

CIHS Art

Dear Editor:
Go C-I Go!
I would like to commend Mr. Andrew Otterstad for making sure we get to see the work his art students create. I have enjoyed seeing such a wonderful variety of creations from the Crosby-Ironton students.

It's great for them to be able to show off what they have done, quite often, in the *Courier*.

I'd also like to acknowledge the *Courier* for supporting the students by displaying their pictures in the paper with their work.

I am also looking forward to getting to view the murals on the high school walls, too, some day.

Well done everybody!
Debra Rhodes Thurman
Mexico, MO

Lueck update

Dear Editor:
As budget negotiations continue at the Capitol, the major sticking point remains the House Democrats' and the governor's proposal to raise taxes by \$12 billion.

Minnesota has a \$1 billion revenue surplus, based on the February budget forecast. Last week, we received news April tax revenues actually came in \$489 million higher than forecast. Since that February forecast was released, Minnesota's actual tax receipts have exceeded that forecast by an additional \$573 million.

The Senate has a common-sense budget approach. Its proposal holds state spending to about five percent. That increase is paid for without raising taxes. Simply put, there is no need to impose the massive tax increases proposed by the House majority and governor. We have sufficient tax revenues to support the necessary education, public safety, transportation, health and human services and the other necessary things state government must do.

Minnesota's economy is doing well. We gained 3,600 seasonally adjusted jobs last month, which amounts to annual job gains of more than 14,000 since April of last year. The state's current unemployment rate is 3.3 percent, the U.S. unemployment rate is currently 3.6 percent.

The question is, do we live within our means or do we slam \$12 billion in new taxes on Minnesotans? I remain convinced my colleagues in the Senate have it right. There is no need to raise taxes in this already tax revenue rich climate.

The pharmacy benefit management reform bill we sent to a conference committee last week came back to us. The senate passed it 67-0 and on a 130-2 vote we in the House sent it on to the governor's office for enactment.

This reform was long overdue. We all probably know someone that has had to deal with the frustration of trying to find a suitable prescription medicine substitute, when these companies change what medicines are available through your health insurance plan.

While we have not reached agreement on final budget numbers, we are getting some important work done here in St. Paul. We plan to be here through midnight Monday, when the state Constitution requires we adjourn.

Expect more updates as we whittle away on a budget agreement.

Representative
Dale Lueck
House District 10B

Viewpoints expressed by letter writers are not necessarily those of the Crosby-Ironton Courier management or staff.

Ruud update

Dear Editor:
The Legislature has spent the week trying to negotiate a final state budget for the next two years. My newsletter this week will cover budget negotiations, my bill that would allow importing certified baitfish into Minnesota, the Prescription Benefit Manager (PBM) bill, and more. Please take a few minutes to read about my week in St. Paul!

UPDATE ON BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS

This week, Senator Gazelka (Senate Majority Leader), Representative Hortman (Speaker of the House), and Governor Walz have all been meeting to negotiate a final state budget. We are coming down to the deadline though and with a Republican Senate, DFL House, and DFL Governor, it is especially difficult to come to a budget agreement. The priorities of each negotiating party are fundamentally different. But, Senator Gazelka is holding fast to our core principle: we can fund Minnesota's priorities without raising taxes. As Senator Gazelka fights for a budget that stays within our means and represents you folks back home, the Republican Senators are preparing for the worst-case scenario. Just in case an agreement is not met, and we enter a government shutdown, Senator Chamberlain from Lino Lakes has authored a bill to fulfill the necessary state funding. We are still hoping for a budget agreement before we are constitutionally mandated to adjourn on Monday, but if an agreement is not met in time, this bill will prevent unguarded prisons, closed parks, and 35,000 state workers from being furloughed. A shutdown affects many aspects of our day-to-day lives and we owe it to all of you back home to be prepared.

MINNOW SHORTAGES

This week I introduced a bill, SF 2895, that I carried back in 2017 that would allow importing baitfish from certified bait farms. Current law prohibits the import of live minnows and leeches from out of the state. Because of this, retailers and local bait shops must rely on Minnesota distributors. Unfortunately, with the unpredictable weather, distributors frequently struggle to keep up with the demand and as a result bait shops are not able to fulfill the needs of their customers. This year especially, the weather was not favorable and after the fishing opener last weekend, it is already apparent that there is a shortage of baitfish. This bill will expand the current language around minnow imports and allow retailers to restock the low supply from distributors outside the state.

We need to implement a regulated system to replenish the shortage of baitfish. Fishing is a way of life here in Minnesota and our beautiful lakes and fish even bring in tourists from other states. This sport is important to people and to small business owners and we need to do what we can to support it.

This bill will require that the minnows come from certified farms in Arkansas that are required to perform comprehensive tests ensuring fish disease, pathogens, and aquatic invasive species will not enter our lakes. The inspection process has been vetted and is a low risk alternative to the bait shortage. 48 other states have already implemented this law and been successful. It is time we adopt this tested practice. My bill will help small bait shops thrive and supply their customers with the bait they need to get the fish biting.

PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGER BILL

The Senate unanimously passed a bill authored by Senator Scott Jensen (R-Chaska) that improves oversight of Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) and lowers health care costs. PBMs work alongside pharmacies as the middlemen that negotiate with health insurance companies and drug

manufacturers. This bill will lower the cost of prescriptions by requiring transparency and accountability for PBMs. It also enables pharmacists to substitute bio-equivalent medications on behalf of patients and allows patients to synchronize their medication fill-dates once a year without cost. Under this new law the common PBM strategy of clawing back dollars from local pharmacies and utilizing rebates for their own self-interest will end.

You deserve to know what is contributing to the cost of your prescriptions. With additional transparency, the PBMs will have to keep the costs down for the consumer because the slices of pie they are taking will be visible. Your medications will be cheaper, and you can make an informed decision on the best value for you and your family.

One of the largest sections of new law ever created is now on its way to the governor's desk for his signature. Healthcare costs are skyrocketing, and we are taking all the steps we can to keep more money in your wallet.

PEACE OFFICER MEMORIAL

On Wednesday, I took a break to visit the Peace Officer Memorial ceremony on the Capitol grounds. It was an opportunity to reflect on fallen heroes from across the state, including state troopers, county sheriffs, local police officers, and DNR conservation officers. To every officer who lost their lives in service to our communities, you are not forgotten.

CONGRATULATIONS REPRESENTATIVE LUECK!

Congratulations to Representative Dale Lueck (10B) and his wife Linda on their 50th wedding anniversary! Representative Lueck is my colleague in the House and a great legislator for our area.

CAPITOL VISITS

This week we had hundreds of visitors from Eagle View Elementary School and Forestview Middle School! Eagle View brought their fourth grade class and Forestview brought their sixth grade class. I had a great time visiting with everyone!

If you're looking to hear more from the Capitol, please like me on Facebook, and follow me on Twitter.

As always please feel free to contact my office with any questions you might have. My office can be reached by phone at (651) 296-4913 or e-mail: sen.carrie.ruud@senate.mn

Senator Carrie Ruud
Minnesota Senate District 10

Submit four- and five-generation photos to Courier

The Crosby-Ironton Courier is accepting your family's four- and five-generation photos to be included in the Heritage Days special section, which will be published Wednesday, Aug. 14 for the celebration Aug. 15 through the 18. As your family gathers this summer, capture a four- or five-generation photo!

Please make sure everyone in your photo is identified (adding where they live is optional) and where in the generational line they are.

You may submit photos via e-mail (courier@crosbyironton.net as a jpeg, tiff, png or pdf), in person at the C-I Courier office (12 East Main Street, Crosby), or by mail (P.O. Box 67, Crosby, MN 56441).

If you would like your mailed photo returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Deadline to submit photos is Friday, Aug. 9 at 4 p.m.

Trivia nights at the Woodtick

The Woodtick Inn is sponsoring a trivia nights on Mondays starting at 6:30 p.m. Come out and win prizes! Call 772-0252 for more information.

Looney tunes

Have you heard any loons lately? Even if you're not close to water, they sometimes fly overhead and you can hear the crazy laugh they make. The sound they often make when flying is a modified tremolo. The word "tremolo" in music is a trembling or vibrating effect. When it comes to loons, the sound they often make is a crazy-tremolo noise. It is definitely a looney tune.

I wonder if Tex Avery (the inventor of Looney Toons – the cartoon giant) had a loon sound in mind when he started making animation. Who knows?

Loons have a few other sounds, in addition to the tremolo. They hoot, wail and actually yodel. I adore yodeling. I wonder if loons have ancestry ties to the Swiss Alps. Maybe.

At any rate, they have a very diverse repertoire of songs. I find the loons' haunting and varied voices to be fascinating. They are most vocal, by the way, from mid-May into June. In other words, now.

In addition to loons, many animals have been providing noises for our enjoyment as of late. There are pleasant sounds from the wee morning hours through dusk (and beyond). Turkeys have been waking me up in the morning with their gobble-gobbling for quite some time. Joining in are the many (many) songbirds.

Throughout the day I've been enjoying a variety of springtime noises. Not all of them are from critters, mind you. The wind this time of year encourages a pleasant rustling sound in the newly grown leaves. The grasses, growing taller, are also making pleasing sounds.

Later in the day, the peepers begin their song. A chorus of frogs, prevalent in the area, chirp this time of year. They are very consistent and I enjoy their music well into the night. I can't help but feel life has come back to the Range. Sure, life has been here all along, but not quite as, well, noticeable and prevalent.

While I love all the sounds of spring, loons have to be one of my favorites. Lately, I've been able to observe them on a few different bodies of water. One was Serpent Lake. I was privileged, recently, to take a boat ride around the perimeter of the lake with a good friend. About half-way around, there was a loon.

The loon on Serpent drifted along, unaffected, it seemed, by our approaching watercraft. We weren't going very fast, but were wondering if the loon was going to swim away from us. It didn't seem threatened. Eventually, however, it swam in an opposite direction.

Another place I've been seeing a loon is on the pond behind my house. It is not uncommon for a loon to visit the pond during springtime. This year is no exception.

Interestingly, I was watching the loon a few nights ago, thinking to myself that I mainly see a solitary loon on a lake or pond, when I came to see there was a pair of loons. Excellent! I had just been wondering why I've seen only one when loons mate for life. Where, I'd wonder, was the mate?

I was thrilled to have two on my pond. Maybe (just maybe) they will stay and raise a family. I'll keep you posted.

Watching the loons on the pond, it was interesting to see they spent most of their time



under water. They were most likely eating some of the prolific vegetation growing beneath the surface. I read they can stay under water for up to five minutes. Amazing!

I also read the male is the one to select a nesting site. Maybe that's why I've typically seen one loon on the pond. It has likely been a male, scouting the area. While the pond behind my house is nice and secluded, it is sunken and not easy for a loon to leave.

Loons don't do land very well and it appears water take offs aren't easy either. Up and out isn't exactly an ideal situation for them. Their bones are solid, as opposed to other birds that have hollow bones. That, I'm guessing, makes them heavy and in need a long runway for takeoff.

Still, I hope the loons I saw the other night stay and nest. Sometimes we have to chose safe over convenient. Right? I hope the birds agree.

Once a loon takes on air, it can fly about 75 miles an hour. That's incredible! Deep divers, long breath-holders, fast flyers and the ability to yodel. Amazing!

No wonder Minnesota made loons its state bird. An incredible state with an incredible feathered mascot. I like it. Did I mention they can also see under water? Loons really are wonderful! Nature really is wonderful! Don't you just love springtime?

Adopt a flower pot in Crosby

The Garden Club of Cuyuna Lakes plants 10 large flower pots along Main Street in Crosby to help beautify the community. It takes some effort to keep the pots watered and the dead blooms pinched.

The club is seeking community members who live near Main Street to help in this effort. Volunteers would "adopt" one pot to water several times a week throughout the growing season, June through September. Water may be toted from your home or from the spigot at the Main Street Plaza.

If you are interested, please call Mary Johnson, 546-6805, for more details.

Kids Rodeo at fairgrounds

There will be a Kids Rodeo for ages 19 years and younger at the Crow Wing County Fairgrounds on June 21 and 22 at 7 p.m. both nights.

Events include Miniature Bullriding for ages five to 14; Tiny Tot Bullriding for ages four and younger; Mini Saddle Bronc Riding; Mutton Bustin'; Wild Pony Races and Lead Line Barrel Racing.

Stalling available for \$30 per stall. Price includes a \$10 stall fee and \$20 stall cleaning fee refundable when participants have cleaned the stall. Advance stall reservations are required.

Camping is available with electricity for \$27 per night. For camping and stall reservations call Tammy at 820-8763.

To register contact Johnny Hopkins at (515) 571-6922.

Reminder if you recycle

Crosby residents who participate in the drop-off recycling program are reminded to break down their cardboard boxes and crush plastic soda and milk bottles in order to maximize the space in the recycling bins.

Community Calendar

May 23—Happy Hour for a Cause from 5 to 7 p.m. at Cuyuna Brewing Company to benefit Cuyuna Iron Range Heritage Network. \$15 per person includes appetizers provided by Iron Range Eatery and beer sampling. Call 545-1166 or email cchps@crosbyironton.net for reservations.

May 26—Boy Scouts All-You-Can-Eat-Pancake Breakfast Buffet at the Ironton American Legion, 9 a.m. to noon. Pancakes, hash browns, eggbake, sausage links, juice and coffee. \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 10 years of age and younger.

May 27—Memorial Day Service at Pine Ridge Cemetery, Emily, 9 a.m.

May 30—Heartnad Dance & Gymnastics recital at 6:30 p.m. in Mayberry Auditorium at Crosby-Ironton High School.

June 1—17th Annual Pork 'n Ride hosted by the Over The Hills Gang ATV Club. Guided tour rides depart from The Log Cabin Bar in Emily at 10 a.m.

June 4—Minnesota Department of Transportation Open House to review summer road construction and detours. 4 to 7 p.m., Crosby-Ironton High School Forum Room.

June 8—Woodtick Races at the Woodtick Inn in downtown Cuyuna. For more information call 772-0252.

June 8—2nd Annual Legends of the Road Classic Car Show at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge in Deerwood from noon to 4 p.m.

June 8—Cuyuna Iron Range Riders ATV Club Ride 9 a.m. Blind Lake to Hill City. Call Ken Irish at (651) 470-2601 for info.

June 8—Vigilant Guardians Motorcycle Club 'Until Valhalla Run', 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. beginning at the Midway Bar in Crosby. Registration from 10 a.m. to noon.

June 9—Cuyuna Off-Road Triathlon. Paddle, Shred & Tread the Red. Visit www.ci.12.mn.us/elementary/CRES_PTO.

June 9—Ironton American Legion Belgian Waffle Breakfast, 9 a.m. to noon. Homemade All-you-can-eat Belgian waffles, fruit toppings, scrambled eggs, sausage, coffee and juice. \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. To go orders are available.

June 11—Lakes Area Unlimited Learning: The Most Magical Bird in the World: the Common Loon, Heartwood Senior Living Community, Crosby, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

June 13—Music in the Park 5 to 8 p.m. Admission is free at Crosby Memorial Park on Serpent Lake sponsored by the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber of Commerce. Call 546-8131 for more details.

June 15—Youth ATV safety training program at the Ironton Legion starting at 8:30. Classroom training and outdoor course training for those 12 years old and older. Must successfully complete the on-line and hands-on safety training to receive certificate. Contact Dave Larson for more information (763) 458-1338.

June 15—Live music by "Tail Gunners". This concert is part of the Third Annual Ruttger's Beer and Bacon Bonanza. Visit www.ruttgers.com for more information.

June 23—Manna for Malawi Benefit Concert by the Johnny Holm Band at the Woodtick Inn in Cuyuna from 4 to 8 p.m. Food, beverages, silent auction and more!

June 27—Music in the Park 5 to 8 p.m. Admission is free at Crosby Memorial Park on Serpent Lake sponsored by the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber of Commerce. Call 546-8131 for more details.

June 29—Live music by "Kings Ransom" at Ruttger's. Playing classics from Johnny Cash to Stevie Ray and everything inbetween. Visit www.ruttgers.com for more details.

June 29—Fifty Lakes Day. Enjoy golf, music, family games, beer garden, horseshoes, golf and so much more. Call 763-2035 for more information.

June 30—Aitkin Flyers annual Fly-In Wild Rice Pancake Breakfast 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Aitkin Municipal Airport.

July 4—Crosby's 4th of July Celebration: two mile parade route, pancake breakfast, live music in the park, beer garden, cash raffle and more!

July 5—Live music by "October Son" at Ruttger's. Classic rock songs by bands such as the Eagles, Johnny Cash and Little River Band. For more information visit www.ruttgers.com.

Newspaper on the Cuyuna Range...

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