

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

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.

Viewing Tips:

You can use your Adobe
magnifying tool (the
magnifying glass icon just
above this window) to
make the type and
pictures as large as you'd
like them.

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.

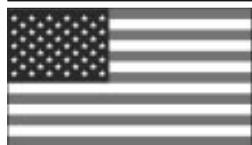
1988 FORD BRONCO. 4 WD, PW, PS, PL, auto. Runs good. Well below blue book at \$800. 218-327-0040
 1988 DODGE RAM 4x4. V8, automatic. \$900. 218-244-4949

NORTHERN AUTO & BOAT SHOPPER
 Northern Minnesota's Regional Supermarket of Good Used Cars! - p. 11 & 12
 Find the Car, Truck, RV, Boat, SnoMo, or other vehicle that you're looking for!

And with wide-range
MINNESOTA REAL
REAL ESTATE LISTINGS
 page 10

Serving Grand Rapids Walker Bemidji Blackduck Cass Lake Park Rapids Bagley Red Lake Emmaville

with Priority Coverage in Deer River, Bagley, Hackensack, Nevis, Akeley, Remer and Red Lake and with limited service to Pine River and Brainerd



WE ARE AMERICANS. TO THOSE, WHETHER HERE OR FROM ABROAD, WHO DON'T RESPECT THIS GREAT NATION AND THE VALUES THEREOF: **DON'T MESS WITH US. WE MEAN BUSINESS.**

Flag courtesy of www.ushistory.org

Northern Herald 75¢

VOLUME 10

NO. 5

North Central Minnesota's Eight-Weekly Regional Newspaper

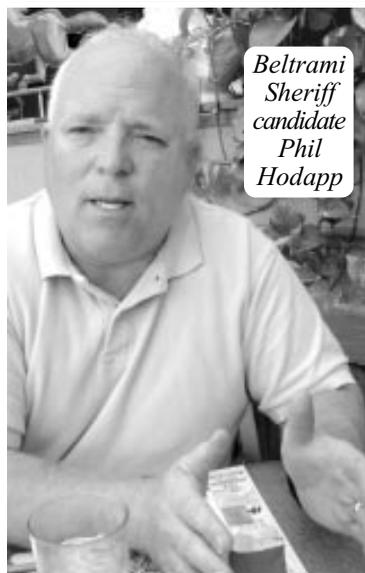
AUGUST 28 - OCTOBER 22, 2006

"GET ALL THE FOOLS ON YOUR SIDE AND YOU CAN BE ELECTED TO ANYTHING." -- Frank Dane

September Primary Candidates for Judge, Beltrami Sheriff

LEADING
EDGE
JOURNALISM

Sheriff - Two Good Candidates



Beltrami Sheriff candidate Phil Hodapp



Beltrami Sheriff candidate Scott Winger, above, is a cousin of incumbent Sheriff Keith Winger.

Now HOW big was that fish?

Working for the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA), **Phil Hodapp** said that it's been a while since he's ridden a horse, but that he can shoot "really well"; he probably would be able to ride again, if necessary to chase outlaws out of town.

Hodapp has been a peace officer for over 30 years, since 1974, and currently is a BCA Senior Special Agent, detailed at the FBI office in Bemidji, and supervising a collaborative task force involving the BCA, FBI, and other federal, State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies. The task force was initiated, by the FBI, a little over a year ago, to address the growing problem of "violent crime - gangs, guns, and drugs" in Northern Minnesota. "We're working on targeting some of the main offenders and trying to build cases on them," Hodapp said.

Staff policy and Standards of Officers' Conduct. Administratively, Minnesota police agencies have sometimes been criticized for allowing lengthy *paid administrative leave*, to officers who are, themselves, under investigation for possible wrongdoing. In recent years, some deputies have, as a result, had what amounts to unscheduled paid vacations for their questionable actions. Hodapp acknowledged that due to union contracts with the officers, a Sheriff may be limited

(Continued, "Hodapp," page 9)

He said that he "could" ride a horse, and stated that he shoots pretty well.

Scott Winger has attended BSU and is degreed from Alexandria Technical Institute in spring of 1989. After college, he became a peace officer and worked with a *drug task force* in Roseau until 1990. Winger has worked for Beltrami County for 16 yrs., starting as a *jailer* in 1990, and being promoted to *field deputy* in early '91. In 1996 he applied to be reassigned to the position which supervises the *boat and water program*, and handles *civil process*; and was again promoted, to sergeant, in 2002. In that position, which involves a lot of in-office work, Winger supervises the day shift, including civil process, and trains the process servers.

Staff policy and Standards of Officers' Conduct. On the question of *paid administrative leave* for deputies exhibiting conduct unbecoming to an officer, Winger said, "I don't like it, . . . but there are certain guidelines that the County has set up that they, kind of, dictate we follow." Winger said, though, that a Sheriff can, in certain situations, just say, *you're fired*, and said "in situations that warrant somebody being terminated, I probably would do that." Adding, that with paid leave, "a lot of people look at it as a paid vacation," but

(Continued, "Winger," page 6)

JUDGE NOT, LEST YE BE JUDGED.



Judicial candidate John Melbye

Here Come The Judge!

But Don't Expect Big Change.

The seat of Ninth District Judge, located at Bemidji, and presently occupied by Judge Terrance Holter (seat 7) is up for election this year.

Although this judge generally sits in Beltrami County, he can sit anywhere in the Ninth District (which encompasses a large part of Northern Minnesota and includes Grand Rapids and Brainerd); it is common for a judge from one venue to sit in another in conflict of interest cases, when the regular judge is on vacation, or the Court is otherwise overloaded. Accordingly, this seat will be on ballots throughout the Ninth District.

There are three candidates: the incumbent **Judge Holter, Tim Tingelstad**, a former law partner of corrupt (our opinion) County Attorney Tim Faver, and **John Melbye**, an attorney who has worked for several years as the law clerk (a law clerk does legal research and drafts legal documents) for Judge Holter's Court in the Beltrami County courthouse.

Interviews and Background. Candidates Tingelstad and Holter refused to be interviewed, so information provided on them is from *Northern Herald* files, and past reporting.

Tingelstad. The present Beltrami County Attorney, Tim Faver, came to that office in 1989 when his law partner, Tom Keyes (firm of Keyes & Faver), who was then Beltrami County Attorney, died of an overdose of cocaine.

Faver has seldom been challenged in elections over the 17 years since (he is again running, (Continued, "The Judge," p. 4)

In this issue
 FALL HAS IT ALL at Hackensack - Preview p. 7
 Sgt. Plasschaert Has Steele Spheres - p. 2

Single guys and gals: No more Hamburger Helper.
 Our personals by mail are so efficient, you could be married next week! Check out our Northern Personals to contact one of the eligibles listed or to find out how to place your own free ad.

FOLLOW-UP: THE COMPLETE REPORT WITH COURT FINDINGS

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

Editor's note: This is the **complete** report of the subject matter previewed and encapsulated in the Extra which was included in certain copies of our last issue. Here we present **full details** of that trial, including much material which was too lengthy to be in the preview Extra. Some readers may note that this account is quite different from accounts presented in the other papers - your *Northern Herald* reporter was the *only* press actually present at this landmark trial, and so was able to observe the full detail of the proceedings not had by the other newspapers. We also have access to the transcript of the Judge's Findings, and we replicate what Her Honour found to be true, with ad verbatim excerpts, here. Enjoy! -- Ed.

MINNEAPOLIS -- The Federal Bankruptcy Court at Minneapolis determined, at his trial on June 1st, 2006, that then-Bemidji Police Chief James Bruce Preece, did defraud people out of over half a million dollars; that the frauds were committed by Preece personally and knowingly 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.

Overview. James "Bruce" Preece was the Director of Public Safety, commonly known as the Police Chief, for the City of Bemidji from March 5th, 2001 until June 2nd, 2006. The son of a well-known and well reputed long-time Bemidji judge, James Preece, Bruce had worked for many years in law enforcement agencies of the State of Minnesota.

And 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.

In 2002, HFI was a franchised dealer for the very much desired Robinson line of helicopters. These birds, which then sold for about \$320,000 (the popular model R-44), were custom-built by Robinson Helicopter, at Torrance, California. Typically, a dealer would take a deposit of \$25,000 from a customer and send it to Robinson to start building the bird, and then the customer would pay the balance on delivery a few months later.

But as early as 2000, Preece's business was in trouble; and as shown by previous reports since this story began to unravel in early 2002, at some time prior thereto, Mr. Preece began a practice of offering customers discounts or expedited service (about which Robinson knew nothing, and which they could not have performed) for *payment in full*, up front, for the helicopter.

Trouble was, that Preece took the full payments of about \$320,000; but only turned over the minimum amount - \$25,000 - to Robinson. What became of the rest, which in several previously reported instances totals over \$1 million in (Cont'd, "The Preece Legacy," p. 6)

1976 19 FT. SAILBOAT w/trailer. Famous Johnson make. 24 ft. mast w/jib & ails. \$1,636 or best offer. 218-327 **SOLD!**

Sold. With wide-range responses from NORTHERN AUTO & BOAT SHOPPER.

WE MEAN BUSINESS.

News happens every day!

It can happen anywhere. When you see news, call Northern Herald's Newsline:

(218) 759-1162

LEADING EDGE JOURNALISM exclusively in NORTHERN HERALD

P.O. BOX 1535, BEMIDJI, MN 56619

Discover the Wonder of ...

Our NEW Baxter home: 14101 Baxter Dr. Ste. 111B (Westport Ctr. near China Buffet)

Whalen Woods

DISTINCTIVE LOG FURNITURE & GIFTS
Top Quality • Hand Crafted • Family Pride

Whether it's something you need ...

... or something you just want,

Fundamental ...

... or fanciful,

It's always Distinctive,

Always in Good Taste; at the Wonderful World...

... of Whalen Woods.

Open All Year!

- Pequot Lakes 31002 Government Drive 218-568-4400
- Becker 1 blk. N of Becker Furniture Toll-free: 866-341-0690
- Baxter-Brainerd 14101 Baxter Dr. Ste. 111B (Westport Shopping Ctr.) 218-825-WOOD

Log Furniture • Mantels
Log Accents • Railings
Butcher Block Tables
Custom Furniture
Home Decor
Custom Woodburning

Take advantage of our frequent buyer's program!
www.whelenwoods.com
Our Baxter location has moved!

BUMPER TO BUMPER

Auto Parts Specialists

- Huge Inventory • Domestic & Import
- Cars & Light Trucks, Heavy Duty

500 State 371 S., Hackensack, MN 56452
218-675-7100

MARY KAY
Kristine Walsh
Park Rapids
Free Shipping • Full Inventory
Toll Free: 877-244-8013
www.marykay.com/kristinewalsh

JEFFERSON Hearing Aid Center

Offices in Wadena and Park Rapids *Brian Hillesland, BC-HS*

- Servicing ALL BRANDS of hearing aids.
- Featuring all types of hearing aids to fit your hearing loss and your budget.
- FREE BATTERIES for one year with any hearing aid purchase.

FREE HEARING TEST 218-631-4966 • 1-800-631-4946

Pesticides Linked To M.S., Other Disorders

A new study by the Energy and Environmental Research Center (EERC), located at the Univ. of North Dakota at Grand Forks, recently released preliminary results of a study that indicate that exposure to pesticides altered neurologic and other functions in rats.

During the first year of research, EERC reports, the pesticide exposure resulted in changes in the same areas of the brain involved in multiple sclerosis; and also, "pesticide exposure damages the same brain areas linked to epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, and Alzheimer's. . . . [and] can also cause severe damage to the gastrointestinal system and cause neurological dysfunction."

Clearly, these findings will be of interest to people who have rats, and have observed symptoms of these ailments in them. If one has a rat, for instance, who doesn't seem to be able to find his way home, one should probably keep him away from pesticides.

In a release, EERC Senior Research Advisor Ed Steadman said, "Ultimately, the program will result in the determination of how humans are exposed to pesticides and the development of strategies to help us reduce our exposure-related risks. Over the past year, we evaluated the relationships between locations where pesticides are being used and any incidences of neurological symptoms in those areas, as well as characterized the effect specific pesticides have on

2005 Steele Spheres Awarded

The first of three sets of 2005 Steele Spheres has been issued to Bemidji Police Sgt. Les Plasschaert for his excellent and tireless work on behalf of the Department, and the City and people of Bemidji.



Most every year, the Steele Spheres are issued for Exceptional Performance and Valour, in the Public Service, both Beyond and Within the Call of Duty; generally as noted in reporting from the previous year.

Sgt. Plasschaert has worked for the Bemidji Police Dept. (BPD) for 19 yrs., being promoted to Sergeant in 2003. Although he's unassuming and modest about his career, in that time he has distinguished himself by a history of good, honest, work and service, capped by the Sergeant, as well as his wife, putting in extra time to give Bemidji a Police Reserve unit, which assists in police functions not requiring a peace officer, saves the taxpayers an estimated \$10,000 a year, and provides incentive, hands-on training, and achievement for college students studying criminal justice and planning law enforcement careers.



Bemidji Police Dept. Sgt. Les Plasschaert

Plasschaert created the Reserve unit in 2001, and has directed it since. His wife, Betty, helps with computer and clerical work for the unit. (See coverage of 2005 Reserves in NH of 07/04/05, page 7, at northernherald.com).

A U.S. military combat veteran, Plasschaert told the graduating reservists last year that the unit is the fulfillment of a promise he made to himself while in a foxhole in Vietnam; that if he got out of that alive, "If there was a possibility that I could help someone, I would do it."

When it comes to putting in the extra time, innovation, and effort to serve the Bemidji community, well, maybe you don't have to have Steele Spheres to do it; but it helps if you do; and Sgt. Plasschaert has 'em.

the nervous system."

The initial study was funded by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control, in the amount of \$496,000; EERC is pursuing

current funding for continuation of the study.

Better research for better rats. For more info, readers may visit the EERC website at www.undeerc.org

ARNIE'S ANNUAL GUN SALE!

IF OUR GUNS DON'T BLOW YOU AWAY, OUR LOW PRICES WILL!

Large selection of new and used foreign and domestic rifles, shotguns and handguns

We're bursting at the seams with guns!

CAN SPECIAL ORDER ANY GUN IN STOCK BY SUPPLIERS.

This only happens once a year! Don't "miss" out!

10 A.M. - 6 P.M. — 7 DAYS A WEEK

⇒⇒ **Sept. 15th thru early Nov.** ⇐⇐

Ask about our Gun Safety Course for certification to carry.

Located at A & E Produce Building
1 1/2 miles west of Shevlin on Hwy 2 • 218-785-2274

Now Under One Roof!

Birch Lake Small Engine

OPEN for business, and ready to meet all of your small engine needs. Check our price before placing your repair order!

Specially trained (certificates issued) to repair John Deere, Jonsereed, Husqvarna, Lawn Boy, Stihl, Briggs & Stratton, Tecumseh
Authorized Dealer: Interstate batteries including marine and motorcycle.

Dave Thompson, owner
Hwy 371, Hackensack • 218-675-5100
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. M-F • 8 a.m. to noon Sat.

Robert G. Klasek/Owner-Mechanic • Ken Peck/Mechanic
A Northern Herald Recommended Business

BK's Auto Repair, Inc.
Full Service Auto Mechanics

702 Grant Ave. SE (1 block N. of NTC, on Grant) Phone 218-759-9613
Bemidji, MN 56601 Email: bksauto@paulbunyan.net

America at CountryFest!



Above, several of the U.S. Services were represented at CountryFest. In background, the USMC tank inflatable was available for young people to play on. Upper left, the U.S. Army 'Army of One' tent. Depicted top right, from left, are Dean Wendorff and Sgt. Chris Vogel U.S. Army; and Sgt. Alvarez, USMC, 7 yrs. in of 20. He's been to Greece, Germany and Iraq. At lower right, with the USAF race car are Melissa Hillstad, Ronnie Opsal, Sgt. Mike Bauer, and Airman Amelia Hadrava. At lower left, of the National Guard, Pvt. Edward Lussier, Rachel Piche, Sgt. 1st Cl. Matt Hjelsest, and James Large.

Vietnam Wall to be at Deer River 9/15/06

DEER RIVER -- VFW and American Legion Post Commander Vern Figgins has announced that Minnesotans can see the 180 ft. Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall, at Deer River, Sept. 15th-18th, behind the Deer River High School. The Traveling Wall, a scaled down replica of the Washington, D.C. memorial, and bearing the names of many Northern Minnesotans, travels across the nation bringing the memorial to families and friends of the Vietnam war heroes. Like the full-sized wall, rubbings may be made. Bringing the wall here was sponsored by the combined post - VFW 2720, and American Legion 122, at Deer River.

IF YOU LIKE TO SMOKE KNOW WHERE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS GO.

In past years, the AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, American Heart Association, and American Lung Association have given substantial donations of their tax-deductible contributions to lobbying groups that are trying to make it harder for you to smoke by increasing tobacco taxes and governmental restrictions.

A PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE OF THIS NEWSPAPER

1st CountryFest Rocks Turtle River!

Phil Vassar

About 7,000 Attend - Event Will Be Back Next Year

Below, #1 country hitmaker Phil Vassar plays America The Beautiful on piano.

In Focus



Above, the multi-talented Matt Thomas plays fiddle, mandolin, and guitar in Vassar's band. His other musicians include Jeff Smith, guitar; Scott Saunders, keyboards; Darren Theriault, bass; and Jake Caldwell, drums.

Vassar opened the Main Stage Thursday evening, followed by Lee Ann Womack, and on Friday, Hot Apple Pie, Little Big Town, and Jo Dee Messina. Craig Morgan and Trace Adams wrapped up the concerts Saturday.

Also performing, on the regional stage, were Fireline, Colt 45, The Roosters, Tami Lee, Telluride, Whiskey Johnson, and Trashville.

Vassar meets with fans and signs autographs after the show.

TURTLE RIVER -- In the wake of some country fans' concerns over security and reported problems at We-Fest, Frank and Justin Chrz, of Turtle River, decided to bring a new, better, kind of country music event here. And the 3-day event (June 22nd-24th, 2006) caught on so well, that tickets are already being sold for next year's, which is scheduled to be four days! It'll be June 21st-24th, 2007.

Dubbed *Country Fest Minnesota*, the event is sited on the pastoral grounds of Castle Highlands Golf Course, which Frank also operates (as well as the Turtle Creek Saloon) at Turtle River.

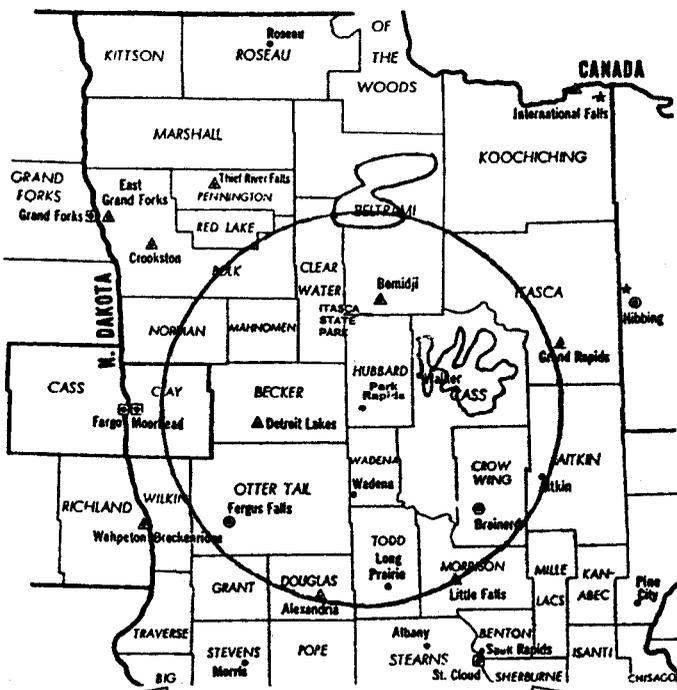
The weather was perfect for the opening, with temps in the 70s, warm in the sun, and a cool breeze most of the afternoon.

Probably best known for his hit in 2000, *Just Another Day in Paradise*, and with his newer tune, *Last Day of My Life*, hitting #1 this year, songwriter and pianist Phil



KIDKK 97.5 FM

"Music For Adults"



100,000 Watts Of Power

- NBC Radio Network
- On-Site Weather Radar
- Bruce Williams and Talknet
- Complete News Weather & Sports
- Linder Farm Network

- Music You Grew Up With 40 thru the 90's
- Carpenters, Perry Como, Elvis, Glenn Miller, Kenny G., Neil Diamond and More
- Announcers Joe Lacina, Eddie Hubbard and More

"We Cover It All"

"The Browser's" - Sat's at 11 AM / Big Band Trivia Sunday Specials Every Sunday 2-3 pm

218-732-3306 FAX # 218-732-3307

HWY 34 E. BOX 49

PARK RAPIDS, MINNESOTA

It's Fall! Enjoy the Harvest of **TOMATOES** (perfect for canning) **FRESH SWEET CORN 'til frost, MELONS, APPLES, PUMPKINS**

See our **Squash Wagon!** (12 varieties) Ornamental corn & gourds in all shapes and colors!

An afternoon of farm fun for the whole family at our **PUMPKIN PARTY!** EVERY SAT., Sept. 30th - Oct. 28th, 11a - 4p, at our Farm Market - Hwy 34 E., Park Rapids *Bring your camera!*

Quality Farm Produce, June-Oct. at our Farm Market, M-Sat. 10a-5:30p
VEGETABLES - BERRIES - MELONS - JAMS, JELLIES - HONEY MAPLE SYRUP - UNIQUE COUNTRY BAKING MIXES - BULK DRIED BEANS - DRIED FRUIT AND SNACKS - Many other farm items.

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!



- Wagon Rides to the Pumpkin Patch
- Corn Maze
- Treasure Hunts
- Pumpkin Launcher
- Live Scarecrow & Gorilla
- Cow Milking Contests
- Free Refreshments - Enjoy a cup of our Hot Cider or Coffee!

Check our periodic in-store specials!

Bemidji Downtown Meats

Call in your Special Orders for holidays, parties, BBQs, etc.

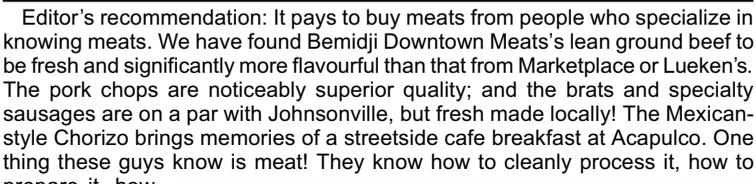
- We have all your fresh meat, and can help you plan menu & recipes.
- Hunting trip? Deli items featuring Wisconsin cheese & sliced meats.

Bemidji Downtown Meats is operated by Certified Food Managers who can provide educated consultation regarding meats. Any questions regarding meat, cooking, or food are welcome. They accommodate special health & nutrition needs.

216 Second St. NW
218-751-5011
Hours: M-W 9-5:30
Thurs. & Fri. 9-6 Sat. 9-2
We Accept MN EBT cards, MC, VISA

Dustin Merseth, Owner

Editor's recommendation: It pays to buy meats from people who specialize in knowing meats. We have found Bemidji Downtown Meats's lean ground beef to be fresh and significantly more flavourful than that from Marketplace or Lueken's. The pork chops are noticeably superior quality; and the brats and specialty sausages are on a par with Johnsonville, but fresh made locally! The Mexican-style Chorizo brings memories of a streetside cafe breakfast at Acapulco. One thing these guys know is meat! They know how to cleanly process it, how to prepare it, how to season it, and what goes well with it. Don't hesitate to ask!



CENTER OF PEACE FOR BODY, MIND, SPIRIT

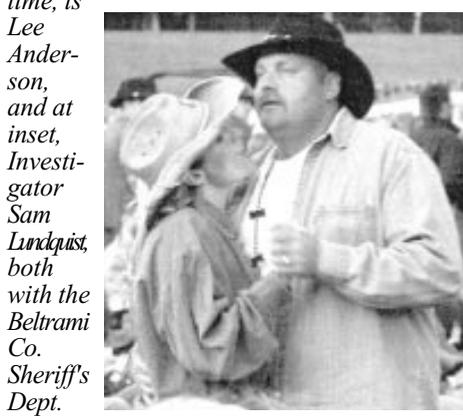
GIFTS • BOOKS • DRUMS • MUSIC
JEWELRY • ESSENTIAL OILS • CRYSTALS
STONES • HOT STONE MASSAGE
MASSAGE THERAPIST & BODY WORK
REIKI MASTERS • YOGA
PERSONAL & SPIRITUAL GROWTH COUNSELOR
MYOFASCIAL RELEASE & CRANIAL SACRAL
VARIETY OF WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

Jeanne Marie Troge, MA
Brenda Mason, MT
Beth Jenkins, MT

Brigid's House
Mon.-Fri. 10AM-5PM • Sat. 10 AM-3PM
500 Park Ave. S. (S. Hwy. 71), Park Rapids
Come & Experience... 732-5347 www.brigidshouse.com



At upper left, there to ensure that everyone can have a good time, is Lee Anderson, and at inset, Investigator Sam Lundquist, both with the Beltrami Co. Sheriff's Dept.



Swenson's
Photography & Digital Imaging
Creative Photography from one of the best Studios in the Northland!
Senior, Business & Family Portraits
Pets • Reunions • Digital Restoration
Call for an appointment or information today!!
218-547-3150
6600 State 371 NW • 1/2 mi. S. of Y • Walker
www.swensonsphoto.com
www.jpswenson.com

Cosmetology School
Park Avenue School of Cosmetology can teach you to perform a variety of services in the beauty industry.
Call Now for Information
218-237-2260 • PARK RAPIDS, MN

The Boss. CountryFest is produced by Frank and Justin Chrz. Here, Frank, at MIX 103.7 FM's live broadcast set-up, on-site at CountryFest.



READERS TOOT OUR HORN!

Great job on Preece story - You Rock! -- a subscriber from Minneapolis

NH replies: Thank you, sir! Please see the update in this issue.

The Judge from p. 1

unopposed this year) and so has retained the office. Until the County Attorney's post was made a full-time job, Faver also continued his private law practice with his other partner, Mr. Tingelstad (firm of Faver, Schluchter & Tingelstad - Shari Schluchter, who also worked as Chief Asst. Co. Attorney in Mr. Faver's office¹, was in 2005, by Governor Pawlenty, appointed to be a Judge, notwithstanding the obvious lack of impartiality that created; and is presently sitting).

In 1997, Tingelstad was made an administrative law judge, and a 9th Dist. Magistrate in 1999.

He is also President of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Bemidji and, like George W. Bush, appears to directing much of his campaign to appeal to evangelical fundamentalists. His campaign material is rife with Biblical quotations, and his campaign committee is known as *Citizens for Truth & Light*, which gives, as it's address on current campaign material, only a box number at The UPS Store, Bemidji. His campaign website recites, in part, "I do know this however, that whether you can give \$10, \$100, \$1,000 or more, what matters is that God knows your heart, and He will reward those who give to the work of His Kingdom!"

OK. Apparently, this self-righteous candidate is convinced that his being elected judge is part of the work of the kingdom of Providence. History, though, causes one to question that notion, as Tingelstad also ran for Minn. Supreme Court justice in 2004, but was defeated.

Roots of corruption. Judge Holter has occupied his seat since 1980. His campaign appears to be managed by Jana Austad, and Rebecca Signe Anderson², two attorneys who worked for a number of years at the present firm of Fuller, Baer & Wallner, Ltd. (which has operated under different names over the years, but always had Fuller, Baer & Wallner as principals). That firm has a history of, generally by Robert Wallner, representing public officials, including police officers, charged with corrupt acts, in high profile cases (e.g. former Police Chief Robert Tell, when charged with theft by swindle; Michelle Preece (former Police Chief Preece's wife) when she was charged with DWI with .20 blood alcohol; Karen Janov (former Director of the women's shelter) when she was charged with obstruction of justice for impeding a police search to find a female kidnapping suspect that the shelter may have been harbouring; and when in 1998 police and deputies were charged with prostitution-related offenses; to name a few). To Wallner's credit, he usually gets the corrupt official off, or a very light sentence, even when he or she has admitted the act with which he or she is charged,

From The Editor's Desk: Over the past few months we've gotten several letters and emails from *Fat Frog Marketing*, the Twin Cities PR firm for the *Cold Stone* ice cream franchise, suggesting news format articles promoting their way overpriced product (\$3+ for an ice cream cone). As with other such commercial endeavors seeking free advertising disguised as news, we sent them a copy of our ad rate sheet. Fat Frog responded that they were just the PR firm, they didn't have any control over advertising expenditures (think about this for a moment). We can only find it

and even when it is as serious as aiding a kidnapper.

In connection with this story, Judge Holter originally scheduled an interview, but Mrs. Anderson called and cancelled it.

John Melbye, 40 this year, and originally from St. Paul, attended Ames Community College, was in the honours program at the U of M receiving his B.A. in political science; and did his legal studies at Hamline School of Law, earning his Juris Doctorate degree, issued in 1995. Immediately after graduation, he began working as a law clerk for (then) Judge James Preece, in Bemidji; and also for a Minneapolis attorney, Tom Hurwitz. After that, Melbye took a sabbatical from the legal profession, returning to Bemidji in 2002 to clerk for Judge Holter, his current job. He has not practiced as a private attorney - most of his experience has been working with the judiciary - doing, essentially, the background work of the judge's job - in both civil and criminal matters. "Juvenile, probate, any matter that would come before the District Court," he said, "the process, of course, is the research first, the analysis, applying the facts to the case law and statutory law, and then the writing [of findings, conclusions, and judgments]. I did all aspects of that."

Interview questions.

Q: "How do you feel about the Constitution; both the U.S. and Minnesota Constitution? Do you think it's basically good law?"

Melbye: "Absolutely. Absolutely; it is the law of the State of Minnesota; and that's what judges follow . . . it is what guiding principles of our society . . . [are], and I fully agree with the Constitution."

Q: "Do you think it's just a guideline, or do those words mean what they say?"

Melbye: "Well, the words mean what they say, without being a strict constructionist. It is a living body which grows with us . . . it's not a rigid document that we follow blindly."

Q: "Do you think it's [the Constitution is] open for judges to go in and . . . interpret . . . words that we know what they mean [like right to keep and bear arms] to where it's 'fuzzier' than what's written?"

Melbye: "Well, as the *White* decision allows potential judges to discuss issues that may come before the Court, I have exercised my right not to do that. I will not discuss issues that may come before the Court. . . . I *do* believe in the Constitution. As for interpretation



Adam Steele, Editor

amusing that a firm offering the public such a bad deal (our opinion) as Cold Stone doesn't see fit to buy its advertising like anyone else, but tries to get it for free.

of the Constitution, you're getting into issues that may come before the Court, and for a judge to pre-decide that, I don't think it's a . . . [good idea for] the judiciary.

Note: The Kelo decision was the Connecticut case where someone's private property was taken for other private use for community benefit, and the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the taking.

Q: "How do you feel about . . . eminent domain; how do you feel about the Kelo decision?"

Melbye: "Again, I don't feel that I can discuss issues that may come before the Court."

Q: "Fundamentally, it's a well established legal doctrine that 'a man's home is his castle'. Do you believe that?"

Melbye: "In the abstract, yes. As it applies to the law it all depends on many different issues. A home is a castle - it is an abstract concept. Certainly, one should be safe in their home . . . the United States Supreme Court has decided [the Kelo case]; the District Courts have to follow those decisions . . ."

Q: "Do you feel that the rights of homeowners are superior to the rights of developers, absentee landlords, and other people that may have commercial uses for residential property?"

Melbye: [refuses to answer as the question could come before the Court.]

Q: "Are you a homeowner, yourself?"

Melbye: "Yes, I am."

Q: "How would you feel about some developer coming in, and Bemidji deciding that it would be economically beneficial for the City, for him [the developer] to build something where your home is?"

Melbye: "I can't comment on that."

Note: Summary judgement has often been abused to dispose of cases the court doesn't want heard - to 'throw them out of court', denying the right to proper trial of the issues.

Q: "How do you feel about the doctrine of summary judgement? . . . [Should the requirement that it can be allowed only when there is *no issue* of material fact, be construed strictly?]"

Melbye: "Absolutely; as the law is written, yes. Under summary judgement laws, [when] there are no genuine issues of material fact, then summary

NH What It Means:

Advertisers displaying the *Northern Herald* Quality seal have been independently evaluated and are recommended by *Northern Herald*.

★ ★ ★ ★ 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.**



denotes restaurants which are known to be hospitable to all, whether or not they smoke.

Where It's At Find *Northern Herald* on sale at these quality locations:

- AKELEY** Bunyan's, Lake Country Supermarket, Em's Coffeehouse
- BACKUS** Jim's Off-Sale
- BAGLEY** Orton's, Tesoro Service
- BEMIDJI** WAL-MART, Holiday (south location), U. S. Post Office (coin box in front)
- BOVEY** Ron's Korner Market
- BRAINERD** Jurassic Auto Wash, Super-One Foods, U. S. Post Office (coin box in front), Walgreen's Drug
- CASS LAKE** Che-Wa-Ka-E-Gon
- COHASSET** River Rat Trading Post, SuperAmerica
- COLERAINE** RJ Market
- DEER RIVER** Cenex, SuperValu
- EMMAVILLE** Emmaville store
- GRAND RAPIDS** 38 Outpost, Cub Foods, God's Country Outfitters, The Hawg Pen, Lake McKinney Store, Reed Drug, RC's Spur, Sawmill Inn, SuperAmerica
- HACKENSACK** Hackensack Liquor (bar), Mark's Market
- JENKINS** JM Speedstop & Amoco
- LAKE GEORGE** Woodland Store
- LAPORTE** Laporte Service, Laporte Grocery
- LONGVILLE** One Stop & bp (Amoco) Service
- KABEKONA** Lowell's Sinclair Service
- NISSWA** Ganley's Nisswa Inn
- PARK RAPIDS** Coborn's
- PEQUOT LAKES** Northern Food King
- PINE RIVER** Carl's Market, Johnson Oil & Bait, Pfeiffer Drug, Wilson Junction
- RED LAKE** Red Lake IGA
- REMER** Holter's Super Valu, Remer Junction Service, Spur Service & Conv., Woodsman Cafe
- SHEVLIN** Country Inn Store
- SOLWAY** Highway 2 Express
- WALKER** Jubilee Foods, Orton's

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

FROM THE OTHER PAPERS

For our readers' more worldly education, we present the following two items which appeared in the Minneapolis StarTribune of August 10th, 2006:

1) Jailed Driver Is Beaten to Death A recount of Carl Moyle being stopped in Elk River, found without proof of insurance, and taken to jail where he was promptly beaten to death by another inmate who had torn a handicapped rail off the jail wall.

Study Questions:

a) Young drivers: Do you see why it's important to *ALWAYS* carry proof of insurance in your car?

b) Is this a downside to the Americans with Disabilities Act?

2) Meerkat bite at zoo . . . This story reports that a 9-year old girl, at the (Twin Cities area) Minnesota Zoo, and at the time, anyway, without proper parental supervision, climbed up one barrier, defeated another one, and extended a finger into the meerkat area, where it was bitten.

As the parents of the errant and delinquent child did not want to vaccinate her against rabies, the zoo had all 5 of the meerkats in the enclosure killed and tested for rabies; although none had exhibited any symptoms. The tests were negative. The names of the errant child and her idiot (our opinion) parents were not released.

Study Questions:

a) How many children are there in the world?

b) How many meerkats?

c) Does this really make you want to spend your hard-earned money on the exorbitant fees at the Minnesota zoo?

judgement is warranted; yes."

Q: There have to *really* be no . . . [genuine issues of material] fact, right?"

Melbye: "As it is written, yes."

Q: "Do you think that the District Court can take the initiative . . . [to say that a local statute is unconstitutional, at trial, rather than to require that the case be appealed to the Appellate Courts for that finding]?"

Melbye: ". . . an activist judge would feel that they would take on any matter before them; however, I would practice more of a *judicial restraint*; being that I would have to look at the situation and whether it would be appropriate for the District Court to address that issue. In cases, yes, they certainly would

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT

Why Did Ethanol Price Go Up?

The price of ethanol fuel has pretty much paralleled the rise in petrol (gasoline). But unlike petrol, the ethanol price has nothing to do with OPEC or the whims of Saudi shieks, it isn't refined in Louisiana, and what farmers are getting for their corn hasn't gone up notably. So, why the robbery at the pumps?

The only thing ethanol shares with petrol is that the point of sale is controlled by the same 5 major oil companies.

In response to consumer inquiries, **Minnesota Attorney General Mike Hatch** has conducted a comprehensive study of the ethanol price volatility. The compiled report concludes that the higher pump price is not tied to production or other costs, but still, Hatch does not find cause of action for criminal "price-fixing."

The very informative report, which exhaustively traces the ins and outs of ethanol marketing and pricing, from cornfield to pump, however, is a lengthy, commendable and excellent investigative work by Mr. Hatch's office, and is certainly worth reading for those interested in the economics of ethanol, and why the price is where it is.

It may be found on the web at <http://www.ag.state.mn.us/consumer/PDF/E85Report.pdf>

Ed De La Hunt, the *voice* of Northern Minnesota, regularly hosts a call-in radio show, "Coffeetime", from 9-10 am M-F on KDKK-Radio, 97.5 FM, Park Rapids. This happened June 1st, 2006:

Caller: What do think of Whistleblowers?

Ed: I don't call them whistleblowers - I call them *Patriots*.

have to; in other cases, they may defer to either the federal courts, or the higher courts to make that determination."

Q: "Do you think restraining orders, in domestic circumstances, are sometimes abused?"

Melbye: "I think they *can* be abused. Whether they are, in any particular case, I don't know. There's always potential for abuse in any application of the law . . .

(Cont'd, "The Judge," p. 10)

"Freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one."

-- A.J. Liebling

But that's not the way it is in Northern Minnesota. A community cannot progress without open communication.

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.

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.

Northern Herald
P.O. Box 1535 Bemidji, MN (218) 759-1162

Publisher.....Northern Herald Publications, Inc. Published every eight weeks, or so, by Northern Herald Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 1535, Bemidji, MN 56619, for the benefit of the sane, normal and thinking people of Northern Minnesota; a distinct minority, but growing.
Editor.....Adam Steele
Est. circulation: 5,000
Mail subscriptions: \$8/year

© 2006 by Northern Herald Publications, Inc.

FALL HAS IT ALL!
 at
Hackensack, Longville, Walker
 September 21st through October 1st

National Chainsaw Sculpting Invitational
 at Hackensack City Park
 Friday, Sept. 29th - Sun. Oct. 1st

See 10 of the top chainsaw carvers from around the world (including Angie Polglaze from Australia) create their masterpieces, from ordinary logs, before your eyes as they compete for top prizes!

Carving from 9 am to 6 pm Fri. & Sat., 9 - 2 on Sun., followed by **AUCTION** of the carvings! All of the artists will do quick carves, as well as masterpiece work on all three days!

Wine Tasting
 Pontoon Rides
 Flea Market
 Arts & Crafts Village
 Scavenger Hunt
 Medallion Hunt
 Classic Car Tour
 Radio Controlled Flying Club Demo
 Fall Colour Auto Tours
 Burtons
 Much, much more!

For more Information, call 800-279-6932 or visit www.hackensackchamber.com

Bring this COUPON for these fall specials! Exp. 10/31/06

NORTH COUNTRY Tire & Auto
 324 Hwy 371 S.
 Hackensack, MN 56452
 218-675-6090

Trailer Wheel Bearing Pack
 Reg. per axle \$68.95 + parts
\$20 off

4 Tire Rotate & Balance
 (Reg. \$30)
\$19⁹⁵

COMPLETE AUTO SERVICE in Hackensack!

Batteries
 Alignment
 Oil Change
 Mufflers
 Shocks
 Struts
 Tune-ups
 Belts
 Hoses
 Brakes

IT'S ALWAYS HAPPENING AT HACKENSACK!
Hack Celebrates Sweetheart Day



Above, Kevin's Auto Body, "Pirates of the Caribbean" float in Sweetheart Days parade.

HACKENSACK -- The second week in July marks Sweetheart Days at Hackensack. It's an annual celebration of the betrothal of Paul Bunyan to the city's namesake, Lucette Diana Kensack.

This year's fest, July 9th-12th, featured games for all ages including a golf tourney, sidewalk sales, a bake sale, pontoon rides, live theatre, scavenger hunt, kids' fishing contest, and of course, the big parade and street dance. Music was provided by Spectrum Entertainment, and the Ramona Fritz Band.

Below, Gordon Ford's "Let Freedom Ring" hybrid air car runs on fans, usually.



Annual Canoe Races Held at Hackensack



HACKENSACK -- Amidst a surprise windstorm blowing steadily at an estimated 30-35 mph, with gusts of up to about 60, avid canoeists competed June 18th, 2006 in several divisions of the annual Canoe Races at Hackensack, and were undaunted by the blasts that churned the lake into swells and whitecaps that crashed into and flooded over the floating dock at the Birch Lake waterfront. At least one canoe swamped, but most finished. Some divisions had raced the day before.

Top winners and times were:
Pro Divisions - 12 mi. course:
 Men's State C-1 Solo Championship: Al Rudquist, 1:46:30; Pro Men's Tandem: Fred & Ed, 1:53:22; Pro Mixed: Sarah & Jason, 1:41:39.
Citizen's Divisions - 4 mi. course:
 Business Class: Bear Pause Theatre (Barry & Jack), 43:16; Sweetheart Mixed: John & Wanda Arenz, 50:11; Youth (16 and under), Beth & Jonathan, 1:39:15.

Below, Barry Babcock receives the trophy from race official Sue Larson, for 1st Place in the Business division. He and teammate Jack Gustafson came in with 43 minutes 16 sec. on the 4 mile Citizens' course, in a canoe sponsored by the new Bear Pause Theatre at Hackensack. The trophy, for the past four years, had belonged to Bemidji Woolen Mills, but this year their canoe swamped in the high winds.



THE TIME TO GET IT DONE

THE EXPERIENCE TO DO IT RIGHT!

Vote PAT RICHARDS COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1 ITASCA COUNTY

WATT AUTOMOTIVE
 29279 Hwy. 371 South • Pequot Lakes, MN
218-568-8448
 HOURS: M-F 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

SERVICES:
 • Lube, Oil, Filter
 • Tires
 • 4 Wheel Alignment
 • Brakes
 • Shocks/Struts
 • Tune Ups
 • Computer Diagnostics
 • Exhaust
 • Custom Pipe Bending
 • Radiator Service
 • A/C Service
 • Alternators
 • Fuel Pumps
 • Water Pumps

THE HAWG PEN

For the Riders

319 3rd Ave. NE • Grand Rapids, MN • 218-327-8181

Quality Service, Repair & Accessories for American V-Twins

- Factory Authorized Service
- PHD Certified Technicians
- Roadside Assistance
- Insurance Estimates & Repairs
- Road Gear & Apparel
- High Performance/Customs

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

Totino and Betty Partying Again

Yep, about a year ago, Betty Crocker got a thing for Totino (the pizza guy), so she was letting him put coupons for \$1 off her Hamburger Helper® on **specialty marked boxes** of his frozen pizza.

Well, they're back at it! But not all stores have these Totino's boxes. In fact, as before, we've only seen them at **Wal-Mart**, Bemidji, on the pepperoni, and cheese, pizzas. The pizza is 98 cents, and it comes with the coupon worth \$1. And periodically, Hamburger Helper goes on sale, at various stores, for \$1 a box; so with the coupon, you get it **free**. Quite the deal!

Hellmann's® Shrinking Jar

If your jar of Hellmann's® Mayonnaise seems a bit smaller, it's because it is. The price is about the same, but you're getting less:

what was the 32 oz. jar is now 30 oz., the 16 oz. jar has shrunk to 15. We note that last year Hellmann's® also changed the type of jar, from their classic glass which could be reused for canning (Mason lids fit the jar) and other purposes, to plastic, which is less useful. Contacted, the manufacturer's spokeswoman said that they had received some comments regarding the new plastic jar.

Apparently, though, the firm doesn't intend to switch back.

Hellmann's®, which is also known in the west as Best Foods, has, for many, long been the mayonnaise of choice. It's almost as good as homemade mayonnaise made in the blender with fresh oil, egg yolks, and lemon (many of the top restaurants have made their own this way). Hellmann's® is now produced by **Unilever** of Englewood Cliffs, N.J. (800-418-3275).

We certainly hope their next step isn't to try to save another penny or two by compromising the product itself.

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
- CELLULAR-ONE®
- HI-VAL® (I/O MAGIC®) CD-RW drives
- SYMPHONIC® VCERS.
- LEXAR® Compact Flash cards
- OFFICE MAX® REBATES
- HEWLETT-PACKARD® product support
- carsoup.com

FOLLOW-UP

Hofland's Monitor Becomes The City's Problem. It costs \$10 to dump a computer monitor at the Beltrami Co. Transfer Station (for which residents are assessed, each year, anyway), so old monitors can be found lying all around Bemidji. Last issue showed a picture of corrupt Bemidji landlord Paul Hofland's property, with the monitor; likely discarded by one of his tenants, simply left, for months, on the boulevard in

PROPANE GAS • BOTTLE GAS • LP GAS • PROPANE GAS • BOTTLE GAS • LP GAS

GAS SERVICE CO.
 "Your dependable Propane Supplier"
THE CLEAN BLUE FLAME
 WE SELL & SERVICE ALL TYPES OF GAS EQUIPMENT

- Home • Resort
- Farm • Industry

BULK TANKS FOR LEASE OR SALE

Walker 218-547-3255
 1-800-929-4145

Park Rapids 218-732-5397 • 1-800-929-4147

QUALITY APPLIANCES
 • Tappan • Bradford • Empire
 • Ducane • Warm Morning

PROPANE GAS • BOTTLE GAS • LP GAS

Carol's Black Hills Gold, Silver Jewelry & More

Great Prices. Ladies' & Men's Rings, Wedding Sets, Necklaces, Earrings, Watches and more.

Montana Silversmiths products

Located at the Birch Haven Resort Office
 216 Murray Ave.
 Hackensack, MN

Patriotic pins • Money clips
 Bronze sculptures • Elmer • much more!
 "If I don't have it, we can order!"
218-675-6151

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.

Winger from page 1

that it causes a lot of concern to the officer being investigated or disciplined. Winger exhibits a willingness though, where warranted and necessary for the integrity and good of the Sheriff's Dept., to buck the bureaucracy and take the reins of his Office and staff, saying that there have been occasions where, if he'd been Sheriff at the time, "My instinct would say 'yes' [to terminating the errant employee]; what they [the County] would allow me to do is one thing, but I would probably do that and suffer the consequences."

Winger thinks that the Sheriff's Office is working well now, but could be streamlined some. He wants to improve communication within the Sheriff's Office, "so everybody knows what other people [in the dept.] are doing. I think that improves morale a lot, . . . for instance, the investigators [should] put on training for the guys, so they understand what their job is as an investigator. . . ." and citing some officers' dislike of necessary paperwork, "I want them to know why the jail needs that information. . . . The more one person knows about what someone else does, the more they can help each other, and the less apt they are to be worried about what somebody else is doing - or not doing."

In calls for service on criminal and domestic disturbance matters, Winger said, "I would hope that [the officers] are taking appropriate action. . . . Certain times, we're mandated to make arrests, if there's been violence that's happened. . . . I've seen situations where (in domestics) both have gone to jail; I've seen situations where it hasn't been a physical thing and somebody's been asked to leave, but, usually, it's one person or the other who's volunteered to leave. . . . You can't force somebody out of their house who hasn't done something criminal." If someone is to leave, Winger said that it's as appropriate for one spouse as the other - whichever is the cause of the problem. "It can go both ways, whoever assaults whoever . . . whoever's doing the physical thing has the problem. If it's somebody that's started a problem [which doesn't require arrest] . . . then that's the person we ask to leave, and I've seen that happen both ways," as regards whether it's the husband or wife that is asked to leave.

Background. Winger has been married for fifteen years, and they have two children. He said, "I was born here in Bemidji, I graduated from Bemidji High School. I grew up in the Debs area, so I know what it is to come from a rural setting, you know, a farm community. And at the same time, growing up around here, I know a lot of the needs of the people here, and what people are concerned about; and I think that's important too."

Winger complemented the citizens' *Community Guard* patrols in outlying parts of the County, and said that in the Grygla-Fourtown area, they've "really helped . . . their crime seems to be down up there . . . [they're] writing down license plate numbers and they're watching what's going on and it's helping us solve these things." These patrols also exist in places like Saum, Blackduck, and Kelliher, and citizens wanting to volunteer to help are invited to contact Berle, at the Sheriff's Office in Bemidji. "I think programs like that are really crucial. . . . When you can get the citizens of the County volunteering to help, it gives them more ownership. . . . Realistically, it's the information we get from citizens that help us solve most of the things we're solving. . . ."

Winger would like to increase the size and work capacity of the Sheriff's Office some, but realizes that there are constraints in "what the County can afford to pay." He said, "I'd like to see at least . . . two more road deputies . . . [because] we have really good coverage for most of the time, but I think we could a little bit more during the day," particularly during times when the regulars are on vacation. He said that a few more personnel would shorten response time over a very spread-out county.

"One of the things that I really want to work on is our First-Responder group. We have a real good group of people . . . we need to grid the County and actively seek people in some other areas . . . where our response time, even for First Responders is a little too great, I think. You know, that 5 to 10 minute window is so crucial in saving a life . . ." Again, cost constraints are a consideration, but Winger said that the First Responders sometimes hold successful fundraisers from which they derive some of their support from the community they serve. Winger would lay out a grid of the County and try to get additional Responders where needed, so one is never more than a few minutes away.

And a part of Scott Winger's administration plan is to **aid communication and cooperative working between the various community-based organizations** so they can all do their work a little better. He said, ". . . I feel real strongly about - there's some really great organizations in the community. A lot of times, one group doesn't know the benefits they have to offer to another group," and that sometimes one group doesn't know that the other exists. "A dream of mine," he said, "is to get those people together - as many of these community-based organizations together as I can, to try to understand what other groups can do for each other. Like, I'm on the Board of Directors of Northwest Indian OIC . . . there's so many other groups that can benefit from that; they can send somebody that they've helped [to OIC] . . . to finish up their education . . . and help them find a job; and I think that that's so important. I keep hearing about all these other organizations as I'm going through this campaign . . . I wish that I knew more about that, and *why didn't I already know about that?* . . . So, I want to make them more public and more accessible, really, to each other. He mentioned that one group might help a person get away from a drug problem, but asked "Where does it go from there?" adding that another group might be able to help the same person to then get a job, in order to help keep his life on the right track. Winger cited the Sober Camps, the new Boys and Girls Club of Bemidji, Evergreen House, and others, as some of the organizations available to help solve problems.

As to the presence of **drugs and gangs in Bemidji,** Winger said, "I wouldn't have a panic . . . but, certainly, there's an issue with it - there's a certain number of people who are involved in those activities." And he said, ". . . we're on the right track with these groups. They really care and they're working hard to make a difference . . . a combined effort is gonna make that happen. . . . And it will get better."

On the matter of the citizen Sheriff's Posse, Winger said, "I absolutely plan on continuing it. I want to do some more work with other volunteers . . . to work on searches. . . . You know, when you have a horse, you can sit up higher above," for better vision. "What I'd like to see is more people ready to come out and help with searches . . . I think, expanding it somewhat . . .," to include foot and **(Continued, "Winger," page 7)**

The Preece Legacy

from page 1

the aggregate, is unaccounted for and remains unknown. Even at trial, Preece would not say what became of that money. By the time the helicopter was built and ready for delivery, Preece, apparently, hoped to have made another similar sale or other dealing, using the proceeds of that to cover the \$295,000 balance due, so the *first* customer could take delivery.

This type of swindle is known as a *ponzi* scheme.

It is not known how long, before 2002, Preece had been operating in that manner; but something went wrong early in that year when Preece was unable to raise enough money soon enough to cover one of these transactions (for more detail, see our initial report, *Bemidji Police Chief Implicated in Alleged Helicopter Ponzi*, from NH of 05/04/02 in *Living on the Edge*, at northernherald.com). In that matter, an Illinois man, Mr. Jim Bult, was, in January, 2002, promised delivery in February if he'd pay the full amount - \$320,000 - up front.

Bult sent the money to Preece, but Preece only sent \$25,000 of it to Robinson. Robinson could not have built a helicopter that fast, anyway; the bird was routinely scheduled to be complete in April. When Bult didn't get his bird in February, he complained to Robinson, which knew nothing of the by-February promised delivery, and took note that they hadn't received the rest of the funds from Preece. Robinson promptly cancelled Preece's franchise. In interview, Frank Robinson would explain to *Northern Herald*, "A dealer is not to hold any of the funds, either deposits or final payments; they are to be immediately transferred to the factory (Robinson) to complete the sale, so that the customer can get their aircraft on time."

In April, Bult had to pay *a second time*, this time directly to Robinson, to take delivery of his bird.

With his franchise terminated, and unable to sell new Robinson helicopters to cover past liabilities, Preece's pyramid crumbled and several other victims - over \$1 million, total - began to fall out of the woodwork. Many of these individual stories were reported exclusively in *Northern Herald* as they came to light and may be found in *The Police Chief Bruce Preece Files* in *Living on the Edge* at northernherald.com

The trial report which follows concerns just two of those victims - about \$540,000 of the swindled funds.

In 2003, with judgments pending against him, including at least one by one of the swindle victims, Preece tried to extricate himself by filing a personal Chapter 7 bankruptcy. But two of the victims, Ken Schoenfelder and his firm of Blue Skies, Inc., and Central Boiler, Inc. (of Greenbush, Minn., Dennis Brazier, CEO) filed, before the Court, objections to the bankruptcy discharge by reason of fraud.

Talk about slippery! Preece then used several maneuvers to delay proceedings and again try to avoid having to repay the swindle debts. While these victims' claims were pending, Preece filed a Chapter 13. Unlike Chapter 7, fraud debts are not specifically excluded from discharge in Chapter 13. And he scheduled mediation (which he failed to complete), and also had proceedings delayed for alleged medical reasons. But on August 5, 2005, the Honourable Dennis O'Brien, a Judge of the U.S.

Bankruptcy Court, ordered the Ch. 13 proceedings suspended due to the case having been filed in bad faith, and ordered that proceedings to bring the matters to trial, to see if these debts should be excluded from the bankruptcy, be reinstated. The trial was set for June 1st, 2006.

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. 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.

Preliminary matters. Opening the trial, Her Honour, Judge Dreher, noted that Preece's attorney, Miller, Esq., had not timely filed his exhibit and witness lists (the lists were required by the Court to be filed five days before trial, but Miller filed them on 5/31, only one day before); and Dietz, Esq., on behalf of Plaintiff Schoenfelder, objected to introduction of the short-noticed evidence.

Dietz further gave the Court to know that he had requested of Miller stipulations for the hearing (this, essentially an agreement as to the *rules of engagement*, is a routine procedure for efficiency and was required by the Court's trial scheduling order), but Miller had not responded.

Further, the trial memorandum, ordered to have been filed by each attorney 5 days before trial, was not, by Miller, Esq., filed until the actual day of trial.

Her Honour chastised Miller, telling him that she was very unhappy with his non-compliance with the trial scheduling order, but did not impose other sanctions. As a result of the late filing by Miller, Esq., however, Preece's only other witness there, his accountant, Vicki Mandt, CPA, of Nisswa, Minn., was not permitted to testify. It is expected that her testimony, however, would have mirrored that of Preece, who did testify.

Miller, Esq. objected to the Court's receiving of Plaintiff's affidavits of people who were unable to testify; the Court excluded three of the items, and received the others.

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.

Mr. Schoenfelder was, occupationally, a farmer in Rochester, Minn., and had also, since 1981, dealt in helicopters through his business, Blue Skies, Inc.

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, and the loan and interest not repaid to him, Schoenfelder demanded possession and a Bill of Sale for the helicopter.

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 the \$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, in early 2002, Preece accepted \$296,414 in money and property (a trade-in helicopter), from Brazier, for a new 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.

Preece, under cross-examination with regard to the Central Boiler matter, was asked about the disposition of some of Central's money. Central had given Preece two payments, \$25,000 and \$181,414, plus a trade-in helicopter for which Preece allowed \$90,000. Only the initial \$25,000 was forwarded, by Preece, to Robinson. Preece would not testify as to what became of the \$181,414 which also should have been sent to Robinson. Preece testified that he sold the trade-in for \$95,000, taking a \$5,000 commission; the remainder (\$90,000) should have been sent to Robinson for Central's benefit, but Preece testified that when he deposited it in the bank, the bank offset \$50,000 of the deposit for a loan debt owed to the bank by Preece.

Klinger, Esq.: "Where did [the other] \$40,000 go?"

Preece: "I don't know, sir."

Klinger: "It's *your* bank account."

With Preece on the stand, **Klinger, Esq. began investigating the finances of HFI.** Preece had alluded that HFI began to experience difficulties due to the 9/11/01 World Trade Center disaster. But records would disclose that HFI's problems and debts went back way before 9/11.

Klinger brought out that there had been, in 2001, an interest expressed in purchasing HFI, by Walker businessman John Zacker. (Zacker also owns *Shorequest* at Bemidji, where the old Georgia-Pacific plant was. The proposed **(Cont'd, "The Preece Legacy," p. 8)**

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, \$13.99; Tu: Stemed shrimp, \$17.99; Wed: Ribs & chicken, \$13.99; Th: Alaskan snow crab - market price; Baked chicken \$10.79; Fri: Fish Fry, \$8.59, w/soup & salad bar \$12.54; Sat: Steamed shrimp, \$17.99 Open 7 days a week, Mon.-Sat. at 4:30 pm, Sun at 11:30 am. 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 on weekends, and Thurs-Sun. in summer. Nautical motif with lots of glass for the lake view. Unique summer/fall dining under the stars in screened in porch with see-thru roof & lake view. This is where you'd bring your wife on that special anniversary or occasion. Daily summer specials, call for details. Open 7 days a week in summer, lounge at 4:30 pm, dining from 5:00. Hours subject to change after Labor Day. 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, \$14.99; Tu: Chef's choice special, or Deep fried chicken, \$11.99; W: Steamed peel 'n eat shrimp, \$15.99; Th: Baked chicken, \$10.99; F: Fish fry, \$10.99; Sa: Crab legs, \$27.99, or Deep fried chicken and BBQ rib buffet \$14.99; Su: Roast turkey, \$10.99 **Also**, gourmet special dinners (not AYCE): Th, F, Sa: Certified Black Angus Prime rib, 12 oz. \$17.99, 17 oz. \$19.99; F, Sa: Bone-in pork prime, 12 oz. \$14.99, 17 oz. \$17.99 All dinners, including AYCEs, 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. This is a cooperative effort by Northern Herald and the better dining establishments to let residents and visitors know where to find good things to eat. After being rated, restaurants listed here share the cost of the space for the guide - the rating and editorial commentary, though, is ours and can't be bought.

Wine & Art Featured at Fall Fest

As part of *Fall Has It All*, the big tri-city fest in Walker, Longville, and Hackensack, from Sept. 21st to Oct. 1st, there will be wine tastings, art, and a chance to meet and talk with the artists at two area locations.

The Wharf at Walker will feature a wine tasting, and artists' display, on Tuesday, Sept. 26th, from 5 to 8 pm. Guest artists include a silver & goldsmith. *More info: 218-547-3777*

Lucette's, at Hackensack, will hold their wine and art event, 5 to 8 pm on Thurs., Sept. 28th. *More info: 218-675-7777*

Both locations have hosted previous acclaimed wine tastings, and these two are free, with a Fall Has It All button (\$3).

FALL HAS IT ALL at Hackensack!

Last year, thousands came and enjoyed Fall Has It All, a unique and tasteful 10-day autumn event encompassing two weekends, and produced cooperatively by the nearby communities of Walker, Hackensack, and Longville.

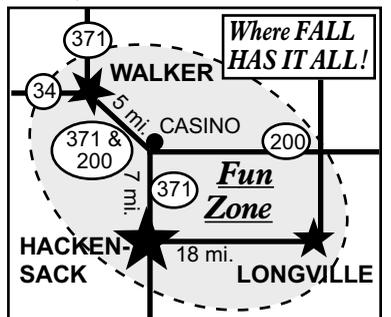
It was so successful that it's happening again this year, from Sept. 21st through Oct. 1st. The 2006 event will again feature the National Chainsaw Sculpting Invitational where top chainsaw carvers from all over the world compete for thousands of dollars in prizes. The carvers will try to unseat the current champion, Dayton Scoggins, of Mississippi, who will be here defending his title. KDKK Radio (97.5 FM) will be broadcasting live from the event.

New this year will be an Arts and Crafts Village and Food Court.

The Village will feature artisans in other media, such as pottery, glass, and small wood carvings; and will be open September 29-30 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on October 1st from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lodging for the chainsaw competitors and judges was volunteered by the following area hosts:

The Owl's Nest Motel, Hyde-A-Way Bay Resort, Tri Birches Resort, Happiness Resort, Twin Springs Resort, and Blue Water Resort



The Hackensack schedule of events is below, left. Walker & Longville schedules may be found at www.leech-lake.com/FallHasItAllInfo.htm or by calling their Chambers of Commerce. For further details, contact the Hackensack CoC at 800-279-6932

HACKENSACK SCHEDULE

- 9/22-10/1 Medallion Hunt-\$250 prize
- 9/23 & 9/24 11a Classic car show
- 9/23 & 9/24 12:30p Fall colour auto tour
- 9/23 Group biking tours depart
- 9/26 9 am-1 pm Farmers' Market
- 9/28 5-8 pm Wine Tasting and Art at Lucette's
- 9/29-10/1 Arts and Crafts Village open 9 am-6pm, Sun 'til 2pm
- 9/29-10/1 Chainsaw Invitational at City Park
- 9/30 9a-2p Radio Flying Club demo & radio model airplane raffle (drawing at 2 p.m.)
- 9/30 10 am Trail hike on North Country Trail in Chippewa National Forest
- 9/30 & 10/1 11a Classic car show
- 9/30 & 10/1 12:30p Fall colour auto tour
- 10/1 2 pm AUCTION of chainsaw art

Winger from page 6

ATV patrols, as well as mounted riders.

Summing up, Winger said, "I'm the only . . . [candidate] . . . who's a supervisor in the Sheriff's Dept. . . . I've been on the Budget Committee for the County . . . so I get an understanding of how that all works . . . I have worked close with [the current Sheriff and Chief Deputy] . . . so I understand . . . what needs to be done to continue the good things he's done; and I've seen the things that I want to improve on, and I've had the ability to be there and know how I'm going to make that happen."



HAS MOVED!

Come on over and enjoy a pasty at our new location: **1407 Hwy 2 W** (next to Jerry's Liquors), Grand Rapids

Inside and garden seating

★★★ Editor's Recommendation: This is a wonderful 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.

Eat in or take out - pasties are available half, or fully baked.

Break, Lunch & Dinner Open M-F 9 to 7, Sat. 10 to 5

Pasties Plus • 218-326-2234



(Pasty shown with avocado and parsley garnish added)

5 varieties: Regular (beef, potatoes, onions, carrots), Beef & Kraut, Rutabaga (our most popular), German, and even a Breakfast Pasty w/ eggs and sausage - all \$3.99!





★★★★ In Hackensack

River House Dining & Lounge

• Area's Largest Salad Bar

- Nightly All-You-Can-Eat Specials (see Rest. Guide for detail)

Now!! Fri. & Sat. Bone-in pork prime 12 oz. \$14.99, 17 oz. \$17.99

Thurs.-Sat., Certified Black Angus Prime Rib 12 oz. \$17.99, 17 oz. \$19.99

M-F: Lounge open at 4, Restaurant at 5 Sa-Su: Open at Noon Hwy 371 S, Hackensack **218-675-6200**

YOUR FALL HAS IT ALL LUNCH STOP!



- Pure Beef Vienna Hot Dogs
- Italian Beef
- Gyros (genuine rotisserie)
- Chicago Pizza
- Serving Breakfast at 6 am - 11 am

• Tues. - Fri. 6a - 2 p • Sat. 6a-6p • Sun. 7a - Noon • Closed Mon.

Across from the lake & City Park on 1st Street, Hackensack **218-675-6448**

Dine in or Carry out

★★★



Join us for Wine Tasting and Artist Display Thurs. Sept. 28th 5 to 8 pm

PIZZA

PASTA • RIBS • CHICKEN

FRIDAY FISH DINNER \$8.95

Take home Mama Lucette's TAKE 'N BAKE Pizza! **218.675.7777** HWY 371 • Hackensack

HALLOWEEN PARTY! Sat. Oct. 28th is Lucette's Halloween Party and Karaoke by Paul and Lucette Live in person!! Costume contest and drink specials!




Coffee, Ice Cream & lots of Candy! A hearty Northern welcome to Muskie Waters Co., now open in Nevis! Behind the counter, Jenny and Jenny. Single cones: \$1.55

• AGGRESSIVE ENERGY PLAN • HOMEOWNERS' PROPERTY RIGHTS • CHARITABLE PROSTITUTION (The churches can use the money) • FREEDOM OF CHOICE IN FAMILY PLANNING •

• EQUITABLE DOMESTIC RIGHTS • HOLDING THE LINE ON TAXES THROUGH FISCAL CONSERVATION AND WASTE REDUCTION •

Do you want some Moe?
or do you say,
We Don't Want No Moe!

How much did you pay for gasoline and heating oil today?

How much tomorrow?
(And remember, the oil companies are bringing the price down before the election - it'll go back up after.)

Are you ready to do something about it?

Well, I am, too.

Watch your candidates in the Lakeland (PBS) TV debates. State Rep, District 4A, is Tuesday, Oct. 3rd, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

ADAM STEELE, C.P.A.

CANDIDATE FOR STATE REP - DISTRICT 4A
(Parts of Beltrami, Cass, & Itasca Counties, including Bemidji, Cass Lake, Deer River & Remer)

A note to other candidates - any race: The attractive button you see depicted here was made by DAC, Park Rapids. It's a great cause providing work to those who might not otherwise have any, is proof that just about everyone can work, and the quality and service are as good or better than the commercial campaign supply companies. I ordered mine Thursday, and they were in my mail box by Sunday. Competitively priced, and there's no minimum. To order yours, call Debbie Luther at DAC, 218-732-3358

Prepared and paid for by THE STEELE COMMITTEE, P.O. Box 1535, Bemidji, MN 56619. 218-759-1162 editor@northernherald.com http://northernherald.com

• SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILIES • RIGHT TO SMOKE (TOBACCO) •



Adam Steele

The Preece Legacy

deal with Zacker for HFI eventually fell through as Zacker, himself a sound businessman, had concerns over HFI's books, and began to suspect its financial instability and obligations.)

Klinger asked Preece: "As of the time of the transactions with Central Boiler and Ken Schoenfelder, HFI was insolvent?"

Preece: "I didn't think so at the time."

Klinger (handing Preece a tax return copy): "Look at Exhibit H, please. What was net income in 2000?"

Preece: "Negative \$157,993."

Klinger referred to HFI's Schedule L filed with the tax return and asked about the beginning of year retained earnings.

Preece: "Negative \$180,755"

Klinger: "End of year [2000]?"

Preece: "Negative \$376,083."

Klinger had earlier showed Preece a copy of the 2002 tax return, and asked him if he'd met with his CPA regarding the return. Preece answered in the affirmative. Klinger asked him if he had included in income the amounts he'd received from Schoenfelder and Central Boiler.

Preece: "I don't know"

Klinger interrogated Preece as to whether, in 1999, HFI was paying *trust fund* taxes (these are income, social security and medicare taxes withheld from employees' wages).

Preece: "I don't know"

(Preece's bankruptcy documents disclose a \$41,615.12 liability to IRS for unpaid payroll taxes, as well as a \$90,000 federal tax lien; there are also state claims in connection with the bankruptcy.)

In earlier testimony Preece had characterized his helicopter misdealings with Schoenfelder and Brazier as "loans" and "investments", but the testimony of Brazier made it clear that he didn't think he was making any investment - he thought he was buying a helicopter. From Preece's representations, that's what he thought he was paying for. And in earlier testimony, Dietz, Esq. began

to get at where the Schoenfelder money may have gone. He asked Preece if he'd had dealings with an Edward Hetton, of Iowa. Preece answered that they'd had a transaction in 1999 or 2000. A loan which was paid back, Preece said.

Dietz, Esq.: "How much?"

Preece: "I really don't know"

Dietz asked if it was between \$0 and \$300,000.

Preece: "Yes"

Dietz asked Preece if he gave Hetton an NSF check.

Preece: "I don't remember that."

Dietz asked Preece if, in fact, he finally settled with Mr. Hetton contemporaneously with, or just before making the deal with Schoenfelder in early 2002.

Preece: "I don't remember - I think it was before that."

Miller, Esq., through the trial, tried to establish that Schoenfelder and Central Boiler were dealing with Preece's corporation, HFI, and so the debts were debts of the corporation, and not of Preece, personally. As will be later explained, the Court's determination on this question becomes crucial to recovery.

A reckoning. Klinger, Esq. called to the stand Michelle Benton, a Certified Public Accountant practicing in Thief River Falls. Benton had examined the tax returns of HFI, and reiterated the losses shown thereon, including retained earnings (for a corporation, this reflects the aggregate - over the years - profitability left in the corporation - it is roughly equivalent to "net worth") of **negative \$180,752** as of **Dec. 31st 1999**. She said that, contrary to Preece's testimony that his troubles began with 9/11, there was no evidence that HFI was solvent from 1999, on; and that HFI would be having trouble paying debts on time. Preece had testified that he used his own money to keep HFI going, but Benton intimated that if that was so, there was no record of it. She said, "normally, paid-in capital would be a stock transaction, but there was no evidence of a stock transaction;" and the "loans from shareholders

was only about \$7,500."

During the discovery phase of the proceeding, Klinger and Benton had requested financial documentation from Preece to back up what he was saying, but he failed to provide much of it. Benton testified that missing were year 2000 W-2s, ledgers, and documentation regarding notes payable. "Nothing tied to what was shown on the tax returns," she said.

Benton enumerated reasons why the corporate veil of HFI should be pierced and Preece should be held personally liable, saying that:

a) the corporation was insufficiently capitalized;

b) there was a failure to follow corporate formalities; and the minutes didn't disclose related party transactions and were otherwise incomplete;

c) there were no dividends paid;

d) the corporation was insolvent at the time of the subject transactions;

e) she could not determine whether there was a siphoning of funds from the corporation because the needed information was not provided;

f) non-functioning of other corporate officers;

g) absence of corporate records; and

h) the corporation was used, by Preece, as a facade for his individual dealings (that is, he used the corporation only as an "alter ego" for his swindles).

As to the general accuracy of the tax returns, C.P.A. Benton said that she received insufficient information to conclusively determine the accuracy or lack of same, but she said that on the face of the returns, alone, it was of concern, "why buildings and depreciable assets had decreased substantially in 2001 - [by] \$514,933 - which was unexplained. The balance sheet didn't tie-out to the depreciation schedule [form 4562]."

After a brief recess, **Preece took the stand again** and crossed himself up several times. Under redirect by Miller, Esq., he firstly said that none of his family received any return of the money they'd put into HFI. In an attempt to show that HFI had some value, he offered a "newly found" purchase offer for the corporation, which wasn't on the exhibit list that Miller, Esq. had filed late. But Her Honour questioned why this document suddenly turned up during a 10-minute trial break. Preece testified that he'd given Schoenfelder the bogus Bill of Sale before delivery of the chopper, but it was dated 05/31/02, after Schoenfelder took possession of the helicopter [which actually belonged to Stanger, who hadn't been paid anything].

On re-cross, Dietz, Esq. asked Preece why he walked out of the earlier bankruptcy mediation session. Preece answered that the mediator said that they were done. "**I WAS THERE!**" retorted Dietz, and strongly challenged Preece's testimony.

After taking his victims' money, Preece had tried to cover himself by giving them a lien on the HFI hangar building at Crystal. He had thusly granted a security interest to Bult, Schoenfelder, and possibly others. He testified that his mother, Norma Preece, also had a lien on the building. But under cross-examination by Dietz, Esq., Preece admitted that if someone tried to foreclose on their lien, any new owner had to be approved by the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC). Under these circumstances, such a lien would be of little value because the secured creditor may well be unable to take possession. Preece testified that HFI had a bond in the 90s, but he didn't know the

current status of it.

During a brief recess, and in the hall, *Northern Herald* asked Preece what became of the Bult, Brazier, and other money, but he just walked away.

In his closing argument, Dietz, Esq., told the Court, that Preece's actions showed a pattern. He cited the earlier fraud victimizing Jim Bult; and also an imminent seizure, against Preece, by Security Bank, at the time of the Schoenfelder fraud, and said that Preece, ". . . just needed money in the worst possible way, so he stole it from Mr. Schoenfelder."

Dietz argued that Preece's diversion of Schoenfelder's money constituted embezzlement, which is not dischargeable in bankruptcy; and that the supposed lien on the HFI building was meaningless because Preece's mother had the first lien, and because MAC, in fact, refused to let Mr. Bult [another victim, ante] foreclose on his lien and take the building.

And Dietz said that under Minnesota law, when a person commits a tort, he becomes *personally* liable for the resultant debt (as opposed to corporate liability for it).

Miller, Esq. tried to convince the Court, in his closing, that essentially his client, Preece, was a fool (Miller: "I don't want to use the word, 'fool', but" - *transcript, p. 257*); and that this was just "a garden variety bankruptcy" where all debts should be discharged. "If these gentlemen can sustain an argument of non-dischargeability, any creditor can and that is not the law," he told the Court. (*transcript, p. 260*).

To Miller's argument that this case was like any other bankruptcy, though, Her Honour would later say, "I don't think so." (*transcript p. 278*); and "I rarely see testimony as good as this testimony was and as clean as this testimony was." (*transcript, p. 276*).

The Judge. Nancy C. Dreher, Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court, comes off as a soft-spoken grandmotherly type, and some may not suspect just how sharp, wise, and efficient she is, and how well she has researched, studied, and knows the cases before her, stripping away all of the chaff to get at the kernels of wheat - the unbridled facts; nor how well she manages her Court to resolve the massive caseload like clockwork. The trial had started at 1 pm, and by late afternoon, Her Honour informed counsel that she didn't want this work hanging around 'til tomorrow - the Court would remain open as late as necessary to get it finished that day. Before delivering, without delay or hesitation, her findings *that day*, directly from the Bench, Her Honour said to counsel, "Just to let you know, we [the federal judges] . . . normally take a very good look at whatever we have been given before the case starts, which is why I am able to rule, usually in these cases, from the Bench and that's what I am going to do here."

And, shortly before 7 pm, with all parties resting their cases, Her Honour took a recess of only a few minutes, before returning to the courtroom with her findings - the facts of the evidence clearly stripped from any veil or facade, the numbers crunched as an accountant might take much longer to do on a spreadsheet, with amounts in question fully digested and the results enumerated.

Her Honour Rules. In the case of debts attributable to a corporation (in this case, Preece's *Helicopter Flight, Inc. (HFI)*), ordinarily, if the corporation is defunct, the debts will not be collectable, unless an individual is also personally liable. The corporation simply goes out of

existence, and creditors are left holding the bag, so to speak. But if an individual is personally liable, the debts will survive the end of corporate operations, and become collectable from the assets and/or future earnings of the individual, for the lengthy period over which judgements may be collected (usually 10 years or more), and can become claims against his eventual estate - in this case, when Mr. Preece descends back into Hell whence he came (our opinion).

At issue, then, were two questions of law. Firstly, whether the "corporate veil" should be pierced, leaving Preece personally liable to repay the fruits of his swindlings; and secondly, if *personal liability* is established, whether the debts should be excluded from his personal bankruptcy, due to fraud.

On the first issue, Her Honour enumerated that ". . . the company was insufficiently [capitalized], . . . failed to observe certain corporate formality. It was . . . [not paying] dividends . . . there was insolvency of the debtor [and] HFI at the time of the transaction, at least there was some mixing of transactions . . . [between Preece and] . . . corporations which were owned solely and exclusively by Mr. Preece. There was only one officer and director and no treasurer and . . . I have to infer from this testimony that the corporate records, if they existed, were to a large degree inadequate, certainly with respect to the financing." (*transcript p. 276 & 277*)

Piercing, but no tatoo. Her Honour continued, "And I really do think that this man operated this company as though it was his own and that certainly becomes clear in this setting. He was personally liable for some of the corporate debt. He was desperate by the end of 2001. Business was lousy at that time. He treated the corporate dealings, with respect to Blue Skies [Plaintiff Schoenfelder] and with respect [to] Central Boiler [Brazier] as deals that he was making in order to shore up the company and in order to avoid liabilities that were being generated all over the place." [Addressing Miller, Esq.'s argument], ". . . you focus on the relationship of the plaintiff and the corporation and . . . [whether there's any injustice in piercing the corporate veil] and I don't think so. Not here. I disagree with Mr. Miller. . . . **These are two transactions which have . . . all of the elements of fraud**, and that's the distinguishing difference between debts of the corporation or in this case if the veil has been pierced, by the individual that entirely owns and runs the company . . . that's what [U.S. code section] 523(a)(2)(a) is all about." (*transcript, p. 277 & 278*) Thusly, **Her Honour found, "This is, I think, the classic case where piercing is appropriate;** and, you know, it's a case where . . . I see a lot of piercing the corporate veil arguments, but I rarely see testimony as good as this testimony was and as clean as this testimony was." (*transcript, p. 276*)

With regard to the matter of excluding the debts from Preece's personal bankruptcy because of fraud, the Court said, "**I think both of these Plaintiffs should prevail.**" . . . Central Boiler [Dennis Brazier's firm] prevails because Mr. Preece made a representation to it that, in trade for an R22 helicopter and payment of \$181,000.00 HFI was going to deliver the model R44 helicopter to Central Boiler. He [Preece] knew at the time that HFI didn't intend to acquire that helicopter. He knew that the funds paid to HFI would be used for purchases other than what Central Boiler thought those funds were (**Cont'd, "The Preece Legacy," p. 9**)

The Preece Legacy from page 8

going to be used for, that is to purchase their helicopter, and **he [Preece] induced Central Boiler to trade it's helicopter and to give them [Preece and HFI] the \$181,000.00 in order to deceive them.**"

Her Honour continued, "Central Boiler relied on the representation made by Mr. Preece and sustained losses in excess of \$270,000.00 as a result of those misrepresentations."

Her Honour addressed the Blue Skies, Inc. (Schoenfelder) claim, saying, "I heard the argument from Mr. Miller that Mr. Schoenfelder is a sophisticated businessman and should have known what was going on, but, you know, if somebody's deceiving you, . . . that argument really doesn't go too far." (transcript, pp. 265, 266)

Her Honour had outlined, "On March 22, 2002, Blue Skies wire transferred \$260,000 to HFI . . . that money was supposed to be used to buy Mr. Stanger's helicopter . . . [or acquire clear title to it so that it could be transferred] . . . Instead he [Preece] diverted that money to other purposes . . . he cannot testify as to what happened to the funds" (transcript, pp. 263, 264)

Her Honour observed that Preece's representations to Schoenfelder "were that HFI possessed good title to the helicopter that was transferred [by Preece to Schoenfelder] in May of 2002. **Mr. Preece knew that that representation was false.** HFI did not have title to the property. The representation was made [by Preece] with the intent to induce Blue Skies to advance the money to HFI, and Mr. Preece knew that HFI couldn't repay that money.

"Blue Skies relied on that representation that HFI had good title to the helicopter, but that helicopter was actually owned by somebody else [i.e. Mr. Stanger, ante]; and Blue Skies suffered damages of at least \$270,000.00"

Her Honour continued, "**I very much agree with the notion that this was one ponzi scheme after the other.** You borrow from Peter to pay Paul when you're in desperate circumstances, and if you do so in transactions like this where you tell, for example, Blue Skies that you are going to sell them a helicopter that you do not have title to, that you are selling somebody else's property, take the money and use it for another purpose, you have got a fraud case." (transcript, pp. 273-275, with a brief omission from the record supplemented by this reporter's trial notes)

Her Honour concluded, "I believe and **I will enter an order which says that the debts are . . . [excepted] . . . from discharge** in the amounts stated, based on the findings and conclusions that I have just read into the record."

With a few final technical comments, the Court stood adjourned.

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."

Preece was relieved following the trial. Specifically, he was relieved, one day thereafter, on June 2nd, 2006, of his duties as

Bemidji Public Safety Director (Police Chief), officially, for "differences in management philosophy." Preece was initially placed on paid administrative leave on April 25th, and his leave had been extended up to the trial date.

Golden parachute. Shortly following the termination, Preece's attorneys suggested to the City that Preece, if not reinstated, might have action for wrongful termination; but this appears to have been a move primarily to try to get a better severance package from the City and its taxpayers. The final package was arrived at and agreed to on June 27th, 2006, and provided, in part, that in return for a release of any claims he might believe he has against the City, 1) that Preece would be allowed to *resign* effective 06/02/06, rather than have it go on record as a firing; 2) for payment to Preece of \$7,158.90 for *accrued paid time off* and \$4,237.20 for *accumulated compensatory time*; 3) in addition to his salary to 06/02/06, Preece would receive an additional five months' salary in the amount of \$30,602; 4) the City would provide Preece with a "mutually acceptable" letter of reference. The letter was written in a positive manner, signed by Alan Felix, Bemidji City Attorney, and made no reference to the helicopter frauds; 5) The City agreed to pay Preece's health insurance for five months beginning July, 2006, and further agreed to pay the City's portion of the health plan for an additional seven months, or until Preece obtains another job with health benefits. If he hasn't found employment by 6/30/07, Preece may continue his City health insurance after that time by paying the full premiums.

He's an appealing guy! On June 12th, 2006, Preece filed appeals of the Bankruptcy Court's judgment, to the U.S. Bankruptcy Appellate Panel. Those appeals (USBAP case nos. 06-6040; 06-6041) remain pending at this time.

Editor's Note: *The evidence suggests that Preece can and should be criminally prosecuted for fraud and 'theft by swindle', the charges, however, would normally have to be brought by the appropriate prosecutor. Although her office has been informed of Preece's activity for four years, Amy Klobuchar, Hennepin County Attorney (where the crimes occurred), has failed to bring any criminal charge against Preece, indicating that she believes this kind of activity is just fine - no problema. Klobuchar is presently the Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate. To give credit where due, or not, the office of Minnesota Attorney General Mike Hatch, and the federal prosecutors, have also failed to initiate any charges.*

It is not known with certainty why Bemidji waited until April, 2006 to suspend Preece, or just why it was done then. Preece's misdealings have been well known since 2002 when first covered by this newspaper, and even the trial had been set months before.

However, in spring 2006, several noted Bemidji officials went to St. Paul with their hands out; and the legislature was then considering including a portion of a \$10 million proposed Bemidji events center in their State bonding package. \$3 million of State money was on the line, and Bemidji city officials wanted it here. (Never mind the joke of a State-taxpayer-paid events center at Bemidji - that's a whole other matter.)

While St. Paul was considering throwing this large sum of money to Bemidji, Northern Herald notified most of those 201 legislators, and the Governor, of the nature of the City government to which it was thinking of throwing

it, and the nature of the person who the City continued to maintain as its top law enforcement officer (Preece). For details, the legislators were referred to Northern Herald's past coverage of his swindles, and the scheduling of his trial. That was on April 9th, 2006.

Preece was placed on leave sixteen days later, on April 25th. Money talks. With the State money in the balance, Bemidji officials may have come to the conclusion that Mr. Preece had become too much of a liability to the City - more baggage than they wanted to continue to carry. It is unfortunate that they didn't perceive that four years ago, still, they did well by dismissing Mr. Preece when they did. Better late than never.

Hodapp from page 1

in what disciplinary action he can take, particularly during the investigation period. But he outlined that there are times when a suspension can be without pay, and indicated that he, having been for a long time with the State's foremost law enforcement agency, intended to run a tight ship to maintain the integrity necessary for public confidence in the Sheriff's Office, and in it's deputies.

"Initially," he said, "when the new boss takes over, he sits down and sets some high expectations for the employees - *all* the employees. And he makes it clear to them, in no uncertain terms, that these are what my expectations are for how you conduct yourselves . . . so there's no doubt about that down the line. . . . If something does happen and it falls outside of what you laid out for expectations, [it's easier] to deal with it. So, it's important to say, right on the front end to say, 'Now, fellas, this is the way it's gonna be.'" That way, Hodapp said, "they don't *do* things that people don't like their police officers doing." And he said that if something bad happens, "I think it's important to deal with it right away and not let it drag on."

Asked about whether he had reservations about firing - about exfoliating a bad apple from the department, if need be, Hodapp replied, "None at all, I think it's important to act swiftly and decisively when there's a bad situation . . . and you have the proof - I don't have any problem at all dealing with that swiftly."

Saving the taxpayers' money. At the same time Hodapp promised fair justice in matters where the evidence is unclear, ". . . that's when I think it's important to do a good thorough investigation; but I'm all about getting it done and getting it done quickly." Hodapp said that he doesn't like (as has happened several times in Beltrami County in recent years) sitting around for weeks, with the officer on pay, while the investigation is ongoing, "[it] should be able to be accomplished in very short order," he said, and Hodapp acknowledged that even if an officer isn't guilty of *criminal* misconduct, his actions may not have been what would be becoming to an officer; "there's different rules that apply," he said, adding that "you can fire [an officer] just for not cooperating with the administrative investigation."

"I also believe that people learn from their mistakes, I think employees who get caught up in bad situations, sometimes, and are given a second chance, *can* learn from their mistakes. I think it's important for me to say . . . that if I got into office, what I would like to do is sit down, like I said, and set my standards, set my expectations for the employees and give everybody the opportunity to perform to that level," Hodapp said, adding the his intent is to help all of the employees rise to and maintain the highest level of

integrity, as befits members of a County Sheriff's office. "The public expects these individuals to set a good example for the young people and for all the citizens," he said, "that's one of my goals."

Background. Hodapp has lived in the Bemidji area since 1985, and has been married to his wife, Marilyn, for 27 years. The couple has four children and two grandchildren. In addition to his duties for the BCA, Hodapp has somehow managed to find time to do considerable "doorknocking" in his campaign, and personally meet many Beltrami County residents and hear their concerns.

The job. Hodapp pointed out that the Sheriff is the only law enforcement officer who, being elected, belongs wholly to the people. "The people hire the Sheriff, and they get to fire the Sheriff if he doesn't do a good job," he said, "I think it's important for the Sheriff to be a person who is approachable; who people feel comfortable coming to and speaking with; [whom] they trust; who they believe will listen to them and help them to solve their problems, and I'm that type of person."

"The other thing I bring to the table is, because of my experience and training that I've had over the years - I'm a graduate of the FBI National Academy - I've had opportunities to work investigations on a statewide level for many years, and also on a national level, so I've made excellent law enforcement contacts around the country and within the State of Minnesota, that it would be very helpful for the County to have. . . . If I need some advice about how to deal with a particular situation, I have that . . . network of law enforcement professionals that I can reach out to."

In calls for service on criminal and domestic disturbance matters, Hodapp said that the officer responding needs to "follow the evidence" in his disposition of the complaint and in deciding whether to make an arrest, stating that law enforcement needs to be colour-blind, status-blind, and gender-blind. Just "follow the facts, follow the evidence," he said.

The posse. Hodapp said the he supports the Beltrami Sheriff's Mounted Posse and that "I absolutely plan to" continue it. "I think it's a fantastic thing . . . these people . . . are skilled outdoors-people . . . I think it's a great idea to help with Search & Rescue missions, . . . searching for evidence, anything like that. I think it's great to have people who are willing to be trained, and volunteer their time, their horses [and equipment] . . . to assist the Sheriff's office and the public; it's a fantastic thing." Hodapp also praised the Community Guard which volunteers to patrol in remote areas of this large and spread-out County. "I'm all for tapping into that wealth of ability and knowledge to help the County and help the community," he said.

Anticipating problems before they happen. Hodapp pointed up that law enforcement is traditionally reactive - a crime happens, police react to it. He said, however, that people he'd talked with "are very concerned about the growth. Beltrami County is growing very quickly . . . I think it's important, in leadership roles in law enforcement, for us to be more proactive and be thinking about the future, and trying to predict what Beltrami County's going to see, because of growth, down the line." Hodapp pointed out that Beltrami County in some ways is somewhat unique with a wide diversity in both ethnicity, and socio-economic status. "We can look to . . . other places in the country . . . and see what they've done to address their crime problems, especially if

they've been experiencing growth like we are here, so we can get out ahead of it a little bit and be a little more proactive."

The transition - taking the reins. Hodapp made it clear that, should he be elected, his coming into office would not be earth-shattering, but would rather be a continuation of the present sound administration of retiring Sheriff, Keith Winger. He said, "I do believe that Keith has done a great job . . . he's gotten some programs started that are just starting to bear fruit, so to speak. . . . So, some of the programs that have taken him eight years to get going, I would like to continue. . . . I think it's important for me to get in and get a good grasp of everything before I start to tinker with it or make changes. . . . It's a very good department; the employees, for the most part, are *excellent* people; and so it should be a pretty smooth transition."

"What I'm bringing in is . . . a lot of leadership experience. I was a tactical team leader for the State from '92 until 2004 when I retired from the tactical team. I've been a supervisor at BCA since 1997; I've got experience with this federal task force, supervising officers from many different agencies. . . . I believe in collaborating, I believe in a big picture view of law enforcement. . . . You 'think globally and act locally,' I think that's true in law enforcement too, because in this day and age, with terrorism threats . . . you look at what just happened recently in Canada where R.C.M.P. arrested those terrorists in a rural area of Ontario. It's important for us to maintain our contacts . . . with law enforcement agencies all over the State and federally, so that we are in touch with everything that's going on . . . we have to work together." Hodapp said.

Giving back. In a way, the Sheriff's Office would be a step down from the BCA for Hodapp, but he said, "I want to do something with my career . . . to give back to the local community where I live . . . while I still can. This is where I live and plan to retire and where my children live. . . . I'm 50 years old, I probably got another good 10 or 12 years left in me in law enforcement . . ."

In conclusion, Hodapp said, "I think it's important for us [the candidates] . . . to maintain a high level of clean politics. I gotta tell you that I've had a good experience with the other candidates; so far, it's been great. . . . I think these guys [the other candidates] are all high quality guys. We're friends now and I think we'll be friends when it's all done.

"I think it's important for the voters to understand that I bring experienced leadership to the table, I bring integrity, I'm dedicated to law enforcement - it's something I've done my entire life . . . my dad was a state trooper in Minnesota for 34 years; . . . and my son Jake is following in my footsteps; he's a deputy sheriff now. So it's just that law enforcement is in my blood.

"And I think it's also important to understand that . . . the Sheriff is the main peacekeeper in the County. . . . The name "law enforcement" has evolved from "peace officer" . . . [the term, though,] doesn't cover what we should be doing as peace officers. Our main goal is to maintain the peace. And, I think, a lot of times, it's a matter of getting out there and finding out what's going on in the County, and learning about situations that are beginning to develop and maybe, get in and solve the problem . . . before it becomes a big full-blown problem. And that kind of gets to what I was talking about: being proactive. . . . start to deal with things on the front end . . . that's where I'm coming from, that's what I want to do."

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.

"Beware of the leader, who strikes the war drum in order to transfer the citizens into patriotic glow, patriotism is indeed a double-sided sword. It makes the blood boil so boldly, like it constricts the intellect. And if the striking of the war drum reached a feverish height and the blood is cooking and hating, and the intellect is dismissed, the leader doesn't need to reject the citizens' rights. The citizens, caught by anxiety and blinded through patriotism, will subordinate all their rights to the leader and this even with happy courage. Why do I know that? I know it, because this is what I did. And I am Gajus Julius Caesar."

The Judge from p. 4

by citizens. That's what the courts are there for - to make sure that there is no abuse in that. We have all the safeguards that we can have in place, and hopefully, they work."

Q: "Do you think... [restraining orders] are issued too easily?"

Melbye: "No, I don't believe so. I believe there's enough safeguards in place. As long as the judges work hard [to ensure that matters alleged in the complaint are factual] and look over everything, and test it; then there shouldn't be any abuse."

Q: "Do you feel that you're

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

prepared for the enormous caseload that will probably come your way in the Beltrami County Courts?"

Melbye: "Absolutely. And that's basically what I'm running

on - my hard working and dedication to the job; and that's why I feel that I can bring strength to the Ninth Judicial

LIVESTOCK WANTED

Wanted: Cow/calf pairs - any number. Also, for sale: 7' x 24' aluminum cattle trailer - like new. \$10,500. 218-232-2470

District, especially seat number 7, because I am a very, very hard working person. The caseload - yes, judges have very heavy caseloads; and as they should. They're public servants and they're there to work. So, I have no problem with the caseload that I have dealt with in the last four years . . . I think we have more than enough judges to handle the caseload in Beltrami County."

Q: "And you intend to put in the extra hours, if necessary, to make sure that all your cases are disposed of, yes?"

Melbye: "Absolutely." [Answering a rewording of the question]: ". . . I have no problem going into the evening hours to wrap up a case, or just get better efficiency than dragging on to the next day."

The price of justice.

Q: "The current filing fee, I understand, is, like, \$60 to file a small claims case and it goes up to what, \$250 for a standard civil [filing]. Do you think those fees are a bit high?"

Melbye: "No, I don't. . . We do need to have some types of monetary disincentives to not have

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.

everybody file any case; and they also have to defray the costs of the court. I think it's \$255 to file an action; I don't believe [it] is too great of a cost."

Melbye said, "I've always had a passion for the law, since I was very young, and I want to utilize my skills, my experiences, and my hard work ethic, to bring strength to the Ninth Judicial District, especially seat number 7; and that's why I'm running."

When asked about changes that would occur in the courtroom, Melbye didn't criticize the job Judge Holter has done, but preferred to "stand on what I am - a very competent, hard working person - people will see that when I'm on the bench."

Melbye, living in Bemidji since 2002, is a family man; married to his wife, Cindy (nee Langhout) Melbye, for 14 years with no children "yet" . . . "we have lots of pets," he said. In the end, that may leave him more time to devote to workload.

(Cont'd, "The Judge," p. 11)



MINNESOTA REAL
PRIMIER NORTHERN REAL ESTATE Area codes 218 unless noted
8 lines until sold - up to a Full Year! - \$49

FOR SALE

LIMITED TIME OFFER
Include a picture with your real estate ad at no extra charge!

SECURE QUIET COUNTRY AREA!

Backus Area. **3 STORY HOUSE W/POLE GARAGE ON 40 ACRES.** Loft, 1st fl., & basement. 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. Ideal for investors. \$249,000 firm. 218-947-3907



Backus. **LAKE HOME ON PINE MOUNTAIN LAKE.** On big lot - 600' deep x 100' wide. 100' of lakeshore. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, year-around home with detached 2-car garage, storage shed, brand new aluminum roll-in dock. Comes fully furnished with beds, TVs, 2 fridges, stove and other appliances - a complete turnkey package. Full basement with washer/dryer. Knotty pine home interior, propane forced air heat, thermal windows, good insulation, city water & sewer. \$299,900. 612-805-1371



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



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

Great starter home, on wooded 2.5 acres N. of Remer in Willow River Estates. Built in 2002. **MLS#146713**
Reduced to \$99,900.

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

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



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



COUNTRY HOME AND BEAUTIFUL ACREAGE, REASONABLY

Max area. Manufactured home with several expansions & improvements, on 4.55 wooded and grassy acres, on main road. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 14' x 70', with 12' x 18' enclosed porch/den, 10' x 20' covered deck, and 28' x 30' detached garage. Very well maintained. Insulated pitched metal roof, remodeled bath, deep well, upgraded septic, fire pit in yard. This is a year-round home, newly repainted and remodeled throughout, near many fishing lakes and in an excellent hunting area. Can email interior pics. \$72,900. 320-358-3838, 800-450-4007 ask for Rose or Dennis. Or email sjerven1@msn.com

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



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

The Judge from p. 10

His website is melbyeforjudge.com

Concluding, Melbye said, "I certainly am ready for the job, I've been preparing for this job, and, in fact, my entire legal career has been *doing* this job [in the background for Judge Holter's court]. . . . As my brochure says, I'm an advocate for justice, and that's what I stand on."

The NH endorsement. The problem with judges is that they all start out as attorneys. In Mr. Tingelstad's case, he is also a theologian, which, in itself, is not a bad thing.

All courts answer to a Higher Authority, whether the judges know it or not. We find Mr. Tingelstad's use of this, however, as a personal campaign tool, patently disgusting, if not blasphemous. Further, his previous ties to the corrupt (our opinion) office of Tim Faver (Beltrami County Attorney), and Shari Schluchter (Judge, sitting in Beltrami County), cause us concern. If for no other reason, it begins to make the Judge's Bench and the prosecutor's office a little too cozy in Bemidji. And there are other reasons. All in all, if objectivity and impartiality in law are the desired results, Mr. Tingelstad, in our opinion, could not even be a contender.

And then there's the separation of church and state. While Providence is present in every courtroom, and is well able to exact the appropriate penalty for violation of His law at any time; the mortal judge, who is granted the worldly power to act, and allowed to act, only under *our* law, must confine his actions to those intended by the Constitution and statutes which give rise to that power, and not try to exercise prerogatives reserved for The Higher Authority (even if he *could* presume to know what Divine will is, before it is manifested; which no mortal can). As self-righteous a person as Mr. Tingelstad appears to be, on the mission he claims, he might have a problem here.

Judges are not often challenged in elections, so stay in office for many years. We are bothered, though, with Judge Holter's apparent ties to what appears to be long-standing corruption in Bemidji, and find him to be much of the problem, not part of the solution. Accordingly, it may be time for his long reign on the Bench to come to an end. Frankly, if Charles Manson ran, he'd be a better choice.

Which brings us to Mr. Melbye. A number of years back, judicial candidates were prohibited from discussing their stands on judicial issues. Then the Minnesota Courts ruled that prohibition invalid, and allowed voters to know what they were voting for. We think that's a good thing, and a good candidate with well thought out and just stands on specific legal issues would very

much want to use that in his campaign, and tend to be quite vocal about it. But Mr. Melbye refuses to discuss, in specifics, what he plans to do - how he'd be inclined to rule - even stands on certain fairly general matters of law - like homeowners' property rights and how he'd feel about his own being violated.

And it is bothersome that he uses terms which sound like *living Constitution*. This is a term used by people that believe that it's not necessary to follow it as it's written; that times have changed, and somehow those words don't mean the same things now; that things like rights to privacy, freedom of speech, property, etc., though important in the 1700s, somehow aren't necessary now; that in today's society, we just might not need those old things anymore. Of course, with Bush's Homeland Security privacy invasions, and the Supreme Court's *Kelo* decision, some might argue that those Constitutional guarantees are as important to us right now, as they have ever been.

Still, a choice has to be made. The Constitution hasn't been that well noted by Bemidji courts for some time. We don't expect that to change, no matter which candidate wears the judicial robe.

At a time when a lot of headway is being made in removing corruption from the system, Mr. Melbye comes to the arena free of visible indications of ties to old-line corruption or other baggage which would tend to compromise a judge's impartiality and objectivity; or otherwise distract him from the duties of *his office* as prescribed by Minnesota law.

His interview shows many strengths, including positive overview of many judicial matters and issues, strength of character, and willingness to do the work. Unlike most attorneys, Melbye is more familiar with legal research than trial practice, and legal research, rather than the dramatics of trial, is the most significant part of a good judge's work. Accordingly, we believe that his tendency will be to examine cases, rather than just rubber stamp what the sometimes corrupt attorneys put before him; and to do what he believes the law prescribes; parts of his interview not reproduced here, for space, indicate to us that Melbye, at least, understands the *concept of legislative intent* and its importance in administering the law. While opinions as to the correct interpretations of law naturally differ between people; in terms of performance, one can't ask for much more than that. Mr. Melbye has the *ability* and the *opportunity* to do a good job and to do it well, and there is no reason, at this time, to believe that he won't do it to the best of his ability.

Will he *be* a great judge? We are reminded of former Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai (*pron. Chou En-lai*) being asked, by Henry Kissinger in 1972, whether he thought the French Revolution of 1789 had benefited

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
218-209-6563

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. 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

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

humanity. ". . . it is too soon to tell," Enlai responded.

While perhaps not to everyone (including us) a *perfect* candidate; in the field of three (one has to, kind of, envision each of the other two possibilities being on the Bench), John Melbye is the *best* candidate. We thusly endorse Mr. Melbye as, *clearly*, the least of three evils.

Endnotes:

¹ Shari Schluchter was the Chief Asst. Co. Attorney who headed up the notorious prosecution of Roy Martin in 1994.

Schluchter had Martin charged with an alleged assault on Ida Stein Hightshoe notwithstanding 1) that Martin, a Native-American new to Bemidji, did not fit the description Hightshoe gave of her supposed assailant (she described him as a younger white man), 2) that Martin's wife said Martin was home in bed with her at the time (approx. 4 a.m.), 3) that Martin, a disabled man, could not have used the escape route that police determined would have been used, and 4) that Hightshoe had seen and exchanged greetings with Martin and his wife (at a restaurant) since the alleged assault, but did not recognize him as her assailant.

Martin was held in jail, on the high bail sought by Schluchter, for about 7 months, until a jury, hearing the evidence in a week-long trial, took about two hours to fully acquit Martin of any involvement in the alleged crime.

During Martin's being held, Bemidji Police, under the direction of then-chief Robert Tell, were provided with the identity of *another suspect* who better fit the description given and whose modus operandi fit the crime, but this information, as far as can be determined, was ignored by authorities who were concentrating on an effort to convict Martin, whether he was guilty or not.

² Anderson, the daughter of a Minn. Supreme Court Justice, is married to Eric Schieferdecker, former Asst. Beltrami Co. Atty. under Tim Faver.



Firemen's Fish Feed at Backus

BACKUS -- It's not too early to mark next years' calendars for the first Saturday in May. That's when one can get lots of great food for not too much money at the Backus Fire Dept.'s annual AYCE beer-battered cod & smelt feed (a full meal, with homebaked desserts) to support equipment used by the volunteer Fire Department, First Responders, and EMTs, all of whom recently had the opportunity to perform with excellence, and did so, at the blaze at the Scamp factory. Shown here is the May 6, 2006 event

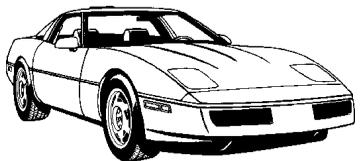
AT BACKUS, THE TRUE HUB OF NORTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA

This year marks the 35th that, Memorial Day weekend, classes and friends reunite at Old Timers' Weekend at Backus.

At right, over 175 alumni feast at the Pig Roast at the fire hall, against a backdrop of past years' class photos. Oldest and farthest. At top inset, Vern (Class of '36) and Evie Ellestad came from Moses Lake, Washington for Old Timers' Day at Backus. They've been to 34 of the 35 yearly get-togethers.

Above, posing for new group photos, are, from left front, Leola Burggraff, class of '45; Anita Thompson, '47; Betty Zaffke, '47; Peter Alexander, '45; from left rear, Noel Holden, '54; David Hamilton, '47; and David Von Doehren, '54. Old Timers' Days featured entertainment by Frankly Country, and a memorial Day service by the American Legion and Auxilliary.

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

\$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

HOW ADS ARE ORGANIZED

Most vehicles are alphabetized first 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

ANTIQUE, CLASSICS

1951 FORD 2 DOOR HARDTOP. V8, auto. Excellent condition. \$13,500/or best offer. 218-534-4838 or cell 866-312-9758

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

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

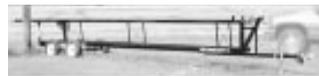
1983 EL CAMINO w/350. New paint. \$5,000. 218-963-3765

1974 Buick LeSabre Convertible. Excellent condition. \$6,500/or best offer. 218-534-4838 or cell 866-312-9758

1984 MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE. V6, auto, air, full power. Good condition. \$4,250. 218-352-6829, 800-930-6936

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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

AKELEY AUTO SALES
CAR WASHNOW AVAILABLE! Enclosed
BOAT & RV STORAGE,
and Shrink-WrappingAUTO RENTALS from \$35 per day, w/150
free miles! No cards req. We work with many insurance
companies; collision rentals may be reimbursable.Now Towing! • Auto Sales
Oil Changes • Service Center
Highway 34 at 64, Akeley
218-652-2930RENT THIS
PONTOON
TRAILER

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

1984 EL CAMINO Choo-Choo.
Frame-up restoration. \$14,500. 218-
963-3765 I buy and sell mid '70s - '87
El Camino parts.1985 EL CAMINO V-6. Nebraska Car.
New paint. \$2,800. 218-963-3765

CARS

1994 CADILLAC STS SEVILLE.
Pearl white. 30+ MPG. 185K. Perfect
condition, completely maintained every
3,000 miles, maintenance records.
\$2,900. 218-568-51931998 CADILLAC SEVILLE STS.
Black on black. 25 mpg. Fully loaded.
Heated seats, electric moon roof, Bose
steered. Interior like new. Special STS
hubcaps & emblem. 100k mi. Very nice
car. \$8,000 or best offer. 218-328-6447
or 218-259-28971994 CAMARO. Alpine green, nice.
3.4 litre. Clear T-top, great sound
system. \$4,200 or best offer. Possible
trade. 218-828-63182001 CHEVY CAVALIER. 2-door, 4
cyl. 73K miles. CD. \$4,700. 218-751-
1120 or 218-766-67931995 FORD CONTOUR. 147K, air,
cruise, all power, new tires, brakes,
good shape. \$2,195 or best offer. 866-
336-85191997 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL.
Loaded, excellent condition, heated
seats, everything. Selling because I got
a newer one. Asking \$4,500 or best
offer. 218-764-29431991 MERC CAPRI CONVERTIBLE.
4 cyl. turbo, 109K, Exc. cond. New top,
new tires, red/black, tonneau cover and
bra in box. \$4,495/or best offer. 218-
829-85651999 NISSAN SENTRA GXE. 121K
miles. 4 cyl., 1.6L. CD. \$4,495. 218-
751-1120 or 218-766-67931993 PONTIAC GRAND AM. 130K
miles. 6 cyl., 4 door. \$2,695. 218-751-
1120 or 218-766-67931999 PONTIAC GRAND AM GT.
Sunroof, new tires, auto start, loaded.
77,000 miles. \$9,000. 218-828-0690,
218-330-86004 WHEEL DRIVE
Cars, Trucks, SUVs1981 CHEVY 1/2 TON. New tires, 4
speed trans. Mechanically in good
shape, body average. Would make
excellent plow truck. Also has tool box.
\$2,800. 218-245-28311988 CHEVROLET PICKUP. 350 V-
8. 8 ft. box. Auto, A/C, PS, PW, PB. AM-
FM-CD. Hitch & ball. Runs great.
\$1,100. 218-829-82921992 CHEVY BLAZER. All redone,
immaculate, recently repainted, tinted
windows, remote starter. \$4,400. 218-
254-32161993 CHEVY K1500 4X4, regular
cab, 8 box, w/fiberglass topper. V6
automatic, A/C. Asking \$2,500 or best
offer. 218-829-66791997 CHEVY SUBURBAN 4X4.
Florida truck - no rust! Leroy custom
paint and running boards. Rear air,
trailer package. Lots of extras. 165K
miles. Must see to appreciate. Asking
\$7,850. Call 218-675-52212000 CHEVY BLAZER. 4x4. 88K.
\$5,000 or best offer. Must sell. 218-
838-0013, 218-838-10851988 DODGE RAM 4x4. V8,
automatic. \$900. 218-244-49492005 DODGE DURANGO, 4x4. Third
seat, low miles. Loaded, rear air, tow
package. \$19,900. 218-855-02061981 FORD PICKUP. 6 cyl, 4WD.
Runs good. \$900 or best offer. 218-
668-2845 or 218-668-25401988 FORD BRONCO. 4 WD, PW,
PS, PL, auto. Runs good. Well below
blue book at \$800. 218-327-00401992 FORD EXPLORER 4X4. Eddie
Bauer pkg. Very clean and in all-around
good condition. 137k. \$2,600 or best
offer. 218-326-89661992 FORD EXPLORER, Eddie
Bauer. 4WD. Sunroof, luggage rack. A/
C, all power, cruise, tilt. Leather, new
tires. 169K. Towing package, electronic
brakes. \$2,500 or best offer. 218-765-
4478For Sale: 1995 F-150 4X4. \$3,900
or best offer. 218-492-43942001 FORD LARIAT 350 DIESEL
4X4. \$20,000. 1995 30' 5TH-WHEEL
CAMPER w/2 slides. \$10,000. Both
mint condition; will sell separately. 218-
838-3514 or 218-927-49042000 GMC SONOMA 4X4 EXT. CAB.
3rd door. Truck in excellent shape.
122K, mostly road miles, new
transmission with 36K on it. Loaded,
topper, new 36K, transmission, A/C,
cruise, PL, PW, AM-FM-CD-Cassette.
Bed liner. Z71 towing package. \$9,700
firm. 218-825-05792003 GMC SIERRA Z71 EXT. CAB
4X4. Roll top cover, SS step bars,
leather. BOSE radio with OnStar. GM
warranty, many more options. Looks
better than new. 60K. Call 218-243-
2446 or 218-766-59611979 SCOUT CONVERTIBLE. 6" lift.
Over \$2,000+ labor into it. \$1,500. 218-
254-32161998 JEEP WRANGLER 4X4. Red,
hardtop, new tires, looks new. 116,000
mi. Drives great, runs great. \$7,000.
218-828-4356 or 218-838-0275.2 WD TRUCKS &
SPORT UTILITY2001 BLAZER. 87K, very good
condition. \$7,150 or best offer. 218-
820-7344, 218-838-14021968 F-100 FORD PICK-UP. 8' bed.
360 V8. Stick. 110 volt generator.
73,000 original mi., minimal rust, brand
new tires. \$2,500. 218-829-56231975 FORD PICKUP RANCHERO
500. V-8, auto trans, new radiator and
water pump. Motor gone through, body
good, no rust. \$3,000. Call 218-483-
32691979 FORD F-100 PICKUP. \$650.
218-751-0089, 218-335-8285, 218-
209-74501990 FORD RANGER. 4 cylinder,
about 22 mpg. AM-FM-cassette. 109K.
Topper, rubber bed mat, with hitch and
ball. Runs good, looks good. \$1,950.
218-828-77171981 GM CABALLERO. Body needs
work, changed motor. V-6, A/C, auto.
Call 218-483-32691978 INT'L 2 TON TRUCK. 5 spd., 2
spd. 401 motor. Good shape. \$1,700
or best offer. 218-668-2845 or 218-
668-2540VANS AND BUSESSES
including four wheel drive2002 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN
SPORT. PW, PL, CD, quad seating.
70K. Motivated to sell. \$10,300 or best
offer. 218-744-5756

PRICE REDUCED

1996 FORD WINDSTAR. 12K on new
motor, still under warranty. Keyless
locks, \$13,000 invested in rebuild,
reconditioning. Excellent shape, 4 new
tires. \$7,000 or best offer. 218-764-
29432000 PONTIAC MONTANA. CD
player, rear heat and air. High miles, all
highway. Very good condition. \$4,500.
218-333-3839 or 218-234-9299

CAMPERS, TRAILERS, RVs

1989 CRUISE-AIR Class A. Ford
engine, John Deere chassis, generator.
35,000 mi. Very good condition.
\$12,000 or best offer. 218-652-3819
or 218-252-17278' PALOMINO POP-UP PICKUP
CAMPER. 3-way fridge, 3 burner range,
forced air heat. \$4,200 or best offer.
218-492-43941979 JAMBOREE 26'. 350 motor,
42,000 actual miles. Clean. \$7,850 or
best offer. 218-765-3291, 218-765-
3638 Jim's Camper Sales, 28952 Co.
Rd. 3, Merrifield, MN 56465, 7 mi. N of
Merrifield, 7 mi. S of Crosslake on Co.
Rd. 3For sale - 2004 HORNET 27 1/2' 5TH
WHEEL. Super slide, central air & heat.
Like new. 218-732-49941992 HOLIDAY, ULTRA LITE. 29ft.
New: refrigerator, hot water heater,
stove, upholstery, satellite dish,
antenna. Large awning, stabilizing bars.
\$8,900, best offer. 218-855-0206

DID YOU KNOW ?

That \$10 extra will put a
picture of your item in the
paper and on the web?
Well, now you know.1999 29' WILDERNESS pull behind
camper. Air, very clean. \$9,000. 218-
245-28312000 30' SUNVALLEY SUNLITE. Lg
awning, fridge, freezer, micro, central
air, surround sound. Full bath, queen
bed, rubber roof. 4 leveling jacks. Ex.
cond. \$9,800. 218-832-3246 or 218-
256-15861995 30' 5TH-WHEEL CAMPER w/2
slides. \$10,000. 2001 FORD LARIAT
350 DIESEL 4X4. \$20,000. Both mint
condition; will sell separately. 218-838-
3514 or 218-927-49042003 COACHMAN CATALINA travel
trailer. 33ft. Slide out, double bunks,
great for kids. \$22,500. 218-820-7344,
218-838-14021996 36' FOUR WINDS MIRAGE
MOTORHOME. 460 motor, 18,500
miles. 7000 Onan generator. Very
clean. Must sell, \$39,495 or best offer.
218-765-3291, 218-765-3638 Jim's
Camper Sales, 28952 Co. Rd. 3,
Merrifield, MN 56465, 7 mi. N of
Merrifield, 7 mi. S of Crosslake on Co.
Rd. 32005 LANDMARK 5TH WHEEL. 37',
3 slides. U-shaped kitchen, king-sized
bed. 2 A/Cs, Trail Air, MorRide.
Excellent cond. Must see to appreciate.
Must sell! \$48,000 or best offer. Call
or email for pictures or directions:
pdjensen1@msn.com 218-243-23371996 KOUNTRY STAR 5TH WHEEL.
Living room and bedroom slides. Nice
unit. \$18,500. Call 218-694-6669 or
see it at 25 Sand Lake Ave. NW, Bagley,
Minn.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

MOTORCYCLES

THE HAWG PEN for all your V-Twin
service & repair. See their
advertisement in this issue.NEED REPAIR ON YOUR
MOTORCYCLE or snowmobile? All
work guaranteed, pickup and delivery
available. 218-838-02421988 HARLEY DAVIDSON FLHTC.
Good shape. Need to see to appreciate.
\$9,000 or best offer. 218-835-47161999 HARLEY SPORTSTER. 1200
Custom. 6700 miles. Like new. \$6,650.
218-487-5939, 218-779-75491978 HONDA Goldwing GL1000.
69K. Runs great, very good condition.
\$2,495 or best offer. 218-831-04381999 HONDA SHADOW VLX 600.
Only 2,000 miles. Excellent condition.
\$3,700. 218-333-86221998 HONDA SHADOW ACE 750.
Windshield, backrest. 9250 miles.
\$3,600. 218-820-36542002 HONDA SHADOW ACE 750.
4500 mi., excellent condition. Exc.
beginner's bike! \$4,500 or best offer.
218-751-97672003 HONDA SHADOW SPIRIT 750.
3,200 miles. Custom exhaust, after
market seat, windshield, tank bag.
Excellent condition. \$5,000. 218-333-
86222003 HONDA 919. Like new
condition. \$5,700. 218-330-1751 or
218-546-65941997 CR250R. Trail road, did not
race. \$1,700. 218-232-21691982 YAMAHA 1100 MAXIMUM.
\$1,000. 218-751-0089, 218-335-8285,
218-209-7450

ATVS

2004 ARCTIC CAT 650. 1100 miles,
extended warranty, winch, extra 27"
mud light tires and rims. \$5,200 or best
offer. 218-963-2640 or 218-838-28152004 POLARIS PREDATOR 500CC.
Dale Earnhardt Jr. Special Edition
racing 4-Wheeler. Used only 5 tanks of
gas. Must sacrifice. \$5,000. 218-828-
4356 or 218-838-02751995 SUZUKI LT 250. 4WD. \$1,100.
Many new parts. Rough appearance.
218-209-67302000 YAMAHA BLASTER. Durable
axle. Race-ready. Many extras. \$2,800.
218-820-2180

DID YOU KNOW ?

That if you're selling two or
three vehicles, we'll run
them all for the same \$19?
Well, now you know.

Why advertise in NORTHERN HERALD?

BECAUSE YOU WANT TO
SELL IT!And you don't want to give away
all of the sales proceeds for the cost of advertising.More people read *Northern Herald*, because it contains the stories
important to Northern Minnesota that other papers sometimes don't.And while no paper can *guarantee* that any particular item will
sell, our **NORTHERN AUTO & BOAT SHOPPER**, in every *Northern
Herald* issue, puts the odds on your side, three ways: 1) We give you
the time to sell it - for \$19 flat, your ad runs until **sold**, up to 36 weeks.2) We give you the space to adequately describe your vehicle - up to
6 lines (about 30 words). 3) We give you the wide area - a whole new
audience to see your ad - all across North Central Minnesota from
Brainerd to Red Lake, and all the way from Bemidji and Bagley to
Grand Rapids and onto the Iron Range, and including Park Rapids,
Cass Lake, Walker, and the other cities and towns between.**The Space, the Coverage Region, the Time to Sell Your Car.****NORTHERN HERALD'S NORTHERN AUTO & BOAT SHOPPER
218-759-1162 WE MEAN BUSINESS.**1999 SKI-DOO FORMULA 3 700.
1500 mi., mint condition w/cover.
\$3,400. 218-741-0991BOATS, DOCKS,
AND WATERCRAFT3,000 lbs. SHORESTATION W/ ELEC
LIFT. \$2,200. Call 218-326-4569 after
5 pm.ALUMINUM DOCK. New, 32' with 8'
patio, plastic wheels, cedar deck.
Delivery available. \$1,800. 218-828-
0209.1990 40 hp JOHNSON OUTBOARD.
Tilt 'n trim, all controls included. \$2,000
or best offer. 218-675-6585Single and tandem BOAT TRAILERS:
\$250 - \$400. Call 218-224-2186SEA-DOO SPI 580. Totally rebuilt,
ready for water! Like new condition!
Other models also available. **ALSO
WILL BUY OR REPAIR YOUR JET
SKI.** 320-267-7297BOAT, MOTOR & TRAILER for sale
or trade. 218-657-259416' LUND - MR. PIKE. 60 hp John,
console steer, bow mount trolling motor,
live well. Roller trailer with electric
winch. \$4,300 or best offer. 218-467-
32381977 CENTURY RAVEN 180. 17 ft.
120 HP Mercruiser I/O, Shorelander
trailer. Must see, one owner. \$3,500/or
best offer. 218-753-3231 or 218-780-
7049.1987 TUFFY MARAUDER. 17 ft.,
1994 Merc 50hp (low hours, excellent
condition). Lowrance X-75, Eagle
Z7200 Minnkota Turbo-Pro bow mount
(48lbs, 24V) transducer wired for
Vexilar. Shorelander trailer, with spare.
\$2,895/or best offer. 218-829-85652002 ALUMACRAFT Tournament Pro
175. Loaded, 3 locators, GPS, 2 trolling
motors. Eagle bunk trailer, 90hp
Yamaha tiller. \$16,000. 218-825-37742005 WEERES 24FT. PONTOON.
Cover, canopy, 2 extra seats. 25 hp Big
Foot Mercury, trailer. \$8,900, best offer.
218-855-0206NOBODY READS
NEWSPAPER ADSBut you're reading this one right now.
For as little as \$12, you and about
5,000 others would be reading about
your car, business or product.**NORTHERN HERALD 218-759-1162
WE MEAN BUSINESS.****There's nothing
like results ...**From a private party:
*"Would you please run the ad
on the ----- again. We got a
lot of responses from the last
one, resulting in the sale of the
4x4 runner. --- Thanks."*From a dealer:
*"We've gotten a lot of calls on
our cars -- and we don't
advertise anywhere else!"***NORTHERN AUTO & BOAT
SHOPPER 218-759-1162
WE MEAN BUSINESS.**