

Briana Anderson - City of Coleraine

From: Nelson, Margaret (DOT) <Margaret.Nelson@state.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:58 PM
To: #DOT_NEWSRELEASE
Cc: #DOT_D1 Press Release List
Subject: The votes are in! MnDOT announces winners of Name a Snowplow contest



March 2, 2021

Contact: **Jake Loesch**
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651-358-5446

*Thought I'd
throw in some fun
info. Sp*

The votes are in! MnDOT announces winners of Name a Snowplow contest

ST. PAUL, Minn. – After plowing through more than 122,000 votes cast, the Minnesota Department of Transportation announced today the eight winners of its inaugural Name a Snowplow contest. One snowplow in each of MnDOT's eight districts will officially be named this month.

The winning names, in order of vote totals, and their future homes are:

- **Plowy McPlowFace** – Metro District
- **Ope, Just Gonna Plow Right Past Ya** – District 4
- **Duck Duck Orange Truck** – District 1 — *We are District 1*
- **Plow Bunyan** – District 2
- **Snowbi Wan Kenobi** – District 6
- **F. Salt Fitzgerald** – District 7
- **Darth Blader** – District 3
- **The Truck Formerly Known As Plow** – District 8

Tallies for all 50 finalists can be found [here](#).*

“We are amazed by the number of creative name suggestions people proposed,” said Commissioner Margaret Anderson Kelliher. “We thank everyone for their votes and participation in this fun contest, and through the process, becoming more aware of our snowplows, the tireless women and men who operate them, and the work necessary to keep our roads safe.”

The agency first invited people to submit creative ideas for snowplow names in mid-December. After more than 22,000 name ideas were submitted, MnDOT staff had the challenging task of narrowing down the list and selecting 50 finalists for the public to vote on. These 50 names were determined by considering several factors, including but not limited to

how creative or unique the name was, whether it would be understandable or identifiable to broad audiences, and the frequency of submissions.

MnDOT will share additional information on its [social media pages](#) once the snowplows have officially been named and are at work on roads across the state.

**Note: Individuals were able to vote for up to eight choices, so the final totals will differ from the overall number of votes. There was a total of 122,435 unique voters.*

#

Margie Nelson, MAPL

Public Affairs Coordinator District 1

Minnesota Department of Transportation

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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE**
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. Census Bureau
Chicago Regional Census Center
Chicago, IL 60604-2948

February 2021

Briana Anderson
City of Coleraine
302 Roosevelt St,
Coleraine, Minnesota 55722

RECEIVED

FEB 22 2021

CITY OF COLERAINE

Dear Ms. Anderson:

Thank you for your valuable partnership during this Decennial Census. With your support, the Region exceeded the National Self-Response Rate of 67% and had the highest self-response rate among all Regions, of 69.8%.

In collaboration with more than 50,550 partners, that collectively held nearly 64,750 events and made more than 70,450 commitments, you exhibited enormous dedication, creativity, and support in developing outreach and marketing activities that engaged, educated, and encouraged households to complete the 2020 Census, particularly in historically underserved communities.

Working alongside more than 2,015 Complete Count Committees, you and our many valuable partners hosted thousands of recruiting events to hire census workers that spoke the languages, understood the cultures, and lived within the communities they were tasked to count. Your efforts also ensured a successful Mobile Questionnaire Assistance (MQA) program across our Region, with more than 12,819 MQA events that assisted low-responding communities in completing their census questionnaires online and by phone.

Together, we ensured the Census had the most up-to-date address file, delivered paper questionnaires to rural areas, recruited workers during one of the lowest periods of unemployment, took on a global pandemic through unique virtual engagement, and engaged communities through Get Out the Count (GOTC) efforts that brought Census staff to historically undercounted neighborhoods.

Your valuable contributions will ensure critical planning over the next decade.

Thank you for Making It Count!

Sincerely,

Marilyn A. Sanders, Chicago Regional Director
U.S. Census Bureau



Enbridge Energy, Limited
Partnership
119 North 25th Street East
Superior, WI 54880

Ms. Brianna Anderson
Clerk
City of Coleraine
PO Box 670
302 Roosevelt St
Coleraine, MN 55722-0670

RECEIVED

MAR 2 2021

CITY OF COLERAINE

Dear Ms. Anderson,

Enbridge has proudly operated and helped fuel quality of life in Minnesota for over 70 years. Our commitment to keeping in touch with community members, local public officials, and emergency responders is just one of the ways we are all working together to keep our communities safe.

As part of that commitment, we are hosting a series of Community Meetings to share information about our pipelines, the products we carry, and the work we do to keep our communities and the environment safe. Considering public health concerns related to COVID-19, these meetings will be held virtually, rather than in-person, to ensure the safety of our employees and attendees.

These virtual events are open to the public and will start with a formal presentation led by Enbridge subject matter experts about information related to operations in your area. Following the presentation, Enbridge representatives will be available to answer your questions.

We invite you to join the meeting of your choosing listed below via webcast link or by phone:

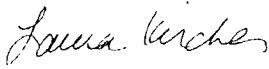
Tuesday, March 9, 2021 <i>Virtual host community: Pembina, ND</i> 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. CST <i>Presentation followed by Q&A</i>	Call-In: 1 (855)-756-7520 Ext.71738# <i>(Audio Only)</i> Webcast: http://n0w.us/ehOr
Wednesday, March 10, 2021 <i>Virtual host community: Park Rapids, MN</i> 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. CST <i>Presentation followed by Q&A</i>	Call-In: 1 (855)-756-7520 Ext.71739# <i>(Audio Only)</i> Webcast: http://n0w.us/ShOa
Thursday, March 11, 2021 <i>Virtual host community: Walker, MN</i> 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. CST <i>Presentation followed by Q&A</i>	Call-In: 1 (855)-756-7520 Ext.71740# <i>(Audio Only)</i> Webcast: http://n0w.us/0dE3

To attend a virtual Community Meeting, **register at www.enbridgeconnect.com**. At this registration link, click RSVP for the event you wish to attend and enter your name and contact information as requested. On the day of the event(s) you've registered for, you will be contacted by the virtual meeting platform to join the Community Meeting by phone. If you wish to view the

formal presentation and join the meeting by webcast, you may hang up and join the meeting online at one of the corresponding webcast links listed above.

If you have any questions, visit www.enbridgeconnect.com or call 1-888-620-9004. For more information about Enbridge and our pipelines in your community visit www.enbridge.com.

Sincerely,



Laura Kircher

Sr. Advisor, Community Engagement
Public Affairs, Communications & Sustainability



Jon Eisele

Community Relations Specialist
Public Affairs, Communications & Sustainability

From: Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation <IRRRB@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 4:29 PM
To: Briana Anderson - City of Coleraine
Subject: The Ranger - March 3



The Ranger

March 3, 2021

Boomtown utilizes Taconite Area Community Relief loan to persevere through COVID-19

Boomtown Woodfire restaurant was one of 17 businesses in Eveleth that utilized the city's forgivable loan program for companies negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Eveleth received a \$200,000 Taconite Area Community Relief grant from Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation and combined it with \$50,000 of its own money to create a lending pool of \$250,000. The 17 businesses received 100% forgivable loans up to \$12,000 on the condition that they remain open for two years from the date of disbursement.

Boomtown Woodfire owner Jessica Lietz closed her restaurant in mid-March last year due to statewide COVID-19 restrictions. She used the next two months to perform deep cleaning and routine maintenance of the Eveleth location and her two other Iron Range restaurants: Whistling Bird in Gilbert and Boomtown Brewery in Hibbing.





Boomtown Woodfire reopened mid-May with drive through barbecue service. Lietz acquired a commercial meat smoker trailer and smoked chicken, brisket and ribs. The barbecue quickly became popular, and cars lined up each Thursday for Boomtown's new barbecue-to-go.

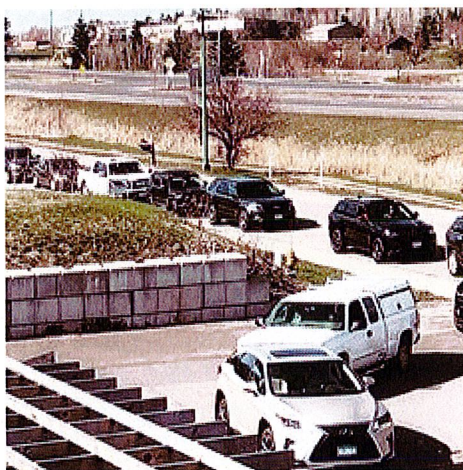
"My husband and business partner Erik had the idea for the smoker trailer," said Jessica. "Two months into the pandemic, people were not quite comfortable dining out, and there was apprehension about public gatherings. The trailer concept was a great way to reopen and begin generating revenue. The barbecue became far

more popular than we anticipated. People wanted to support local small businesses."

As the weeks progressed, Lietz reopened their three locations but faced obstacles with national and global supply chains, available staffing, and reduced capacity and social distancing requirements for indoor dining. In mid-November Minnesota reported a spike in COVID-19 cases and a shortage of hospital beds. Restaurants and bars closed a second time for indoor service, Nov. 18 through Jan. 11. Boomtown Woodfire and the other two locations reopened in mid-January with indoor dining.



"This has been an extremely difficult 12 months," said Lietz. "Our business is doing better now than a year ago, but we have not yet reached full financial recovery. The forgivable loan is filling some of the revenue gaps to cover operating expenses. The supply chains are still problematic which impacts our menus and offerings. Our staff has been very adaptable with the week-to-week fluctuations in availability of produce, meats and staple items."



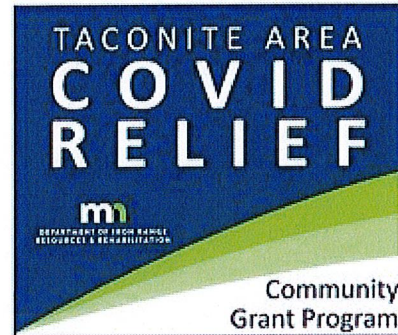
In spite of the struggles through COVID-19, Jessica and Erik are opening a fourth restaurant, Boomtown Duluth. It was originally scheduled to open in spring 2020, however statewide restrictions postponed the opening. Although an official date has not been confirmed, the couple is striving to open it by the Minnesota Fishing Opener which is an annual state tradition since 1948 that promotes the state's recreational and fishing opportunities.

"The Duluth location has a great management team in place," said Jessica. "The restaurant is situated on 27 acres at The Old Sunset. Erik and I have always enjoyed taking on

challenges. The pandemic has certainly been one, and we are very optimistic about the future both personally and professionally.”

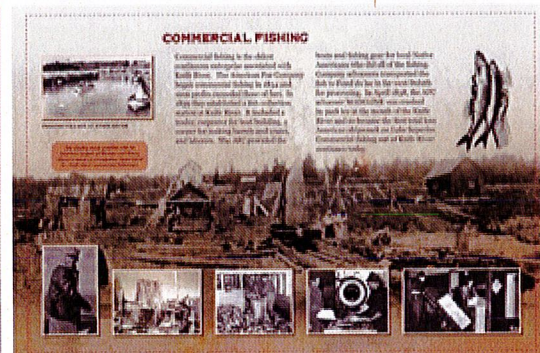
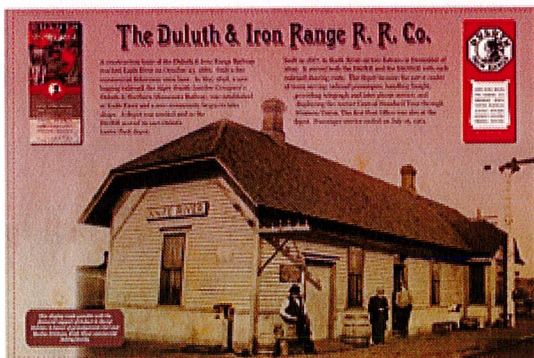
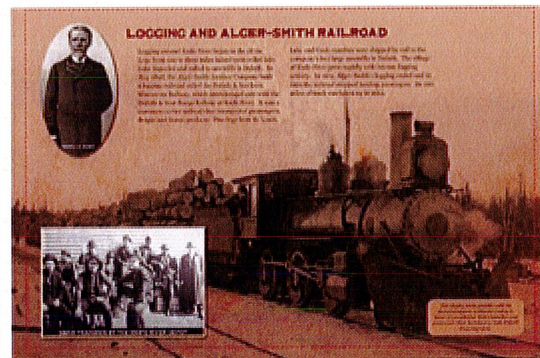
Lietz is a graduate of Virginia High School and University of Minnesota Duluth. With an original career goal to be a dentist, Lietz holds bachelor's degrees in biology and chemistry. She and her husband Erik now own Lietz Properties LLC which owns the four restaurants that combined employ approximately 150 full- and part-time workers.

“Eveleth businesses have suffered significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Jackie Monahan-Junek, Eveleth city administrator. “With the grant money from Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation, we structured a forgivable loan program to ensure that businesses could receive the help they needed.”



Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation structured the Taconite Area Community Relief program so that Eveleth had funding and flexibility to provide aid to local businesses as the city saw fit. The economic development agency is committed to helping local communities and their businesses persevere through the COVID-19 challenge. [Learn more about Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation COVID Relief programs.](#)

Knife River telling history to visitors with interpretive panels



Four new outdoor interpretive display panels and other signage will soon be added at the Knife River Heritage & Cultural Center (KRHCC). The panels will be 2 feet by 3 feet and highlight the area's history including: native people through copper mining, logging and

railroading, the train depot and commercial fishing. *(Pictured above.)* Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation supported the project with a Culture & Tourism grant.

The Cultural Center is home to the historic Knife River Depot and the 35-foot fish tug boat Crusader II. The depot's exterior has been restored, and the interior is scheduled for future restoration to make it a fully functioning 1900s depot and open to the public.

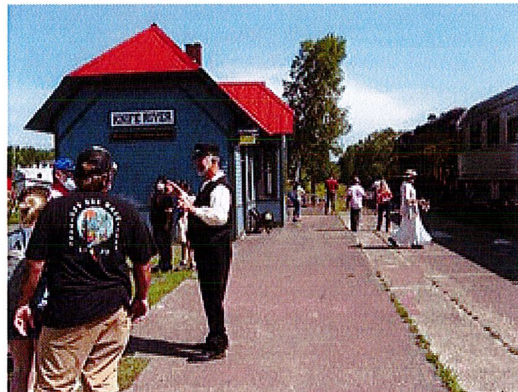


A number of visitors to the KRHCC arrive by train on the North Shore Scenic Railroad (NSSR). Upon arrival, guests may tour the exteriors of the depot and tug boat. Adjacent to the depot area is Agate Beach, an area where people may hunt for the official state gemstone as designated by the Minnesota Legislature in 1969.

"Knife River has become a very popular site. Visits doubled in number last year when NSSR made Knife River the destination for eight fall color train rides," said Paul von Goertz, KRHCC president. "The panels are the start of our educational program at the Heritage Center. Visitors can learn a quick history of Knife River through the panels' text and pictures, as well as by seeing the depot's restored exterior."

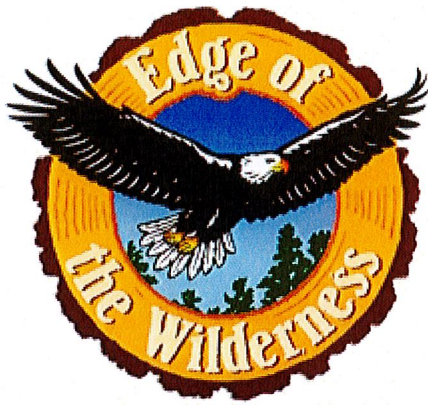
The Knife River community is located in Lake County along the North Shore Scenic Drive of Lake Superior between Duluth and Two Harbors. The township of 230 people is at the mouth of the 23.9-mile-long Knife River which drains into Lake Superior. The community's name is speculated to have been given by the Ojibwe native people due to the long, sharp stones near the mouth of the river.

KRHCC spearheaded the grant application process, and private donations by individuals paid for half of the interpretive display panels. Email [Danae Beaudette](mailto:Danae.Beaudette@krhcc.org) for Culture & Tourism grant information or call her at 218-735-3022.



Pictured above: The Knife River Depot agent greets passengers arriving from Duluth on a North Shore Scenic Railroad train.

Edge of Wilderness Scenic Byway digitally mapped to boost tourism



A National Scenic Byway

An interactive digital map was developed that highlights the communities and places of interest along the 47-mile Edge of the Wilderness Scenic Byway that connects Grand Rapids and Effie. The project includes new mapping technology, photos, videos and digital display ads that can help promote the byway region and attract new visitors.

The road was once used by voyageurs and loggers through the Chippewa National Forest. Much of the road was recently reconstructed and offers a smooth ride with rolling hills, forests, swamps, historic and interpretive sites, scenic overlooks, lumberjack-influenced small towns, numerous

resorts, campgrounds, lakes, fishing and hiking trails. Approximately three hours is needed to travel the entire length of the byway and visit the sites along the way. The land surrounding the byway is home to 1,000 lakes, 920 miles of rivers and streams and 150,000 acres of wetlands.

"The digital map project will be a significant marketing tool for the scenic byway and area; it has the ability to attract both in-person and virtual visitors," said Tim Johnson, Edge of the Wilderness Lodging Association Executive Director. "The digital map, videos and photos provide a way to trip plan and explore the byway on smart phones, tablets, computers and other devices."



The state of Minnesota has 22 designated scenic byways that total 2,948 miles. The byways are designated road corridors that have regionally outstanding scenic, natural, recreational, cultural, historic or archaeological significance. They offer an alternative travel route to major highways while telling a story of Minnesota's heritage and natural beauty. The Minnesota Scenic Byways Commission was established in 1992. It serves to advocate for these routes that help the economic development of communities across the state through tourism and recreation.



Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation supported the project with a Culture & Tourism grant to Bigfork Valley Community Foundation. An additional 12 local organizations collaborated on the project including Arrowhead Regional Development Corporation, Blandin Foundation, Edge of the Wilderness Business & Lodging Associations, Itasca County, Minnesota Highway 38 Leadership Board, Northern Itasca Joint

Powers Board, Visit Grand Rapids and the communities of Bigfork, Effie, Grand Rapids and Marcell.

"Many organizations united and collaborated on the development of the Edge of Wilderness Scenic Byway map," said Johnson. "The Itasca County area recently launched multiple digital mapping projects, including the art and history digital map of Grand Rapids. All of these projects combined are giving northeastern Minnesota a heightened online presence to draw new visitors and increase tourism spending."

[View the Edge of Wilderness Scenic Byway digital map.](#)

[Watch the Edge of the Wilderness Scenic Byway video.](#)

For Culture & Tourism grant information [email Danae Beaudette](#) or call her at 218-735-3022.



The Ranger is a publication of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation. Our mission is to invest resources to foster vibrant growth and economic prosperity in northeastern Minnesota.



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