’s a harsh, draconian move that is only being considered because of who sits in the Oval Office.

A 90-day public comment period will end on Jan. 19. Those comments will be used as part of the the USFS environmental assessment.

Virtual public meetings will be held via Zoom on:

- Wednesday, January 12, 1-4 p.m.
- Saturday, January 15, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 18, from 5-8 p.m.

You can find links to the Zoom meetings on the Superior National Forest website.

Make no doubt about it, this is a big deal. While the meetings themselves will likely be a rehash of past discussions, the idea of killing off mining for 20 years is no joke.

Now is the time to have your voice heard.



Letters to the Editor

...memories...light up my life

To the Editor,
In my mind I have composed and rejected a series of thank you notes for the article about me that appeared in the Echo.

It humbled and gratified me that the endeavors that gave me so much pleasure

were enjoyed by others. Memories of those days light up my life.

Reading copies of the Echo keep me in touch with the community that played such a big part of my life.

Winnie Thaisen
Duluth, MN

...largest investment in roads, airports

Dear Nick:
A response to the article on Page 2 regarding the federal grants awarded to area airports in the January 1, 2022 edition of the Ely Echo:

While we were delighted to hear the fantastic news that 29 airports in our 8th congressional district are getting more than \$9 million in federal grants, it is important to note that Congressman Stauber (who “was happy to announce” the grants), as well as the entire MN Republican Congressional delegation, voted NO to President Biden’s Infrastructure & Jobs Bill-- the source

of these grants. President Biden’s Infrastructure Bill included an allocation of \$15 billion in grants to American airports for improvement, sustainability, and safety projects. The Infrastructure Bill is the largest investment in roads, airports, bridges, ports and broadband internet in decades, which translates to much-needed jobs across Minnesota and the U.S.

Best wishes to you and to all the Echo readers for a happy and healthy New Year!

Valerie Myntti
Mary Louise Icenhour
Ely

...let’s not invite unstable situations by limiting our great heritage of mining

To the Editor:
Express your opinion friends for Mining Minnesota.

1. A 20 year moratorium will result in a negative impact that will adversely affect the small communities like Ely, Minnesota. The mining tax grants are crucial to the grants, for new cabins at Veterans on the Lake, to reconstruct Ely’s sewage treatment plant that will greatly reduce the environmental impact on adjacent lakes, to construct a new addition on the Veterans social services building, to construct recreational trails, to expand the arts and sciences at Ely schools and a junior college, to construct sidewalks, streets, water, sewer, and storm drains each year for these small cities such as Ely, Babbitt, Winton, Tower, and Soudan. For without these mining tax dollars they will fade away.

2. Twin Metals Minnesota is investing not only in northern Minnesota but for the livelihood of the health and welfare of our country to develop materials for green energy. Without these precious metals we will not make decisions made from a democracy, but by unstable countries that do not implement the same stringent regulations for our environment.

3. Let’s not invite unstable situations by limiting our great heritage of mining in Minnesota, but have the option to mine these corridors for the security and democracy of the United States. We are already experiencing the results when our country relies on foreign resources and products. Let’s keep our jobs at home and mine and

control our resources here at home instead of Russia, India, China, and Africa.

4. If we can visualize the enormous opportunity that mining will affect this area, it would not only keep these small communities in funds, but will create jobs for mining locally, state, and produce products nationwide like green energy, cars, arts and sciences, medical, aerospace, infrastructure and so much more.

5. Just ask yourself where precious metals are not used for human well being, for you will not find one. Example: If we have the ability to take humans to Mars, or treat sewage for drinkable water, or work on ending a pandemic, then we can mine environmentally friendly along and in this corridor!

6. The federal government in the 60s and 70s took the necessary actions to protect the BWCAW and it’s 1 million acres. Minnesota is blessed with 5.5 million acres to recreate and explore, for there is not a reason to expand the park.

7. Not now, not ever should we close this corridor. What if the President evoked the production act for example: to call for Ford and GM to produce ventilators but they were unable to get the resources, will we rely on Russia, China, Africa, or India, I would hope not.

Keep the corridor open.
Comments can be sent by mail to F. David Radford, Deputy State Director of Geospatial Services. BLM Eastern States Office, RE: Superior National Forest Withdrawal Application, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, Virginia 22041
Tom Cooper
Ely, MN



Trout Whisperer - I might be a little bit flaky

It snowed during the night. It’s a sort of magic to me. How it wasn’t there yesterday, and this morning, oh my goodness, where does all that snow come from, from one snowflake at a time, because that’s how they arrive at our home.

It was overcast and cloudy yesterday, we were summarily weatherman warned, and now, the dazzling of the bright whiteness, tiny silver shards and glistening glints on every pine bough. It’s a frosting of the boreal forest. It’s perfection.

No cloak, no jacket, in my haste,

I step outside, I just have to take a deep breath of how pure it all seems to me. My exhausted breath, I emit a tiny plume to a cloudless blue sky. It’s an ahh, so simply pleasing and pleasant.

Crab apple remains still clung frozen to leafless branches, pine grossbeaks pluck at, knocking off miniature snowy caps from the literally freeze-dried fruit. It’s quite comical.

But, it is cold out, so I retreat back into our home’s interior. Warm fireplace heat feels good, I sip my

coffee, and I can’t quite seem to stop looking outside, I remember sleds, wool mittens, trodding up the hill with my pals, to slide back down, Pulling my feet out of my wet sodden boots, adjusting my plastic bread bag waterproofing system that always used to work, oh how we used to play in the snow, and of course I don’t do that so much now, but I sure like snow, and even the memory of snow.

~ The trout whisperer



by Dorothy Rosby I like you very much, now please go

For those of us who’ve been craving a little silent since Thanksgiving, there was World Introvert Day on January 2. And I missed it. Introverts being introverts, I guess no one was out there promoting it.

World Introvert Day has been around for more than a decade, and I’ve just learned about it myself. Apparently, it was the brainchild of psychologist and author, Felicitas Heyne who decided rightly that introverts needed a day to go dormant about the holiday season. Had I known about it sooner I would have holed up at home on January 2. Oh wait. That’s what I did.

I’m an introvert myself, which comes as a surprise to some people who know me. That’s because they don’t understand introverts. Extroverts sometimes confuse introversion with shyness. They think all introverts blush when we talk to other people and hide in the bathroom during our own birthday parties. I’ve never done that. That’s no place to eat birthday cake.

Some extroverts think introverts are unfriendly, even rude. They think we keep our blinds closed all day and grouse at the neighborhood children to stay off our lawns. I’ll have you know the three young boys who live next door to me regularly play on my lawn. And I’m hardly ever rude, except in

traffic. Introversion is simply a difference in our brains which I won’t go into because I’m an introvert not a scientist. But I can tell you this: Introverts are renewed from within through solitude and reflection, while extroverts recharge by being around people and other outside stimuli, much of which introverts find appalling—the stimuli, not the people. We like people, just not when they run in packs or come to our door unexpectedly.

An introvert would rather email than call someone, and when we do call, we’re not disappointed when we have to leave a message.

We like to shop in stores where there aren’t very many other customers. Unfortunately, our favorite stores don’t stay in business long.

We’d rather go to lunch with one or two friends than go to a dinner party or, heaven forbid, a mixer. Introverts are afraid mixers are how we’ll spend all eternity if we die and go to hell.

Some experts estimate that up to 50 percent of the population are introverted, though no one knows for sure because introverts tend to avoid surveyors.

According to my research, some really successful people are introverts, including Meryl Streep, Steve Martin and J.K. Rowling. Rosa Parks, Mahatma Gandhi, Albert Einstein, Eleanor

Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln were all supposedly introverts too. None of them could have accomplished all they did if they’d been out partying every night.

Most billionaires including Warren Buffett, Elon Musk, Bill Gates and Dorothy Rosby are introverts too. I was just seeing if you were paying attention.

You extroverts who’ve read this far may be wondering why there isn’t a special holiday for you. Listen to yourself. Every holiday is for you. Name one major holiday where the tradition is to stay home and read a good book.

I’d go so far as to say, we live in an extrovert’s world. Why do you think there are stadiums, bus tours, shopping malls and open office spaces? If I worked in one of those, I’d get even less work done than I do now.

You may also be wondering how the introverts in your life will observe World Introvert Day next year and will there be a party. No there will not. That doesn’t mean we won’t be celebrating the day though. We’ll just be doing it quietly and separately.

(Dorothy Rosby is the author of the humor book, *I Didn’t Know You Could Make Birthday Cake from Scratch: Parenting Blunders from Cradle to Empty Nest*. Contact drosby@rushmore.com.)

Information Receptionist

The Ely Chamber of Commerce has an opening for a full-time, year-round **Information Receptionist**. We are seeking a customer service-oriented individual to assist residents and visitors with business and area information. The position requires knowledge of Microsoft Office programs, internet and email programs, and use of office equipment. A full job description and application are available at Ely.org/chamber/workforce-development. Please submit job applications to director@ely.org or stop by the Chamber office at 1600 E. Sheridan Street, Ely.



- Aluminum, Steel and Stainless Steel Welding
- Custom Creations and Repairs
- Marine Fabrication (Pontoon, Hull, Dock and Boat Lift Repair)
- Portable Capabilities

BRAD PEARSE

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Ely, Minnesota



Agree? Disagree?

Write a letter to the editor and sign your name, phone #. Send it to: Ely Echo, 15 East Chapman St., Ely MN 55731 or email to: elyecho@aol.com. The Echo reserves the right to edit.