

Welcome To Northern Herald Online.
The following pages contain the complete issue with news, features, photos and classifieds.

Note: This issue's post publication Special Extra, concerning the June 1st trial of Bruce Preece is page 14 of this .pdf. It's the article entitled

The Court: Bemidji Police Chief Bruce Preece Committed \$500,000+ Fraud

Use your scroll bar or scroll arrows at the right of this screen to scroll down past this intro page, to the front page, and through the rest of this Northern Herald.

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To minimize future download time, you may want to use your "save as" command to save this .pdf file (i.e. this issue), in a directory of your choice, for future reference.

NOTE RE: PAGE REFERENCES:

This .pdf edition is one page longer than the print edition, due to this page being added.

For this reason, 1 must be added to print page references if you're using the .pdf page number references on your status line or right scroll bar.

In other words, "continued on page 5" would refer to the page 6 screen reference of this .pdf edition.

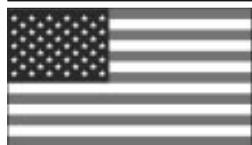
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Northern Herald 75¢

VOLUME 11 NO. 4

North Central Minnesota's Eight-Weekly Regional Newspaper

MAY 29 - JULY 23, 2006

"Jail 4 Judges" Initiative is Reality in S. D.

LEADING EDGE JOURNALISM FOLLOW-UP

PIERRE, SD -- A major step to stem rampant Midwest corruption was taken in South Dakota as petition signing voters qualified a measure touted as *Jail 4 Judges* for their November ballot.

In a release, Secretary of State Chris Nelson has announced that the citizens' initiative petition for a constitutional amendment has received enough signatures, and is certified for the ballot. Secretary Nelson verified that this petition contains the required 33,456 signatures. The petition proposes a constitutional amendment to the South Dakota Constitution to add a new section titled Judicial Accountability Initiative Law (J.A.I.L.). The question will be included on the November 2006 South Dakota general election ballot as Constitutional Amendment E.

Earlier, Bill Stegmeier, a businessman from Tea, South Dakota, and an organizer of the petition drive, said that he had turned in approximately 46,800 petition signatures, far more than the required number, supporting the proposed amendment that would allow people to sue judges, and, in extreme cases, allow the judiciary to be held criminally culpable, for judicial misconduct.

Legislature decries will of people. The South Dakota legislature wasted no time in passing a joint unanimous resolution, HCR1004, urging the voters of South Dakota to reject the measure.

But South Dakota Judicial Accountability (SDJA) (<http://www.southdakotajudicialaccountability.org>), the initiators of the effort, have said that the public is solidly behind them, reporting that Susan Johnson, in charge of the signature gatherers said, "Let me put it this way, virtually no one has refused to sign. The signers have been overall receptive to the amendment's stated goal of making the judiciary accountable."

Grand Jury. The law would create a Special Grand Jury comprised of South Dakota citizens. This Special Grand Jury would be empowered to hear complaints of judicial misconduct, and would have the power to, after investigating and hearing all of the evidence, set aside the traditional cloak of *judicial*

immunity, thereby allowing the judge to be sued for damages.

Three strikes. The law would also allow the Grand Jury to criminally indict the judge, subjecting him to criminal penalties, including imprisonment; and after three "strikes" the judge would be permanently removed, and would forfeit one-half of his retirement benefits.

Acts constituting. Paragraph 2 of the proposed amendment rescinds judicial immunity for "any deliberate violation of law, fraud or conspiracy, intentional violation of due process of law, deliberate disregard of material facts, judicial acts without jurisdiction, blocking of a lawful conclusion of a case, or any deliberate violation of the Constitutions of South Dakota or the United States . . ."

Foxes and the Henhouse. Complaints of the Bench departing from the law are nothing new. Generally, the various states have their own organizations to police over the all-powerful judiciary.

In Minnesota, for example, it's the Board on Judicial Standards, comprised of ten members appointed by the Governor, and which, by law, must include one judge of the Minnesota Court of Appeals, three trial court judges, two attorneys and four citizens. The two attorneys and four citizen members must have their appointments confirmed by the Minnesota Senate.

And some who have made complaints of judicial misconduct have criticized the Board, sometimes characterized as like *the foxes watching the henhouse*, as lax and reluctant to take disciplinary action against a judge, even where the evidence of impropriety is fairly clear.

SDJA began a voter education campaign in May, and is collecting courtroom horror stories (at their website, ante) with a \$500 prize for the best.

SDJA designed its initiative from a template provided by a national effort, *Jail4Judges* (www.jail4judges.org), but the South Dakota organization is separate and not affiliated with the national effort led by Californian Ron Branson. The South Dakota initiative, however, is seen as a

pilot to have the measure adopted in the various states, nationwide.

Minnesota law, however, does not permit voter-raised initiatives.

LEADING EDGE JOURNALISM FOLLOW-UP

Preece Trials June 1st

MINNEAPOLIS -- Following protracted litigation encumbered by many delay tactics, including scheduling mediation and then not appearing for it, etc., former Bemidji Police Chief James "Bruce" Preece will be tried, civilly, before the United States Bankruptcy Court, Courtroom 7 West, at Minneapolis; the Honourable Judge Dreher presiding, on June 1st at 1:00 p.m.

The trial is to determine whether two debts totalling over \$556,000 should be excluded from Preece's 2003 bankruptcy due to fraud and swindle. (Bankruptcy case no. 03-44987, adverse claim nos. 03-4265 and 03-4285)

Preece was formerly, and while serving as Bemidji Police Chief, the operator of Helicopter Flight Inc. (HFI) at the Crystal Airport, near Minneapolis. As early as 2002, a series of allegedly fraudulent helicopter transactions by Preece, which in the aggregate would total over \$1 million, began to come to light.

Preece maintained his position with the Bemidji Police Dept. (BPD) until Tuesday, April 25th, 2006, when departing City Manager David Minke, who had taken another job, as one of his final duties for Bemidji, placed Preece on *paid* administrative leave; now extended 'til May 31st, 2006. Sgt. Gerald Johnson was put in charge of BPD, pending the naming of a new Chief, which Minke said he expected would be done by the new City Manager when one is appointed. Minke said that he was unable to disclose the official cause for Preece's suspension.

Note: For trial results, please see p. 14 (last page) of this .pdf edition.

For detailed earlier reporting of this matter and individual incidents, see **THE POLICE CHIEF BRUCE PREECE FILES in Living On The Edge** at northernherald.com and NH issues of 10/25/04, 05/16/05, 09/19/05, and 02/27/06, also at northernherald.com

Special High-Energy Issue

Getting YOUR Electricity Free - Wind Power - p. 6
 The Petrol Solution - p. 4 • Tax Credits - p. 11

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Moondance 2006 To Feature Cajun Tent!

WALKER -- In addition to a star-studded band lineup, the *Dream Fifteenth Moondance*, the midwest's premiere summer music festival, will, per producer Bill Bieloh, now feature Louisiana Cajun music and dance in it's own tent and Mardi Gras stage.

Moondance is known to offer something for just about everybody, and this development significantly augments it's music diversity as even those who don't particularly care for *Steppenwolf* (are there any?) will have their own place to Zydeco, Swing, and Mambo to the French Cajun beat.

The Mardi Gras Stage, which will be open and making music from 4 pm 'til 2 am each day, is presently expected to feature daily performances by legendary Cajun Fiddler **Curtis Coubello**, the Treater Band, and at least three other excellent Cajun groups.

Cajun music was made for dancing and avid dancers will get a treat from the Treater Band with Coubello as they play their unique Louisiana arrangements of the people's pleasuring classic dance tunes. A master of his craft, even in straight play, Coubello's fiddle style can only be described as awesome; it lends a great spice to the well-known favourite numbers they play for dancing on the big floor. And in past appearances, Coubello has usually devoted at least one song per set to his signature *fancy fiddling* which sometimes includes playing with the instrument held behind his back; letting someone else hold the bow, and playing, excellently, by Coubello moving the fiddle body, and, of course, his famous fiddle-upside-down!

The 110' x 80' Mardi Gras tent will be located on the northwest corner of the Moondance Fairgrounds, where the Budweiser tent and regional stage used to be.

The Main Stage is expected to host 20 major bands this year (full schedule. p. 3) including **The Guess Who** on Wednesday, **The New Cars** Thurs., **Alice Cooper** and **Ted Nugent** Friday, and **Steppenwolf** and **The Doobie Brothers** on Saturday.



Fiddle Upside Down! Yet, Coubello never misses a beat!
 Northern Herald Photo - 2003

The MDJ Saloon Stage will feature 20 national and regional acts, from 1 pm 'til 2 am each day. Scheduled bands are the national tribute band *HairBall*, the Led Zeppelin tribute band *Zed-Leppelin*, *Search For George*, *Local Instinct*, *El Diablo*, *Silent Partner*, *Gus Levanbread*, *The Skatyrts*, *Sister Attic*, *Sapphire*, the all-girl AC-DC tribute band *ThundHerStuck* which packed the house their last time here, *Bus Nine*, *73 Paces*, *Tim Casey*, *the Martyrs*, *A Fixx of Seagulls*, *The Minnesota Whiskey Pigzz*, *Rug Burn*, *Jack Hicks Band*, and *Workin' Man* (performance times at moondancejam.com).

New this year, the campgrounds will open for early check-in from 4 to 9 pm Tuesday afternoon (requires 5-day camping pass) for better traffic flow, and a new road has been installed in the most rustic and desirable North General campground, making over 300 new rustic campsites available in the best, wooded parts. This year, these are first-come, first-camped; next year it will be reservable.

Use of the free, quick, numerous and convenient shuttles, which run all day and night 'til close is the advised and fastest (Cont'd, "Moondance," page 2)

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*All orders may be placed at any time. *NH* subscribers' orders will receive priority during the first week following release of this issue. In order to best make this great deal available in fairness to all, we have to limit orders to two discount tickets per person/family/group.

Moondance from p. 1

way to get to the gates for those not camping. Just park in the big Northern Lights Casino lot at the "Y" of Hwys. 371 & 200 and catch the shuttle for an express trip to the Moondance gates. For those who just have to park on site, 4-day parking passes are available for \$30. Unlike some other fests, **Moondance** is known for its **safe, hospitable environment**. This year, Mr. Bieloh has hired about 100 private, county, and local officers to ensure that *everyone* can have a good time!

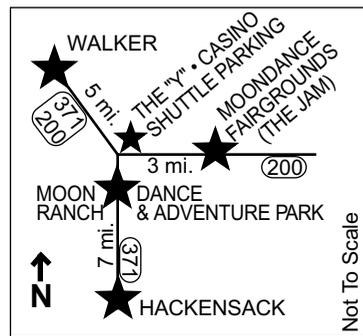
Sweetheart Days at Hackensack July 9th - 12th

HACKENSACK -- Summer or winter, fall or spring, one thing they know how to do in Hackensack is have fun! And this summer is no exception as they have the annual canoe races and radio-controlled airplane demos June 17th and 18th; and then, in July, the annual fest commemorating the betrothal of Paul Bunyan to Lucette Diana Kensack (the town's namesake) - Sweetheart Days!

- ### SWEETHEART DAYS SCHEDULE
- Sunday, July 9**
Noon - Golf Tournament at Black Bear Golf Course - Tickets \$60
7:30 p.m. - "Little Shop of Horrors" - Live Summer Theatre at Hackensack Community Bldg., presented by the Northwoods Arts Council
- Monday, July 10**
Pontoon Rides on Birch Lake
5-7 pm - Scavenger Hunt at City Park (Registration: 4 pm)
7:30 p.m. - "Little Shop of Horrors" at Hackensack Community Bldg.
- Tuesday, July 11**
All Day - Sweetheart Sidewalk Sales; Water Wars, Food Concessions at City Park
10a-3 pm - Family Activities at the Pavilion at HOWA Family Center
11am-2 pm - Pre-School & Elementary Kids' Games at the Park Pavilion, by Children's Task Force
11 am - Kid's Fishing Contest - City Pier
1 pm - Old Fashioned Games at City Park, by HOWA Family Center
4 pm - Horseshoe Tournament-City Park
4:30 pm - Parade Lineup
4:30-7:30 pm - Music by Spectrum Entertainment
6 pm - Parade Begins
Following the Parade: Raffle Drawing at City Park
8 pm - Street Dance by the Ramona Fritz Band
- Wednesday, July 12**
Starting at 8 am - Flea Market at Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Editor's Note: Make it five days of fun! Although the Moondance main events won't get under way 'til Wednesday, early-birds arriving on Tuesday will find food and fun at • Moondance Ranch & Adventure Park (wildlife park, horseback riding, go-karts, Grain Bin Restaurant & Pub). It's just 4 miles from the Moondance Fairgrounds, just S. of the "Y" of 371 & 200 (where the Casino is); and • Hackensack Sweetheart Days (see article, this page) on 371 just 7 miles S. of the "Y"

The biggest day is Tuesday, July 11th. That evening features the Parade, followed by the Street Dance with the Ramona Fritz Band. **Rain Day:** If Tuesday is rained out, Tuesday events will be Wednesday.



For other great restaurants in the Walker-Hackensack area, see the *NH Restaurant Guide*, on p. 9.

Finally, no trip to Walker is complete without an inexpensive and relaxing cruise on Leech Lake, courtesy of Coborn's Cruises, at the Walker City Park, Walker. -- Ed.

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Source: Minnesota Coalition for a Smoke-Free Society 2000

Summer Fun

Each summer the Northern Minnesota sun shines, and so does each Northern community. These are some events you won't want to miss!

- June 17th & 18th - **Canoe Derby & Radio-Controlled Airplane Demo**, at Hackensack
- July 8, 9, 10, 14, 16, 17th - The play: **Little Shop of Horrors** by Northwoods Arts Council, Hackensack Community Bldg.
- July 9th-12th **Sweetheart Days**, Hackensack
- July 12th-15th - **Moondance** at Walker
- July 21st-23rd - **Cass Lake Rib Fest** at Cass Lake
- July 28th-30th - **North Star Rodeo** at Effie
- July 29th - **Woodcarvers fest** at Blackduck
- August 4th, 5th, 6th - **White Oak Rendezvous** at Deer River
- August 11th & 12th **Harvest Days** at Remer
- August 12th - **Backus Corn Fest** at Backus
- Sept. 8th & 9th - **Ethnic Fest** at Walker
- Sept. 2nd - **Hobo Day** at Boy River
- Sept. 22nd-Oct. 1st - **Fall Has It All** at Hackensack, Walker, Longville
- Oct. 14th - **Chili Cook-Off** and Scarecrow Contest at Remer
- Pow-Wows** are held at Cass Lake Veterans Memorial Grounds, May 26th-29th, July 1st-3rd, and Sept. 1st-4th; and at Red Lake, July 6th weekend.
- Kids' Fishing Contest**, every Tues., June 13th-Aug. 30th, 11 am, at Hackensack pier

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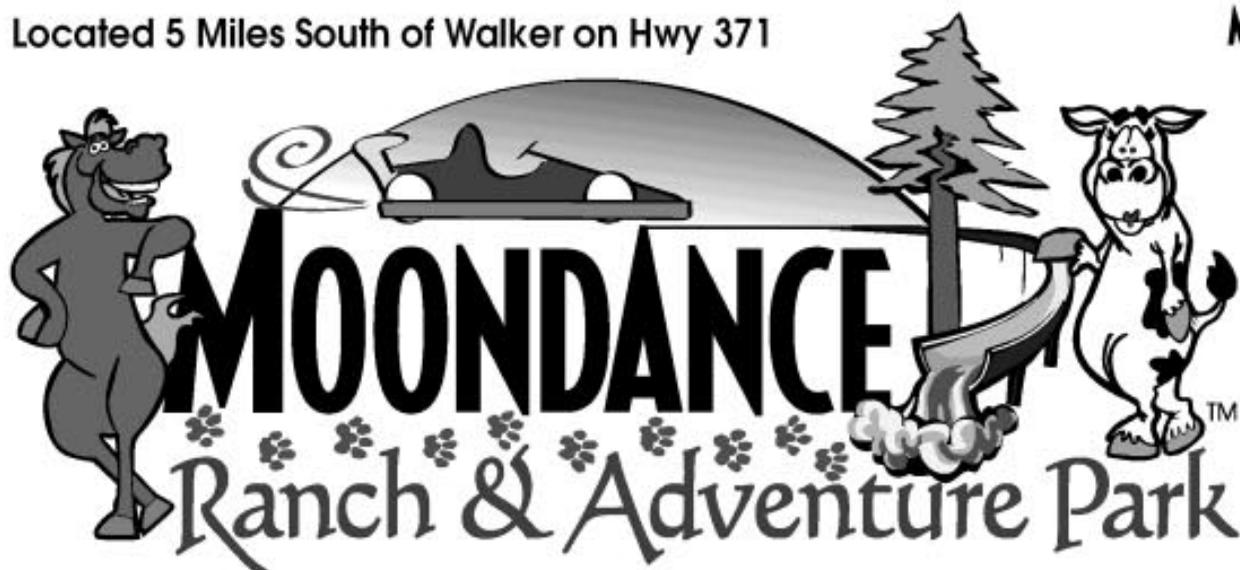
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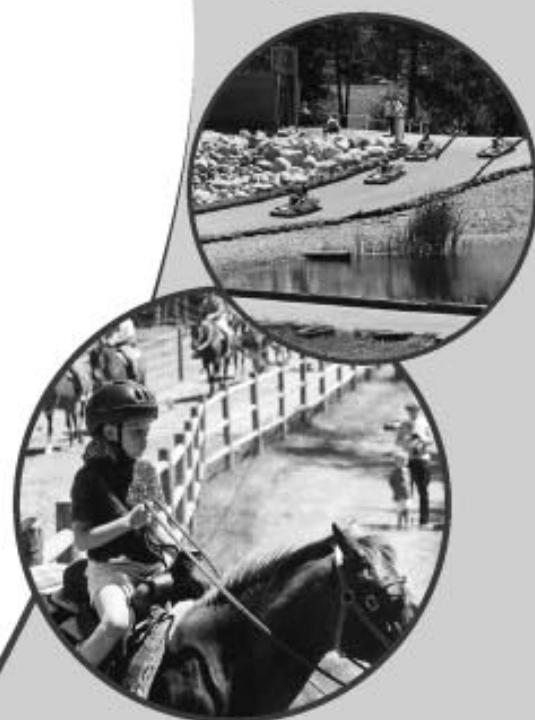
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7:00 - THE GUESS WHO
4:30 - LITTLE RIVER BAND
3:00 - BLACK VALENTINE

THURSDAY, JULY 13TH

11:00 - ALICE COOPER
9:00 - TED NUGENT
7:00 - SANTANA'S GREGG ROLIE
4:30 - STARSHIP FEATURING
MICKEY THOMAS
3:00 - MOUNTAIN ASH

FRIDAY, JULY 14TH

11:00 - THE NEW CARS
9:00 - THE BANGLES
7:00 - KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD
4:30 - OUTLAWS
3:00 - MARK ANTHONY'S
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SATURDAY, JULY 15TH

11:00 - HEART
9:00 - DOOBIE BROTHERS
7:00 - JOHN KAY & STEPPENWOLF
4:30 - Y&T
3:00 - T. ALBERT LLOYD &
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EDITORIALS - OPINION

America Must Swallow Bitter Pill To Have Prosperous Future.

by Adam Steele, C.P.A.

New form of voluntary rationing may enable meeting coming national fuel needs.

You can see it in any grocery store parking lot. With the price of gas nearing \$3 a gallon, for the first time well outpacing inflation, and while working people are struggling just to drive their compact cars to and from work; retailers' parking lots are crowded with myriads, one lined up after another, of gas-guzzling SUVs, vans and pickup trucks that someone drove there to transport a couple of kids and a few bags of groceries.

When we look for the cause of the steep price of gas, the consumer demand curve has a lot to do with it. The price could go up another dollar or two and it's doubtful that these "soccer moms" would change their driving habits much. Receiving child support, welfare, gifts from transient illicit consorts and other forms of prostitution, and about \$5,000 a year in tax "refunds" - rewards from the federal and state government for having kids; in addition to any actual earnings; they have, after all, money to throw around. Easy come, easy go. But it makes it tough on the guy just using his old Toyota to get to and from work. Her abandon raises his petrol (gas) price.

The current Bush administration may be the first that hasn't responded to a gas crunch with national conservation measures. When the 70s oil embargoes hit and brought high prices and gas lines, Washington reacted

immediately with a gas-saving 55 mph speed limit, tough new auto fuel-efficiency manufacturing standards, and even, for a while, year-round daylight savings time, to conserve the fossil fuels used to produce electricity. It was tough on some of us, but it was needed for the national benefit.

And speaking of the nation, it's well to mention that as long as we remain dependent on foreign oil, our national security is highly compromised; if the Saudis disagree with our political move, they have the power to shut our military down just by turning off the oil faucet.

From a national commerce perspective, the rise in pump prices will, in time, prompt a general inflation - domestic wages and prices will gradually rise to bring things into balance. But in so doing, our goods will become less competitive in foreign markets, worsening the trade deficit, and a greater percentage of U.S. national wealth will gravitate to Saudi Arabia and to a handful of domestic oil companies. In the transitional period, American business, particularly small business, is dealt a double-whammy. Everything they sell which in any way is petro-connected, or which has to be transported (this includes food, and almost everything else we buy) becomes more expensive - more of the purchase price is going to Arabia. But the businessman who



Adam Steele, Editor

must accordingly raise his prices is selling to consumers who, themselves, have less disposable income and purchasing power. More of their money is going to Arabia too. The merchant is caught between a rock and a hard place. He has to raise prices while his customers have less money to spend. It doesn't take much imagination to see the business failures and depressed domestic economy that this equation produces.

Clearly, there's a lot to be gained if, acting as a nation, we confront the current energy crisis. Long-term solutions are in the works - things like converting some of our petro-centered energy systems to wind, solar, and hydrogen; these may be the ultimate solution as the gauge needle approaches the *Empty* mark on our world's mineral (crude oil) reserves. But in the immediate term, the current oil crunch can, and must, also be addressed, as a nation.

Two ways to go. Prices are predominantly controlled by **demand, or by regulation.** *Demand-driven controls.* Our American economic system of free enterprise and capitalism supports a *laissez-faire* market where prices are kept in check by demand. With most goods and services, when prices go up, there's incentive to produce and supply more, and demand shrinks to meet that supply. Generally this works well with most commodities and governmental intervention just **(Continued, "Gas," page 10)**

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Art by Alice McDaniel

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ALSO, house copies of *Northern Herald* are available at finer restaurants throughout the region.

Where It's Not On Sept. 20, 2001, President George W. Bush said:

"This will be an age of liberty here and across the world. ... Freedom and fear are at war. ... They [our enemies] hate our freedoms... our freedom of speech.... They follow in the path of fascism, Naziism and totalitarianism....
"I ask you to uphold the values of America; ... we are in a fight for our principles and our first responsibility is to live by them. ..."

Still, there are some people that just don't buy it. They hang the flag, but don't believe you should be able to read the news if they don't agree with it. Don't look for *Northern Herald* at these places:

BEMIDJI: K-MART, Gene Frost, mgr., Sta-Mart, Subway (Bemidji, Park Rapids and Brainerd only), E-Z Stop, McDonald's (Bemidji, Brainerd only), Burger King (Bemidji, Grand Rapids only), Paul Bunyan Mall, Marketplace grocery, Lueken's grocery, Southside Restaurant, Countryside Restaurant, Maid-Rite, South Shore Maytag Laundry & Tanning, Wally's Oil, The Cabin **PARK RAPIDS:** Northern Convenience/Phillips 66, Wimpy's Cafe, A&W, J&B Foods, CENEX/Taco Bell (Park Rapids only), SA (Park Rapids only), Petro Pete's **CASS LAKE:** Teal's SuperValu, Food & Fuel, Sportsman's Pizzeria, Palace Junction Service **NEVIS:** Northwind Grocery **OTHER PLACES:** Galen's Super Valu, Bagley, Godfrey's Super Valu, Backus, Bucker's Super Valu, Pine River; Countryside Restaurant, Blackduck; Holiday (Deer River only); Curtisinn Headwaters Cafe, Akeley

Letters to the Editor

All Shook Up: Recessed Manhole Covers

Love your publication. Pet Peeve: Driving down brand new highway - smooth ride. . . . Manhole cover 2" - 4" below highway surface. Teeth jarring

experience. -- A new subscriber from Sauk Rapids, Minn.

An Easy Way To Accelerate Cash Flow

It truly amazes me that the co-op I buy fuel from does not send me a return envelope; but

Northern Herald, for a mere \$8 per year, sends a return envelope! Good Show!

-- A renewing subscriber from Grand Rapids, Minn.

NH responds: Actually, it just makes good business sense, for any business. If they send a bill without a return envelope, the customer has to find one and address it, IF he has the address handy then. This can often delay mailing the payment for 2 or 3 days, sometimes much more.

Today's computers, which generate the bills, can also generate a fully addressed (including return address) return envelope with a few keystrokes. The customer just has to pop it in the mail. And because the return address is the customer's name exactly as it appears in the receivables register, payments are never miscredited, even if payment is by someone else's check, or by money order. No stray payments - no searching for accounts to which to credit them. This saves a lot of time and customer headaches.

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★ ★ ★ ★ Stars appear in **Restaurant ads** only if the restaurant has been rated by *Northern Herald*, and denote the rating. We assign up to: 3 stars for quality, 1 for exceptional value, 1 for particular ambience or something extra. Many restaurants have not yet been rated, and may be superb. **Restaurants which are not hospitable to people who smoke will not be rated.**

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AGGRESSIVE NATIONAL ENERGY PLAN

including expansion of subsidized loans for wind and solar generators for individuals, so actual people can generate what they need for their households, sell the rest back into the grid, and pay for it over time as they now pay their electric and heating bills. Enabling Americans to be more self-sufficient will save them money, and will get us off of foreign oil, **now**.

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-- A.J. Liebling

But that's not the way it is in Northern Minnesota. A community cannot progress without open communication. *NORTHERN HERALD's* open editorial policy encourages you to speak out on your views, complaints and approbations ... even if they're so outlandish as to not agree with ours! And our Consumer Corner is to give the consumer a voice in Northern Minnesota. Your verifiable complaints, compliments and comments regarding businesses are welcome and can help other consumers!

Send letters (800 words or less) for publication, or consumer comments, to: *NORTHERN HERALD - Letters (or Consumer Forum)* - P.O. Box 1535, Bemidji, MN 56619. Sign your letter and print your name, address & phone number for verification. *Consumer comments* may be edited for space. *Letters* may be printed anonymously, if sender prefers and so indicates, but we have to know who sent it to verify contents. Letters which have appeared in other papers, or from outside the *Northern Herald* circulation area receive a lower publication priority.

News Tips, which are not for ad verbatim publication, may still be called in or sent anonymously.

As *Northern Minnesota's* regional community newspaper, we will print virtually any responsible material, whether submitted as paid advertisement, or opinion. Inserts (flyers, etc.), other paid advertising, guest columns, and letters, however, do not necessarily reflect the editorial position of this paper. Also, while we maintain a high standard of authenticity of our reporting, we do not independently corroborate the contents of letters and guest columns; the writer alone is accountable for their veracity. We will not publish material that we know to be incorrect, but we're Northern Minnesotans, so we don't know much. Like it that way.

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Carter's Farm Market Open For Season!



At Right, a shopper enjoys a cup of hot cider while perusing the gourmet jellies, jams, honeys and baking mixes at Carter's Red Wagon Farm Market in Park Rapids!

Mr. Carter stands by the ornamental gourd cart with an enormous gourd from his farm.

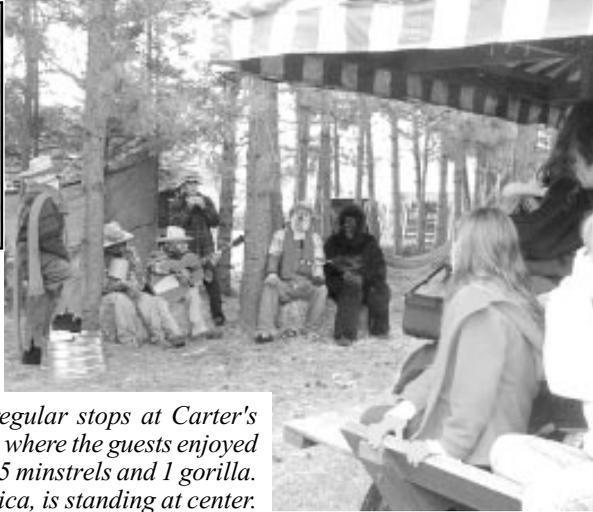
Above, kids help select pumpkins at Carter's Annual Pumpkin Party in October.

PARK RAPIDS -- Whether one is picking their own strawberries, buying fresh fruit and veggies for dinner, stopping for a bag of healthy dried fruit snacks for a picnic or drive, or attending their close-of-season Pumpkin Parties, **Carter's Farm Market** is more than just food, it's plum fun for residents and visitors when in Park Rapids!

With an early crop of fresh asparagus, the farm market, located on Hwy 34 on the east edge of Park Rapids (look for the big sign - you can't miss it) opened in May for the 2006 season. Each year the market brings shoppers not only the very freshest produce, which Mr. Carter brings, each day, right from his Park Rapids area farm to the market, but also an amazing selection of other natural farm products, including bulk beans, unusual jams and jellies, and very useful and inexpensive wood racks and other wooden home and kitchen items that he makes in his shop. The store looks small, but all the good things it holds blows the mind. It's a very worthwhile stop when in Park Rapids!



Above, at last year's Annual Pumpkin Party, visitors got to ride on the tractor-drawn produce wagon, which made regular stops at Carter's deep woods playhouse, where the guests enjoyed a hootenanny starring 5 minstrels and 1 gorilla. Mr. Carter, on harmonica, is standing at center.



The pumpkin party featured a full day of farm fun for kids and adults, alike. Guests enjoyed the Maize Maze, which Mr. Carter grows each year especially for the purpose, the Tomato Toss, Crow Shoot, Kids' Cow Milking Contests, paddling a boat carved from a pumpkin, The Incredible Pumpkin Launcher, lots of hot cider for all, and much more. Oh, yes, one could also buy a pumpkin from the huge selection that ranged up to several hundred pound items.

Steele Goes To Bat For N. Minnesotans' Property Rights

"A man's home is his castle."
 -- a well established legal doctrine
 "Live free or die."
 -- the New Hampshire state motto

BEMIDJI -- The Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees people's right to be "secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects;" but at times, one might not know it in Bemidji. A few years ago, when a local developer was using TIF financing to create a high-income housing district in a relaxed, semi-rural part of Bemidji near Lake Irving, Bemidji city authorities went on to the nearby property that Ronald Maltais, now 91, has, for many years, maintained as his homestead there, at 403 Roosevelt Rd. SW, and seized all of Maltais's personal effects - a lifetime collection of belongings - that Maltais kept in his yard. "They took everything," Maltais said in recent interview. Maltais's only crime was keeping his property on his property - precisely where many would say it belongs.

For many homeowners - people who simply live on their land - those who seek to use nearby residential property for other purposes, e.g. developers and absentee landlords, occupy about the same office as rentmice; with about the same disposition toward them, and with good cause. And now, similarly, the City of Bemidji has moved, at the behest of absentee landlord Paul Hofland, to invade the property rights of your editor, Adam Steele, at his home at 189 Gemmel Ave., Bemidji.

Hofland owns the adjacent property at 185 Gemmel, formerly a single-family house, into which Hofland has crammed three

apartments from which noise, in this otherwise peaceful historic residential area, can frequently be heard at all hours of the day and night; and vehicles of the many renters, roommates, and their visitors can often be seen overflowing the driveway and lining the curbs of Gemmel Ave. near the property.

Paul Hofland is a professional landlord, owning several rental properties in Bemidji. He also holds himself out as a heating and plumbing contractor.

Over the years, many suits have successfully been brought against Hofland by tenants and prospective tenants for improper failure to return deposits, and other rental malfeasance. In one instance, (Beltrami Co. court case no. 04-C4-99-898) Hofland, having a dispute with a tenant, unlawfully locked her out of her apartment, illegally turned off her utilities, and removed (stole) her belongings. A court order was necessary to restore her to the dwelling and get her stuff back.

In March, 2005, Hofland decided to remove five large old growth trees from his side of the fenceline between his, and Steele's, properties, to use them for firewood. The trees had shaded both yards, and provided a good deal of bird nesting and wildlife habitat. The old living trees had many holes and burrows, and woodpeckers could often be heard and seen at work. On March 13th, 2005, Steele awoke to the sound of chainsaws, to find his backyard (Cont'd, "Rental Crook," p. 6)



Above and below, Paul Hofland (magnified at right), with hired timbermen, fells five old growth trees, dropping much of them onto the adjacent property (in foreground) belonging to Steele, on March 13, 2005. The fenceline is just in front of this stump (arrow).



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Editor's recommendation: The most delicate essences of veggies are lost quickly on the shelf. Find out the taste difference that serving really freshly-picked veggies right from Mr. Carter's farm can make. For maximum flavour, they should be prepared as soon as possible after getting them home. The fresh produce is the store's feature, but there's a lot more neat & unique stuff in there - one really has to stop by and see it!
 Tip: If you're not going to use your asparagus immediately, barely cut off the bottoms (like with cut flowers) and keep, upright, in a water-filled container (a 24 oz. cottage cheese tub is perfect for this) in the fridge.

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Consumer Corner

Readers are invited to submit consumer complaints or compliments to this column, and to our Auto Service Forum. Send info c/o this paper, P.O. Box 1535, Bemidji, MN 56619

A GOOD DEAL - JUST FOR MEN!

Quality neckwear, in a professional pattern, is the most important part of a professional man's wardrobe. A small item, more than anything else, a man's tie is what says that he means business.

Good ties are usually expensive, but now, Wal-Mart, Bemidji, has an excellent selection of 100% silk ties,

in professional prints, or the shimmering solid colours (like Regis Philbin wears) on sale for as little as \$4.50 each. These highbrow ties, which would sell in men's stores for \$25-\$30, are normally only about \$9-12 at Wal-Mart.

THINGS THAT JUST DON'T WORK
 "There is no product that someone

cannot make a little worse and sell a little cheaper. Those who consider price alone are this man's lawful prey."

This column is cumulative, and provided for consumer awareness. Signed consumer submissions are welcome.

For review of the following things that just don't work, from past issues, see *Things That Just Don't Work* at northernherald.com:

- PATTON® Oil-filled Electric Radiators
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(90% of the large food fish are already gone)

Well,

When you make another person, that's what you're doing.

Whether it's with your spouse, or just tramping,

Consider

CONTRACEPTION, AND PREGNANCY ALTERNATIVES

Call **Planned Parenthood of Minnesota**

to find out what they are.

(Yes, it's run by disgusting people, but they're knowledgeable and it's free)

SAVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE ON THIS PLANET AS WE KNOW IT.

TAKE HEED, DON'T BREED!

No one who's made more than one child can call themselves an environmentalist.

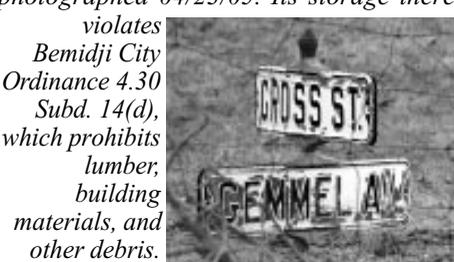
This space provided as a public service of this newspaper.

Rental Crook from p. 5

littered with large limbs and many trunk sections of Hofland's trees. Several limbs



Above and below, there is no longer a street sign at the corner of Cross St. and Gemmel Ave. This city sign (circled) mysteriously turned up in the backyard of Paul Hofland's rentals at 185 Gemmel Ave., where it was photographed 04/23/05. Its storage there violates Bemidji City Ordinance 4.30 Subd. 14(d), which prohibits lumber, building materials, and other debris.



weighing close to 100 lbs. each had been felled on top of Steele's oak seedling beds of which he had made Hofland previously aware.

Steele called Bemidji police (BPD) to report the trespass and the timbermen stopped. Sgt. Sorenson responded, but refused to cite Hofland or the workers, saying that it was a civil matter. The timbermen, from **Paul Bunyan Tree Service and Landscaping**, first told police that dropping the trunk sections on Steele's land was an accident, but when Steele countered that it was done repeatedly, one after another of the approx. 3 ft. cut sections being felled and dropped, the timberman said that Hofland had told them that it was OK to do so.

Following the police **(Cont'd, "Rental Crook," p. 8)**

Generating Your Power From The Wind - It's a Reality - It's Affordable - And It Works!

WHIPHOLT -- When our photographer came to Jeffrey Schlenker's back door, in Cass County, about 5 miles from Longville, he had to ask, "So, where's the windmill?" Jeff replied that it was right behind him, he'd walked right past it. And the photographer still had to look around some, before noticing the 83 foot guyed pole tower, no thicker than a large water pipe, with the tiny *Air-X* wind generator spinning at the top. The setup is shown at right, with the mill and guying collar magnified at top.

The unit is so small, quiet, and inconspicuous that if one wasn't looking for it, they wouldn't necessarily know it was there; yet Schlenker said that this approx. \$560 windmill, which he mounted as a test unit, produces, at current rates, about \$18 worth of electricity per month.

Schlenker, now a consultant and contractor in alternative energy installations (218-363-2033), said that the same pole could support two "T" bars holding up to nine more of these small (13 lb.) units, which, combined, would produce more electricity than many homes require. But Mr. Schlenker isn't going that route. Now that he knows his wind speed, he has bigger and better plans!

Necessity is the father of invention. For Mr. Schlenker, alternative energy wasn't a matter of choice - when, in 1999, he acquired his home site in rural Cass County, and began to set about building his house, he found that it was going to cost over \$10,000 to bring power the 854 ft. from the pole.

"I thought it was an insult," he said, and he wouldn't pay it,



Jeffrey Schlenker, at his home, discusses alternative energy options.

saying that he knew there had to be a better way. So he put in a self-sufficient bio-diesel (used veggie oil - the stuff restaurants used to throw out) fuel generator to power the tools he'd use to build the house. After it was built, he remained off-grid and continued to provide his own electricity for 5 years, until, in 2004, the connection costs were reduced.

Schlenker said that conscientious energy use and conservation is a must, "It's 10 times less expensive to conserve it, than to generate it."

Now that he's on-grid, he can not only draw power from the utility, but he can also sell it to them, which, as we shall see, can be a lucrative proposition. He added his pilot windmill last year to test the wind under actual generation conditions. Schlenker, who did a lot of the installation work himself, estimates the cost of his whole setup, less the bio-diesel generator, as somewhere between five and eight thousand dollars.

The pilot mill is an *Air-X* (Southwest Windpower) product advertised to produce up to 550 watts in about 31 mph winds. Schlenker said that by careful placement of the unit (including measuring winds for a year with an anemometer) he was able to locate it, on his property (which is near Leech Lake, contributing to the wind speed), at a site with an average wind speed, 83 ft. up, of about 18 mph, somewhat better than what he expected from the Minnesota Wind Resource Maps (just Google "Minnesota Commerce Wind Maps")

And although at that wind speed, the *Air-X* is advertised at putting out a minimum of about 150 watts, Schlenker claims to be getting about 315 - about \$18 worth per month - from his unit.

One factor here may be that our winds tend to be gusty and due to the parabolic shape of the *Air-X* power curve, higher velocity winds produce more than a proportional share of current. To put it differently, an hour of wind at 30 mph, and an hour of 10 mph can produce significantly more power than 2 hours at 20 mph.

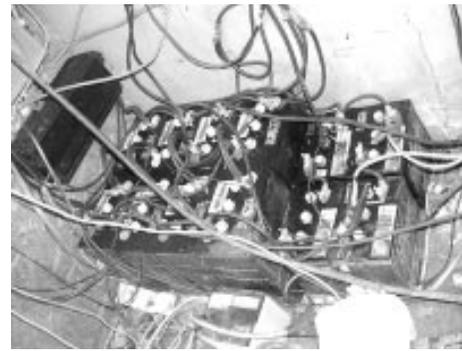
So, to accurately project the output at a given location, it is important to take wind measurements, determining not only the annual average wind speed, but also the percentage of time, over a year (as there are seasonal factors) that the wind was blowing at its various speeds. Another approach would be to do as Mr. Schlenker has done, that is, if the land initially seems feasible for wind power, then to put up a small test mill and measure the output.

It should be noted that if a person does not have adequate wind resources on their present land, the USDA subsidies that we'll discuss, post, may be used for acquisition of wind resource property. Also, the height of the tower significantly affects wind speed at the top; generally a higher tower gives a higher speed, but in some cases the lay of the terrain causes the optimum wind speed to be attained at a lower height than the maximum that the tower would permit.

Although Mr. Schlenker's results were somewhat better, for the following cost analyses, to be conservative, we'll use the lower manufacturers' advertised wind turbine outputs at annual average wind speed (AAWS) of 15 mph, nonturbulent. Per the wind resource maps, ante, this speed exists over some of north central Minnesota at a tower height of 98 ft., and can be found over much of the area at 260 ft. At this speed, Mr. Schlenker's \$560 *Air X* unit is rated to produce about 70 kwh (kilowatt hours) per month, per unit; the *Whisper 500*, at about \$5,625 and also made by Southwest Windpower, would produce about 800 kwh per month.



Below, Schlenker's battery pack, consisting of 12 heavy duty 6 volt batteries and 2 inverters, provides much of his home's power. The black box at left, above the batteries, is one of the inverters.



COST ANALYSES SMALL-SCALE HOME SYSTEMS

Cutting one's electric bill, even before adding the windmills. Whether using bio-diesel, solar, or wind generation, the heart of the home alternative electric system is the battery pack: Schlenker's consists of 12 heavy duty 6 volt batteries; two power inverters; and four heavy-duty battery chargers; which altogether fit neatly into the corner of a small shed. Schlenker prices these components, by themselves, at about \$3,395; and by themselves, even before adding a windmill, they can result in significant electricity savings.

Why? Because all of a home's 120 volt applications (most everything except 240v electric stove, clothes dryers, air conditioners, etc.) can be run off of the batteries. And one charges his batteries, from the wall outlet, *only during off-peak periods*; during those times, each day, when electricity costs significantly less - often about 3.5¢ per kilowatt hour (kwh)*. One needs an off-peak meter for this; but the electric company will generally install it, and many homes which have an electric water heater already have one. In this way, even without the windmills, one's electric costs can become lower, and the home is now readied for alternative power, be it wind, and/or solar, or other source. *Note: allowed off-peak applications vary by utility company - some may not allow charging of storage batteries at off-peak rates.*

Electricity costs vary widely by utility company. To determine feasibility of either off-peak, or alternative energy, for any specific installation, **it is important to look at one's actual electric bill** to determine the rates being charged, and hence, the amount of savings possible. Some utility companies charge a graduated rate, where one pays more, or less, for the first kwhs used. For these examples, we'll use Lake Country Power's quoted residential rates for the Walker area, based on an average smaller home using 918 kwh per month. (This is not a representation, however, that Lake Country Power permits this **(Cont'd, "Free As The Wind," page 7)**

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Warrant Issued

A warrant was issued by the District Court at Cass Co. for the arrest of former Leech Lake Police officer Elvin "John" Wind Jr. Wind was free pending sentencing on charges relating to alleged 4th and 5th degree criminal romantic conduct (this degree of charge generally involves fondling and "getting fresh") on conditions of release, including a no-drink order. In a routine traffic stop at 10th St. & Bemidji Ave., Bemidji, on May 20th, he was found by Bemidji Police Officer Dolson to have alcohol in his system, although not enough to be DWI. The incident report was referred to Cass County authorities, which had the warrant issued.

Free As The Wind from p. 6

application.) For regular service, Lake Country Power charges \$19.25, plus 7.9¢ per kilowatt hour (9.9¢ during June, July, & August). Their off-peak rate is \$19.25 + 3.5¢ per kwh. To these charges must be added sales tax. For July, the homeowners total bill on 918 kwh used in that month would be \$117.29 including tax (an overall average of 12.78¢ per kwh).

At off-peak rates, and figuring in a 15% energy loss in battery storage and inverting (so 1080 kwh would have to be drawn) it would be \$60.76, plus \$20.50 for the second meter, totalling \$81.26 - a savings of \$36.03. In non-summer months, the savings are about \$16.48. Actual savings will be greater in homes with greater electrical consumption, and lesser where regular utility rates are lower.

Per Mr. Schlenker, the batteries, though advertised as lasting 4 - 8 years, with proper care, can last up to 15. The amortized cost of all of the equipment, over 30 years, with one battery pack replacement, figures to about \$12.50 a month. Some money is saved each month, and importantly, the home is now ready to utilize alternative power.

Adding the windmills, and pocket cash! Although Mr. Schlenker has had good results with the \$560 Air-X unit on his property, which experiences (with proper mill placement) about 18 mph annual average wind, it must be remembered that the property is near a lake in a high wind area, and most Northern Minnesota installations won't have that advantage. The Air-X unit's advertised power curve requires at least 17.5 mph average wind for reasonable output. For the cost projections which follow, then, we'll instead use the aforementioned Whisper 500. This mill is somewhat more expensive, but, according to the manufacturer, is rated to produce 500 kwh/month at annual average wind speed of only 12 mph - a wind speed common in Northern Minnesota (see Minn. Wind Resource Maps, ante), and 800 kwh/month at 15 mph.

The following projections are based upon a 30-year useful life of equipment, with one change of batteries at 15 years. Per Mr. Schlenker, repair and maintenance costs on the Southwest Windpower equipment are negligible, and the mills come with a 5-year warranty. We'll also assume, here, a best case scenario where 15 mph AAWS winds are found at a tower height of only 70 ft. - depending upon the site location, one may have to go higher for that wind speed, which increases tower cost.

The tower is one of the most important parts of any installation - it has been said that mounting a windmill on too low a tower is like installing a solar generator in the shade.

We'll also assume, per the earlier example, a home using 918 kwh per month, at an average cost of 102.63 per month, including tax (this is using Lake Country Power's quoted rate; the average 12-month cost is 8.946¢ per kwh, plus \$19.25 per month, which equates to a total cost, at 918 kwh/mo, of 11.18¢ per kwh).

Crunching the numbers. The total investment in one Whisper 500 setup, including tower and installation, grid-tie inverter, miscellaneous parts, and the home battery system, discussed ante, and sales

taxes, is about \$14,883**. After allowing for 15% estimated inversion and battery loss, it would supply about 680 kwh per month - over 2/3 of the home's electricity, at an average amortized (30 yr.) cost of 6.08¢ per kilowatt hour. The home's average electric (utility company) bill would drop from \$102.63 to \$43.18. This produces a substantial savings now, and it must be remembered that utility costs are on the rise - this effectively insulates the consumer from the brunt of future energy cost increases. And with the infrastructure now in place, a particularly energy-conscious consumer could now, also, tie solar cells into the system.

Another scenario might involve two mills at a total cost of \$27,425. Here, net electricity production would be expected to be about 1,360 kwh - more than our model home needs. Minnesota law provides for "net metering" which has a balancing effect. It includes that, firstly, when the wind's not blowing, home electricity is drawn from the utility as usual; but when it is, and the batteries are fully charged, the utility buys back the electricity generated, reducing the customer's bill, kwh for kwh, at the same rates he was charged; and secondly, if there is a net excess of electricity produced, the electric utility has to buy the excess power at their Minnesota Public Utility Commission (PUC) approved rates. Our sample utility, Lake Country Power, pays 6.3¢ per kwh for this. Net metering applies to systems with less than a 40 kw maximum rated capacity (this is not the same as kwh - these Whisper 500s are about 3.5 kw each).

In this scenario, then, the user would generate all of his home use (918 kwh), and sell the balance (442 kw) back to the utility for \$27.85; after subtracting his monthly minimum charge of \$19.25, he's still \$8.60 to the good. Instead of sending a check to the electric company each month, he's getting one from them.

Of course, there is a cost. It's in the initial investment, which, after netting the \$8.60 a month "profit", amortizes to \$67.58 per month, far less than the former average electric bill of \$102.63; and amounting to about 7.4¢ per kwh used, rather than the 11.18¢ that he was paying the electric utility.

In this, it must also be remembered that as electricity rates rise, the amounts paid for power sold back into the grid must, by law, rise accordingly. So the wind system locks in one's price of electricity, while allowing him to benefit from rate increases.

And there's another bonus. At tax time, a person generating wind energy can take a federal tax credit, of up to 1.9¢ for each kwh he sold back into the grid. Under current law, this credit is available for the first 10 years of operation.

Using these smaller mills, more can be easily added later, increasing cost effectiveness. As can be seen, the more mills added, the cheaper the electricity. Using the same figures, costs and wind speed as in the earlier examples, 5 mills reduce the amortized 30 year cost to about 2.6¢/kwh, before taking the tax credit.

Making money! With 10 mills generating \$370 positive cash flow per month, a total 10 yr. tax credit of \$13,411 and considering, also, the \$83.38 per month saved on electric bills, the payback period on the \$128,465 investment is about 21 years, but **the 30 year net cost of electricity is negative.** That is, at current rates, and assuming the equipment lasts with negligible maintenance and repairs, the 30-year gross revenue exceeds the investment by about \$18,000, an average of \$600 per year, and the electricity used by the home, over those 30 years, will have been, effectively, free.

Some other important considerations:

Firstly, as mentioned, these figures use current electric rates. With the rise in energy prices, the cost of power is very likely to increase; and with it, the amount the utilities are required to pay for generated power fed back into the grid.

Secondly, these figures are based upon

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annual average wind speed (AAWS) of 15 mph (see maps, ante) producing performance of approximately 800 kwh per month. Sites having slightly greater wind speed, due to location of the windmill, will produce significantly more power, substantially increasing cost effectiveness. Performance at 18 mph, for instance, is over 1,050 kwh/month, and, whereas in 15 mph wind, instantaneous power output is about 1,200 watts, in gusts or high wind regions, the Whisper 500 can produce instantaneous power of over 3,000 watts.

Thirdly, the figures and costs used in these examples are approximate and conservative; for example, a 15% loss factor for inversion and battery use has been built in, actual results may vary and may be better; do-it-yourselfers, and those who buy used equipment may be able to save on component cost. For projecting any specific installation with greater accuracy, discussing the specifics with a consultant or qualified wind products dealer, or using the projection software, post, is recommended.

Finally, there is a federal (USDA) grant and loan guarantee program (discussed post) which can reduce the system cost by 25% (by direct grants), and provide for guarantee of bank loans for another 50%. The competitive grant can significantly affect the cost-effectiveness of the system.

The federal tax credit is taken by filing Internal Revenue Service (IRS) form 8835. Note: Fiscal incentives are per current law, which contains expiration dates. Given the impetus and need for alternative energy production, they are likely to be renewed, and probably expanded, but this is not certain. Buildings and equipment (but not the land) used in wind energy production are also exempt from Minnesota property tax.

7 CFR Part 4280, Sections 101-200 establish aid for agricultural producers and rural small business (including, presumably, being in the business of producing electricity) in acquiring alternative energy equipment. The term "rural" includes county land, and cities of less than 50,000 population; in short, it encompasses all of Northern Minnesota except for Duluth. (For more specific info on grants and loans, the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) is found at <http://www.gpoac.cess.gov/cfr/index.html>)

Per these regs, grants are available, through the United States Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) for up to 25% of the project cost. Grants may be from \$2,500 to \$500,000. Additionally, a guaranteed loan of from \$5,000 to \$10 million may be awarded for another 50% of the costs of meritorious projects. These loans, however, must be collateralized; so loans for major projects will be limited to those who have substantial equity in their land, home, and buildings.

Thinking bigger. As is easy to surmise, a homeowner can easily increase the profitability by adding, over time, more pole towers, and more small windmills. Or one can increase the scale dramatically, as Mr. Schlenker plans to do. Having established his wind power capacity, his plan is to install, one at a time, a total of five Jacobs 20 Kw wind turbines, which, with the available 25% grant, he expects to return a substantial monthly income, even after debt servicing.

Big or small? There are many factors, including prevailing wind speed, maximum tower height in keeping with local

regulations, type of wind turbine, cost of electricity, etc., which govern whether wind energy production is feasible on any particular property. Terrain and mill placement affect efficiency. Mr. Schlenker strongly advises fully researching the anticipated results before committing to the project, including mounting an anemometer, for a full year (as winds can be seasonal), at the actual mill site, and recording the readings, to determine what the average annual wind speed will really be at that precise location.

If it's found feasible on one's site, then the question becomes whether one wants to go with a smaller household sized unit, or a major production facility, or something in between. A computer simulation, which crunches the numbers taking into account the various factors, is available for those considering a wind project to determine and project the expected profitability, considering such things as amortization of equipment, cost of financing, etc. It allows a person to play "what if" using various equipment and wind scenarios, and decide the size of the project most desirable. Mr. Schlenker highly recommends this software to anyone considering undertaking wind generation. It answers questions such as "If I change the battery bank . . . if I add solar panels . . . if I decrease the size of the wire . . . what happens? . . . How does that affect my monthly revenues?" said Mr. Schlenker, "So, before I spent a nickel on anything, . . . I bought the program and, literally, spent six months just prototyping the system."

The program, *Solar Design Studio*, by Mike Pelosi is available for purchase, on CD, at www.mausolarsoftware.com

A 12-yr. military veteran, Mr. Schlenker explained that each installation is different, with different solutions. He recently consulted on a wind project for a Walker professional who wanted to install a large wind turbine, but lacked sufficient land for it and ran into obstacles with city officials.

Schlenker's solution, given the unique location and the good wind resource there, was to obtain similar results by, instead, mounting 10 small \$560 Air-X units on his building roof. The output is expected to power the building and provide a small positive cash flow. "The beauty of this installation is, you can put in the base - a very small battery bank, an inverter, and one or two of the wind generators, and then grow into it. You know, put up two more in six months; you could actually use the profits from the first two to fund the next one, and then use the profits from the three to fund the fourth one, et cetera . . ." Schlenker said.

* Rate source: Lake Country Power, for applications near Walker, Minn.

** Projected figure of \$14,883. includes cost of windmill kit, including turbine, controller and grid tie inverter (\$9,100); 70' tower kit, pole, anchors, wire and misc. electrical parts (\$2,375); initial set of batteries, plus one change at 15 yrs. (\$2,200); sales tax on materials at 6.5%; and 16 hours labor to install tower at \$20/hr (\$320).

Note: Some websites for more information about the various incentives for wind and alternative energy production are: <http://fresh-energy.org> and <http://www.state.mn.us/portal/mn/jsp/content.do?id=-536881350&subchannel=-536881511&sc2=null&sc3=null&contentid=536885915&contentType=EDITORIAL&programid=536885394&agency=Commerce>



In Focus

Does Bemidjian Jeff Wilcox always find it all at the Mart of Wal? "Yep. Sure do!" he said. Above, Minnesota Vikings stars Walker Lee Ashley, left and center, and Chuck Foreman, shown at right shaking Wilcox's hand, made a special appearance at Wal-Mart at Bemidji the weekend of March 31st, 2006 to meet fans, sign autographs and raise money for Children's Miracle Network and the stars' school program, **Sound Advice For Life**. Foreman said that this was one of a number of appearances which for the past 12 years have been sponsored by Wal-Mart and Coca-Cola, with proceeds from sales of Vikings caps, footballs and other sports gear offered at the special event going to benefit those charities. In 2005, Ashley and Foreman were honoured by the College Football Hall of Fame, receiving their Community Service Award for work with Midwest at-risk youth. "Thanks to Wal-Mart and Coca-Cola we got that fine award!" said Foreman who played, as a running back, with the Minnesota Vikings from 1973 to 1983. Ashley was a Vikings line backer from 1983 to 1991, and holds the record for the longest interceptions returned for a touchdown, in Vikings' history. Does Walker Lee Ashley find it all at the Mart of Wal? Yep. "I purchased a shirt from Wal-Mart just a couple weeks ago, and right now, it's one of my favourite shirts, and it was very, very reasonable," he said.

Wal-Mart - where the customer is always the winner.

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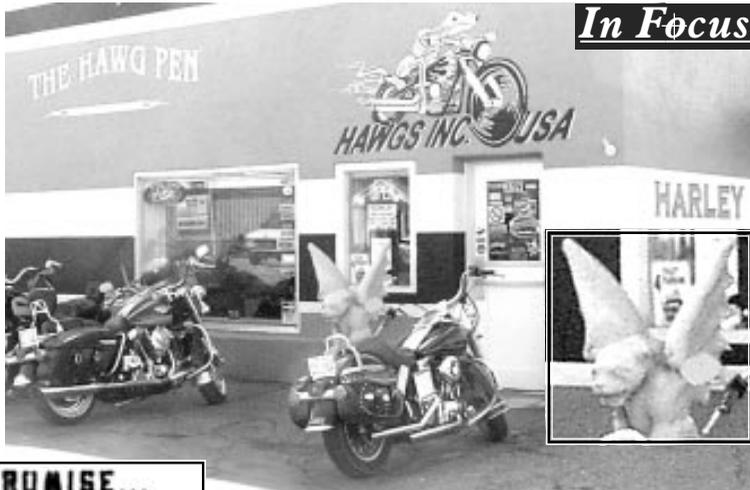
FREE Pitcher of Pepsi w/ purchase of any large Pizza & Appetizer
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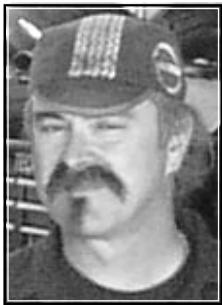
NOW AVAILABLE! Mama Lucette's TAKE 'N BAKE Pizza!
Karaoke every other Sat. night!

Hawg Pen Moves Right Downtown

GRAND RAPIDS -- THE HAWG PEN, a motorcycle sales and service facility specializing in Harley-Davidson, and the new exciting Vento line, was recognized by the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce in a ribbon-cutting ceremony April 27th, 2006. The Hawg Pen received the Chamber's "Recognizing Progress" plaque.



In Focus



Left, Steve Stores, CEO of Hawgs Inc., USA; and operator of The Hawg Pen



NO COMPROMISE... NO MISTAKES

Above, the distinctive gargoyle (inset) greets visitors to The Hawg Pen's new storefront at 319 3rd Ave. NE, Grand Rapids. At left, the Hawg Pen shop, with shop motto at inset. Right, a customer looks over a motorcycle in the showroom.

"All of my technicians are certified Harley mechanics," said Stores, whose shop is also qualified to service other makes. They offer a 100% guarantee on all labour, scheduled warranty service, a stranded rider retrieval service, and complete tire service with a stock of Dunlop tires. Said Stores, "The entire staff . . . are . . . riders, and . . . realize that for most of their customers, their motorcycle represents the single largest recreational investment they will make."

The Hawg Pen was originally started 17 yrs. ago by Phil Shannon, who operated it out of his home, south of Grand Rapids.

Stores acquired the firm in 2004 and, in 2005, moved it to its present downtown location. He is now considering a major expansion to a Hwy 2 location in Cohasset.

The Hawg Pen will host an open house on June 17th, which also marks the Run To The Hills which will stop at The Hawg Pen that day.

In addition to service and genuine HD and other cycle parts, they sell used Harleys, as well as the exciting new American-made, smaller V-Twin engine, Vento motorcycle, which can be had, new off the floor, for as little as \$3,500.



Above, The Hawg Pen sells not only cycles and service, but everything for the rider. Mr. Stores displays some of their leathers and shirts which come with the Hawg Pen logo.

Rental Crook from p. 6

incident, the timbermen stopped work, took their boom truck and equipment and left. Steele would later settle with the timbermen's insurer for \$600 as partial damages to the plants; but the insurer refused to pay for removal of the timber. Action against Hofland for the remaining uncompensated damages is pending, but has not yet been filed.

Shortly following the tree

incident, Hofland complained to Steele, and later to BPD officer Herr, that Steele was taking too long in removing and disposing of Hofland's trees, from Steele's yard.

Herr inspected the premises, sending Steele a letter referencing the wood, and also other articles kept on Steele's property, in the backyard and up the driveway, generally not noticeable from the street, including a tire, railroad ties, carpeting, some chair parts, and an older refrigerator which had been chained and locked to prevent accidental entry, and which was advertised for sale.

The disputed refrigerator, at left, showing chain around the center, and secured from vertical movement through the handle, and which was padlocked. The fridge could not be opened without unlocking.

Lower left, back near the garage, the fridge was visible from the street only if one really looked for it. In the magnified area at inset, (the rectangle in the larger picture) only a small corner of the fridge (circled) can be seen.



Meeting with Steele, Herr told him that the secured refrigerator, which was made inaccessible and stored in accordance with state law (M.S. Sec. 609.675), was, nonetheless, his primary concern. Herr acknowledged that the locking of the refrigerator addressed any safety concern, but there was still an aesthetic concern - that Hofland didn't like being able to see it from his rental property (it became more visible due to Hofland's removal of the trees between the properties).

Herr cited Bemidji City Ordinances Sec. 10.33, which purports to make it a crime to store "any unlicensed, unregistered or inoperable motor vehicle, household furnishings or appliances, or parts or components thereof" in one's driveway or backyard, unless they are in a building. Steele cited the Fourth Amendment to United States Constitution, and his right to keep his personal property on his real property, as many others in Bemidji do.

Herr issued a citation and the matter (case no. T1-05-2179) came to trial before the Honourable Judge Paul Benshoof on July 27th, 2005.

Many cities the size of Bemidji don't spend tax money for even (Cont'd, "Home is Castle," p. 9)

These photos are not meant as a complaint against those who have furniture, appliances, lumber, building materials and what may, by some, be called "debris" in their yards, presumably in violation of Bemidji ordinances. They have a right to have their stuff there, on their property. The photos are only indicative that it is frequently done, with no action by the City. Many of these scenes were shot in June/July, 2005, and again in October, 2005, well after Asst. City Atty. Jeanine Brand was made aware of them (in July), with no apparent action taken by the City to abate them.



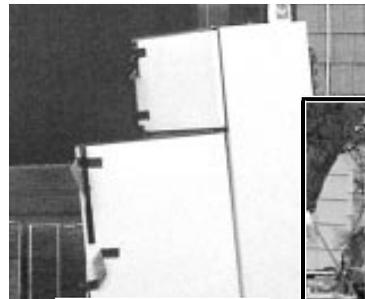
Bldg. materials, exercise, debris, at 417 America Ave. NW



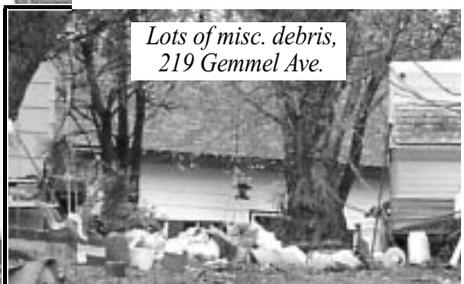
Scrap furniture, 901 America Ave. NW



Debris, old rusted drums, etc., on, presumably, city property at S. end of Gemmel Ave.



A scrap refrigerator is found at 916 Mississippi Ave. NW



Lots of misc. debris, 219 Gemmel Ave.

Deb's Trailside In Hackensack

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- Italian Beef
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Closed Monday

Across from the lake & City Park on 1st Street, Hackensack
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★★★★

M-F: Lounge open at 4, Restaurant at 5 • Area's Largest Salad Bar
Sa-Su: Open at Noon

Nightly All-You-Can-Eat Specials
Mon: Ribs, \$13.99; Tu: Deep fried chicken, \$10.99; Wed: Steamed peel 'n eat shrimp, \$15.99 Th: Baked chicken, \$9.99; F: Fish fry, \$9.99; Sa: Crab legs, \$27.99; Su: Roast turkey, \$9.99

Hwy 371 S, Hackensack **218-675-6200**

2006 Laporte Ice Racing Champions

LAPORTE -- The big winners for the 2005-2006 season of the Garfield Lake Ice Racers received their trophies at the banquet April 8th at the Westside Bar & Grille, Laporte.

Topping the winners' roster with the most overall racing points:

BIG BLOCK CLASS

1. Deke Donat
2. Reid Watson
3. Rick Hanson
4. Brian Schummer
5. John Hadrava

4 CYL. CLASS

1. Brad Brein
2. Brandon Hanson

LADIES POWDER PUFF CLASS

1. Angie Watson

In Focus

Ice Racers Finish Banner Season at Laporte!

Winning the first feature March 4th in #8 is Cory Honer, of Laporte, with his racing team, Rick, Carolyn, Lisa, and Russ Hemphill, from Grand Rapids. In ice racing, the whole team rides, giving added traction.



Above and at inset, Kurt Honer wins his heat, March 4th, in his #7 car, "Bad Attitude".



The chequered flag waves car #9, driven by Brandon Hanson, to victory in the new 4-cylinder fully studded class.

With the ice lasting into early March, Laporte's Garfield Lake Ice Racers (GLIR) wrapped up another great and safe racing season.

Admission to watch is free. As of this year, GLIR is a non-profit

organization which returns almost all of its proceeds to the community, supporting worthy benefits, and, this year, donating \$1,000 to the area Lions' Club, which sponsors the races, and also provides cocoa

and hot dogs, (just the thing when out on the cold ice) and other amenities from its concessions stand on the ice by the track.

Next season's races will begin as soon as the ice is safe, possibly as early as late December, 2006.

Home is Castle

from p. 8

one full-time City Attorney. Due to the amount of litigation the City initiates, however, Bemidji finds it necessary to have two. Al Felix, the City Attorney, and Jeanine Brand, the new Assistant City Attorney. This, where City Hall closes at 3 p.m. on Fridays, because the City claims it can't afford to keep it open 'til 4:30. The prosecution in the instant case was brought by Jeanine Brand.

At trial, Steele introduced a series of photographs showing that the subject ordinance was not generally enforced in Bemidji; and so it was not only unconstitutional under the 4th Amendment, but further, the ordinance was being enforced in a discriminatory manner by the City of Bemidji, thusly also unconstitutional in its administration.

That despite the ordinance, most Bemidjians were allowed to keep their stuff outside on their property, with nothing said. In this, Jeanine Brand, Asst. City Attorney, was made aware, by July 2005, of a number of other violating properties in Bemidji, when those photos were introduced into evidence in court.

In further proceedings, in November, Steele would introduce a second set of photos, taken in October 2005, of the same properties, showing that though Brand was aware of same since July, the City had taken no action to abate the presumably unlawful storage.

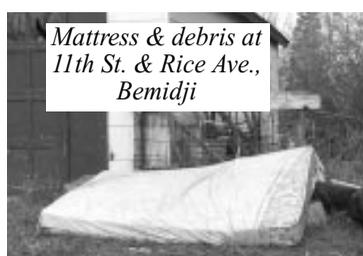
One person's trash is another's treasure. And Steele also presented case law that aesthetics was not a proper purpose for a city ordinance, arguing that one person's aesthetics differed from another's, and the rights and tastes of a homeowner took

The city (i.e. Jeanine Brand) was aware, in October, of this air conditioner (an appliance) in plain sight on the ground in front of 125 Gemmel Ave., yet it was allowed to remain there through the winter.

precedence on his own property.

Can't fight city hall. Benshoof found for the City, but stayed adjudication of the matter, provided that the offending property was removed.

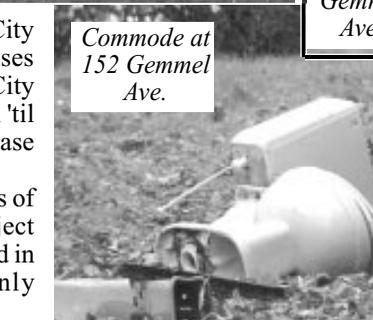
Steele removed the refrigerator and other items at his cost, but, in order to uphold the rights of home and property owners on their own property, has



Mattress & debris at 11th St. & Rice Ave., Bemidji



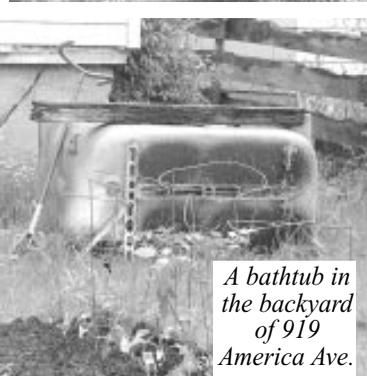
Washing machine (an appliance) kept in backyard at 201 Gemmel Ave.



Commode at 152 Gemmel Ave.



Old tires at 143 Gemmel Ave.



A bathtub in the backyard of 919 America Ave.



Furniture kept in a field near downtown Bemidji

filed an appeal of the decision which is now pending before the Minnesota Appellate Court (case

NORTHERN HERALD RESTAURANT GUIDE

A visitor's or resident's guide to the better sit-down dining in Northern Minnesota. These are Northern Herald rated establishments; as such, except as noted, all are hospitable to all guests, whether or not they smoke. These are ALL outstanding establishments, run by the kind of hospitable people you like as your hosts. If they didn't rate at least three stars overall, they're not here.

Ratings: ★★★ Very good overall; good food and/or value ★★★★★ Superb food, plus exceptional value or ambience/extras ★★★★★ Exceptional as to cuisine as well as value, plus ambience or something extra. (Detail: Q2 or Q3 is the quality rating (top is 3 stars); \$ denotes exceptional value; + denotes ambience; extras)

WALKER AREA

★★★★ (Q3 \$) **The Ranch House**, Walker. Daily AYCE specials served homestyle. Salad bar. Giant popovers (excellent) with all meals. Specials: Su: Roast turkey, baked ham & fried chicken, \$10.99; Mon: Tenderloin & sirloin tips, \$12.99 ;Tu: Stemed shrimp, \$17.99; Wed: Ribs & chicken, \$13.99; Th: Alaskan snow crab - \$29.99 (4 clusters, \$20.99); Baked chicken \$10.79; Fri: Fish Fry, \$8.59, w/soup & salad bar \$12.54; Sat: Steamed shrimp, \$17.99 9420 Hwy 371 NW, 218-547-1540

★★★★ (Q3 \$) **The Wharf**, Walker. Walleye swim all the way from Alaska to jump into Marie's secret recipe beer batter to be in her AYCE Walleye feed every Friday 'til 10. Other excellent quality, good value, daily specials (not AYCE) include: Wed.: GIANT Tacos, Sat: Prime Rib, Salmon. Full bar, nautical ambience. 218-547-3777

HACKENSACK AREA

★★★★★ (Q3 \$+) **Arthur's Ten Mile Lake Inn**, Hackensack. Very excellent food amidst lakeshore ambience. Live pianist and dancing weekends. Nautical motif with lots of glass for the lake view. This is where you'd bring your wife on that special anniversary or occasion. Open Thursday through Saturday in winter. Daily AYCE specials: Th: their own smokehouse Ribs, \$12.99; Fr: Fish fry, \$9.95; Sa: Prime rib, \$19.99 Winter early bird specials Thurs.-Sat. 5-6 p.m. \$8.99-\$12.95 - 7 great entrees including Angus sirloin, & apple cider glazed pork chops, to choose from. Full bar, well stocked, including sherry and cognac. 4777 Hwy 371 NW, 218-675-6576

★★★ (Q3) **Lucette's Pizza & Pub**, Hackensack. Lucette's Calzone is to die for. Very excellent pizza made with the finest fresh ingredients. Recommended: Paul's Deluxe. It's big enough and good enough for Paul Bunyan himself! Full bar with many draft beers including their specialty: the almost black Lucette's Lager; and imported wines, including Italian and Romanian. Also: Mama Lucette's Take 'n Bake pizza. Summer Karaoke every other Sat. evening! 201 Hwy 371 S, 218-675-7777

★★★★ (Q3 \$) **River House**, Hackensack. Daily AYCE specials served home-style: M: Ribs, \$13.99; Tu: Deep fried chicken, \$10.99; W: Steamed peel 'n eat shrimp, \$15.99 Th: Baked chicken, \$9.99; F: Fish fry, \$9.99; Sa: Crab legs, \$27.99; Su: Roast turkey, \$9.99 All dinners include their lavish salad bar and popover or dinner roll. Full bar. 222 Highway 371, 218-675-6200

★★★★ (Q3 \$) **Up North Cafe**, Hackensack. Open for breakfast and lunch. Summer and Fall weekend brunch buffet is rated: It's the best weekend buffet in the Northland with egg & cheese bake, corned beef hash, creamed chipped beef (loaded with lots of beef) on biscuits, Toast of France with strawberries; fresh fruits, kielbasa, much, much, more. This is a real feed and a great way to start a weekend morning! Rotating daily specials with the same good Up North quality for Breakfast and Lunch all year long. 105 Hwy 371 S, 218-675-5300

EMMAVILLE

★★★★ (Q3 \$) **Emmaville Cafe**. This is unquestionably THE place to eat in Emmaville (pop. 4). This rustic cafe is set amongst the picturesque woods and country - it's a great place to enjoy the AYCE, 9 am - Noon, Sunday buffet which features scrambled eggs, sausage, ham, bacon, hash browns, biscuits & gravy, hotcakes & syrup, and toast; price of \$5.95 includes coffee, milk, or juice. Cafe hours (winter): Mo. - Sat.: 7:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Sun.: 9 - Noon. Daily lunch specials. Occasional authentic German cuisine specials. In summer: AYCE Taco Tuesday 5-8 p.m., \$5.95 On Co. 4 (the Lake George road), at 24, midway between Lake George and Park Rapids. 218-732-4858

PARK RAPIDS AREA

★★★ (Q3) **Royal Bar**, Park Rapids. Quite possibly the best hamburger you've had, prepared in many styles, or any way you like it! Full bar. 120 Main Ave. S, 218-732-9443

NISSWA-PEQUOT LAKES AREA

★★★ (Q3) **Tasty Pizza North**, Pequot Lakes. A very good thin crust pizza at usual market prices. Pastas, sandwiches, including their Dago Italian sausage. Daily specials. Domestic Chianti. Open 3 - 10 p.m. every day except Mondays. Rustic ambient motif; smoking area is best seating. This is the only pizza restaurant in the Nisswa-Pequot Lakes area that remains hospitable to smokers and non-smokers, alike. 28889 Hwy 371 (midway between Pequot Lakes and Nisswa), 218-568-4404

CASS LAKE AREA

★★★ (Q3) **North Country Junction Bar & Grille**, Cass Lake. Tasty food, good service. Live entertainment Wed. & weekend evenings. 106 Aspen Ave SW (Hwy 371 on S end of town), 218-335-6324

BEMIDJI AREA

Note: All of Beltrami County is non-smoking, by law. These listed Bemidji restaurants are exceptional, and remained hospitable to all right up to the end when the law took effect. If one has to be here, these are good places to eat.

★★★★ (Q3 \$) **The Great Wall**, Bemidji. Outstanding AYCE buffet every day for lunch and dinner at great prices (adults:\$6.95/\$8.95, including beverages and desserts). Mandarin & Szechuan (hot) as well as traditional Cantonese. Four big buffet tables of selection. Includes peel 'n eat shrimp every night, AYCE Crab legs on M,W, Fr, & Sa dinner buffet. 102 1st St W (in Union Station shopping center) 218-751-7085

GRAND RAPIDS-DEER RIVER-REMER

★★★ (Q3) **Pasties Plus**, Grand Rapids. This is a wonderful hot meal of meat, potatoes, and veggies wrapped in a delicious baked pastry crust, with gravy. It's quite the treat! Stop in and take a whiff - the homestyle quality is obvious. All pasties (including breakfast) \$3.99; w/gravy just a few cents more (get it!) 1407 Hwy 2 W (next to Jerry's Liquors), 218-326-2234

How we rate: We don't rate by request - we have to stumble onto the good establishment. We don't accept free food, and try to be anonymous, like any other guest, when sampling the restaurant. After being rated, restaurants listed here pay for the space - the rating and editorial commentary, though, is ours and can't be bought.

no. A05-2254). Brand has filed a cross-appeal challenging the stay of adjudication at sentencing. It is unknown how much the City of Bemidji has spent, in this case, to

try to prevent certain of its residents from being able to keep their stuff on their property.

As the matter concerns the (Cont'd, "Live Free or Die," p. 11)

NOW! Find FARM AND LOGGING MACHINERY and HEAVY EQUIPMENT in NORTHERN AUTO & BOAT SHOPPER, page 12

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

To reach your entire North Central Minnesota market as no local newspaper can!

Let's face it; when you're looking for a car, or something special, you don't always find your best deal in your hometown and you don't mind driving a few miles to get what you want at the price you want. You want to see what's available in the region. If you're selling, REGIONAL MARKETPLACE opens up the whole North Central Minnesota marketplace so interested people throughout our region can find what you have to sell and what they're looking for! Your classified here reaches people from Grand Rapids to Bemidji and Bagley and from Red Lake to Brainerd and everywhere in between. No other paper offers this type of coverage!

RATES AND PLACEMENT

Classifieds in REGIONAL MARKETPLACE are \$4.50 per line per issue. There are about 5 words to the average line in our classified type. Special rates for Northern Auto & Boat Shopper, Minnesota Real, Computermart and Patriots' Gun Shop are shown in those features. To place your ad, call REGIONAL MARKETPLACE at (218) 759-1162, or send the ad, with check or money order payable to NORTHERN HERALD, P.O. Box 1535, Bemidji, MN 56619.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

SEPTIC SERVICE



THELEEN'S SEPTIC SERVICE
Licensed, Bonded, Insured #2740
24 HR. PUMPING SERVICE
3300 Gal. Vacuum Truck
Steaming Clogged & Frozen
Sewer Lines
LEONARD THELEN, JR. 218-732-0015

RUBBER STAMPS



David and Pam Reese
NH Recommended
3409 East Highway 169 218-326-2159
Grand Rapids, MN 55744 FAX 218-326-1888
You can often have your stamps, ordered by phone, and mailed from Reese, faster than if you ordered in person somewhere else! -- Ed.

Gas from page 4

gets in the way. If it's not broken, don't fix it.

But certain types of goods and services don't respond well to demand side economic controls and *Bushonomics*. The need would be there at any price, and governmental regulation is then needed to prevent unjust results and runaway profit-taking. Utility rates, for example, have had to be controlled in this manner, which is generally used for necessities which have *inelastic demand curves*, have only a few suppliers, and where, even if the price goes up, there is limited ability to supply more,

keeping the price in check. So it was when, in the 70s, the American government took an effective role in energy conservation to the betterment of us all. That time may once again be at hand.

In oil, while *laissez-faire* measures usually work, they snare up when supply gets tight, whether due to resources, or to artificially created short supply by the oil companies. Another factor in the current oil equation is that, for the first time, American consumers are competing for foreign oil with a huge demand from over one billion people in China, which has recently developed a taste for cars and the petrol they require. One

HELP WANTED

THERE ARE LOTS OF PEOPLE WHO WANT A JOB; AND A FEW WHO WANT TO WORK. IF YOU WANT WORK, WE HAVE IT.

Positions now open:

- **Office Work** - P/T, about 30-35 hrs. every 8 wks. \$5.50-\$7 an hour based on merit. In Bemidji. Smoker preferred.
- **Outside Advertising Sales** - Energetic, reliable and honest person for Part Time work - your hours. Fully commissioned at high rate - make about \$400 - \$600 per month servicing our established, and new, accounts. Work mostly from your home or office - some driving. Students, Homemakers OK, wisdom of **Seniors** welcome.
- **Delivery** - Openings for Grand Rapids-Deer River, Walker-Brainerd, Akeley-Nevis-Pk Rapids routes. Motor routes are about 5-10 hrs. every 8 wks. \$6/hr plus actual car expenses.
- **News Stringer** (P/T freelance reporter) in Grand Rapids/Deer River Area.
- **Kids (and adults too!) MAKE MONEY TODAY** as a Northern Herald cubside vendor. Work weekends, after school - your own hours, selling the Northern Herald and keeping America free!

218-759-1162

Northern Herald
Creating New Jobs for Northern Minnesota

ATTORNEY

Honest, integrious, and conscientious lawyer needed for opening as Beltrami County Attorney for 2007 - 2010 term. Liberal salary, benefits, enormous office and staff, and the County Board will give you pretty much what you want. Requires relocation to Bemidji area mid-2006. Very beautiful place for family to live, with lots of land, spread out woods and prairie, lakes, wetlands, and still, pretty good land and home values, comparatively. For more info on this opportunity, 218-759-1162

more reason for more U.S. self-sufficiency in petroleum products.

MISC. FOR SALE

HOT TUB/SPA. 5 person, never used. Lounger, waterfall, 5 hp pump. Sacrifice. \$2,195. 218-697-2800, 218-244-4644

Dish Network Just Got Better!

Get 40 channels of all digital family entertainment for the **everyday low price of only \$19.99 a month**. Not an Introductory Price, plus get Starz Movie Pack Free For 3 Months!! Standard Professional Installation up to 4 Rooms FREE! Most installs done within 48 hours, credit card required.

Call for Details
1-800-952-9642

Johnson's Satellite Service

www.dishnetworksalesservice.com

But how do we get there?

Should gas be only for the well-to-do? In finding a solution in keeping with American economic principles, it's important to recognize that the demand curve for petroleum is only about 5% elastic. That means that a 30% increase (about 80¢, now, to \$3.45 a gallon) in the cost of gas would only result in about a 1.5% decrease in demand. For the most part, the soccer mom will still throw her ex-spouse's, and government, money to the wind driving her kid around in the SUV; and the frugal working guy still needs to get to work, until he can no longer afford to. In this scenario, utilizing demand-driven controls (i.e. the increasing price) alone would ultimately create a situation where petrol becomes very high priced - a luxury affordable only by the higher echelons of society. The common man, upon whom, as a percentage of income, this cost falls hardest, is left out in the cold. If he can afford to get to work at all, his standard of living (i.e. his remaining percentage

DOGS, CATS, PETS

AKC FEMALE SHELTYE. 1 yr. old. \$150 or best offer. To good home only. 218-647-8819 or 218-766-0332, lv. mssg.

4 YR. OLD POMERAINIAN FEMALE. Cream colour. \$150 or best offer. To good home only. 218-647-8819 or 218-766-0332, lv. mssg.

of disposable income for housing, food, and other family necessities) is hardest impacted.

The supply curve, though, is also relatively inelastic - almost a constant. A change in price does not significantly impact the incentive or ability to supply. This means that the elasticity has to be taken up in the price factor. As we have recently seen, this is the part of the equation subject to volatile swings. Although price impacts demand only minimally, a small change in demand (or supply) dramatically impacts the price. A few percentage points' drop in demand, and there's a world glut of oil. The refineries keep cranking it out - they have fixed costs which were invested based upon a certain level of production and it's far less profitable for them to slow down - so the oil magnates have to look for a market; then, and only then, do prices come down.

This is America. Our solution, to be consistent with our American economic principles, must not dictate market behaviour, but rather provide for the maximum control *by the consumer* over buying choices, while, at the same time, promoting needed national conservation, and keeping the price down, perhaps even put in a new price-offset and benefit for the lower-income working sector who already conserve as much as

(Continued, "Gas," page 11)



MINNESOTA REAL
PRIMIER NORTHERN REAL ESTATE Area codes 218 unless noted

8 lines until sold - up to a Full Year! - \$49

FOR SALE



BEAUTIFUL CEDAR HOME ON 74 ACRES

8 mi. S. of Bemidji on blacktop co. rd. 6 yr. old 3-4 bdrm., 2 1/4 ba. cedar sided home w/ 24'x24' attached gar. on 74 acres. Vaulted ceilings, trapezoid windows. Lots of cabinets - all custom-made. Laundry on main level. Built to be handicapped accessible - all entryways are 36" 32'x56' storage bldg. 25 acres are open land, 40 acres with small timber. Deer. Beautiful house with great land development potential. Well screened by timber. Rocky soil w/ 20% clay, favorable for fill or class 5. Property adjoins Potlatch ground. Early possession possible. \$525,000. Shown by appt. only, 218-751-7339



Park Rapids Area. **BEAUTY SALON BUSINESS** for sale, with or without buildings. Established following. Equipment and inventory \$10,000 without buildings, \$175,000 with present site in building, plus additional house which can be living quarters or rental. 218-732-0459

SECURE QUIET COUNTRY AREA!

Backus Area. **3 STORY HOUSE W/POLE GARAGE ON 40 ACRES.** Loft, 1st fl., & basement. 29' x 38'. 49 mi. N of Brainerd, 30 mi. from Park Rapids. 40 acres - 30 acres wooded, 10 open. Comes with 8' satellite dish, new TV, remote monitor; 3 new baseboard electric wall heaters, 16" x 17" electric floor heater, dishwasher, clothes washer & dryer, new electric stove, new lawn mower, scaffold, carpenter tools, ladder. Good for investor. \$259,000 firm. 218-947-3907

Palisade, MN. **117 ACRE CUSTOM RANCH. 7 BEDROOM LOG HOME.** 2 kitchens, in-floor heat. 10 stall barn, outbuildings, pole building. Shop in 2800 sq. ft. all metal building, insulated and lined. Great hunting - all fenced in. Many potentials. \$750,000. Call anytime 508-250-3866



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Rusty Lilyquist
Broker/
Owner

Just listed - Great starter home, on wooded 2.5 acres N. of Remer in Willow River Estates. Built in 2002. **MLS#146713 \$104,900**

THUNDER LAKE REALTY
218-566-3100 • 800-841-7204
P.O. Box 303 - Main St., Remer, MN

Agents: Dennis Stefan, Tom Witherow, Denise Green-Anwiler
email: tlr@means.net
www.thunderlakerealty.com



Hackensack Area. **HOUSE & 5 ACRES ON DEEP PORTAGE RD.** 4 car garage. 3 bd., 1 ba., on beautifully wooded home site with 5 acres. A steal at \$149,000. By owner, will consider terms with reasonable down. 218-675-5816, 218-252-2832



Hackensack. **HOUSE IN HACKENSACK** with big barn-style double garage with unfinished living quarters in garage loft. House is 2 1/2 bedroom, 1 bath, with large kitchen, on city wooded lot with big trees. Bordering Paul Bunyan Trail. New carpet in bedrooms. 331 1st St. S., Hackensack. \$60,000. 719-469-0129

MOBILE HOMES

14' x 70' HILTON MOBILE HOME to be moved. Excellent condition. Sliding door with 2 decks. 2 bd., 1 ba. \$11,000. 218-547-2764

ON BIG SAND LAKE, N. OF DEER RIVER, MINN. 3 bd, 1 ba, screen porch. On seasonal site at Ghost Bay Resort. Furnished. For location pics, see www.ghostbay.com By owner. \$8,000. 262-377-4332, cell 414-651-8256

For Sale: **10 x 50 Trailer at New Leech Lake Campground.** Newly remodeled, furnished; deck, shed. Campground fees extra. Between Cass Lake and Bena. \$6,000 or best offer. 218-894-2094

IF YOU LIKE GETTING THE REAL NEWS, AND HAVING A PLACE TO SELL YOUR CAR, SUPPORT THE ADVERTISERS WHO BRING IT TO YOU!

Gas from page 10

they can. The idea is to keep the base amount of gas that each driver needs for commuting, conscientious household transportation, and reasonable recreation cheap; while allowing the cost of wasteful and excessive use to become quite expensive, floating with the supply/demand curve at a magnified rate; and achieving an overall reduction of demand, as a nation, in a determined percentage amount.

Put differently, the key, then, is to increase the elasticity of the petrol demand curve, rewarding the frugal user, while, though allowing excess consumption, encouraging voluntary conservation by making excess consumption as expensive to that consumer as it is to the nation. To establish a standard of fuel use, keep the pump price reasonable for necessary consumption below that mark, with excessive consumption, above that standard, coming only at a premium.

Transferable ration coupons. When, in America's history, such as during WWII, it has been necessary to ration gas, it's always created a black market in ration stamps. Under a more equitable system geared to current conditions, there would be no need for an underworld market - second-hand ration coupons would be openly salable and purchasable, most handily at the gas stations, at prevailing market prices. A sound strategy would be to issue an aggregate number of coupons for all personal and commercial petroleum use, based upon a percentage of national use in the previous year. E.g., if the goal is to conserve by 10%, then the aggregate number of ration coupons issued would be 90% of last year's national consumption. In this way, for the first in recent times, **we, as a nation, would be able to control, annually, the next year's level of oil imports, and the pressure put on the demand/price curve,**

Live Free Or Die from page 9

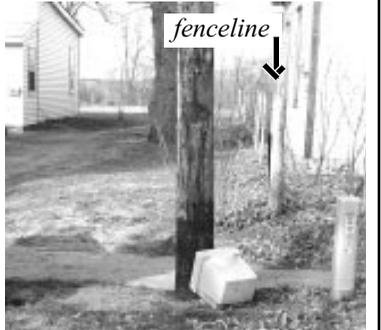
United States Constitution, however, it is believed that it may be necessary to take it through the state appeals and Supreme Court, and then to federal Court, to have the tenets of the Constitution upheld.

Or maybe you can, when City Hall is just wrong. Steele has successfully brought federal suit in another unrelated matter where another Bemidji ordinance was found to violate the U.S. Constitution - the First Amendment, in that case. In that matter, Bemidji had attempted to outlaw distribution of this newspaper on Bemidji curbsides and public places, and threatened to arrest Steele for distributing the Northern Herald in Bemidji. (See *NH Editor Wins \$600 Billion Lawsuit*, from *NH* of 06/30/03 in *Living On The Edge*, at northernherald.com) In that matter, Bemidji was ordered to pay damages of \$3,001, plus costs.

thusly reducing the tendency to further price increases. We presently import about 60% of our oil. That means that a 10% drop in national demand would result in about a 17% drop in the amount of oil that has to be imported. It's a big step toward petroleum self-sufficiency and keeping American money in America.

Coupons for personal vehicle use would be issued to licensed drivers on a per capita or per-household basis. Each driver or each household, regardless of the type of vehicle or amount of past driving, would be entitled to coupons for an equal number of gallons for personal use (a separate formula would apply to business and commercial use).

Under this scenario, the soccer mom who insists on wasting precious resources by driving her kid to the store in a tank would be able to continue doing so (proscription, after all, would be un-American), but it would become very expensive as she'd have to buy extra ration coupons; she might want to make those trips in a Buick, instead. On the other hand, the guy who saves gas by driving his Vespa to work would be cash ahead for his frugality and conservation - he'd sell his extra coupons for a pretty penny. And for the average working stiff driving his subcompact to the job and the family for short weekend jaunts, well, he might have some extra coupons to sell too; but most importantly, the reduced aggregate national demand (90% in our example) will result in a lower pump price for what he does have to buy, and over time, reduced dependence, as a nation, on foreign oil; as we develop other, non-petroleum-intensive, energy and transportation measures. And these lower prices brought by conservation of present resources will minimize the disastrous effect that price spikes have upon domestic business and commerce.



Above and below, this computer monitor (an appliance) has, for several months now, been unlawfully stored, in plain sight, on the boulevard in front of Paul Hofland's property at 185 Gemmel Ave., and may be seen there as of this writing. Hofland is the landlord who made the original complaint against Steele for alleged improper storage of property.



NORTHERN PERSONALS

Marriage: It's what you do when you've grown tired of searching for happiness, and have decided, instead, to just have some of it.

One Man One Woman One Lifetime

When You Have to Go Somewhere and you don't want to go to the Women's Shelter
A SAFE PLACE FOR THE NIGHT in Bemidji
218-760-4717

GUYS SEEKING GALS

No. Central Minn. Lonesome loving grandfather looking for grandma. 55-65, slender built, 5' 5" - 5' 10", Protestant, loves walking, 4x4 riding, music, lasting relationship. #10153

Northern Minn. Mature, sharp-looking gentleman seeks young, beautiful, long-haired virgin, who hasn't done things the wrong way and wants to live her life the right way; for lifetime marriage, to share the good life, at peace with Providence, nature, and man; and eventually become a wealthy widow. Lots of dancing, outdoor fun and (married) romance will hasten the process. Should be skilled in the domestic arts, dancing & smoking, but if not can always learn to smoke. She should know CPR, but frankly, will get rich sooner if she doesn't. #10144

Park Rapids Area. Outdoorsman with multi-interests and good communication skills. Have been single eight years. N/S, 5' 10", active at 175 lbs. Like to hike, bike, and read. Seeking honest Christian lady, preferably a Minnesota native, with homesteading skills, class, and culture. The door is open for LTR. #10145

Park Rapids Area. White, male, vegetarian. 50, 160 lbs., brown eyes, black hair. Singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist. Into walks, talks, books, nature, photography and spirituality. Age, race, open. #10154

GALS SEEKING GUYS

Northern Minnesota. Young, open-minded 60ish, trim, N/S gal looking for lifelong companion, to enjoy similar interests. Country-spirited, sense of humor, kind. Appreciate N/S, 4x4, blue jeans, trim-medium build guy who is not a rigid-minded thinker; someone who can converse about anything. A plus if you have homesteading skills or thoughts, that sentimental mind! Must be kind, compassionate, caring. Someone who is still in awe of the beauty of nature and all its wonders. The moon, sunsets, wheat fields, cattails, someone sentimental . . . What I'm trying to say is "A good guy, for a good gal." Someone who can communicate, share. #10152

Northern Minnesota. SWF, uab, 40's, well rounded country girl. ISO big burly biker, easy going, to play with as the seasons change. LTR possible, sense of humour needed. #10151

South Itasca County. SWF - age 67 - looking for a guy that enjoys dancing, sports, walking, & quiet times. Must be at least 5' 10" or more. I enjoy country/western music and cooking. From late 50s to 75 yrs. of age. #10150

TO RESPOND TO NORTHERN PERSONALS

Prepare your letter to the person. Place

the letter in an envelope, with your return address (optional), but leave the recipient's address area on the envelope blank. Write the recipient's five digit code number in the lower left corner of the front of the envelope, then stamp and seal each envelope. Place all of the envelopes you are sending in a larger envelope and send, with \$5 for each letter to NORTHERN HERALD, P.O. Box 1535, Bemidji, MN 56619. Letters will usually be forwarded within two business days.

TO PLACE YOUR FREE AD IN NORTHERN PERSONALS

The first 30 words are free, words over 30 are 25¢ each. You can call 218-759-1162 to place your ad, or send it with proper remittance, if any, to Northern Herald, P.O. Box 1535, Bemidji, MN 56619. Be sure to indicate whether you're a guy seeking gal or a gal seeking guy - it isn't always obvious from names, or, for that matter, hair styles - Include your general location as the first words of the ad. Include your name, address and phone. We don't print these, but must have them for verification, and to forward your mail. Photos may run for \$5 extra, if you want everyone to know who you are. Ads run for 4 issues (about 8 mos.) unless renewed. Ads may also be e-mailed to: editor@northernherald.com (include your name & mailing address for mail forwarding, and phone for verification). You may put your e-mail address in your ad.

COMMON ABBREVIATIONS (FOR UNCOMMON PEOPLE): S: Single/ Separated M: Married D: Divorced W: Widowed W: White B: Black A: Asian I: Indian H: Hispanic C: Catholic J: Jewish P: Protestant M: Male F: Female N: Non-L: Light S: Smoker D: Drinker D/D free: Drug & Disease free ISO: In Search Of CT: Casual Tramping CT: "Serial Monogamy" (same thing) LTR: Long Term Tramping M: Marriage Nm: New merchandise Uab: Used a bit Pa: Passed around

Ask the Tax Guy

by Adam Steele, Certified Public Accountant

Tax information presented here is general in nature and is not necessarily applicable to, or advantageous upon, any specific return. Persons interested in strategies and savings discussed here are advised to discuss same, in light of all pertinent financial and tax considerations, as they may apply to the specific taxpayer, with their qualified accountant, or barber.

INSULATE NOW AND SAVE!

Residential Energy Credits Resurrected For 2006 Home Improvements; also, New Business Credits, Deductions

For those meaning to spiff up their insulation, and do some caulking and storms, now is the time! The Residential Energy Credits for home things like insulation, caulking, windows and doors, gone from the tax code since 1986, is back! And it's been beefed up to include skylights, energy efficient furnaces, water heaters, air conditioners, fans, solar equipment, and pigmented metal roofs.

The credit applies to these qualified items, paid for in 2006; and they are treated as being paid when the installation is complete. They must be for your main (not vacation) home.

The credit is **10% of the costs of energy-saving improvements** such as caulking, qualifying windows, including skylights, doors and roofs; subject to the Credit Limits, post.

A larger credit is available for more major improvements. It's equal to the lesser of the cost of same, or the maximums

provided below; also subject to the overall Credit Limits, post. The credit applies to qualifying high-efficiency:

- Furnaces - \$150
- Furnace fans - \$50
- Air conditioners, water heaters; and heat pumps, including geothermal - \$300

Credit Limits. The foregoing energy-saving measures are subject to a \$500 overall aggregate credit limit for all years. Additionally, the maximum aggregate credit for windows is \$200.

Solar Equipment, and also fuel cell property can qualify for a credit of 30% of the cost. This applies to qualified photovoltaic (electricity producing) systems and solar water heaters. The credit limit for these is \$2,000 for each. Qualified electricity-generating fuel cells have a credit limit of \$500 for each half kilowatt of capacity.

Vehicles. Additionally, credits are available for qualifying business OR personal vehicles placed in

service in 2006. These include qualifying: 1) hybrid, 2) alternative fuel, 3) fuel cell, and 4) Advanced lean-burn technology, vehicles.

A builder's credit of up to \$2,000 per home is available for energy-efficient home construction.

Business Credits. The Investment Tax Credit (ITC) has been expanded to include installation of equipment that uses solar energy for illumination, stationary microturbine power plants, and qualified fuel cells. Additionally, the credit for solar energy property has been increased to 30%.

For those not sufficiently confused at this point, further information may be obtained from IRS publication 553, now available at www.irs.gov

Increase your financial Word Power!

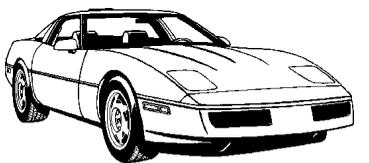
Bush Depression: An unusual economic state where the public gets shafted, but for some reason, Wall Street does OK.

NORTHERN HERALD SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Each issue, Northern Herald makes many copies available, free, to area public and private schools for use as a learning aid. **If you just don't get it:** If your school doesn't receive copies, and wants to, have your 12th grade Social Studies teacher (we're a little too real for younger students, who at that stage of life should only be exposed to the stories and fables that they read in the other papers) contact *NH* at 218-759-1162.

NORTHERN AUTO & BOAT SHOPPER

Warba Tire 218-492-4111
NEW & 1,000s OF USED TIRES
Alignments
2 wheel \$40, 4 wheel \$50
• Ball Joints • Tie Rods
• Struts • and More!
Tues-Fri 10 am - 5 pm Sat 10 - 4



HOW ADS ARE ORGANIZED

Most vehicles are alphabetized by MAKE (whether or not it appears in ad), then by year. Antiques, Classics are ordered by year. RVs and watercraft are generally arranged by size.

SERVICE, TOPPERS, PARTS & ACCESSORIES

ENGINES AVAILABLE and installation. New gaskets on most. 18 years' experience, pay upon completion, towing available. Affordable. 218-838-2908

NEED REPAIR ON YOUR MOTORCYCLE OR SNOWMOBILE? All work guaranteed, pickup and delivery available. 218-838-0242

SET OF 4 SNOW & MUD radial tires on Ford rims. 235-75-R15. 95% tread. \$250 for all four. 218-492-4394

RACE & SPECIALTY

RACE READY Sprint car operation. 1996 Schnee with fresh spare motor, rear ends, extras. Enclosed 34' Gooseneck trailer. All, \$20,000. 218-825-8864

ANTIQUe, CLASSICS

1966 OLDS TORONADO. 66K, good shape, no rust. \$2,800. 218-765-3716

\$19 flat runs your up to 6 line ad until SOLD! up to 32 weeks.
Photo: only \$10 more!
218-759-1162
Thrifties (\$500 or less):
6 lines - 32 weeks - \$10

1968 F-100 FORD PICK-UP. 8' bed. 360 V8. Stick. 110 volt generator. 73,000 original mi., minimal rust, brand new tires. \$2,500. 218-829-5623

1983 EL CAMINO w/350. New paint. \$5,000. 218-963-3765

All advertising costs you.
Good advertising pays you.

All area codes are 218 unless noted.

If We Don't Have It, We Can Get It!

AKELEY AUTO SALES

CAR WASH

NOW: AUTO RENTALS

from \$35 per day, w/150 free miles! No cards req. We work with many insurance companies; collision rentals may be reimbursable.

to Bemidji →
to Walker →
to Akeley →
to Moleky →

Now Towing! • Auto Sales
Oil Changes • Service Center
Highway 34 at 64, Akeley
218-652-2930



RENT THIS PONTOON TRAILER

2 Hrs. \$25 - 1/2 day \$50

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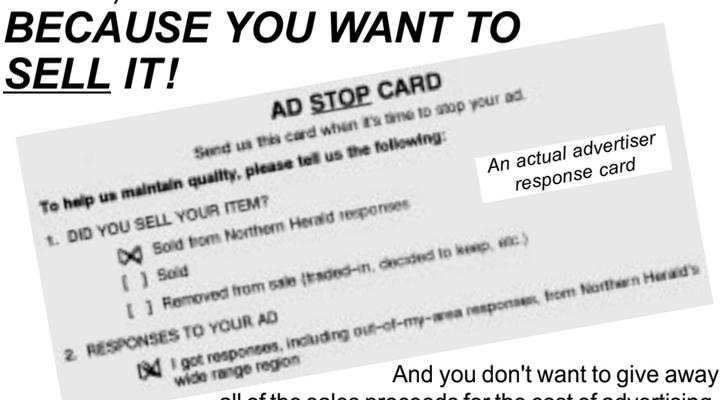
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Special Extra!

JUNE 3, 2006

Important late-breaking news which could not be included at presstime and which should not be held 'til the next issue

The Court: Bemidji Police Chief Bruce Preece Committed \$500,000+ Fraud

LEADING EDGE JOURNALISM

Federal Court Holds James "Bruce" Preece Personally Liable; Swindle Debts Will Not Be Discharged By Bankruptcy

MINNEAPOLIS -- The Federal Bankruptcy Court at Minneapolis determined, at his trial on June 1st, 2006, that Bemidji Police Chief James Bruce Preece, presently on paid administrative leave, did defraud people out of over half a million dollars; that the frauds were committed by Preece personally and so the resultant debts will not be veiled by his corporation - Preece is personally liable for them; and, the debts, because they were due to fraud, will not be discharged by the Chapter 7 bankruptcy that Preece filed in 2003 to try to avoid having to repay the swindle debts.

Presiding at the hearing, which got under way as scheduled at 1:00 p.m. June 1st, was the Honourable Nancy C. Dreher, a Judge of the Federal Bankruptcy Court.

Representing the Plaintiff (a victim of the swindles) Central Boiler, Inc. (of Greenbush, Minn., Dennis Brazier, CEO) was Edward F. Klinger, Esq., of Moorhead, Minn.; representing Plaintiff Ken Schoenfelder, and his firm, Blue Skies, Inc., of Rochester, Minn., was Michael S. Dietz, Esq., of Rochester. The Defendant, James "Bruce" Preece, of Bemidji, was represented at trial by Wayzata attorney Thomas Miller, Esq.

For many years before, and also during the time that Preece was Bemidji Police Chief, he had also

operated a helicopter business known as Helicopter Flight Incorporated (HFI) at the Crystal Airport in Hennepin County near Minneapolis. He also had an operation at the Moorhead airport.

Dietz, Esq. was allowed to first proceed, calling, firstly, Preece to take the witness stand.

Preece testified that he had been in law enforcement work for 35 years, including 14 years in covert operations for the Minn. Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA), and also as a Minn. State Trooper, a county deputy, and Bemidji Police Chief.

Preece testified that, in late 2001, he had a listing agreement to sell a Robinson helicopter for another customer, a Mr. Richard Stanger, of Wisconsin. Mr. Stanger's helicopter was kept, for showing, at the HFI base at Crystal.

His testimony would further show that he agreed to sell Stanger's helicopter to Mr. Schoenfelder in a rather convoluted transaction.

A purchase agreement was introduced into evidence, and from that document, and Mr. Schoenfelder's later testimony, it became apparent that Schoenfelder was given to believe that the helicopter was owned by HFI.

Schoenfelder testified that Mr. Preece had told him that he needed \$260,000 to pay off a bank mortgage

on the bird, and then would be able to sell same at a profit, which he would share with Schoenfelder as compensation for Schoenfelder lending Preece the \$260,000; or, if the helicopter did not sell within 60 days, then he would transfer it to Schoenfelder in repayment for the \$260,000 that Schoenfelder was being asked to loan Preece; and he would also pay interest of \$10,000. Schoenfelder agreed, and wired Preece the \$260,000.

Dietz (to Preece): "Did you use that money to acquire the helicopter?"

Preece: "Eventually, - no."

It is still not known where this, and other money, similarly swindled by Preece, went.

At the end of the 60 days, with the chopper still unsold, Schoenfelder demanded possession and a Bill of Sale. As a dealer, Preece made out an FAA Bill of Sale, but he put a different serial number on it than that of the helicopter that Schoenfelder had, presumably, bought. Schoenfelder corrected the document and tried to title the bird through the FAA, and was then surprised to find out that he couldn't - because they showed it titled to Mr. Stanger - not Preece or HFI. Mr. Stanger, who had not been informed of the transaction, never received any of the money. When he found

out about it, he took action to get his helicopter back. Schoenfelder, who had already paid Preece \$260,000 for the bird, had to then buy it *again* from Stanger, paying for it a second time.

In the Central Boiler Inc. (Dennis Brazier) matter, the evidence showed that Preece accepted \$296,414 in money and property, from Brazier, for an R-44 helicopter to be built by the Robinson Helicopter company. But he only turned \$25,000 of the money over to Robinson, leaving Brazier unable to take delivery of his helicopter when it was completed.

Later, in ruling on the case, that Preece had committed fraud and was personally liable, Her Honour said that she rarely has seen evidence as good and as clean as in this case.

Adverse counsel wishes Preece the best. As we descended the stately and majestic new Federal Courthouse in its elevator, at about 7:00 p.m., right after the trial had concluded with Judge Dreher giving her judgement, this reporter - the *only* press at the trial - commented to Plaintiff's attorney, Edward Klinger, Esq., that with garnishment, it'll take Preece a long time to pay the debts off. The lawyer just glanced up, smiled and said, "I hope he lives a long time."

Watch for full details of the trial in the July issue of Northern Herald.