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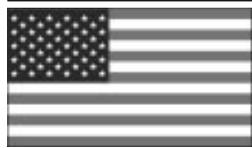
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VOLUME 14 NO. 1

We never release the issue until it's something you'd want to read.

OCT. 26, 2009 - JAN. 26, 2010

Volcano of Corruption Erupts In Itasca County Sheriff's Office

Itasca County Sheriff: Pat Medure**Former Itasca Co. Head Jailer, David Sigfrinius, Charged With Unnatural Crimes Involving 17-Year Old Male**

GRAND RAPIDS -- Former Itasca County Head Jailer (Itasca Co. Sheriff's Office), **David Allen Sigfrinius**, 59, of Bovey, was arrested November 17th, 2008 on 6 charges, 2 each of 3rd degree and 4th degree criminal sexual conduct, and 2 of furnishing alcohol to a minor, stemming from incidents alleged to have occurred Sept. 15th and Sept. 27th, 2008 involving a 17 yr. old male. The male is believed to be a relative of Sigfrinius (Itasca Co. case no. 31-CR-08-3939). The third & fourth degree charges relate to alleged conduct where the victim is 16-17 yrs. of age, and the perpetrator is over 48 mos. older than the victim, and is either in a position of authority over, or of significant relationship to, the victim.

As the Minnesota age of consent is 16, a person committing the same acts with a 17 yr. old to whom he is not related or in a position of authority over, would not be chargeable; so it is not known whether Sigfrinius has thusly committed other, non-chargeable acts with males under the age of 18.

Sigfrinius was released November 18, 2008 on a \$30,000 surety bond; he pled not guilty to all 6 charges, and the case is scheduled for pre-trial at 9 a.m. Nov. 3rd, with trial commencing at 9 a.m. Nov. 23rd, 2009. **Several Itasca Co. judges have recused themselves in this matter**, and the matter is expected to be tried by **Judge John R. Solien**, who normally sits in Aitkin County.

Sigfrinius had been incarcerated at the Crow Wing Co. (Brainerd), rather than the Itasca Co. (Grand Rapids) jail.

Sigfrinius was the Itasca County Head Jailer until April, 2000, when *Northern Herald* released the article, "Was Wendy Carlson Forced to Have Oral (Cont'd, "Itasca Jailer," p. 12)

Itasca Co. Deputy and Investigator, Gregory Snyder, Charged With 33 Counts Including Unnatural Acts With Boy, 13 Years Old In Earliest Incidents

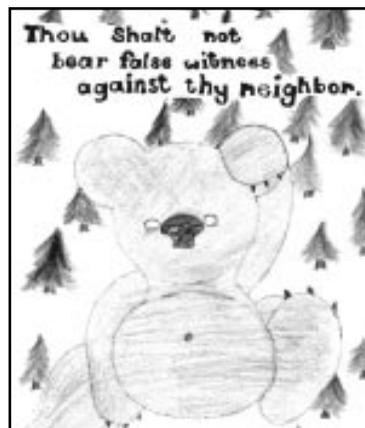
GRAND RAPIDS -- Pursuant to an investigation conducted by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA), on March 26, 2009, Deputy (Itasca Co. Sheriff's Office) **Gregory Alan Snyder**, 43, turned himself in, and, on March 27th, was charged, in Itasca County, with 33 counts of criminal sexual conduct in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degrees, for numerous alleged acts, including many alleged unnatural acts, occurring from 2004 through March, 2009 (Itasca Co. case no. 31-CR-09-1016). All of the counts are felonies. On conviction, each of the 1st degree counts carries a minimum sentence of 144 months in prison; with a maximum of 30 years and/or \$40,000 fine.

All of the acts are alleged to have involved a single victim, Snyder's stepson, who was 13 years of age when the earliest offenses were allegedly committed. The complaint to authorities was made by the alleged victim's mother, who is believed to be Snyder's wife, immediately after she learned, in mid-March, 2009, of what, allegedly, had been happening.

According to the Complaint, the acts began with fondling in 2004 when the alleged victim was 13; and rapidly escalated from there to the most serious aberrations. The complaint alleges that the criminal acts then happened frequently when the boy's mother was away, and that they happened "everywhere in the house". The alleged victim said that he found the acts "revolting" and was made to perform them, and given toys and gifts in exchange for some of them; coercion was used when he refused. In addition to the alleged outright acts, the Complaint alleges that the Defendant had been showing the alleged victim male-on-male pornography on the Internet which the Defendant (Cont'd, "Itasca Deputy," p. 12)

LEADING EDGE JOURNALISM

Grand Rapids Group Formed to Expose "Advocates"



Our mascot, **The Bear False Witness Bear**, as interpreted by artist Kendra Mirabal, (then) 6th grade, Grand Rapids, MN.

The Bear False Witness Bear was inspired by the practice of Grand Rapids' "Advocates for Family Peace", and certain other travesties observed in Northland courtroom practice.

GRAND RAPIDS -- A substantial group of people who say that they have suffered injustice at the hands of the Grand Rapids, Minn. organization, "Advocates For Family Peace" (AFP) (essentially, a women's advocacy organization), as well as other Itasca County social services agencies, has formed and began meeting in Grand Rapids to work towards establishing avenues of countering the AFP's alleged unethical and biased courtroom practices, and unconscionable agency practices; and trying to discourage future funding of AFP and similar organizations whose activities, coordinated and combined with those of the other county organizations and agencies, exercise unjustified authority over family matters and produce an uneven playing field for men and women litigating issues in court.

Said the woman who had facilitated the initial meeting, "Their name is *Advocates For Family Peace*, but they started out as *Advocates For Women*, and they've changed their name but not their philosophy."

The name of the new group which takes exception to AFP's activities, and seeks to help others affected, is **Champions For Justice** (CFJ), headed by Mr. Sean Holt, of Grand Rapids. Their web site is <http://sites.google.com/site/championforjustice>

Their initial meeting, Sept. 10th, 2008, was discreet and anonymity was provided to those who, for fear of county retaliation, did not want their identity known. Similarly, the participants will (Cont'd, "Champions," p. 12)

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The MAGIC of MOONDANCE - p. 8

READER DISCRETION ADVISORY: This publication, though generally written in tasteful and family-friendly language, contains frank and accurate reporting of what really happened; as well as poignant and thought-provoking opinion. Sometimes it is the actual news event that is disgusting and filthy - like when the taxpayers were forced to bail out Wall Street. We do not try to soften or otherwise dilute or suppress the reporting of the news, regardless of who was involved; and we don't mince words or compromise values in providing our editorial opinion. Accordingly, this shouldn't be read by anyone.

LEADING EDGE JOURNALISM

Grand Rapids Attorney Hayes Disciplined

Editor's Note: To avoid misunderstanding, we hasten to explain that when the OLPR "disciplines" an attorney, it usually means a letter of admonition or some such thing. They don't, for instance, actually stand the shyster up against a wall and flog him, as would often be fitting.

GRAND RAPIDS -- Grand Rapids attorney **John Wallace Hayes, Esq.** (reg. no. 219848), officing at 38110 Co. Rd. 469, Cohasset, Minn. (previously at 321 NE 4th St., Grand Rapids, Minn.) was, on May 15, 2008, officially admonished by the **Minnesota Office of Lawyers' Professional Responsibility** (OLPR) at St. Paul.

The admonition cites lack of diligence in Hayes' representation of a male client, Brad Graber, in child custody and visitation proceedings in the Itasca County courts. Mishandling of fees was also raised in the admonition. The client claimed that Hayes withheld services for nonpayment of fees (\$700) that Hayes claimed were due, but that Hayes did not provide an accounting of the use of, and any monies left from, the retainers (\$1,750) paid by Graber at the times of Graber's initially retaining Mr. Hayes as counsel (in two related cases).

Specifically, the admonition, signed by Martin A. Cole, Director, OLPR, finds,

"1. Respondent's [Mr. Hayes's] conduct in failing to diligently handle complainant's [Mr. Graber's] claim for custody or visitation violated Rule 1.3, Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct (MRPC).

"2. Respondent's conduct in failing to reasonably consult with complainant about his claims for custody or visitation after April, 2002, and his failure to explain to complainant the purpose of the September 13, 2002, child support (Cont'd, "Take The Money & Run," p. 4)

LEADING EDGE JOURNALISM

Court of Appeals: Judge Benshoof Abused Discretion

BEMIDJI -- Coming into office in 1997 to sit primarily at Bemidji, the newly-appointed (by Gov. Arne Carlson) Judge Paul Benshoof pointed out, in interview,¹ that he intended to bring compassion to the Ninth District bench. And he said, "A trial judge's role . . . is to . . . apply the law as the legislature has written it and as the appellate courts have interpreted it."

Since then, however, although issuing some very inspective (of the evidence), well thought out, and well reasoned rulings², Judge Benshoof has been criticized by members of the local bar and others, for "off-the-wall" decisions in other cases which have seemed unduly punitive or vindictive, and sometimes, beyond the law and the authority of his Court.

Now, in appellate case no. A07-1375 (an unpublished case), the Minnesota Court of Appeals has found that, in ordering *the victim* in a libel case to pay over \$10,000 in sanctions, Judge Benshoof abused his discretion.

Reversing the sanctions award, the Appellate Court said ". . . the district court clearly lacked authority under rule 11 to award monetary sanctions . . ."

The suit sought damages against two Bemidji individuals for making false and defamatory statements regarding the Plaintiff, some of which were published on the Internet. Also sued was Google, Inc., for continuing to index and provide excerpts of the libelous material, after Google was notified of its false and libelous character.

In pre-trial communications demanding removal of the libelous references, and in refusing to remove the indexing, Google (Continued, "Benshoof," p. 13)

¹ See *Benshoof May Bring Classical Jurisprudence . . .* in NH of 02/24/97, in *The Library*, Vol. 2, at northernherald.com

² See, e. g., coverage of Craig Littleghost trial, on p. 1 of NH of 7/4/05, at northernherald.com

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Above and below, Cass Lake residents supporting Chief Johnson's police department turn out in droves at a hastily called citizens' meeting held at Pike Bay town hall August 11, 2008 to deal with the Council's disbanding of the Cass Lake Police Dept., and disclose City accounting irregularities.



At a series of Council meetings, public hearings (where the Council would take input, but not change their minds), and even a large meeting scheduled and held by the Cass Lake residents at their own initiative, Cass Lakers expressed their indignation over the change. Most of the heated comments, though not aimed against Sheriff Fisher's excellent services, tended strongly in favour of Cass Lake keeping its own police department, possibly operating and funded in conjunction with nearby Pike Bay Township (which has its own police force) and/or with the tribal police agency, for reason of a variety of concerns including that the officers would generally be in town and available on short notice, and would enforce all of the city ordinances, as well as state law.

See also the Letter: *Proposal to Abolish Cass Lake PD Draws Concern*, p. 4, this issue -- Ed.

Cass Lake Council Disbands Police

CASS LAKE -- In what was said to be, effectively, a political vendetta firing of well-respected Cass Lake Police Chief Larry Johnson, by Mayor Wayne LaDuke; and at an irregular July 8, 2008 meeting of the Cass Lake City Council, upon an agenda change, the Council voted to disband the Cass Lake Police Dept., and instead contract for additional police services through the also very excellent Cass Co. Sheriff's Office.

Voting for the resolution (#18-2008) were Mayor LaDuke and councilors Fineday and Kirkpatrick; Haaland voted against; Schumaker was absent, presumably due to the late change in the date of the meeting (from the 9th).

Cass Lake had previously been policed, to a lesser degree, by the Sheriff's deputies as part of their regular rounds, and is also patrolled by Leech Lake Tribal Police.

The change, which brought Cass Lake residents out in droves to protest at a series of meetings, was said by the Council to be for cost control; but upon inspection (by your editor, *Adam Steele, C.P.A.*), it appeared that the Council was acting upon cost projections which were clearly in error as to certain costs and personnel levels. In comparing those projections to the Sheriff's bid, it appeared that the Council was comparing "apples to oranges"; and it is doubtful that the change would actually save substantial money.

It would not be the first time Cass Lake has made "arithmetic errors". An audit report, disclosed at a citizens' meeting, stated, in part, "During our audit, we identified material adjustments in the General Fund. State Fire Aid, in the amount of \$33,390 was not posted to revenue and expenditure accounts and revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$219,107 required reclassification. These adjustments resulted in significant changes to amounts in the City's financial statements." The audit report continued, recommending that the City establish better internal control (bookkeeping and accounting) procedures.

THIS IS BEMIDJI

A Facade of Hospitality

City Of Bemidji Wants Church Shelter To Put Homeless Out On Street.

BEMIDJI -- On one of Bemidji's main avenues, and situated right across from the Post Office, a sign (at right) proclaims "House of Hospitality" and gives the impression that the Bemidji



City Council actually gives a rat's behind about those down on their luck, or itinerant in Bemidji.

Let's Spend Money Like The Government. Under the direction of **Rebecca Hoffman**, the "House of Hospitality" (HOH) has received official recognition, funding, and recently a \$1 million State grant for being the endorsed homeless shelter in Bemidji.

Meanwhile, it is another, totally separate, Bemidji organization, the **People's Church**, at 824 America Ave., Bemidji, that actually houses most of the homeless, as well as providing food, and programs and guidance to help get them back on their feet.

Many of those homeless people were turned away by HOH, which, under Mrs. Hoffman's direction, bills itself as being for families and pregnant women only, and, regardless of space availability, routinely turns away those homeless who are without children - in other words, likely most of them. If they know about it, those people often find their way to the **People's Church**, where they're given the meal and warm bed for the night, that they thought they'd find at the so-called "House of Hospitality". (*What a joke -- Ed.*)

Last summer, a group of *homeless awareness* marchers were walking the state and staying in shelters in each town on their route. They came through Bemidji in August. Per a former employee, they tried to stay at HOH, as the City's official shelter, but, like so many others, were refused.* They found their lodging, that night, at *People's Church*, instead (a photo of the marchers, at *People's Church*, appears in *The (Bemidji) Pioneer*, Aug. 9, 2008, p. 6).

The Sunday before Thanksgiving, 2008, *People's Church* gave away 100 free turkeys to Bemidji's low-income people and families.

As part of its continuing mission to serve as many in as many essential ways as possible, the *People's Church* wants to install a "Parish Health Ministry" staffed by nurse-practitioners and a doctor to provide certain health maintenance services and care. In 2008, the Church began outfitting a room, and recruiting medical professionals, for this. But the City of Bemidji intervened on the pretext of zoning, as did the Minn. Health Dept., by **David Kaufman** (at MHD's Bemidji office); so the project has, by the Church, been put on hold for now. [*The Minn. Dept. of Health should spend more time testing and getting poisoned food off of store shelves (they do*

* Asked about this incident, Rebecca Hoffman, Executive Director of HOH, said that she didn't know whether it happened.

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A PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE OF THIS NEWSPAPER

nothing, even if it makes you sick, and less time harassing people who merely try to provide medical services to the poor. But this, again, is your tax money at work. -- Ed]

The Heart of Corruption.

While the misnamed *House of Hospitality* receives megabucks in government funding and grants; the **Bemidji City Council** is doing all it can to try to shut the *People's Church* down, at least insofar as its housing the homeless goes. This, despite its being a Constitutionally protected church (Lutheran-ELCA), and the only real refuge here for most of the homeless, who would otherwise be left to sleep on the streets, under bridges, or in jail. The City's effort follows a similar failed effort in 2004, led by Doug Fuller, (then) Republican State Rep.

The crime of sleeping. On August 7, 2008, Bemidji City Manager **John Chattin** put the *People's Church* on notice with a letter which said, in part, that the *People's Church* structure "*cannot be used as sleeping quarters by anyone, whether the intended beneficiary is a homeless person or someone in need of temporary, short-term housing accommodations.*" The letter directed that such use must cease by August 13th, 2008 or could result in citation for violation.

But **Pastor Bob Kelly** refused to turn the homeless out, and interviewed Dec. 1st, 2008, Chattin said, "There's a definite need in the community [for the *People's Church* and what it does] . . . but it's our purview to ensure that it's a safe facility . . . we're working with them to help them get in compliance."

Helping to get them into compliance, however, has resulted in practical problems of space for the Church. The homeless bunks, for instance, had to be moved, at City insistence, from a downstairs room that was the logical place for a bedroom, up into the chapel, where they crowded the pews. And the city, in a list of code violations, has objected to a stairway in the historic building, which doesn't meet current code for height and width (that code didn't exist when the building was constructed, years ago, for its first use, as a Seventh Day Adventist Church) and would be very expensive to modify.

This could happen to you. Bemidji also has an odd "rental" ordinance that is worded so as to be applicable to any house or building that has a guest - someone other than the owner - staying there, whether or not for compensation. (Cont'd, "Bemidji Hospitality," p. 3)

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I-35 Bridge Victims Bring Suit

MINNEAPOLIS -- Although all 179 eligible victims of the Aug. 1, 2007 I-35 bridge collapse were partially compensated by the State of Minnesota in exchange for waiver of further action against the State (see "What Is Life Worth", *Minnesota Law & Politics*, Oct.-Nov. 2009); there remain about 122 lawsuits open against the private contractors charged with inspecting the bridge, primarily URS Corporation and Progressive Contractors Incorporated, and also including, as 3rd party Defendant, Jacobs Engineering Group Inc.

Most of the cases, after undergoing a complicated and lengthy series of motions, interventions, and other interlocutory proceedings, are presently scheduled to be called for jury trials at 9:30 a.m., Dec. 6th, 2010 before Hennepin County Judicial Officer Deborah Hedlund.

Several of the plaintiffs are represented by the firm of Minneapolis personal injury attorney James Schwebel, who had earlier filed suit against the State to compel disclosure of the reasons for the bridge collapse (see *I-35 Bridge: Victims Want to Know Why in NH* of 1/21/08, available at northernherald.com).

In one of those cases (Wilfred Wagner vs. Progressive Contractors Inc., URS Corp.; Hennepin Co. case no. 27-CV-08-28254) the Complaint alleges, "... Defendant URS Corporation ... contracted with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) in 2003 ... to perform a four year long detail fatigue and fracture analysis of the I-35W bridge and its truss members and make recommendations on necessary retrofit and strengthening.

"Defendant Progressive Contractors Incorporated (PCI) ... contracted with Mn/DOT in March of 2007 to perform necessary repairs on the I-35W bridge. PCI's employees were working on the bridge at the time of its collapse. ...

"URS inserted [in its report] 'Good condition' of gusset plate U10 of both the West truss and East truss, even though in both cases the photographs for these two gusset plates show very clearly that they have buckled. ...

"On August 1st, 2007, just after 6:00 p.m., bridge 9340 collapsed while PCI removed significant portions of the bridge deck ... at the time of collapse, PCI had placed more than 500,000 pounds of sand and gravel near gusset plates U10 and L11, contributing to the collapse. As a result of the collapse, thirteen people were killed and many others, including plaintiff Wilfred Wagner, were severely injured. ..."

Editor's Note: The following article references many materials which were in the court files when Northern Herald originally inspected them, in August, 2009. When we reinspected the files, 10/20/09, in follow up of Batchelder's omnibus hearing, however, they appeared to be much thinner and many of the evidentiary materials, including the many personal notes from Batchelder to Brunette, appeared to have been removed. These materials may, however, be offered as evidence at trial.

Batchelder Charged

BEMIDJI -- William "Bill" James Batchelder, 48, operator of Bemidji Woolen Mills, has been charged with three counts of Stalking/Harassment in connection with several incidents involving his previous consort, Susan Marie Brunette, 48, of Bemidji. Per papers filed with the court (criminal: case no. 04-CR-09-3083; restraining order: case no. 04-FA-09-2997), Batchelder and Brunette had a "relationship" of about 20 years, during which they had apparently lived in unholy union from 1994 until 2002, and continued to "see" each other thereafter until May, 2009 when, per the Complaint, Brunette "had decided ... to have no further contact with the Defendant" and began "dating" someone else, whom we'll refer to as "John" (not his actual name).

The court file documents included a sheaf of many personal notes from Batchelder to Brunette. In one of these

Rules To Live By: Dale Carnegie once wrote that **one should never put into writing anything that they wouldn't want to see published.** This takes on particular importance in this age of text messages, emailing, etc. In another, unrelated, case that *NH* is investigating, a cell company turned over an innocent person's text messages to authorities and they too are now part of the public record. It is unfortunate that, these days, our public authorities expend time and money procuring and reading these things, instead of doing the important things that they're paid to do, like saving people's lives.

notes, Batchelder disclosed an uncertain future for his business, Bemidji Woolen Mills. With his business facing possible demise, and the breakup with Brunette, Batchelder

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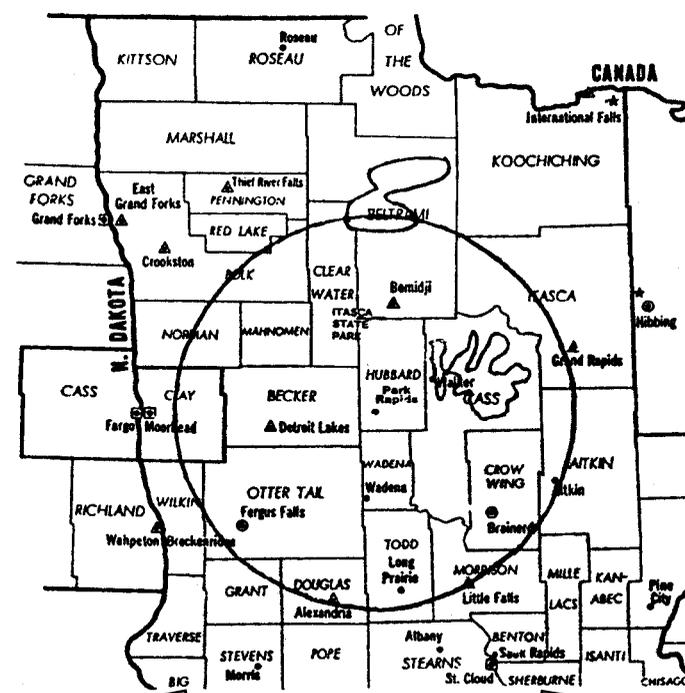
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Bemidji Hospitality fr p. 2

Technically, it could be applied to any homeowner who has a friend or relative staying over, but it is only enforced when Bemidji wants to enforce it. The ordinance states that the premises must be registered as a rental (there is a fee), must be inspected, and must meet the more stringent building code for rentals. The ordinance, though, contains an exception for parish houses, manses, and rectories.

By its letter of August 7th, 2008, the City purported to act, not under the "rental"

The People's Church. Below right, guests of the *People's Church* can play basketball, and chat and commune on the backyard deck. *People's Church* is always open, always hospitable to whomever needs a place to stay.

At center inset, the Church's kitchen is available at all hours, and for those guests who don't have food, free dinners are provided many nights. The dinners served here are provided by *People's Church*, and also by *St. Bartholomew's Episcopal*, and *Salem Lutheran Church*.

Shown here are volunteers from *St. Bartholomew's Episcopal*. (Cont'd, bottom right)

ordinance, but rather as a matter of zoning. The building is classified as "R-3 Commercial Occupancy", and the City maintained that to allow it to be used as "R-3 Residential Occupancy" would require amendment of its special use permit; for that amendment to be allowed, the building would have to be modified to meet the same building code standards that apply to current rentals.

Peoples Church Pastor Bob Kelly maintains that trying to reach out and serve people in need is a part of the continuing mission of the Church.

"We look at the history of Christianity." (Cont'd, "Bemidji Hospitality," p. 10)



Bart's, which donated that night's meal. Above, with bunks moved (at City insistence) to the pew area, *Pastor Bob Kelly* (right inset) presides over a meeting of key members and staff, at which many shared, regarding the continuing mission of the church, and discussed fundraising and building plans.

EDITORIALS - OPINION

The following should be taken as financial *opinion* only; and not a definite statement as to what the stock market, which can be unpredictable and erratic, will do. It is presented for the purpose of stimulating thought, inquiry, and discussion of the subject matter. If the below strategy is being considered for one's investment, they should first discuss it, along with their investment objectives, with their stock broker, financial advisor, or bartender. Adam Steele is a Certified Public Accountant, but is not a registered financial advisor.

WEIGHING ONE'S OPTIONS

Stock options are often bought as a means of speculation and *leveraging* on the possibility of substantial capital gains if the stock goes up (call options) or down (puts). Essentially, the option buyer is betting that the stock will move dramatically, and the option premium is set to give him odds that it won't.

But here, we're not going to focus on the capital gain potential (which can be large, but "iffy") of buying options, we'll instead, look at the relatively secure income potential of *writing* (selling) *covered calls*. As we'll see, this can provide income of up to a 15%, or more, per annum return on investment, with minimal risk, and is not dependent upon which way the market goes. It makes fairly steady money whether the market moves up, down, or stays stationary. That's because in *writing covered calls*, one is, using our betting metaphor, taking the position of the "house".

Understanding one's options. Stock options are like options on real estate, or anything else. The buyer wants an opportunity to buy a stock, at a certain price (the *striking price*) over a certain *term*.

Letters to the Editor

READERS TOOT OUR HORN

We don't want to miss one copy. Keep up the good work.
-- A renewing subscriber from Williams, Minn.

Proposal to Abolish Cass Lake PD Draws Concern

I saw that at one time you ran an article on the city employee in Cass Lake being fired for his comments. It would be interesting to have you attend a city council meeting in Cass Lake to see the underhanded, sneaky dealings that go on.

One example is at their July 8, 2008 meeting that had "really nothing on the agenda" (told to the council member who called in about the meeting that had been changed from its normal Wednesday to Tuesday because he had a conflict for the new night. - Oh, did I mention the reason the meeting was changed was because another council member couldn't make it the regular night, but he is one of the mayor's supporters and a motion maker/seconder for the mayor?)

[At that meeting,] the city council voted to pass a resolution that will abolish our police force in the city of Cass Lake and turn coverage over to Cass County. When a member of the audience asked the mayor to read the resolution, he refused. Needless to say, the PUBLIC had no idea what the resolution was that was being

by Adam Steele, C. P. A.

He can *exercise* the option, or not, at his choice. And for the right to do this, he pays a *premium* up front. The seller, or *writer* of the option receives this premium.

Here, we'll deal with only one type of option - *covered calls*. To write a covered call, it is necessary that one first own, or buy, the stock.

Normally, people hold stock for 1) regular dividend income, and 2) capital gain potential if the stock goes up. Writing options on the stock, essentially, trades the capital gain element for substantially increased current income. The writer of the call must continue to hold the stock until the call is exercised or has expired, unless the writer buys the call back (a *closing transaction*), which sometimes can be done profitably, at less than the writer was paid for the call.

How it works. For the following example, we'll use ConocoPhillips (*market symbol: COP*) stock quotes as they were on 10/02/09. This is not necessarily a recommendation of that particular issue; the same concept could be used with any stock that one cares to own, which pays a reasonable

I don't buy or read the local newspapers (haven't for years); they don't live up to your standards of factual reporting.

Keep up the good work.
-- A renewing subscriber from Nevis, Minn.

voted on. He wouldn't even allow a council member to ask a question about it because he was afraid the audience would then know what it was. We found out after the vote and the resolution was given to the newspaper person.

This, after a public meeting on July 2, 2008 where Cass County stated that the money figure was not a for sure thing, that there were things that needed to be looked into.

The mayor may protest that he has no personal vendetta against our acting chief of police, but he sure has a funny way of showing it. The *Cass Lake Times* won't publish the exact dealings of the council meetings, I suppose in fear that the city will take their business elsewhere.

-- A concerned citizen of the city of Cass Lake

Pursuant to this letter, and other inquiries, we did attend some of those meetings. See Cass Lake Council Disbands Police, p. 2, this issue. For the earlier article referenced in this Letter, see Cass Lake Fires Free Help For "Comments" in NH of 01/21/08 at northernherald.com --Ed.

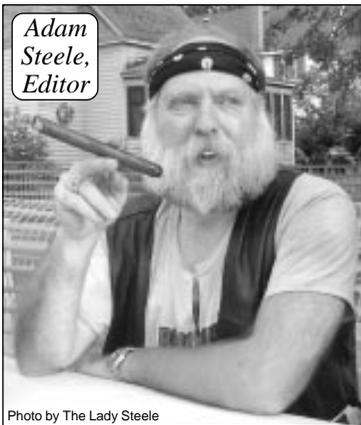


Photo by The Lady Steele

dividend, and trades options which carry a hefty premium based on *time-value*. On 10/02, the price was about 46.75; the mid-line *premium* on the *long-term call*, expiring in January, 2011, with a *striking price* of 45, was 7.23. This is how it pencils out if the investor buys the stock, and simultaneously sells a call; and thereafter the stock goes up and the call is exercised just before expiration (most calls are only exercised shortly before expiration). This example does not take into account purchase and sales commissions, which vary widely by broker, and affect profitability:

Buy 100 COP	\$ (4,675.)
Sell 1 call (Jan 2011 @ 45)	723.
Dividends through Jan 2011	235.
Exercise in Jan 2011 (sales proceeds)	4,500.
Net profit before commissions	783.

In this instance the investor has made a \$ 783 return, in 15 months, on \$ 4,675 - this annualizes to about 13.4%. But actually, it gets better. Since the stock is bought and the call is sold simultaneously, the net investment is only \$ 3,952 (4675-723), resulting in a 15.85% actual annual yield.

Although most calls are only exercised shortly before expiration, the buyer of the call *can* exercise at anytime. Here is the result of getting "*exercised on*" early, in June, 2010:

Buy 100 COP	\$ (4,675.)
Sell 1 call (Jan 2011 @ 45)	723.
Dividends through June 2010	141.
Exercise in Jan 2011 (sales proceeds)	4,500.
Net profit before commissions	689.

In this example, one has made \$689 in 9 months, on the same net investment of \$3,952. This annualizes to 23.24 %

If the stock declines to, or below, the striking price, and the option expires unexercised in Jan. 2011, the investor, then, would still have the stock, and would have received dividends of \$235, and the call premium of \$723, totalling \$958 (over 15 months), which annualizes to about a 19.4% annual return (less commissions) on the net investment of \$3,952.

But what if the stock goes down substantially? This risk can be mitigated some by writing the option at a lower striking price, trading some income for downside protection. Using the first example, but with a striking price of 35 (premium: \$1,333), the investor realizes \$393 profit on a net investment of \$3,342 (4675-1333); or an annualized return of 9.4% (less commissions). This would be so, without net loss on the stock, even if its price declined to 35.

Certain risks, including severe market decline of the underlying stock, can extend to persons who trade options. These risks should be discussed with a qualified stock broker or advisor before trading.

Options quotes may be found at: <http://www.morningstar.com/Cover/Options.aspx>

Some discount commission brokers include TD Ameritrade, Scottrade, and OptionsXpress; or google "discount option brokers".

Options may be traded in IRAs.

Writing covered call options will generally cause dividends on the underlying stock to not qualify for the reduced dividend tax rate, and be taxed as ordinary income.

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

AKELEY Bunyan's, Blue Ox Market **BAGLEY** Amstar Service, Tesoro Service **BEMIDJI** WAL-MART, Holiday (south location), U. S. Post Office (coin box in front) **BENEDICT** Ft. Benedict SuperStore **BRAINERD** Super-One Foods, U. S. Post Office (coin box in front), Walgreen's Drug **CASS LAKE** Che-Wa-Ka-E-Gon, Chucky's Chicken **COHASSET** River Rat Trading Post, SuperAmerica **COLERAINE** RJ Market **DEER RIVER** Cenex, Northern Star Foods **EMMAVILLE** Emmaville store **GRAND RAPIDS** Cub Foods, God's Country Outfitters, Reed Drug, RC's Spur, Sawmill Inn, SuperAmerica **HACKENSACK** Hackensack Liquor (bar), Mark's Market, Triple B Conv. Store **JENKINS** JM Speedstop & Amoco **KABEKONA** Lowell's Service **LAKE GEORGE** Woodland Store **LAPORTE** Laporte Service, Laporte Grocery **LONGVILLE** One Stop & bp (Amoco) 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 **RED LAKE** Red Lake IGA **REMER** Holter's Super Valu, Remer Junction Service, Spur Service & Conv., Woodsman Cafe **SOLWAY** Highway 2 Express **WALKER** Super-One Foods, Orton's **ALSO**, house copies of *Northern Herald* are available at finer restaurants throughout the region.

Take the money and run

fr.p.1 review hearing violated Rules 1.4(a) and 1.4(b), MRPC.

"3. Respondent's conduct in failing to maintain the unearned portions of complainant's retainer fee in a trust account at the conclusion of the OFP matter violated Rule 1.15(a), MRPC.

"4. Respondent's conduct in failing to render appropriate accounts to complainant of the funds he was holding violated Rule 1.15(c), MRPC.

"5. Respondent's unprofessional conduct warrants the issuance of an admonition."

The OLPR memorandum, which accompanied the admonition, states, in part, "Respondent knew complainant strongly wished to have custody or at least visitation rights with his two children. Despite this, respondent took no action to secure these rights for complainant, even after paternity and child support were established and ordered in March 2002. Respondent states that he took no action after March 2002 because complainant owed him \$700 Yet respondent did not withdraw from representing complainant"

Graber also claimed that when he finally hired another attorney, he had difficulty in procuring his files from Mr. Hayes, so to facilitate the new counsel to represent him in the case. OLPR, however, did not find that matter to warrant additional admonition.

In interview, Hayes, Esq. said, "He [Graber] wouldn't come in to see me. . . . He knew he owed me money and he wouldn't come in to take care of it, and I couldn't get him to come in to finish his case. . . . He still owes me three hundred and some dollars. . . . I refused to abandon him and he stung me for it."

In his papers before OLPR, though, Graber states that in 2003, "Mr. Hayes insisted that I still owed him \$700 and he would not meet with me unless I had the money for him." And on August 25, 2003, Hayes sent Graber a letter stating, ". . . The amount owed to me as of April 2, 2002 is \$700. Please remit the amount to the above address."

The documents, however, don't bear out Mr. Hayes's ciphering in this.

In its *findings of fact* OLPR recited that it found that Graber had paid Hayes a \$1,000 retainer on August 9, 2001; and another \$750 retainer, in a related case, on Dec. 18th, 2001, totalling \$1,750 paid.

"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 1132, 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 1132 Bemidji, MN (218) 759-1162

Publisher.....Northern Herald Publications, Inc. Est. circulation: 5,000
Editor.....Adam Steele Mail subscriptions: \$12/year

Published quarterly by Northern Herald Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 1132, Bemidji, MN 56619, for the benefit of the sane, normal and thinking people of Northern Minnesota; a distinct minority, but growing.

Bring in this ad to receive \$2 off the regular price of any menu pizza



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Editor's Recommendation: It isn't just hype that they've been voted Best Pizza Chain In America for 7 years in a row; this is quite possibly *one of the best pizzas* you've ever eaten, anywhere. And it comes fresh and hot from your oven, where you can enjoy it with a glass of Chianti and a good cigar, maybe while watching the game, or kissing your wife. Good cooks know that good cooking is no mystery; if you use fresh, wholesome, top-quality ingredients, what you're making will be delicious. And Papa Murphy's knows this too; just watch what they put on your pizza. Their full menu offers a lot that isn't here, and, after your first pizza, you'll never pay full price (very reasonable, anyway) again - you always get a coupon for at least a dollar off your next purchase. Plus, there's their pizza card, which gets you a free pizza. Papa Murphy's is doing a lot more to help in tough economic times than Bush's bank bailout ever did! The family size pizza will barely fit in your oven. There are times that you want to go out to a nice sit-down pizzeria or bar and have fun - this isn't for those times. This is for when you just want a really great pizza in the elegance and comfort of your own home, and you just want to pay for the good food - not the dumb events center. (Events, in Bemidji ??? Come on!!) Try this, and you will be back, time after time, and loving it! -- Ed.

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 1132, Bemidji, MN 56619

The Poison-Free Way To Deal With ~~Aunts~~ Ants

Yep, if you've got aunts in your cupboard, we can't help. But if they're simple ants, this works great and is totally safe for people, pets, and kids.

It's Johnson's *original* baby powder. Just sprinkle some where the ants are, across their trails, or on the shelf where you don't want them. It's that simple - the ants will be gone. But only the *original* fragrance, made with talc (not cornstarch) has been proven to work in our trials.

There are two contemporary theories as to why this works.

One theory: Ants inhaling the talc directly are asphyxiated by it. And the (original) fragrance confuses the other ants, who are then unable to follow the food scent (or ant scent) trail.

Our theory: Have you ever noticed that babies smell like baby powder? Could it be that baby powder is made from ground up babies? Ants detest babies (that's why you never see a baby covered with ants). So when they smell baby powder, they go somewhere else.

You can go on whichever theory you prefer, what counts is that this natural method works as well as insecticide, but without having to have poison on your shelves. The smell of baby powder, of course, is disgusting in itself, but it subsides (to people - not ants) after a day.

Another poison-free method is to use a preparation containing mint oil. Although mint oil seems to work initially (and it makes everything smell great), in our testing, the ants were back after a day or two. The baby powder method was simpler, cheaper, and much longer lasting.

"Boilerplate" Contracts Can Always Be Amended

We are becoming a more wordy society. If you doubt that, just look at how many words you're looking at right now. One of the downsides to this, though, is that, more and more, people are being asked to sign big, bulky contracts that, often, they don't completely read. This can happen whether one is buying an appliance, attending a real estate auction, opening a bank account, or settling a lawsuit, just to name a few.

Often, a pre-printed, boilerplate, contract is highly weighted in



Jerry Kapaun, Meat Mgr.

Here's The Beef!



a sanitary surface and runs them through the grinder (right) to become Coborn's top quality ground chuck for hamburgers, meat loaf, etc. Because it's ground right there, under Mr. Kapaun's supervision, Coborn's customers can know they're getting clean, fresh, and safe 100% beef - no fooling.

Chuck roast, anyone? *These lean and lovely cuts of beef chuck, if cooked to roasts, would adorn anyone's table. But that's not what they're destined for. In a few moments, the Park Rapids Coborn's meat-cutter, Jerry Kapaun, wearing sanitary hand coverings, cuts them on*



PARK RAPIDS -- Do you really know where the ground beef that you buy comes from? With recent outbreaks of e. coli and other maladies that come from unclean meat, more people are becoming conscientious about what they put on their family table.

Facts: 1) Contrary to popular belief, not all supermarket beef is USDA inspected. 2) Ground beef is particularly susceptible to contamination because it generally occurs on the *outside* of the cut of beef; with steaks and chops, a customer can see if they're clean,

only real assurance of quality that the customer has. 3) Some meat distributors add a "flavouring" solution to their ground beef (really, what other flavour does beef need?)

Fresh meat is special. Clearly, beef needs special professional attention and handling; so there are good reasons why Park Rapidsians might want to buy their meat only where it's cut fresh, right there, by a reputable butcher they can talk to.

For beef in the Park Rapids area, **Coborn's** clearly offers a superior product: all USDA-

Dependable Auto Service in Bemidji

For years, *Northern Herald* recommended The Auto Clinic as the place to get one's car fixed, honestly and dependably, in Bemidji. The quality of service there was due to their owner and lead mechanic, **Doug Rudduck**, a real, old-style mechanic who actually knows your engine, does all of the stuff that it needs (including the small stuff like checking vacuum lines, connections, etc., that otherwise might go unnoticed), and none of the expensive stuff that it doesn't need.

Then *The Auto Clinic* closed. There are other shops in town who

*YOU FIND IT ALL AT THE
 MART OF WAL!*

Coffeemakers for \$10.24 !

Nope, you didn't read that wrong. In an unadvertised great deal, the Bemidji **Wal-Mart** is selling **Rival** 12-cup electric coffeemakers for less than one might pay for just a replacement carafe for some other brands!

This isn't a special limited sale - it's Wal-Mart's regular everyday price at time of this writing.

This coffeemaker even has the fancies, like lighted "on" indicator, and a basket that stops the flow when the carafe is removed.

And buying the **Rival** coffeemaker helps provide work and raise the standard of living for people abroad, while saving you money, and making a good morning cup of Joe! *It's Win-Win!*

inspected, and very fresh, certified Hereford beef from midwestern farms, including, in their service case, ground beef that was ground that day, right there in the store, by professionals who saw, and can tell you what went into the grind, and priced competitively with other stores' products that might not offer these assurances.

A steak on a bun. For special dishes, even ground *sirloin* was available for not much more.

Said Coborn's meat manager, Jerry Kapaun, with 10 years in the business, "Yep, everything's got to be certified. . . [and] you've only got a limited time to . . . cut it . . . [and] get it out. . . We strive for the freshest meat possible - that's our goal, to make sure everything's fresh every day. . . We have many repeat customers - they just rave about the meat! . . . We're the only store around that's got certified Hereford beef."

Kapaun said that he prefers the taste of Hereford over Angus.

And Kapaun added, "It's the freshness," and that with other, pre-packaged, meat, "you don't know how long it's been all packaged up, repacked, and everything like that. And they [sometimes] add solutions [to expand the shelf life] - there's **no** solutions added to *our* meat."

A penny saved is a penny earned. --B. Franklin The Coborn's meat department has weekly specials, which are advertised with Coborn's other great deals, like a prior coupon special that offered Betty

If you removed all of the second-hand smoke from the environment today, the public health effect would be "zero to nil" - Dr. Daniel Weeks, leading epidemiologist and former Idaho state medical official

Read the comprehensive 39-year study, that showed that, notwithstanding the lies and nonsense some publicly-supported organizations try to feed the public,

Secondhand Smoke Never Killed Anyone

and does not cause the major lung and heart diseases attributed to it

in our issue of 10/25/04 in The Library, Vol. 10, at **northernherald.com**

or at **bmj.com** (in their archive issue of 17 May 2003, Vol. 326 (no. 7398), p. 1057) (This is the British Medical Journal site. The research was done in the U.S., but due, apparently, to political pressure in opposition to the scientific results, they would not be published here.)



Above, part of Coborn's fresh bakery case.

Below, each week's big specials flyer is displayed in the store, so it's easy for people to find the best deals!



Crocker® products (Hamburger Helper®, cake mixes, frostings, etc. -Mr. Crocker must really have it good) for as little as 67¢ per item. The store also has a **full bakery**, large fresh **produce** dept., **pharmacy**, and **video rentals**; and, at the time of this printing, is offering **5¢ off per gallon** on a 12-gallon fill at *Holiday*, with \$50 grocery purchase.

A NORTHERN HERALD INVESTIGATION

Did you get a HEADACHE after eating TURKEY?

The big holiday turkey is always a big part of the festive day. But if it makes you sick, it's no fun, and can ruin the occasion for all.

If you developed a **headache**, sickly feeling, or other malaise, after (i.e. within a few hours, or the next day) eating eating any brand of **turkey containing a "solution"** (this is in most commercially sold frozen turkeys, and is generally shown on the label in smaller print), please note the brand of the turkey, and where you bought it, if known; and contact this newspaper immediately at 218-759-1162, or email: editor@northernherald.com

Identities of persons responding will be kept confidential. Investigation results, if definitive, will be reported to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and USDA.

WHERE TO FIND IT

are *NH* recommended for specialized parts of the car: for radiators, it's **Scott's Radiator**; for trannies, it's **National Transmission**; for exhaust, **Kilde's Auto & Exhaust Center** is absolutely the place. But for general repair - tune-ups, engine work, electrical, brakes, etc. - a motorist in Bemidji didn't really know where to go.

Now, **Mr. Rudduck is back!** Motorists will find him at **Dondelinger's Service Dept.** still doing the same good auto and truck service as before, but with more space and a better-equipped (**Cont'd, "Auto Service," p. 11**)

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

Take the money and run

fr. p. 4
Itasca County, actually, warrants legislative (if not congressional) investigation.

People in Itasca County who have claimed persecution, particularly toward men involved in domestic matters, by a number of agencies there - a "system" that appears to be acting in concert to create an uneven playing field - have cited the lack of competent legal representation as a part of the problem, and that some local attorneys sometimes tend to play into the hands of the other side, rather than aggressively represent their clients, as the professional canons require.

Also, the system is designed so that in these matters, the woman receives virtually unlimited resources for free legal representation, while the man has to pay for his own counsel, which in the face of preliminary garnishments for child support, loss of earnings due to driver's license suspension, etc., he often cannot do. This lack of effective legal representation further tips the playing field. Without an attorney, most men do not know what to do, when confronted, alone, in court by the woman's battery of free (to her) lawyers.

These free lawyers and other legal assistance are provided by tax and grant funded agencies such as "Advocates For Family Peace", Legal Aid, the courts (by court-appointment of attorneys), certain county Social Services agencies, and others, which discriminate in their rendering of services, generally, in favour of the woman involved in the case. This may, of course, violate civil rights law, but nonetheless occurs. (For more fun reading on this, see **Grand Rapids Group Formed to Expose "Advocates"**, this issue.)

How we make welfare cases. Finally, we would be remiss to fail to mention the devastating and demoralizing effect that this one-sided system, aided by draconian Minnesota "child -support", OFP, and "social services" laws, as well as the leanings of the court system itself, has upon many men each year. The net result is that the woman simply goes on with her tramping career (and is, often, actually economically enriched by the breakup), while the man, even if in no way at fault, is plundered. He is often left penniless and jobless, and has to start over with almost

nothing. Some might not even try.

Prior to his breakup with **Adrienne Chase (aka Chase-Ruszczak)**, Graber was a hard-working (construction industry) family man, living in unholy union with Chase and their two children in his comfortable family home & grounds across the road from Moose Lake.

When, per Graber, Chase started taking exotic dancing jobs and staying out all night afterward, they separated. OFPs and child support orders were entered to garnish Graber's earnings until, with there still being an arrearage, his driver's license was revoked; so he could no longer get to construction sites to work. (We can also see that, in that circumstance, a guy might have little incentive to work - people on welfare are treated better.)

Within short order, his home was without electricity, and in time, it went into foreclosure.

Graber, unemployed, now lives in a rented trailer house without plumbing or electricity, on open land, north of Deer River. He is considering applying for Social Security Disability. He and his new female consort recently had a child, which may qualify them for welfare.

Chase, on the other hand, went on to move in with and marry a man, Chris Ruszczak, in Keewatin. Within a short time, Chris had the need to file for an Order For Protection against her; and Chase filed for divorce (case No. 31-FA-05-4438), which was granted Nov. 17th 2005. Chris died shortly thereafter. Although the marriage was quite brief, Chase demanded an interest in the car and house belonging to Chris's estate; it is reputed that rather than spend time and money in litigation, Chris's heirs (his parents) reached an agreement with Chase to settle the matter.

A Higher Court Takes Jurisdiction. On June 16th, 2009, while riding her Harley Davidson motorcycle, Adrienne Chase, 44, was killed when a car turned left in front of her, at the intersection of Highway 169 and 65 in Nashwauk.

More Fun! For further reading on the Graber/Chase matter, including how these corrupt and maligned (our opinion), and tax-expensive proceedings happen, see **Deer River Couple Battles For Parental Rights (NH of 10/25/04)**, **Graber Hearing Gains Little Ground (NH of 12/20/04)**, and **Graber Case Dismissed (NH of 3/7/05)**; all in *The Library*, Vol. 10, at northernherald.com

FOLLOW-UP

Hackensack Restores Welcoming, Order

HACKENSACK -- Over the years, the City of Hackensack, about 12 miles S of Walker, has built up a reputation as one of the best, most welcoming, towns to visit most any time of year.

Hackensack has a very innovative Chamber of Commerce where the businesses brainstorm over activities that they might have that will be fun for visitors - from the every Tuesday Kids' Fishing Contests in the summer, to the fall International Chainsaw Carving Competition. The mood of the town is relaxed, country, and hospitable.

But within a short time, an errant (our opinion) new police chief, Joe Hastings, dashed the reputation which Hackensack residents and businesses have worked for years to build up; and instead established Hackensack as a speed-trap, and a place where visitors would be harassed (See **Hackensack Residents Air Complaints, NH of 6/16/08**, at northernherald.com).

Hackensackians, though, knew what to do. Last fall, long-time Hackensack police chief Mel Rateike, whose retirement after

servicing Hackensack for 17 yrs. prompted the hiring of Hastings, agreed to come out of retirement and run for Mayor.



Mayor Mel Rateike

His win in Nov., '08, and the resultant city council vote, sent Officer Hastings packing; and restored Hackensack to the hospitable place that it had always been.

(Hastings had recently acquired body armour and a taser, and, townspeople said, he had already misused the latter.)

In order to exfoliate Hastings, Hackensack made the decision to disband their own police dept. and, instead, contract services from the very able Cass Co. Sheriff, Randy Fisher. They may, however, later elect to re-establish their own department, with a different chief.

Meanwhile, on Mayor Rateike's suggestion, the City acquired two "silent policemen" which stand at the city limits and alert drivers to when they may have forgotten to slow down. This voluntary compliance measure, reportedly, is working well.

Batchelder Charges

fr. p. 3
since May 17th, 2009, through his arrest on June 22nd, 2009. Court records contain a log of 55 calls allegedly made by Batchelder to Brunette (she eventually blocked calls from his number) during the period from May 11th through May 14th, 2009. The criminal complaint alleges that Batchelder came to Brunette's place of employment and left notes on her car "at least once a day". A neighbour stated that Batchelder would place 5 gallon buckets alongside Brunette's trailer home and climb up on them to peer into her windows. On June 19th, 2009 Brunette filed for a Harassment Restraining Order stating, in her affidavit, that Batchelder was checking her mail box, "tried [sic] breaking in my car . . . [and] came in my house to steal my phone so he could see who's calling me. . . ."

Batchelder has been a key figure in the Beltrami County Republican Party, sometimes considered by some the "law & order" party, and also known for supposed strong Christian values; Batchelder was the campaign manager for former Republican State Representative Doug Fuller, has backed many other candidates, and last fall hosted a campaign appearance by Sarah Palin's husband at Bemidji Woolen Mills. In 2006, these hypo-christians (our opinion) backed the Reverend David C. Myers, Pastor of Ridgewood Baptist Church, Bemidji, as their candidate for State Rep.

Per the filed complaint, in connection with a police incident of May 17, 2009, Batchelder told Bemidji Police that "he co-signed a loan on . . . [Brunette's trailer home] . . . and was making payments on her behalf in exchange for her promise not to date other men."

In the police call of May 26th, 2009, to "remove one", BPD Officer Seaberg stated in his report that Brunette and her new "John" informed Seaberg "that Batchelder had been at the residence . . . [the night before] . . . pounding on the windows and door, cussing and swearing at both of them." The report reflects that Officer Seaberg advised Batchelder "to quit calling . . . [John] . . . at work and following him around town or he [Batchelder] could be charged with harassment."

Batchelder was finally arrested June 22nd, following an incident where at about 10 p.m., Batchelder was allegedly parked, watching Brunette's residence. Batchelder was using his son's red Chevy S-10 pickup with topper at the time, rather than his own vehicle (a green '98 Chevy pickup, license # NXP 590) which had been identified in previous police reports.

Responding to the June 22nd call were Bemidji Police Officers Markert and Amsden, who, on inspecting the vehicle, found an opened 12-pack of Michelob Golden Draft beer. Batchelder tested .03 blood alcohol (.08 is unlawful intoxication, when driving). The report does not reflect whether an open container was found in the vehicle.

Batchelder was released June 24th, on \$2,000 bail and conditions, as set by Judge Schluchter. A no-contact restraining order was issued June 29th, 2009 by Judge Benshoof; and a separate no-contact order was issued July 9th, 2009 by Judge Schluchter. A *contested omnibus hearing* was convened October 6th, 2009 at 1:30 p.m., before Judge Benshoof, at the Beltrami County Courthouse; at which time jury trial was scheduled for 9:00 a.m., Dec. 15, 2009, also before Judge Benshoof.

The three charges, characterized as "Harassment/Stalking" under

subparagraphs (one count under each) 2 (2), 2 (4), and 2 (6) of M.S. 609.749 are all gross misdemeanors, each carrying a maximum penalty of 1 yr. and/or \$3,000 fine.

Batchelder's attorney, Tom Kuesel, of Bemidji, had filed a motion to dismiss the count under M.S. 609.749 Sub. 2 (6), for lack of probable cause, but withdrew the motion at the omnibus hearing. Representing the State is Aaron K. Jordan of the Cass Co. Attorney's Office. Jordan was appointed as Special Prosecutor by Beltrami County Attorney Tim Faver, possibly for reason of conflict of interest.

Editor's Note: Although the arrest was in June, as of August 12th, when we posted this article to the Northern Herald web site, we could find no mention of this case in the other Bemidji newspaper, The Pioneer (owned, like many North Central Minnesota papers, by The Fargo Forum). But then, Bemidji Woolen Mills has, over the years, placed a lot of advertising with The Pioneer. To be fair, this type of circumstance would present an ethical quandary to any paper, which is why it is good that, in the North Central Minnesota communities we serve, there is more than one of them.

And now a few words from our sponsor:

"And Isaac brought her [Rebekah] into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; . . ."
-- Genesis 24:67

From this, we see that when a man and a woman are bound by the flesh and by the spirit, they are then considered married. Should they be bound by the flesh, but not the spirit, that is mere fornication, which is discouraged because it fails in ultimately enhancing one's quality of life, and can, in fact, complicate and reduce it. Being bound in the flesh to more than one person ultimately reduces the quality of the marriage to either; offspring produced in this context will also suffer; and the lives of all concerned will be greatly complicated, and sometimes resulting in great enmity among men. So The Bible commands, **"Thou shalt not commit adultery."** -- **Exodus 20:14** Adultery, as used here, refers only to being bound in the flesh to a woman who is the wife of another. It was common and permitted, under the Bible, for a man to have several wives concurrently.

In these days of great promiscuity, and end-on-end "relationships", each, for the woman, being an adultery on those former, the question arises as to whether one is married, under The Bible, to all of the people, then, with whom they have been bound by the flesh and the spirit. The answer, of course, is yes, they are. There are everlasting bonds between them which are intensified if offspring result. In the spiritual sense, a man might have many wives (and in The Bible, many did), and a woman many husbands. But a woman having more than one husband, and particularly having mixed offspring by same, greatly complicates her life, compromises both (or all) marriages by making it impossible for her to perform under Genesis 3:16 (post); and, generally, does a disservice to her offspring. The Bible and history of man favours lifelong unbroken marriage; and contemporarily, the single union of one man and one woman, for a lifetime, is easier to maintain, leads to a higher quality of life, and greater prosperity, for both of them and their offspring.

To this end of lifelong unbroken marriage and greatest fruits of it, The Bible commands certain conduct and roles of the

man and of the woman. It should be noted that The Bible is not at all gender-neutral, stating, **"And [Providence] said, Let us make man in our image . . ."** -- **Genesis 1:26** and [immediately prior to creating woman] **"I will make him a help meet for him."**

The Bible draws a solid distinction between man and woman and they are not, in any way, equal. This is fortunate as each has their own talents and assets, which are complimentary. By definition, their marriage is holy - it makes a whole. If they were equal, there would be no need for one to find the other, and also, there could be great abominations.

Today, one would not buy a bottle of Tylenol® on which the factory-seal had been broken. That seal is there to let one know that it has not been adulterated or tampered with. As a practical matter, and further defining woman from man, Providence placed upon her, similarly, a seal; that her future husband might know that she is not bound in the flesh to any other.

The Bible continues to define man and woman and their roles in marriage, **" . . . thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee."** -- **Genesis 3:16**

This guidance, in marriage, is essential. No ship has two captains. If it did, it would be cloven in twain as they tried to sail in different directions. So is a marriage cloven when spouses, each, decide to do things their separate ways. Marriage is like a dance - two people, each moving harmoniously to the same music. For this to happen, one of them has to lead, and one has to follow. The Bible, thusly, provides these words of wisdom for those who seek the great benefits, joys, and enhanced quality of life that lifelong union brings.

This poses a quandary, however, if a woman has been adulterous, and so has more than one husband. It will not be possible for her to be ruled by all of them, and so will be a suitable wife to none. She may find her calling amongst the ranks of "independent women" - those found in barrooms and walking the streets - who will serve no one man, and so must serve them all.

But, if she desires a complete and holy marriage for the remainder of her time, she must, the bonds with some of the men to whom she had become bound notwithstanding, decide which of them she will follow, and, if he accepts her, from then on, uphold all of her Biblical duties to him as if she were a maiden when they were first bound and, for all purposes and in all ways, continue as if she was never bound by the flesh to any other. If she can do this consistently and in all ways, in time, it will become as if her holy seal was in place when she first met her husband.

In the matter of Mr. Batchelder and Miss Brunette, if they were bound in the flesh and in the spirit, then they were married as surely as were Isaac and Rebekah; and thusly subject to the same guidance that The Bible provides for other married couples.

A holy marriage must be everlasting. If it is to be judged, that judgement can come only when one or another of the spouses has left this earth. Only then can it be determined if it was everlasting and holy. A man must not put out his wife, because that makes her an adulteress; neither shall a woman leave her husband, as treachery is hated and is to be avoided.

Had these simple Biblical tenets been followed, we believe, a lot of the Batchelder mess, with its public expense, toil, consequences, and humiliation, could, also, have been avoided.

"The Coyote" KKWB 102.5 Celebrates First Year In Bemidji!

BEMIDJI -- The latest addition to Edward Delahunt's famed KK radio network, out of Park Rapids, Minn., is now broadcasting in Bemidji. On Nov. 5th, 2008, KKWB "The Coyote" became operational, at 102.5 on the FM dial, becoming the KK network's 8th station in west central Minnesota. The KK network broadcast range now extends from Brainerd to north of Bemidji.

Their other stations are located in Verndale, Staples/Wadena (KSKK), and Walker (KQ102-light rock; KAKK 1570 AM-classic rock); as well as their flagship stations (KKDK, 97.5 FM-beautiful music; KPRM 870 AM; and "Hot Country" 92.5 FM) in Park Rapids.

The new station's studio and office is located at 4th & Beltrami Ave., Bemidji, which was, in summer, 2008, remodeled for the move-in by owner Edward "Butch" Delahunt Jr. The broadcast studios feature "aquarium-style" outside windows, so people on the street can actually watch the DJs broadcasting live in the studios.

"[We're] trying to really make it something that the community can stop by, see how radio is done, really become a community presence," Butch said. The station is managed by Butch's brother, Richard Delahunt, who recently left the corporate world and moved to Bemidji to work with the new station.

With a "Hot Country" (Top 40) music format, KKWB is a CBS news affiliate, carrying CBS radio news on the hour, and up-to-date weather facilitated by KKDK's colour weather radar at Park Rapids, which tracks storms throughout the entire network's listening areas. The information, as storms move through the area, is broadcasted on all 8 stations.



The Delahunt family has broadcasting in its blood. This is the 47th year of radio for Edward Sr., who has been inducted into the Broadcasting Hall of Fame, and Edward "Butch" Delahunt Jr., above, owner of the new Bemidji FM station, has been in the broadcast industry since he was 12.

Said Butch, "It's hard even on a vacation day for any of us not to start talking radio . . . I'm really looking forward to bring what we know, from a family-run business in Northern Minnesota, to Bemidji, Minnesota!"

From a marketing standpoint, Butch said, "What we are trying to do is bring affordable radio to the advertiser. We can cut our overhead . . . so that [businesses] can use radio and it becomes affordable as an advertising medium. . . ." He explained that the FM station is 50,000 watts, so it reaches all the way up to Red Lake.

The Delahunts may also bring a new AM station to Bemidji. With its studios also at the same downtown Bemidji location, the 15 kilowatt station, WBKK, would be at 820 on the AM dial. Although precise program details are still being worked out, the prospective AM station could, sometimes, actually feature *the voice of Northern Minnesota, Ed Delahunt, Sr.!*

"We look to bring live, local, radio to Bemidji!" Butch said.

Watt Computer Solutions Continues With New Look, New Management

JENKINS -- With the departure from this earth of founder, Bill Watt, in Sept. 2008, the computer sales and service store, *Watt Computer Solutions*, has moved

two blocks south of its previous location, to 34046 St. Hwy. 371 (where the Spur service station was) in Jenkins, Minn. Their phone number remains 218-568-5780.

Watt Computer Solutions is now operated by Roman Siltman, of Pequot Lakes, who has worked at Watt since 2003, and who continues in the store's tradition of offering complete new and used

computer sales, including a full line of computers with Windows® XP; and service of *all* computers as well as supplies and components.



Above, Mr. Siltman assists a customer by phone at Watt's new location

The Law. 29 CFR (OSHA) states, as regards those beeping "reverse signal alarms":
Section 1926.601(b)(4) - No employer shall use any motor vehicle equipment having an obstructed view to the rear unless: The vehicle has a reverse signal alarm audible above the surrounding noise level or The vehicle is backed up only when an observer signals that it is safe to do so.

Section 1926.602(a)(9)(ii) - No employer shall permit earthmoving or compacting equipment which has an obstructed view to the rear to be used in reverse gear unless the equipment has in operation a reverse signal alarm distinguishable from the surrounding noise level or an employee signals that it is safe to do so.

As can be seen, the backup alarms aren't mandatory at all. **They don't have to be used if** i) the operator can see to the rear (this can be accomplished with the aid of mirrors or now-inexpensive on-board cameras) **or** ii) the contractor has an employee signal when it's safe to back up.

In populated areas, either of these methods is preferable to blanketing whole neighbourhoods with that infernal beeping.

Further, in those instances where, for some reason, a "reverse signal alarm" has to be used, it need be only a bit louder than the

other construction noise.

The tendency of contractors is to take the easy way out and make their equipment alarms super-loud, so to cover all contingencies, everywhere, without adjustment. But this, again, is particularly disturbing to area residents, and more of them. The "reach" of the alarm is usually much greater than it needs to be. A California operators' training manual suggests that the backup alarm be loud enough to be heard 200 ft. away - not a quarter-mile away. And there are alarms available that automatically adjust their volume

NOISE POLLUTION ON THE INCREASE IN GREATER MINNESOTA

That Infernal "Beep-Beep-Beep"

In more of Minnesota's smaller cities, notably Bemidji, both private developers and the cities themselves are going forward with building projects contracted wholly without regard to the rights of existing residents and neighbourhoods to have the quiet enjoyment of their premises. As a result, living in formerly peaceful neighbourhoods can be quickly transformed to be like living on a construction site.

Particularly annoying is the piercing and ongoing "beep-beep-beep" of the heavy equipment backup alerts. This sound, which can carry for a quarter mile or more, is impossible to sleep through in the early morning (it's essentially the same sound that your alarm clock makes - it's designed to wake you up), and becomes more tedious to homeowners as it continues throughout the day. Even if the equipment, itself, isn't a bother, these backup alerts usually are.

Who do we have to thank for this? Well, OSHA, of course; but OSHA regs aren't actually as onerous and mandatory as the building contractors and city managers would have you believe. On making a complaint, a homeowner might be told, "It's an OSHA reg. OSHA requires that we invade your house and yard with beeping noise - there's nothing we can do." But that's not actually so.

to only be 10 db over the surrounding noise level. Those concerned about noise pollution impacting their quality of life in Northern Minnesota may want to insist that their city and county codes incorporate these noise abatement policies for all construction and other heavy equipment use; and incorporate them into all contracting job specs.

that's important to her; she said that she works at Scenic Rivers because she prefers to practice in an environment which allows her to devote adequate time to each patient's diagnosis and care. CAHS operates 5 medical clinics, including at Bigfork and Big Falls, and 2 dental clinics. Scenic Rivers clinic at Northome: 218-897-5222

*Sliding Fee Scale eligibility is based on family size and annual income. A short application form is available. Scenic Rivers also accepts Medicare, Medicaid/MNCare/PMAP. CAHS is a Federally Qualified Health Center and is funded in part by a grant from the Bureau of Primary Health Care.

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TO YOUR HEALTH

For Mature Gentlemen who don't like waking up in the middle of the night to use that little room down the hall, try *Beta Sitosterol*. It's not a prescription - it's an over-the-counter nutritional supplement available from *Swanson* vitamins, and others. Now, the FDA

(Federal Dumb Administration) requires us to tell you that this isn't a drug, and only a drug can cure a disease, such as prostate problems.

But *NH* has had an old man independently test *Beta Sitosterol*, and we can say that taking one capsule of it, each night before you retire, will probably make you a happier, and better rested, person.

Finally, A Blood Pressure Medicine That Doesn't Slow You Down

Blood pressure is important to reduce stroke and cardiac risk, as well as risk of kidney, retinal, and other problems. But a lot of people don't take it because of the "slow-down" side effects. Now, a relatively new drug, **Bystolic**, blocks cardiac "beta", often without noti-

cably affecting the rest of the body.

As with all medications, there can be side effects, and drug interactions, and no medication is right for everybody. Readers interested in whether Bystolic may be right for them should ask their physician. Bystolic is a relatively expensive medication, but it does qualify for Forest Pharmaceuticals' Patient Assistance Program (see next article, below)

No-Cost Medications Available To Low-Income and Uninsured Patients Through Manufacturers' Programs

In recent years, both retailers, and the drug manufacturers themselves, have done a lot to ensure that medication is available to everyone. Retailers such as *Wal-Mart* and *Walgreens* have each introduced steep discounts, and many prescriptions can be as low as \$4 for a month's supply.

people who need them as possible, whether or not they can afford them, have *Patient-Assistance Programs* in place to provide the newer, higher-priced medications, *often without charge*, to low-income people who do not have insurance that covers prescriptions.

Some newer drugs remain pricey, though. It is a credit to the ingenuity and efforts of U.S. drug companies that these, sometimes miracle, drugs are now available. It is thanks to them that many ailments that were a simple "death sentence" a few years ago can now be treated and cured. But the research and development that made these treatments possible comes at a cost that they must recover, to stay in business and continue to invent needed medicine.

How It Works: For qualifying patients, the drug companies ship the medication directly to their Doctor or Nurse Practitioner who can then dispense it to the patient without charge. Generally, to qualify for the programs, both the medical practitioner and the patient must provide brief information confirming need for the medication on a short and simple form.

Most major drug companies, though, in an effort to make their products available to as many

To ascertain if one's medication is covered by a manufacturer's program, and other program details, readers may go to <http://www.rxassist.org/patients/default.cfm>



The Scenic Rivers Health Services clinic, in Northome, is a division of the nonprofit Cook Area Health Services Inc. (CAHS) and offers office calls on a sliding-scale program, as low as \$20 per visit. But for Jill*



Case, Nurse-Practitioner at Northome, it's the quality of patient services that's important to her; she said that she works at Scenic Rivers because she prefers to practice in an environment which allows her to devote adequate time to each patient's diagnosis and care. CAHS operates 5 medical clinics, including at Bigfork and Big Falls, and 2 dental clinics. Scenic Rivers clinic at Northome: 218-897-5222

The Magic Of

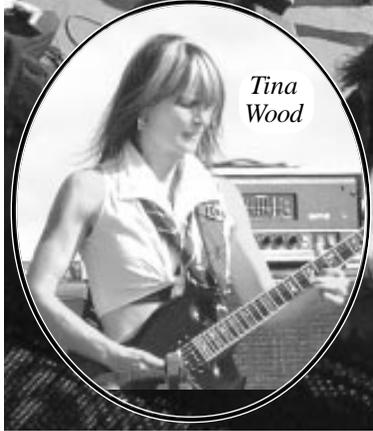
MOONDANCE!

WALKER -- No Sweat! The weather was mostly fair, and quite mild this year - the highest highs were only in the 70s, often cooler - and it brought people out in droves filling the stagefront sand lot, lawn chair seating areas, VIP tent, elevated stageside viewing platforms, campgrounds, on-site saloons, and most every other nook and cranny, for the 18th performance of the nation's premiere classic rock festival, held each year at Walker, Minn., *Moondance Jam!*

As always, the recount of highlights of the jam, even with pictures, only scratches the surface and nowhere near captures the entire Moondance Experience. To understand why people come back year after year, *you just gotta be there!*

Top right, one of the biggest draws of the 2009 Moondance Jam was the highly animated girl band, *ThundHerStruck*, which, at their early Saturday evening performance on the Main Stage, filled the sand lot in front of the stage, and packed in fans all the way back to the MDJ Saloon.

Based in L.A. and billing themselves as an AC-DC tribute band, this is their third appearance at Moondance. Now with their own CDs available, *ThundHerStruck* went to Iraq in 2008 to entertain the troops there and is planning to do it again this year. "Those are my favourite tours - love doing those," said lead guitarist Tina Wood, adding that there are also, "a bunch of festivals, a bike run coming up, just a lot of cool stuff, really, happening; it's been awesome!" Originally from England, Miss Wood earned her college diploma in musical instrument technology. Certified, then, as a Luthier in modern fretted guitars, she worked as a guitar repair technician in the west end of London, while performing with several other bands before joining *ThundHerStruck*. After their performance, *ThundHerStruck* band members spent several hours, stageside, meeting their many Minnesota fans (the line was huge) and autographing CDs and other memorabilia for them. For more band info, schedule, etc.: www.ThundHerStruck.com



Tina Wood



Stephanie Leigh

The Vendors & Moon Food

It's a gastronomic experience, but almost impossible to try *all* of the great Moon Food vendors. So Moondancers have to choose from things like fry bread tacos, gyros, cheese curds, turkey drumsticks, corn dogs, pulled pork sandwiches, ribs, lemonade, tropical fruit smoothies, tasty desserts, and Kona coffee, just to name a few. And from elegant ladies' wear to household novelties, shoppers find merchandise that one just doesn't see elsewhere.



At right, particularly ornate serpentine neckwear by BICO, Australia

At right, Tommy (inset) of Tommy's Treats, Walker, serves up wraps, and desserts, including his decadent chocolate covered cheesecake.



This unpretentious trailer stand, at right, was one of the best Moon Food deals on the grounds. Their product was elk brats and bison brats, some made with wild rice or jalapeno peppers, all delicious, and only \$4 each. The stand was operated by Upinabe Enterprises, based in the Brainerd/Mille Lacs area. We hope they're back next year!



Moondance Staff and Security

It's the infrastructure at Moondance that makes the Moondance work, and work better than most other music fests. Although now huge, Moondance remains a family operation - Mr. & Mrs. Bieloh hand pick the staff and sizable security force, including many law enforcement officers from nearby jurisdictions, to ensure that everybody can have a good time. And the Bielohs are always personally on the grounds to make sure that everyone does! It's a different kind of music fest and officers have told *Northern Herald* that, given the fun-loving and law-abiding crowd, security at Moondance isn't hard; unlike at some other fests, incidents are rare. (In our four days covering Moondance 2009, we didn't even *smell* any killer weed.) Below left, one doesn't always think of these guys, while watching the big acts on the Main Stage; but if a guy couldn't park his car, he wouldn't be watching. Here, Tony Sperle (left), and Andy Boos, both of Park Rapids, attend one of the Moondance parking areas, keeping it streamlined, smooth and easy. *Moondance Class* all the way! Mr. Sperle said that the hours are long (8 a to 10 p), but it's his 5th year



here, and, even working, one can't be on the grounds and not have fun. After work the night before, they still had time to see Journey, and Mr. Sperle said "they're a bad ... [rear]". (Note: in this context and usage, "a bad ... [rear]" actually means "very good" -- Ed.) This is Mr. Boos's 4th year working at Moondance.

The Many Corners



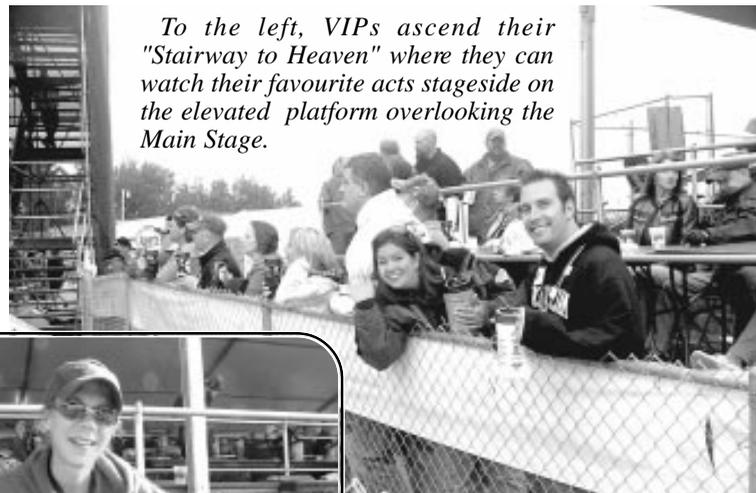
of Moondance

VIPing

At right, VIP Lisa DeGeese, of Motley, Minn., enjoys her prime rib dinner, with a tall Moondance Mug, and a smoke, while watching the Main Stage show from the VIP viewing area right in front. VIPs get all the beer and JD cocktails they want, discounts on other drinks, meals, and a whole host of other amenities. Said DeGeese, "It's been great, the food's been awesome! ... This is



my first year and it was great and I'm definitely gonna do it again!" Nearby were VIPs Joe and Patty. Joe said that VIPing is the only way to go, "I'd recommend it [VIPing]. I came for five years without [a] VIP [ticket], and won't come back again without it."



To the left, VIPs ascend their "Stairway to Heaven" where they can watch their favourite acts stageside on the elevated platform overlooking the Main Stage.

The MDJ Saloon

For bona-fide industrial-strength hard rockers, this was the place to find it at Moondance 2009. With its big wood floor, for all music genres, this is also the best place to dance on the grounds, as well as an indoor place where people come to sit and relax in hospitable saloon ambience. During Moondance 2009, the MDJ Saloon hosted 17 regional and national bands, performing 23 sets over 4 days (including the Wednesday evening pre-jam). Below, fans pack the MDJ Saloon, overflowing to the knoll, outside, to watch Mountain Ash (also at lower right inset), near sunset, Wednesday. At right inset, Sister's Attic lead singer Heather Alexander; at lower left inset, Hairball. At center inset, Troy and Barb Becker, from Maple Lake, and friend (on right), enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of the MDJ Saloon.





The Moondance Main Stage

Above, **Journey** featured pianist Jonathan Cain on their hit, "Open Arms" and coming on just after 11 p.m., kept the crowd packed into the sand lot 'til almost 1 a.m., performing their top tunes, including "Any Way You Want It", and "Midnight Train".

This year, 14 acts graced the Moondance Main Stage. Opening the stage Thursday, July 16th, were top performers Journey, Sheryl Crow, Kansas, Foghat, and Shooting Star; followed, Friday, by Zed Leppelin, the Spin Doctors, Lita Ford, Whitesnake, and Judas Priest. Saturday saw performances

by ThundHerStruck, Grand Funk Railroad, Asia, and Yes.

Celebrating their 35th anniversary this year, **Kansas** performed hits including *Dust In The Wind*, *Hold On*, *Down The Road*, and *Carry On Wayward Son*.

This tour also marked the 40th year of **Grand Funk Railroad**.

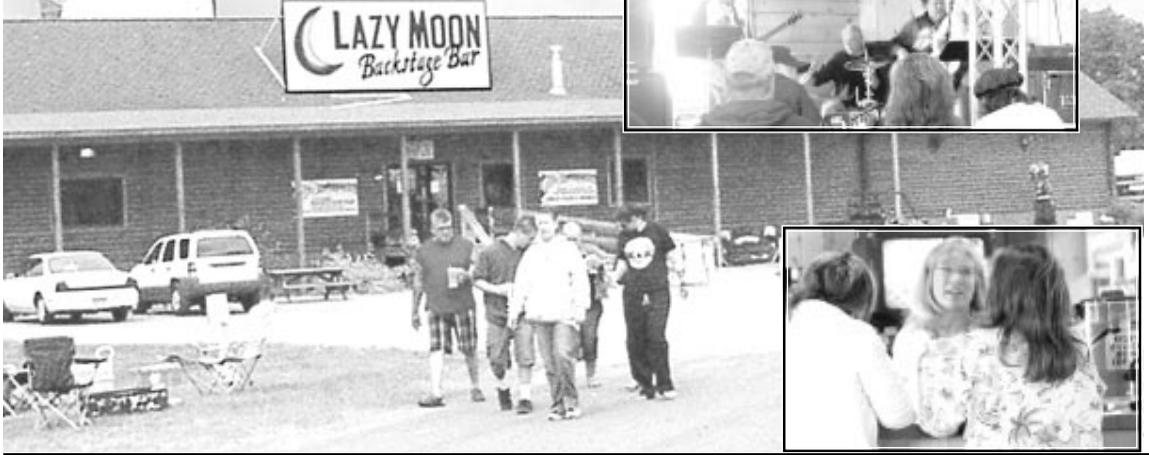


Crowing at Moondance! Sheryl Crow and her troupe, on the Moondance Main Stage, July 16th, 2009. Clockwise from top left, Jon Button, bass guitar; Peter Stroud, guitar; Jeremy Stacey, drums; Mike Rowe, keyboard; and at center, Sheryl Crow on acoustic guitar. Crow performed many of her own hits including *All I Wanna Do*, *If It Makes You Happy*, and *Soak Up The Sun*, and a tune from her new Album "Revelation"; as well as the Cat Stevens (yep, his music is coming back) tune, "The First Cut Is The Deepest".

The Lazy Moon Saloon and Backstage Bar. One of Moondance's distinguishing elements is its diversity of environments and music genre - there's something for everyone. If one doesn't want to listen to rock on the Main Stage, they can relax, get a drink or a top-quality sit-down restaurant meal, and listen or dance to the talented, more mellow, artists on the Lazy Moon's Acoustic Stage. Below, at upper right inset, the **Key West Rejects** play very listenable and dancable hits from the 70s and 80s during Saturday's hearty AYCE Bloody Mary breakfast buffet. Eggs, links, hash browns, biscuits & gravy, danish, fresh fruit, and a Bloody Mary that's perfect because you make it yourself - what a great way to start each Moondance day! The Lazy Moon is just behind the Main Stage, and adjacent to the South Reserved campground, and it features seating in its indoor rustic wood environs, as well as elegant screened decks where fans can watch all of the backstage action as their favourite acts arrive. At left, Moondancers enjoy food and drink as a celebrity bus rolls in. At lower right inset, Lazy Moon proprietress, Kathy Bieloh, shown consulting with her staff at the coffee bar, ensures the quality and great service. It's Moondance-Class all the way!



At left, Moondancers enjoy food and drink as a celebrity bus rolls in. At lower right inset, Lazy Moon proprietress, Kathy Bieloh, shown consulting with her staff at the coffee bar, ensures the quality and great service. It's Moondance-Class all the way!



The Moon And Stars When it's Every-one's Time . . . to Shine !



The Campgrounds

Below, inflatable ladies, as well as some real ones, sunbathe and ride motorcycle at this camo tent, which is the Moondance home of several

Marine and Army vets of both genders. At inset, under the camo mesh are "Doc",



Mike, Tevis, and "Crazy". They said that they've been to six or seven Moondances, and this was the best one so far, although Doc remembered Pat Benatar from a few years ago, and said that she was his all-time favourite Moondance act. "She rocked the house," he said.

Team Canada Visits Margaritaville! Below, one never knows what's going to be going on at the corner of Tequila Ave. and Lime Lane, but one can bet it'll be fun!



Below, the creators of the Flintstones' "Bedrock" campsite took top campsite awards on the Main Stage, Saturday. The site included a working Flintstones car.



Below, tent campers Tom Humphrey and Teresa rode in from the Brainerd area on their Harley.



Above, between shows, Chad Smith, of Pinewood, plays with his balls in the south campground.

To AMERICA - A Tribute To The Troops



Thousands of small hand flags were passed out to the crowd, who wave them enthusiastically as the American Legion Honour Guard, Post 202, of Hackensack, and the Spencer-Ross Post (#134), of Walker, present the national colours, Saturday afternoon, as "God Bless America" and "The Star Spangled Banner" are sung.

Dates Set For 2010 Moondance, and Jammin' Country

The dates are now certain for Moondance 19, and for the fourth Moondance Jammin' Country fest. Moondance Jam will be July 15th - 17th, 2010. Jammin' Country will be June 17th - 19th, 2010. For information and tickets, readers may visit <http://moondancejam.com> and <http://www.jammincountry.com> or call 1-877-MOONJAM.

The Lazy Moon restaurant and saloon can be reserved, year-around, for weddings, reunions or other private parties. For info, readers may call 218-836-1055 or visit moondanceevents.net Also available are the Moondance Jam Saloon & Grill, Moondance Fields (softball) and the luxurious rustic lodging (near Walker, Minn.) Moondance Guesthouse.

Bemidji Hospitality

from p. 3

People in the Church have always been hospitable to people that are hungry, people that are homeless, people that are naked, people who need health care, people who need after-care after they got out of jail or treatment; the Church has always been there for people like that," he said, "we're just doing Church work. . . . We never turn anybody away. We try to explain to them, it's not, like, real comfortable.

"In the beginning, the only thing we were concerned about was people freezing to death [if they were left outside]. . . . Then, people began [pooling their food and] cooking together, here. . . . When you're homeless, you don't have a place to cook. . . . [There were] numerous families, you know, single-parent families, with three or four kids, living in their cars, in the summer, and then they would come here to cook their food."

The kitchen has pots and pans, and full service dinnerware, cups, and utensils for use by guests; and there is also a common room with TV, cards, cribbage boards, etc.

Although the presence of the People's Church once raised a few eyebrows in the neighbourhood, Pastor Kelly said that that has changed, "People don't say bad things to us. . . . most of the people within 300 feet of us have probably moved here *after* we were here. . . . Plus, People's Church owns 3 homes on the block (used for transition rentals), and then, my wife and I own 2 homes. . . . across the street. The neighbourhood has changed a lot. . . . people are more respectful of us than they used to be. . . ."

The Pastor said that the Church recently received the commitment of a \$75,000 matching grant from ELCA to construct a new addition which will be in compliance with Bemidji codes, and also be in compliance to have a Parish Health Ministry (if the City will allow special use zoning for it); but to get the grant, they have to raise the matching funds. Undaunted, though, the Church had planned to break ground in spring, 2009.

As the time approached, however, People's Church was turned down, by the Bemidji/Beltrami Joint Planning Board for its building and conditional use permits.

The misnamed House of Hospitality (HOH), meanwhile, is also trying to raise matching funds to receive their \$1 million State grant. Operating much differently than the People's Church, HOH is only for families and pregnant women, which means turning away many, likely most, of the homeless who would seek refuge there. Additionally, people who *are* allowed to stay at HOH are subjected to a stringent set of rules at Mrs. Hoffman's direction.

Much of the following information derives from a former HOH employee; in keeping with *Northern Herald* reporting policy, Rebecca Hoffman, HOH Executive Director, was contacted to allow her to present any additional information, and her side of the points raised, but was largely evasive on most of them.

Homeless at the wrong time of day. Intake at HOH has been from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. If a family discovers that they are without a bed after 9, they are SOL (Simply Out of Luck).

While at HOH, "clients" are expected to be up at 6, each morning. They are allowed to eat only at the set mealtimes. No outside food, no unscheduled snacks. Allegations (which have not been independently

corroborated) have been made that one family was kicked out because candy wrappers were found under their bed; that another couple was kicked out because a coffee cup and spoon were found in their room; and, most disturbingly, that a man who got up at night (after 11 p.m.) to get a drink of water was told by an HOH staff person that he was not allowed to be up then, and that "if you take a drink of that water, you're going to get kicked out." The man, allegedly, drank the water, and was told to leave, in the middle of the night, in the dead of winter. Additionally, it has been alleged that the HOH staff person called Bemidji Police, and had the client cited for disorderly conduct for not obeying the HOH staff person. Between these allegations, and the admitted rules of HOH (per Mrs. Hoffman) one gets the distinct impression that staying at HOH is more like staying in jail, except that inmates in jail are allowed to have water at any time.

Asked about this, Hoffman said that they would never throw out a family for only one instance of candy wrappers under the bed. She responded similarly to the coffee cup and spoon incident, and terminated the interview before she could be asked about the drink of water incident.

Clients at HOH are allowed to stay there for up to 30 days, with at least 3 months between stays. Extensions are sometimes available.

But the former employee said that a lot of the people who are allowed to stay at HOH aren't really "homeless" as most people would think of the same. That some of them are, for instance, a parent and children that were living with relatives, and simply decided to move out for a month, and stay at HOH; and then, when their month is up, they move back in with their relatives.

Financials. In 2007, per documents compiled by the Minn. Attorney General from HOH's form 990 (IRS charitable organization return), HOH had revenues of \$187,425, of which \$76,236 was from various government grants. They reported expenses of \$147,663; of which **\$102,526 was employee expense - wages, salaries, director's compensation, and payroll taxes.** This amount, to have someone to supervise the small house. According to the report, only \$6,673 was spent on "occupancy" costs, and another \$23,436 was spent on "supplies". Hopefully, this category included food for the occupants.

The enormous HOH payroll, however, does not seem to always provide for anyone to answer their phone (218-751-0722) if a homeless person should call, looking for shelter. Apparently, HOH staff has better things to do.

In conducting the interviews on this story, *Northern Herald* called several times, during the day, as well as in the evening (the shelter, supposedly, is "open" 24 hours). On many occasions, the phone was not answered. There wasn't even an answering machine. After several attempts, we finally reached a worker. Mrs. Hoffman was not in, however; she was at home that day.

Research indicates that HOH has tapped a variety of agencies for assistance, or promise of same, including, but not limited to, the City of Bemidji, the County of Beltrami, United Way of Bemidji Area, and the Minnesota Coalition For The Homeless.

How the pork barrel works. The recent \$1 million grant is through the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA), which received the appropriation in the amount of \$1 million by a bill (HF380) supported by then-Dist. 4A Rep. Frank Moe (the Bemidji

Events Center guy), in early 2008; and passed and signed into law April 7th. Per the bill text, the appropriation was to be used "1) for publicly owned emergency shelter; 2) for publicly owned temporary or transitional housing. . . . ; and 3) for publicly owned permanent rental housing. . . ."

Although the wording of the bill seems to support homeless housing, generally, in the State; the minutes of the Bemidji City Council work session, May 28, 2008, reflect that Rebecca Hoffman told the Council that, "Rep. Frank Moe introduced the bonding legislation *on behalf of the [HOH] shelter*. . . . Rep. Moe's support is making. . . . [HOH's] application for these funds possible." Mrs. Hoffman also told the Council that the Red Lake Band of Ojibwe Indians had contributed \$50,000 to HOH.

Having received the \$1 million appropriation, by about October, 2008, the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency awarded *all of it* to HOH.

To actually receive disbursement of the money, however, HOH has to raise matching funds amounting to \$800,000 of the proposed **\$1.8 million** projected cost, for the building designed to accommodate 6 families. Hoffman said that, though managed by HOH, the proposed building would actually be owned by Beltrami County HRA, in order to comply with the "publicly owned" criteria for the grant. Hoffman said that a parcel at 5th St. & Mississippi Ave., Bemidji, presently owned by North Country Regional Hospital (this may be the former Northern Medical Clinic, where Dr. Livermore practiced), is being considered for the building site, but that a "substantial amount" of the \$800,000 matching funds remains to be raised.

Per the former employee, HOH receives \$500 per month, for food, from the USDA food program (asked, Hoffman said that this amount varies and she didn't know what the amounts were, or even a "ballpark" monthly figure - it would seem, though, that an executive director should know, or have record of, these things). But there are forms to be filled out for that. Said the former HOH employee, "It's a very strict program - the 'Battered' Women's Shelter is on it also. And Rebecca [Hoffman] wanted to make sure our paperwork was 'right'. And pretty much what she said to us. . . . was, 'just put down what it *needs to say* on there - if there's 8 people and you're supposed to give 8 cups of milk, write it down.' Well, there was times when there was no milk to serve. And being on that program, they [HOH] have to have that stuff, but there was times when that stuff [e.g. the milk] wasn't there."

Said the former HOH employee, "The attitude there doesn't seem to be in the best interests of the clients. It seems to be more of a self-serving public attitude. . . . She [Rebecca Hoffman, director of HOH] has told people. . . . that she's not into helping anybody with addictions or mental illness [problems that many of the homeless have]. . . . Rebecca. . . . would tell us. . . . that it was *her house*, and people didn't have a right to be there unless they followed her rules. They're very strict there, you can't go out after 11 [p.m.] and have a cigarette; and these people [the clients] were stressed." The employee said that, at staff meetings regarding the clients staying there, Hoffman would tend to single out Native Americans for criticism, and reserve positive comments primarily for the white clients. "It was always. . . . negative comments. . . . about the Natives. . . . They

were the Native Americans that she [Hoffman] was referring to [saying they were] not wanting to really help themselves, but just biding their time there [*as people in a shelter tend to do -- it's what the shelter is for!* -- Ed.] and she didn't like that," the former employee said.

The former employee spoke of another HOH employee, Sonija Erickson, whom our informant referred to as "Rebecca Hoffman's pet", who, per the informant, has been allowed to get away with many infractions. "Playing tug-of-war with a 2 yr. old. . . . and the 2 yr. old. . . . fell back and hit his head really hard. And she [Erickson] doesn't get written up for this kind of stuff. She terrorizes the clients there."

This mode of operation, coupled with their large payroll, is reminiscent of that of certain "Battered" Women's Shelters which were established, in the presence of large federal grants, primarily so that select women (e.g. friends of the Director, who set the shelter up), who, due to their personalities, would be unemployable elsewhere, could draw pay.

The former HOH employee who was interviewed claims that she was terminated because Hoffman didn't like her Native American husband. The official reason given her, though, was that she was absent (due to hospitalization for surgery) without notification. She said, "I got put in the hospital for 8 days, and when I got out, my hours were taken off the schedule; Rebecca Hoffman said that she considered me 'voluntarily quitting' because I did not call her personally from the hospital and tell her that I was there. My shifts were covered - I made sure they were covered. And I talked to one of the eight people that work at the house."

[*Eight people? For a small house-type shelter? That is more staff members than (licensed) client beds (6)! -- Ed.*]

The informant said that after her termination, she saw her file, and it appeared that two other employees (Sonija Erickson, and Michelle Erickson, not related) were railroading her by writing up false complaints. "Saying that I put pears in the beef stew, and. . . . saying eight pork chops were missing, when we'd [properly] eaten them," she said. And she said that, finally, Michelle Erickson falsely complained to Hoffman that the informant's Native American husband had been following her [Michelle] around at Marketplace Foods, Bemidji. "Mrs. Hoffman sat me down. . . . and said that if I could not control my husband, I would lose my job there." That conversation happened on what turned out to be the informant's last day of work at HOH.

The informant said that the complaint was groundless, "He didn't even know her, she [Michelle] had just started working there," the informant said. The informant requested that Marketplace allow viewing of their routine security tapes, so she could prove that the complaint was groundless, but Marketplace refused. "He [her husband] wants to sue for slander, . . . but there's nothing we can do if Marketplace won't pull those tapes," she said.

Additionally, although it violates the organization's stated ethics, Hoffman may be discriminating against men in employment. Per the former employee, All of the staff is female. Said the informant, "Whenever men would apply, she would not hire them. . . . she would just ignore the applications."

Rebecca Hoffman confirmed that HOH employs 8 people for staff; but when asked how many

of them were women, and how many were men, she responded that she didn't know.

The informant said that Hoffman, who once had an "administrative secretary" [*for a small homeless shelter ?? - Ed.*] on the payroll, has, herself, little contact with the homeless clients who stay there. ". . . she doesn't have any hands-on connection with the clients who stay there. . . . For Mrs. Hoffman to be running a place like this, she needs to have her heart and soul in there with these people. . . . and not judging them like she's five steps above them [which] is how she goes around and carries herself. . . . I think the Board should be a lot more involved with who's running that place. . . ."

Asked how many hours she personally puts in at the shelter, working with clients, Rebecca Hoffman evaded the question and said, "I just don't see where that's pertinent information," and hung up on the telephone interview.

People's Church reopens and continues their mission. In June, 2009, after denial of their building permits and still under fire from the City of Bemidji for housing the homeless, Pastor Bob and the People's Church finally retreated, for a while; and for the first time in many years, the always-on neon "OPEN" sign in the front window went dark. But People's Church elders said that it was just for the summer, while reevaluating their plans and mission strategy. By September, with the chapel bunks once again set up, and tents for overflow outside, People's Church was once again providing needed housing to the homeless in Bemidji, and plans to do so through the winter. They may try to again present their building expansion plan to the Bemidji/Beltrami Joint Planning Board in 2010.

Editor's note: *Teiing it out - the players in the background, and Bemidji connections.* Getting back to the problems *People's Church* is having with the City, one may well ask, "why all this over a church that's trying to do a good thing for the community?"

The following may help. It's a long story, but it traces and helps one to understand the players, and the flow of corruption, including romantic corruption, in Bemidji, and ties it all together:

The Bemidji City Hall's present involvement to harass *People's Church* with ordinances that may well, in the end, prove unconstitutional, began at the behest of **Bemidji Police Chief Gerald Johnson.** Johnson is one of the few key holdovers remaining from the old administration of **Police Chief Robert Tell**, who, with his henchman, Sgt. Michael Porter, resigned a few years after Tell was charged with swindling money from the City on phony travel vouchers (although the acts were admitted and well documented, a jury failed to convict).

Tell administered during the period of the 90s when officers were permitted, by their hangout, **Richard Morton's Hard Times Saloon**, to remain there after hours, when certain select young ladies, who would otherwise have had to leave (at lawful closing time) were also permitted to remain (for original report, see *NH* of 06/24/98, in *The Library*, Vol. 3, at northernherald.com)

This was also about the time that several Bemidji police officers were indicted on prostitution charges.

Also implicated in the prostitution charges was the *Bottums Up* bar (now closed), Bemidji; and in late 1998, Les Peterson, manager of *Bottums Up*, in a bid to have his license renewed, testified before the (Cont'd, "Bemidji Hospitality," p. 11)

RESTAURANT HOURS
11 AM - Midnight
7 days

BAR HOURS
11 AM - Close
7 days

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Mad Dog Pizza & Restaurant
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★★★★ Stars appear in Restaurant ads only if the restaurant has been rated by Northern Herald, and denote the rating. We assign up to: 3 stars for quality, 1 for exceptional value, 1 for particular ambience or something extra. Many restaurants have not yet been rated, and may be superb.

Auto Service fr p. 5 facility to better serve customers' auto service needs. And the rates are about the same as at many other, non-dealership, shops. Doug Rudduck remains an NH recommended auto serviceman. People wanting quality, honest, auto service that fixes the problem without making new ones, can make an appointment by calling Dondelinger's (when making the appointment, one has to ask specifically to have Mr. Rudduck work on the car) at 218-751-1220.

Bemidji Hospitality from p. 10 Bemidji City Council that Bemidji police had also been involved in unlawful activity at Morton's Hard Times Saloon, but that Hard Times had escaped prosecution because it was a police hangout (orig. report in NH of 01/06/99, A Scourge Of Bemidji Closes, in The Library, Vol. 4, Pt. 2, at northernherald.com).

Richard Morton, then-owner of Hard Times, was the uncle of Bill Batchelder, operator of Bemidji Woolen Mills, outside the premises of which police cars could often be observed during the Tell period, but no official business there, at those times, is known. (See also Batchelder Charged, p. 3)

Morton left Bemidji, and this world, December 26th, 1997; and, presumably, presently resides in Hell, where he continues to serve drinks to the fallen cops, prostitutes, and minors there, amidst the flames and brimstone, which make for good stage props and saloon motif.

Morton's nephew, Bill Batchelder, is a prominent member of a small hateful group of small hateful people (our opinion), here, known as the Beltrami County Republican Party, to whom their ends seem to justify their means.

In 2000, Batchelder was the campaign manager for Doug Fuller, a former bartender whom Batchelder and the Republican Party were able to get elected to the Minnesota legislature.

While in office, about 2004, Fuller spearheaded a petition drive to shut down the operations of People's Church. The effort failed. Fuller, though voted out as a State Rep that fall, has since been rewarded for his corruption (our opinion) with a present seat on the Minnesota Board on Judicial Review, the agency that oversees Minnesota judges when they are accused of corrupt practices. (So, if, say, a local judge issued an unconstitutional order against People's Church, this is the Board that might review that judge's action.)

At the time of Fuller's petition action, and still today, People's Church doesn't care what the colour of the people they help happens to be. As there are a number of Native American homeless here, a number of the people served by People's Church are Native American. That may have something to do with what prompted Fuller to action to try to get them out of the neighbourhood.

In elections, Native Americans usually vote as a block for the DFL candidate (and usually with good reason).

An infamous Bemidji case was that of Roy Martin. In 1994, a

Additional Homeless and Low Income Resources In Bemidji
People who have the misfortune of being down on their luck in Bemidji will find a free meal, Mon. & Tues. at 5 pm at Mount Zion Church, 414 Lincoln Ave. (751-8000); Tues. & Wed. at 5 pm, and Sun. at noon at People's Church, 824 America Ave. (444-8240); and Thurs. at 5 pm at United Methodist Church, 9th & Beltrami Ave. (751-3503)

Popple Bar Patrons Split \$200,000 Powerball Win

LAPORTE -- It was the lucky day for 31 patrons of the Popple Bar, Laporte, who each bought a \$5 stake in the bar's Powerball lottery pool for the 9/26/09 drawing.

They didn't catch the powerball, but they did get 5 numbers, winning \$200,000. After deductions, each player received a check for \$4,370.97. "It was a nice stimulus package for the community", said Popple bartender, Bruce Geckler, who coordinates the pool, which has been going on for six or seven years. "It pays to play at the Popple," he said.

Chucky's Chicken: Diners Can Still Enjoy A Smoke With Their Meal

CASS LAKE -- Chucky's Chicken, at 6360 Hwy 2 on the west side of Cass Lake (218-335-8412) is a popular eating place. One reason is that Chucky's is one of the few sit-down restaurants that can still allow smoking on the premises - the owner said that it's the only one on Hwy 2 between Fargo and Superior, WI that does.

The Minnesota smoking ban doesn't apply at Chucky's because it is on a reservation, and owned by a band member. Smoking is also permitted at the Bena Cafe, just off the highway, in Bena.

NH What It Means:

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

traditional-living Native American, Roy Martin, then 37, with his wife, Patricia, 60, moved to Bemidji.

After they had been here only for a few months, Roy was arrested for the alleged romantic assault of Ida Stein Hightshoe, who lived 2 doors down the block from the Martins.

Roy Martin, a disabled man, could not have physically perpetrated the crime and departure from the scene, as police said it was done; and he didn't match the description that Hightshoe gave, which was that of a white man, in his 20s. Martin's wife told police that he was home with her, sleeping, when the alleged crime occurred.

A vehement Bemidji police force, however, and the Beltrami County courts, wouldn't hear of these obvious flaws in their case, and didn't look for a better suspect to charge. After he'd been held in the Beltrami County jail for almost 7 months, a jury, hearing the evidence, fully acquitted Martin of the charge in early 1995.

Released, Martin took what was left of his shattered life and moved, with his wife, back to his Native Tennessee, where they presently reside.

The Bemidji police officer in charge of the Martin investigation, including his arrest and the maintenance of the charges against him, in the face of evidence well to the contrary, so that Martin remained jailed, with unpostable bail for 7 months, was Gerald Johnson, who was a Bemidji Police Sergeant at the time, under Chief Robert Tell. He is the same Gerald Johnson who now, as Police Chief, has initiated the present City action to curtail, or severely limit, the benevolent operations of the People's Church.

Come on over and enjoy a pasty at our new location: 1405 Hwy 2 W (one block E. of Jerry's Liquors), Grand Rapids

Eat in, Take-out or Delivery of pasties to your home, office or event. Available half, or fully baked.

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Winter Hours: M-F 10 to 6, Sat. 10 to 5

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(Pasty shown with avocado and parsley garnish added)

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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. They 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 Q3); \$ 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: Steamed shrimp, \$17.99; Wed: Ribs & chicken, \$13.99; Th: Alaskan snow crab - market price; Golden Deep Fried Chicken \$11.99; 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

HACKENSACK AREA

★★★★ (Q3 \$ +) **River House**, Hackensack. Daily AYCE specials served home-style: M: Ribs, \$15.99; Tu: Chef's choice special, or Deep fried chicken, \$12.99; W: Steamed peel 'n eat shrimp, \$16.99; Th: Baked chicken, \$12.99; F: Fish fry, \$12.99; Sa: Deep fried chicken and BBQ rib buffet \$16.99; Su: Roast turkey, \$12.99 **Also**, Th, F, Sa, gourmet special (not AYCE) Certified Black Angus Prime rib dinners: 12 oz. \$20.99, 17 oz. \$22.99. All dinners, including AYCEs, include their lavish salad bar and popover or dinner roll. Full bar. Entertainment some nights; call for info. 222 Highway 371, 218-675-6200

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

★★★★ (Q3, \$) **Super Buffet**, Bemidji. Outstanding AYCE buffet every day for lunch and dinner at great prices (and buffet price includes 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. Adults: Lunch \$7.05, Dinner \$10.50, Sunday all day \$10.15 2450 Paul Bunyan Dr. NW (on the west side of town). 218-333-0999

GRAND RAPIDS-DEER RIVER-REMER

★★★★ (Q3, 1/2\$, 1/2+) **Mad Dog Pizza & Restaurant, Grand Rapids** is in the same building as Madden's Dutch Room bar, so one can eat pizza and enjoy a favourite beverage and a game of pool or darts too. Daily specials, pizzas in all sizes up to the (over 8 lb.) double-decker **BIG DOG** with sausage, pepperoni, beef, Canadian bacon, mushrooms, onions, and green peppers! Ours was perfectly done, with "the works" piled high. A crisp crust, but with substance, lots of stretchy mozzarella, and just the right amount of tomato sauce. Specialty pizzas - Crab Alfredo, Cheeseburger-Bacon, many more. Buffalo wings -fresh, perfectly cooked, and good tasting. One can have them either as an appetizer, meal, or feed the whole family with 5 lbs. for \$17. Full menu from burgers, soup & sandwiches to their 16 oz. T-bone steak. Daily specials. Kids' menu. Eat-in, take-out, & delivery. 702 4th St. NW, 218-326-2445

★★★ (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. This is the only restaurant in Itasca Co. that we know of that makes everything from scratch! All pasties (including breakfast) \$4.50; w/gravy just a few cents more (get it!) Hours: M-F 10-6 ('til 7, in summer), Sat. 10-5 1405 Hwy 2 W (1 blk. E of Jerry's Liquors), 218-326-2234

All restaurant prices are per latest update, but due to Obama's inflationary economic policies, are subject to change as the dollar shrinks. To confirm that pricing is still current, please call the restaurant. 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, are ours and can't be bought.

ALWAYS SOMEONE IN YOUR WAY? Even here in the remote wilds of Northern Minnesota? That's the effect of **HUMAN OVERPOPULATION**. On a global scale, it's responsible for every one of our environmental problems from global warming to polluted air and water to the end of the rain forests and wholesale destruction of species. And in about 25 years, it will cause mass global starvation which will reach the U.S. Forget about the dogs and cats; where it's legal, **SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR KID TODAY!** TAKE HEED A public service message of this newspaper. **DON'T BREED**

CITIZEN LAWYERS

Openings Now in Bemidji
Citizens Patrol

Help take a bite out of neighbourhood crime.

You can't do anything about the high crime at City Hall, but when it's in your own backyard or on the street, you can stop it.

The Bemidji Citizen's Patrol is now looking for a few good people, to help fight crime in Bemidji by volunteering for a few hours a week. The former age requirement has been relaxed - volunteers no longer have to be over 55 or over.

If you want to help fight Bemidji crime, contact Captain Bruce Smith, 218-759-1496

Presented as a public service of this newspaper

It'll Be Chili at Remer in February!

REMER -- The Remer Chamber is planning their 2010 annual sled dog race and chili cook-off and backyard



feed. Normally the first or second Saturday in February, the MN150 race ends up at Remer, followed by the chili feed at the fire hall. For more info: 218-566-1680

[agencies also] . . . play into, or are a part of, the *Advocates* group."These practices make the operation of the *Advocates* patently gender-discriminatory, which should disqualify them from public funding. It has also been alleged that the *Advocates* have counseled the filing of certain affidavits in conjunction with applications for Orders For Protection (OFPs - these are frequently used to gain leverage in custody battles), which affidavits were, in fact, perjured.

The testimony. Said a female witness, "Years ago, when *Advocates* first started, I volunteered - I took people to court - we were not a paid position at that time." Later, her son needed legal help in a family matter, "I never thought that they would turn him away just because he's a guy . . . I just didn't think it was fair. . . . I felt like I'd been misled . . . it has become something that I didn't realize it had become. It's more of an association that excludes men, bashes men, helps women in court things . . . things they should never be involved in, to get these women the desired result which is to get more money or a decision in their favour in court."

"And that is not what I ever envisioned, I thought it was to help people who needed help when they were, like, in an abusive relationship, . . . and that is not what it [AFP] has evolved into . . . and I feel they're [AFP is] working hand in glove with the [Itasca County] Social Services Department against men."

She continued, "My sons can't get a medical card. They can't get food stamps, they can't get any help that's granted to any woman with a kid, even when he [one of her sons] had custody of his two twin sons. . . . That is *not* what I pay tax dollars for."

Later, the witness's son testified, corroborating what had been said. Concerned about child neglect by his ex-wife, he attempted to get assistance at AFP. "They had me supply them paperwork and I thought that would help . . . [him to get custody] . . . Turns out, all she [the ex-wife] had to do was call [AFP] and she was protected and I was denied. . . . They said, 'Sorry, your wife called and we have to help *her* as our client . . .'"

He continued, regarding assistance from other social services, "When you have no money or low income, and *you're a guy* in this county, you are screwed. You get no help. . . . and I'm a diabetic . . . if I wasn't in the military for the last 9 1/2 years, I would be in serious, serious trouble; I couldn't afford my medication. . . . But a woman, even a single woman with one child, gets everything. *Full* medical . . . *full* food stamps, *full* cash assistance for five years."

Another witness was the father of a man who, in a paternity matter, had shown that his ex-wife's son wasn't his. The witness brought court documents and testified, though, that even *after the negative blood test*, the legal proceedings to absolve his son of (Cont'd, "The Testimony," p. 14)

Itasca Jailer fr p. 1

Romance With Itasca County Head Jailer" (Issue of 04/26/2000, Vol. 5 No. 9).* He immediately retired (see "*Itasca Co. Head Jailer Retires*", issue of 05/24/2000, vol. 5 no. 10).*

Interviewed by another publication (the Grand Rapids *Herald-Review*) on Sigfrinius's recent arrest, **Itasca Co. Sheriff Pat Medure** stated that he was unaware of any previous (to the 2008 charges) disciplinary matters involving Sigfrinius when he was a jailer, and, apparently, made no mention of the Wendy Carlson allegations which came to light in 2000. (See also "*Medure Addresses Romance Allegations*", NH of 05/24/2000).*

Sheriff Pat Medure is a director

Itasca Deputy fr p. 1

allegedly told him, "they were viewing to get ideas" of other unnatural acts they could perform. According to the complaint, the alleged victim stated that the Defendant took photographs of the two of them performing the most severe of the unnatural acts.

Possible additional charges may also result from additional acts alleged to have occurred while Snyder and the alleged victim were on a recent family trip to Orlando, Florida; as well as when on camping trips at Grand Marais, Lake Winnibigoshish, and at Lake of the Woods. The decision to bring those charges rests with authorities in those jurisdictions, who, the investigating officer said (in the Complaint), would be notified. The complaint alleges that, during the Lake of the Woods trip, the Defendant gave the alleged victim whisky, and allowed him to drink until he passed out.

Several judges sitting in Itasca Co. and elsewhere **have recused themselves** from hearing the matter, which was initially transferred to Cass Co., to be prosecuted by the Cass Co. District Attorney's office (at Walker), due to Itasca Co. conflict of interest. The case was again moved, however, and is now to be tried by **Judge Charles H. LeDuc**, who normally sits at International Falls, in Koochiching County. An omnibus hearing was held Sept. 3rd, 2009, with change of venue granted, and the matter is presently set for pre-trial on Jan. 4th, 2010; and jury trial, in Lake of the Woods county, commencing on Feb. 1st, 2010.

Snyder, of Bovey, MN, was initially represented by James Perunovich, Esq.; and at the April 8th bail hearing, by Steven M. Shermoen, Esq., of International Falls, Minn. Appearing for the State was Barbara J. Harrington Esq., of Walker, Minn., who was named as Special Assistant Itasca County prosecutor for this matter.

As of March 29th, Snyder was held at the Crow Wing Co. (Brainerd) Jail with bail having been initially set by **Judge David Harrington** (Cass Co., at Walker) at \$400,000/\$500,000. As of April 8th, however, **Judge LeDuc** allowed bail to be reduced to a \$5,000 cash deposit, and a partially-secured appearance bond (essentially a promise to pay in the event of non-appearance) in the amount of \$50,000; and conditions of release. The bond document was executed, and Snyder was released from the jail April 8th, 2009, and placed under "house arrest", at his parents' residence. Conditions of release imposed by Judge LeDuc included: a) no contact with the alleged victim or his mother; b) no contact with persons under 18; c) Defendant is under house arrest at the residence

of the Grand Rapids based *Advocates For Family Peace*, a women's legal advocacy group whose activities have recently come under scrutiny (see "*Group Takes On Grand Rapids' Advocates*", elsewhere in this issue).

Wendy Carlson committed suicide in late 1999. (See "*Deer River Skating Star Departed at 38*", NH of 02/02/2000* - this article details harassment and coercion of Carlson by corrupt (our opinion) Itasca County authorities, with the help of a corrupt (our opinion) attorney there, which may have led to her suicide).

Wendy Carlson was the daughter of the well-respected and long-time Itasca Co. statesman, former State Senator Robert Lessard.

* These back issues are avail-

able in *The Library*, Vol. 5 at northernherald.com

of his parents, and may leave only for court appearances and medical emergencies, of which he must notify the Sheriff forthwith or at the earliest opportunity; and d) Defendant may not possess weapons, there may be no weapons located at his place of residence (i.e. his parents' home).

Sheriff Pat Medure reported, in a press release, that Snyder had been an employee of the Sheriff's Office since 1989. Interviewed by *Northern Herald* on March 30th, Medure said that Snyder had been placed on administrative leave without pay, and that Medure had no further comment on the matter.

Although Medure stated that Snyder was just one of the investigators for his office, several sources have stated that, in fact, Snyder acted as the lead investigator of the sexual crimes division of that office. Medure has denied this.

Sheriff Medure's Chief Deputy is Terry Snyder, who has acknowledged that he is Gregory Snyder's brother.

Itasca Co. Sheriff Pat Medure is a Director of the Grand Rapids-based *Advocates For Family Peace*, a women's legal advocacy group whose activities have recently come under scrutiny (see "*Grand Rapids Group Formed To Expose Advocates*", p. 1, this issue).

Editor's Note: The atrocities alleged to have happened in the Greg Snyder story are representative of the great abominations against people, nature, and Righteousness, and the great damage to American society, as well as greatly reduced likelihood of success of the children, which occurs in "blended" families and similar households comprised of something other than one man and one woman (preferably married), and the natural children of both of them together; and all of the family members entitled to and having the same last name, which is not hyphenated. It is a great sickness upon the nation that has been brought about by the reduction in numbers of wholesome families. The Snyder matter, reported here, is reminiscent and symptomatic of this great sickness.*

So-called "women's groups" like "Advocates For Family Peace" have greatly contributed to this problem by encouraging single parenting and lifestyles other than a wholesome normal family (one man-one woman-children of both only with each other), persuading women to not marry, or to leave the natural father of their children; and assisting her in doing so, sometimes by suborning perjury (filing of false documents and eliciting false testimony) before the courts to obtain groundless and unneeded Orders For Protection and other legal orders which have the ultimate effect of cutting off communication between the man

SMOKING

It doesn't just look cool,

It is cool!

But remember, you have to wait 'til you're 18 to do it!

able in *The Library*, Vol. 5 at northernherald.com

Editor's note: In 2000, when we were researching the Sigfrinius/Wendy Carlson story, Sheriff Pat Medure strongly encouraged Northern Herald to suppress the article. At the time, Northern Herald was contracting its printing at the print shop of the Grand Rapids Herald-Review. When we released the Sigfrinius/Wendy Carlson story, the Grand Rapids Herald-Review refused to print further issues of Northern Herald.

and woman, precluding reconciliation, and forever destroying that family. In doing so, they have done a great disservice to, and have exploited, for personal gain and funding of the organizations, the very women and children that they purport to serve.

Nothing here is meant to dilute the culpability or ultimate responsibility of the Defendant for his acts, if he is proven guilty of same. Still, one must remember that when a person provides a place for disaster to happen, although they are not the cause of the disaster, there is, nonetheless, a greater likelihood that disaster will happen. When a woman divorces or separates from the father of her children, and brings into the home a person who is not a blood relative of all of the children in that home, the stage is set for disaster to occur.

In cases like this, it must be remembered that the allegations of the complaint, no matter how disgusting and severe they may be, are merely accusations - one person's word against another person. Some accusations are valid - it remains to be seen whether these are. In the course of reporting, in other cases, we have seen many very strong accusations made that were ultimately proven baseless - just vivid stories being told by someone with a vivid imagination. Even though without foundation, some of those stories did great damage to the people involved; for example, a BSU student, who had done nothing out of the ordinary (for here in Bemidji), lost a Fulbright Scholarship over this type of accusation. If Deputy Snyder is, in time, legally proven to be the sick pervert that the Complaint alleges, then he may be so judged. Until then, however, nothing has been proven, and American justice demands that he be presumed innocent of the accusations made.

All men are jerks. It's just the way we are. And the grass doesn't really even get greener on the other side of the fence; because, when it comes right down to it, we're all that way. It's how we are made, and it is part of being a guy. A woman does better by her family by staying, faithfully, with the natural father of her children, at least until they are grown and gone; and will be happier and healthier, herself, if she stays faithfully with him, thereafter. -- A. Steele, Editor

** These days, there are many good reasons for couples to choose to not make children at all - childless couples comprised, each, of one man and one woman, ever-faithful, devoted and committed for life to each other, are perfectly acceptable, environmentally-conscientious, and wholesome family situations; but if a woman has children, she belongs with, and married to, their natural father, and does her children a great and everlasting disservice by creating a situation where there could be more than one father of them.*

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Champions from p. 1

only be identified as "witnesses" here.

The meeting was attended by State Rep. Loren Solberg. Another local legislator, Sen. Tom Saxhaug, was invited, but failed to attend.

The participants each took time to share with the group the information they had acquired through their experiences with AFP, other agencies, and the Itasca County court system. Speakers included those who believed that they had been unjustly and adversely affected by those agencies; as well as certain "insiders" from within the system, who, for moral reasons, decided to come forward with information to share.

Oddly, the meeting, which filled the library conference room, was attended by more women than men, showing that outrage over the *Advocates* is not gender-specific. One witness said that there were several men who had wanted to come but didn't due to fear of official Itasca County reprisal. Many of those there were prominent citizens - business owners, and officers, board members and other members of various professional and other organizations.

The cost of justice. Over the years, AFP has, itself, become tantamount to a quasi-legislative agency, and has been granted an excess of power in Itasca County law enforcement and judicial matters, and also an excess of funding, while remaining accountable to no one. At the meeting, much of the objection came because this publicly and grant funded organization, in practice, makes their services, coupled with those of other county agencies and *Legal Aid*, with which AFP cooperates, available to only one side (usually the woman) of a legal controversy; there are no legal resources for the other side, who is often then outflanked and outspent. Said a witness, "... [it should] be equitable, for men and women. . . . [the county] Social Services

Recent & Upcoming NORTHERN MINNESOTA EVENTS

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AT BACKUS



"To Protect And To Serve" The Backus Firemen's Smelt and Fish Feed is AYCE, and there's plenty of fish for everyone! Here, at left, on May 2nd, 2009, Backus Fireman, Austin, serves up seconds, or maybe, thirds of the fried fish made with the firemen's secret beer batter recipe. It's rumoured that moles from other fire departments have tried to smuggle the recipe out so they could serve it too, but it's encoded and the Backus firemen keep it in two parts, so no one has access to the whole recipe at the same time. The meal included cole slaw, pickles and veggies, good baked beans, potato salad, rolls, beverage, Jello®, homemade cupcakes, and, of course, all the fish and smelt that one could eat. The fireman's smelt and fish feed is always at 4 p.m., the first Saturday in May, at the Backus Fire Hall. The \$9 (adults) ticket buys a lot of the year's equipment for the Backus Volunteer Fire Dept. Said Aaron Herzog, who came from Blaine, Minn. for the feed, "It was great . . . I ate too much." The fire hall was packed with several waves of diners - about 700 in all, at this year's successful feed!

The 4th on the 5th, at Laporte! Laporte, Minn. is always a fun place to celebrate the 4th of July. Except that it won't exactly be on the 4th. It's usually the Saturday proximate to the 4th, except this year, the 4th was on a Saturday, so this fest was on Sunday! It's kind of neat, because one can do the 4th where they please, then come and enjoy it again at Laporte! Below, Master of Ceremonies, Craig Mackey, serves up his famous brats (A local: "When Mack's out of brats, we just don't eat brats.") while Greg Patton, sponsored by the Fort Benedict SuperStore, wins the hot dog eating contest, Super-storing not just the required eight dogs in the shortest time, but a ninth, too!



(for a short video, visit the NH "Events" web site)



THE 4TH AT LAPORTE

Patton's trainer, of Ft. Benedict SuperStore said, "We coached him for three weeks, ongoing . . . and he came through today - he is the champ." Patton faced the Lions' Laporte Days winner, Terry Carpenter, at a Championship eat-off at the Benedict Lions' Day Fest, October 3rd, at Benedict (see "Benedict Holds 3rd Annual Fest", below).

Above, with crowds lining the Laporte sidewalks, leading the parade is Laporte's own Anderson-Black American Legion post honour guard, joined by the Walker and Deer River Legion Riders whose flag-bearing Harleys raced up the hill with the Stars and Stripes unfurled and flying; giving a particularly dramatic and patriotic display on this most patriotic of days. The riders took First Place in the parade judging. The Laporte 4th Fest, which started at 5:00 p.m. and went 'til after dark, also included a flea market, raffle by the Garfield Lake Ice Racers, kids' games, kiddie parade, street dance, and, of course, fireworks.

Benedict Holds 3rd Annual Fest Lions' Event Featured Pie Baking, Pumpkin Carving Contests, Hot Dog Eating Championship, & Pie Social

Greg Patton, sponsored by the Fort Benedict SuperStore, clearly established himself as the hot dog eating champion, beating opponent Terry Carpenter, by about one bite; at the Ft. Benedict fest, held Oct. 3rd at Benedict, Minn., just NW of Walker. The fest also featured a flea market, blood drive and diabetes screenings, and pork loin sandwiches and other treats from the Lions' Lunch BBQ. Prize-winning pies were made by (1st) Sharon Mitchell; (2nd) Sue Daggett; (3rd) Eva Pohl; and (4th) Carol Wellen. All of the entry pies (including winners) were soon gone, at 50¢ a slice, at the pie social after the judging. Next year's fest info: Lion Maria: 218-760-3972

At right, chef Scott Tammaro, formerly of Pine Country Cafe, serves up his signature marinated pork sandwiches at the 2009 Lions' Laporte Days, Aug. 7th-9th, 2009. The annual fest, this year, featured skating events, bake sale, flea market and craft fair, fire dept. open house and pig roast, kids' games and scavenger hunt, gospel music, bingo, battle of the bands, street dance, Lions' chicken dinner, Girl Scouts' root beer floats, kiddie and main parades, PTO carnival, hot dog eating contest, K-9 officer demonstration, kid's money pit, and raffle.



Dancers Ready To "Remember When" Nov. 6th, 7th

BEMIDJI -- The renowned musician and music director, Dr. Steve Konecne, will return this year to conduct the BSU Jazz Band, at its annual Remember When Dance, which will start at 8 p.m., on November 6th and 7th, 2009 at Jammers saloon, about 8 miles N of Bemidji on old 71.

This is the place for those who really like dancing, rather than just flailing one's arms and legs around in space.

This dance concert typically features the best of the highly polished BSU Jazz Bands I & II playing their repertoires of the classic Big Band tunes; stuff one can really swing to, like *In The Mood*, their special Bossa Nova arrangement of *Summertime*, and many more favorites that have stood the test of time. Patrons will be hard pressed to distinguish that it isn't Glenn Miller.

At right, dancers dance at the 2008 Remember When event. "Penguin Suit" used to mean something else. Some wear their dancing clothes, but because the event is proximate to Halloween, well, the garb can also be festive, like the guy at top right, or the carrot top in the band.



It's Pumpkin Party Time at Carters!

In Park Rapids, every Saturday, through Oct. 31st!

Yep, the harvest season has come, and it's time for fun and family farm festivities, and a new sunflower maze, at Carter's

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Roping

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Music

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And Much More!

Benshoof from page 1

raised that a federal law (47 USC 230(c)), which was designed to protect libraries, schools, and other providers of Internet access from suit, also applied to search engines, such as Google, making them immune from suit. That, essentially, search engines such as Google can do whatever they choose to, in referencing and publicizing sites, regardless of the damaging and false nature of the content of said sites, and regardless of whether Google has been notified of same. The indexing by Google remained, until the owner of the site, being apprised of the nature of its content (which had been written by a separate author) removed it.

Should there be law on the Net? The suit challenged, among other things, the constitutionality of Sec. 230(c). That, under the theory of gross negligence, although like a bookseller, a search engine may not initially know whether what they distribute is false and libelous; once notified of same, they have the same duty as any other reasonable person would, to act to prevent injury to others. If a bookseller knowingly distributes false and defamatory material, they can be held liable. Plaintiff's argument was that the same law had to apply on the Net.

Judge Benshoof agreed, though, with Google's attorneys that Congress had granted them full

immunity under Sec. 230(c), and that they were simply immune from suit, no matter how recklessly they operated or how much damage they caused on a worldwide basis.

And in dismissing Google as a party Defendant, Judge Benshoof appeared incensed that they were named at all in the action, took issue with damages discussed in *out-of-court* settlement talks, and later wrote, in his opinion, of "Plaintiff's egregious conduct" in maintaining the action as against Google.

To punctuate his dismissal, Judge Benshoof immediately and *sua sponte* (on the Judge's own initiative - no party had asked for sanctions), ordered *proceedings for Rule 11 sanctions* against the Plaintiff, culminating in an Order that *the Plaintiff* (the party that was libeled) pay \$10,137.58 to Google, as their attorney fees for bringing their *motion to dismiss*, which required a single hearing of about an hour.

Rule 11 (Minn. Rules of Civil Procedure) provides, in part, for sanctions where claims made are not warranted by existing law, or by a *nonfrivolous argument* for extension, *modification, or reversal* of that law. But the Rule also states that, to impose Rule 11 sanctions, a party must be given notice and a reasonable opportunity to respond, and that *monetary* sanctions may not be awarded on the court's initiative unless the court issues its order to show cause *before* a voluntary

dismissal or settlement of the claims.

The Plaintiff appealed the ruling, and, on August 5th, 2008, the Minnesota Court of Appeals, while leaving in place the dismissal of the portion of suit as against Google, cited federal authority that, "it is not permissible to award attorneys' fees under Rule 11 when the sanctions are imposed *sua sponte*;" and that [the district court] "could not award monetary sanctions, because the court issued the order for dismissal of the case contemporaneously with initiation of Rule 11 proceedings", so that the Plaintiff did not have an opportunity, after notice, to modify the pleadings that the court found objectionable.

The Appeals Court found that by imposing sanctions in this matter, and contrary to the Rule, the district court [Judge Benshoof] "lacked authority" and "abused its discretion."

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and he had dug up the location and phone number of the actual father of the child, and gave that to authorities that they might collect child support. "They haven't done one thing," he said.

The Advocates and the County. A former *Guardian Ad Litem*, a woman, said, "I'd like to support what some of the others have said as far as there being *no equality* there. I sat in on various OFPs . . . what I saw was the abused, or supposedly abused, woman sitting there with her *Advocate* on the left, normally; right next to her, the attorney from Legal Aid, and next to that person, the [assistant] County Attorney,

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woman said that she had asked the officer to come to the meeting and was told, "Are you crazy? I would lose my job in a day!"

Another man testified that when he and his ex-wife separated, he let her take what she wanted. Later, when he and his children were in church, his home was entered and gone through again by a Grand Rapids Assistant Police Chief. When the man objected, the officer said that he could do that because he had an *Advocate* with him.

A married female witness addressed trying to get help from county Social Services, "I just find that there's not a lot of follow-through with anything. . . . [A person] goes there, and that's the end of it. And their excuses are, 'we're overworked, we're underpaid, we have too many things going on.' Well, we sure put out a lot of money as taxpayers to pay . . . [their] . . . wages, and we aren't getting anything back from them."

Federal crimes and subornation of perjury. A witness (Mrs. "Z"), apparently a relative of a man in a custody dispute, testified that the Advocates advised the woman involved (Miss "X") to use the U. S. postal Internet site to redirect (forward) all mail from Mrs. Z's home to Miss X's. "We didn't get mail for four days," Mrs. Z said. Mrs. Z further testified that the Advocates advised Miss X to file an affidavit that the father abused the child, and that "she didn't have to have any proof." It (Cont'd, "Testimony," page 15)

that so many people are afraid of them; many who will not show up tonight . . . for fear of reprisal.

"Now, my problem is, they are getting grant money, . . . almost a million [dollars], under the guise of being *Advocates for Family Peace*. . . . I also know from my previous work that they do not care what means they use to accomplish their goal.

Said a male witness regarding men appearing in court, "They walk in alone if they couldn't afford a lawyer; the woman walks in with *Advocates* sitting beside her." He added, "I think [the judges] are in cahoots with the Advocates, and furthermore, I think the Advocates train the deputies. Because . . . when they come into a residence their number one concern is *get the man out* . . ."

A woman testified that an officer had told an arrestee, "I really see no reason to arrest you, but if I don't, the *Advocates* will make my life a living hell." The

normally Mike. And the poor guy, would sit there, most of them could not afford an attorney; and he sat there alone, usually, trying to represent himself.

"Now I do believe when the *Advocates* first started, it was a worthy thing and something that was needed. I don't think that men or women, either one should have to live in an abusive situation without some recourse and I thought the *Advocates* were that. Since then,

it appears, they've taken on a life of their own, with so much power

The Testimony fr p. 12 child support obligations took two years and cost his son, who was in the military, \$18,000. "She gets everything free," the witness said, continuing, "She lied on the stand claiming that was his child. . . . not one thing happened. If it was me, I'd have been *in jail!*"

The witness also testified that his son's ex-wife was on welfare,

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Contracts from page 5

A contract, technically, is an intangible - it's a meeting of the minds on a transaction. The things you discussed and agreed upon. The writing that we commonly call a "contract" or "agreement", merely memorializes and evidences that understanding and agreement. So that *written contract* should only recite those things that you've agreed to - not bring up a lot of stuff (the other party's wish list) that

you haven't or wouldn't!

If a person is asked to sign something that he doesn't agree with, or which is too big to fully read and understand, he should not. It doesn't matter whether the contract is said to be "standard wording", "boilerplate", or whatever. It doesn't matter whether it is neatly printed and given to every customer - that doesn't make it mandatory - one size doesn't fit all and a contract is an individual thing, peculiar to the transaction and the parties involved; it can (and should) be changed to reflect the terms you've agreed upon. If a dispute should arise, the written contract will generally be taken as better evidence of what was agreed to than any party's claim as to what was said.

So, for practical purposes, the written contract becomes *your* agreement with the other party to the transaction. With any written contract, If it contains wording that you don't agree to, **you can amend the contract** by striking that wording out and initialing it (the other party must agree and initial too). You can also add additional wording that is mutually agreeable.

If you need more time to understand a written contract, take it. It is generally not a good idea to sign something on the spot under time pressure; and a good adage is **When in doubt, don't**. Usually, there is no reason why a person can't take a day or two to consider it; if he has money to throw away, he can even get an attorney's opinion.

If the other party doesn't like your changes, well, he can take them or leave them; there are a lot of fish in the sea, and a lot of places that want your business; and, in the end, all things are negotiable, even nicely mass-printed "contracts" on carbonless paper, in quintuplicate.

Nothing herein is, or should be taken as, legal advice. We are not attorneys, so we are only allowed to give the illegal kind.

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Ask the Tax Guy

by Adam Steele, Certified Public Accountant

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

IRS CHANGES POSITION

Buying Home On C/D By Nov. 30th Can Now Qualify For Up To \$8,000 Credit

It's been highly publicized, and widely known, that this year there's a refundable tax credit, of up to \$8,000 (or 10% of the purchase price) for new "first-time" (defined, post) homeowners.

But, in Minnesota, where many properties transfer on Contract for Deed (C/D), this presents particular quandaries, and early IRS guidance hasn't been much help. Further confusing the issue are some realtors, who are telling people that they must close by November 30th, 2009 to qualify.

But new direction by IRS indicates that many homes bought on C/D will qualify, as long as the C/D is executed on or before Nov. 30th, with the buyer obtaining the "benefits and burdens" (discussed, post) of home ownership, as is usual in Minnesota for property bought on C/D.

This, of course, may make it particularly advantageous for persons considering buying a home on C/D to do it on or before Nov. 30th; also, the buyer's ability to make a substantial principal payment on the home from the resultant tax refund may make the C/D more attractive to the seller.

Prior to July 2nd, 2009, IRS took the position that "a taxpayer is not eligible for the first-time homebuyer credit unless there is a completed sale. . . . [A] contract for deed may not be a completed sale because all of the provisions of the

contract have not been met. . . ."

But as of July 2nd, 2009, IRS clarified, that in a contract for deed arrangement, "If the taxpayer obtains the 'benefits and burdens' of ownership of a residence in a seller financing arrangement, then the taxpayer can claim the credit even though the seller retains legal title. Factors that indicate that a taxpayer has the benefits and burdens of ownership include: 1. the right of possession, 2. the right to obtain legal title upon full payment of the purchase price, 3. the right to construct improvements, 4. the obligation to pay property taxes, 5. the risk of loss, 6. the responsibility to insure the property and 7. the duty to maintain the property." (source: <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=206291,00.html>)

A home bought need not actually be one's very first home to qualify for the credit. Under the act, generally, a person who has not owned a home, or interest therein, for 3 years prior to buying their new home is considered a "first-time" homebuyer. If the person is married, both spouses must be "first-time" homebuyers.

Married couples. Special rules and recaptures may apply if a separation occurs within 3 years after the purchase. If this is contemplated, a qualified accountant should first be insulted.

Testimony from p. 14

cost the father \$5,000 in legal fees to show that the alleged abuse never happened. "The child told the counselor, 'I love my daddy; there's no problem'," Mrs. Z said, adding, "the Advocates told her [Miss X] to do that to keep him [the father] constantly in court."

Child Protection. A man testified that the injustices of the system don't just affect men. He told of an abused wife who was falsely accused of a crime by her husband. " . . . Social Services steps in and takes her child away from her. No investigation, nothing, they just pull the kid away." He continued that the woman was found *not* guilty of the false charge, but nonetheless, it has taken over four years and \$40-50,000 in legal costs, so far, to try to get the child back. The child has been living with a biological grandfather, and his second wife, "who could care less whether the child is there," he said, adding, "and Social Services and the court system will not do anything about this. . . . and it turns out that the original investigator . . . is a relative of the people on the other side of this whole thing!" This witness, who said that he had a 20-year law enforcement background, said, "I see what's going on in this County right now, and it starts at the very beginning - at the local police departments, at the Social Services, the *Advocates*, all the way up through the court system. There's something very definitely wrong here."

Another woman said, "If you go to Itasca County Human Services [CHS] and you make *one statement*

against anyone in that department, you're done for." She added, "[CHS] . . . does not feel that it's child abuse if you take a nine-year old child, . . . handcuff him, sit on him, and write that he is stupid on his forehead. They said *'that is not child abuse, that is child's play.'*"

Legal Aid. A man objected to Legal Aid backing multiple divorces for the same woman. "Where is the limit for Legal Aid?" he said, "Can you get 10 divorces? Legal Aid keeps footing it. Is it 100,000 [dollars]? Men don't fight because they don't have the money to fight. And if there's anything said, the first thing when they come out [is], *'You're going to jail!'*"

Why we have a crime problem. A witness also addressed corruption within the Grand Rapids Police Department [GRPD] for failing to act on her valid complaint and then, when called on it, saying that they [GRPD] were unable to contact her. The witness explained that due to her, and her husband's, highly visible jobs, they are very easy to contact. "You go to the authorities . . . and nobody will do anything, to the point . . . you take matters into your own hands." Although GRPD failed to act on her complaint, the witness ended up, herself, charged with *disorderly conduct*. She said that she'd been told, officially, that "it's up to our local law enforcement people to decide which . . . [laws] . . . they want to enforce. . . . [addressing the audience] Every one of you, if you went and committed the same thing, each one of you would be treated differently. . . . Nobody can be held accountable because they're public or government

employees. Baloney! We pay your wages, you're accountable to us!"

The witness testified that GRPD refused to respond when she and her husband called them because their neighbours "were smoking meth and admitted to blowing it into the 18-month old boy's face to put him to sleep." She said that the drug couple was also paying a baby sitter in crack cocaine. "Again, the cops would not come in." The witness said that she was told by Grand Rapids police that "the judge is just going to throw it out anyway." The police finally came some time later, when the (female) drug user had to be hospitalized with brain damage following a domestic assault (by the male druggie), and police then found the drugs.

Root of evil. A witness tied out the monetary connection. He said, ". . . all these problems stem from money. . . . Law enforcement feeds the treatment centers; the treatment centers feed the *Advocates*, the *Advocates* feed the Social Services . . . it's a big cycle that doesn't advocate for families . . . it tears families apart." He told of a woman he knew who was pregnant, and addicted to prescription pain medication. She saw a local doctor who sent her to a treatment center in Minneapolis, where she was cured, and returned to Itasca County. Part of the treatment was continuing drug testing; but she stayed clean. Nonetheless, when she gave birth, the witness reported, "they came in that very day . . . [and] took her child . . ." The child is now being cared for by it's grandmother. He testified that the mother has to pay \$40 a day to Social Services for child care, but the grandmother gets, "*not one penny*" of that.

Another witness mentioned that *AFP* gets paid for providing court-ordered *men's intervention* classes for men who have been accused of domestic crimes.

A Good Lawyer? Several comments were made regarding ineffective assistance from various attorneys in Grand Rapids. There was one positive experience with a Park Rapids attorney, but that lawyer has since left Minnesota to practice elsewhere.

Last words. Toward the end of the meeting, a witness concluded, ". . . they're [AFP is] getting money fraudulently. I have to use the word 'fraud' in this case, because they are not for family peace. They will use any means at their disposal, they don't care, what, to reach their goal Any of you, if you want anything done legally, *you get out of Dodge*, which means get out of Itasca County. We did."

Champions For Justice held several meetings, in fall, 2008, at the Grand Rapids Public Library meeting room, to which persons seeking information or assistance, or who may have wanted to join the organization, or wished to share information from their experiences, were invited.

Since the initial meetings, a number of Grand Rapids individuals and business owners have been in contact with Mr. Holt, who has discovered that the problem is even more pervasive there than initially suspected.

The activities of the "Advocates For Family Peace" have cropped up from time-to-time in our news reporting. A particularly outrageous, and publicly expensive, example is found in an *Advocates*-assisted CHIPS case that we reported a few years ago. It involved a Mr. Graber, his estranged (very strange, really) ex-fiancee, and their two kids.

The three reports of the bringing of this case, and it's eventual dismissal, can be found in *The Library*, Vol. 10, at northernherald.com under the

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Questions and Answers

- Q: Who needs Very Expensive Tax Service?
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- Q: What is Very Expensive Tax Service?
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- Q: How expensive is Very Expensive Tax Service?
A: Very. But we'll give you a written estimate before we do any chargeable work. When, at your initial appointment, we explain your filing options, you can decide if you need Very Expensive Tax Service.
- Q: Where can I get Very Expensive Tax Service?
A: In the Northland, you get it from Adam Steele, Certified Public Accountant. We're located in Bemidji, Minnesota but we also do on-site remote service at your location (travel may be limited, at our discretion). This, however, is very expensive.
- Q: Can I smoke when I am receiving Very Expensive Tax Service?
A: Yes. Anyone who is paying that much has a right to be comfortable, in hospitable surroundings. Besides, we kind of like it when people smoke in our office.
- Q: What assurance of accuracy do I have with Very Expensive Tax Service?
A: 27 yrs. experience, including work with state and federal government regarding tax law and forms. We guarantee that your return will be accurate and show the lowest legal tax.
- Q: What kinds of returns qualify for Very Expensive Tax Service?
A: All individual and business returns, every state and some Canadian provinces. These returns, however, are very expensive. Very Expensive Consultation-Only appointments are also available.
- Q: They say two things are certain: Death and Taxes, and preferably in that order. If I am dead can I still qualify for Very Expensive Tax Service?
A: Yes. A side specialty is Estate & Trust. (Adam Steele, CPA, was the referral accountant for Senior Financial.) And we'll do what we can to ensure a large deduction for accounting fees paid for the decedent's final return.
- Q: How do I make an appointment to see if I qualify for Very Expensive Tax Service?
A: Call 218-759-1162
- Q: Is Very Expensive Tax Service fast?
A: No. It is slow and painstaking. The idea is to save you every dollar possible on tax. If this could be done faster, it would be cheaper (see Cheap Tax Service, ante).
- Q: Do you offer "Instant Refunds" (Refund Anticipation Loans)?
A: No. Due to the high bank fees, this is almost always a bad deal for the taxpayer, and we don't offer bad deals. People come here to save money - they don't save money by giving away a big chunk of their refund just to get it one to three weeks sooner than regular electronic filing, which normally gets your refund, direct from IRS and Minnesota, in 9 - 22 days.
- Q: Will you do electronic filing?
A: Yes, we can electronically file both the federal and Minnesota return.
- Q: Is it expensive?
A: Yes.

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"My tax returns are fairly simple - usually just a 1040, itemized deductions, and Minnesota return. Even so, I believe that the work done by Steele to maximize all legal deductions, and in planning of events that affect my tax, has resulted in substantial net savings, even after paying his "exorbitant" fees."

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headlines *Deer River Couple Battles for Parental Rights* (issue of 10/25/04), *Graber Hearing Gains Little Ground* (issue of 12/20/04), and *Graber Case Dismissed* (issue of 03/07/05). See also *Grand Rapids Attorney Hayes Disciplined*, p. 1, this issue.

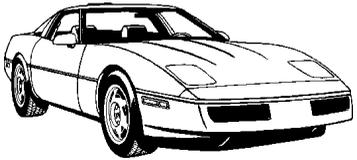
This case, which was instigated with the help of the "Advocates", was actually a baseless attempt, at phenomenal public cost, by the woman to gain leverage in visitation and custody matters, which was, after lengthy proceedings during the many months of which the father was denied visitation, eventually dismissed. **Neither child had ever complained of their father.** The public costs included at least **two** appointments (each child required appointment of a separate attorney, to avoid "conflict of interest"), as well as guardians ad litem, a psychologist, publicly paid county social services agencies,

counselors and social workers, and, of course, the judge, court reporter and other court staff.

In the end (see *Graber Case Dismissed*, ante), the attorney for one of the children told the court that the child had said that she was never afraid of their father, and that she wanted unsupervised visitation with him resumed. Case worker Amy Bestland also submitted a report that "**Neither child expressed discomfort or fear in the company of either parent,**" and recommended that the case be closed, as did the psychologist.

This, after all that cost, and groundless denial of the father's visitation for many months. This is what the "*Advocates For Family Peace*" (AFP) do. There are always a lot of nuts, and people who would stir up trouble over nothing, in the world. Problems occur, however, when public authorities start to take them seriously and fail to properly (Cont'd, "*Advocates,*" page 16)

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The schedule is now being put together for the January, 2010 Back-To-Hack winter fest, and the event is expected to feature most of the same activities that bring swarms of people Back To Hack each year.

As always, the 2009 event (Jan. 23-25) began Friday at 6 pm, with the snomo parade, enormous community bonfire and free hot dog roast at the City Park; followed by fireworks, family dance and karaoke, and comedy at Lucette's.

Saturday's schedule brought a plethora of activities starting with snomo radar runs on Birch Lake, the craft fair, and Deep Portage Rendezvous; and continuing through the day with the treasure hunt, ice games, free movie matinee, chili feed at the Legion, and spaghetti supper. That evening, UCC Church held a coffee house for teens, while their parents attended the Snowflake Queen pageant (it's PG-16), which packs the Fire Hall, and danced afterward to the *Haz Beenz*.

Sunday featured Breakfast at the American Legion, the raffle draw, and announcement of winners of the snow sculpting contest.

Below, despite 20 below temps, visitors swarmed in to keep warm by the giant community bonfire, get free hot dogs right off the BBQ, and cocoa (oval inset), and watch fireworks opening the 2009 Back-To-Hack, on Jan. 23rd.



Below, Ryan Burns's Spectrum entertainment DJs for the family karaoke and dance Friday night at the Senior Center. Later, stand-up comics Bob DeMaris (shown-bottom pic) and Bob Larson crack up the grown-ups in a special Back-To-Hack comedy show at Lucette's. Saturday evening saw the notorious Snowflake Queen pageant. At center right, a shot from a previous pageant.



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