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# Northern Herald 75¢

VOLUME 14 NO. 2

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

JULY 12 - OCTOBER 11, 2010

## Questionable Practices, Internal Politics, Loom At Mille Lacs Tribal PD

LEADING EDGE JOURNALISM

ONAMIA -- It never speaks well for a community's policing when good cops fall victim to internal politics and prejudice; and the voices of those who would try to improve the department, and its policies, fall on deaf ears. But that is what seems to be occurring at Mille Lacs Tribal Police Department (MLTPD).

**Dwight Reed** is the Chief of Police of the Mille Lacs Band. His officers work on six three-person teams to cover all shifts. Recently, it has been claimed that the department, and the Chief, had turned against one of the teams, writing exaggerated or false complaints against it's officers leading to disciplinary action, and creating a hostile work environment that, per one of the officers, had "gotten to the point . . . that we are physically sick due to stress from the administration". The officer said that this had affected the morale of the department "very badly". Eventually, two of those officers were fired without apparent due cause.

One of the officers involved was Jeremiah D. Erickson. He was a patrolman (on the targeted team), and also the department's computer technician.

After working for MLTPD for 6 yrs., Erickson, 27, had recently observed certain breaches of security, such as evidence, which was to be sent to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) for fingerprinting, being kept for 3 weeks in an unsecured room to which others had access. "Even the maintenance staff had access to this room," he said, ". . . these items should never have been sent" to the BCA due to the likelihood of prior contamination of the evidence.

The officer, from a different team, who had stored the evidence insecurely was not disciplined.

Conversely, per Erickson, another officer (on Erickson's team), had properly bagged and labeled a pill, which was to be destroyed, and gave it to her supervisor, who placed it on a conference table. When the Chief found the pill there on the table (where, presumably, it didn't belong), the officer faced an internal investigation, leading to a

written reprimand in the officer's personnel file.

The team Sergeant, Scott Neimier, was similarly subjected to administrative harassment, including being placed on unpaid administrative leave for "trumped-up" complaints where the Sergeant does not appear to have done anything out of the ordinary. Said Erickson, "This department's police chief is the only one I know who digs and looks for things to make formal complaints on his own officers."

Erickson and the other officers tried, initially, to handle this internally. They provided documentation of some of these problems, in the department, to the Band's Chief Executive. "The week after this was turned over and brought up to our Chief of Police, this is when my Sergeant [Neimier] was placed on unpaid . . . suspension," Erickson said.

Erickson was stripped of his position as computer technician, and a new officer assigned to same; with no one else, then, able to access the system. Erickson said that because that officer was on another shift, it made it difficult for his team to resolve problems with their in-car computers.

Finally, on October 6th, 2009, while on duty, Officer Erickson responded to a call for service (CFS) regarding an assault at the Grand Casino. The suspect was eventually charged with 6 counts, including one of domestic assault, and two of felony assault on a police officer.

Arriving at the scene, Erickson states, he found the first assault victim, a male, with dried blood on his face, parts of which were swollen where he had apparently been hit or kicked. On the 4th floor of the casino hotel, Erickson found the suspect, *Edward Lyle Oswaldson*, whose right hand was bleeding; he was intoxicated and combative. "My partner [Officer Sara Rice] and I went to the room; . . . [the suspect] put his arms up like he was going to punch one of us," Erickson said, adding that even when handcuffed, the suspect continued to threaten another party in the room.

Then the officers discovered

another apparent victim, per the police report, "a female full of blood laying on the floor without any pants on."

Per Erickson, and the filed reports, Erickson contacted hotel security and requested their EMT for the female victim, and also radioed for an ambulance, and a deputy for assistance. The two officers tried to walk the suspect down the hall, but he refused, and he tried to bite Officer Rice. The suspect was not complying with any commands. On request, hotel security provided a wheelchair to wheel the suspect to the squad car.

In the wheelchair, the subject continued to resist, dragging his feet on the ground, and, at the elevator, bracing his feet against the door frame, preventing the officers from wheeling him into the elevator. Rice wrote in the report, "[the suspect] was out of control . . ."

The officers eventually got the suspect into the elevator, with him continuing to resist. Per Rice's report, "[the suspect] was pushing off of the elevator wall with his feet rolling the wheel chair into Officer Erickson and I."

In the hotel lobby, the suspect continued to resist, putting his feet on the floor to stop the wheelchair, and then slipped out of it. On the floor, the suspect wrapped his legs around Erickson's, causing Erickson to fall. The officers, finally, had to drag the suspect toward the hotel doors.

Sergeant Rick Dukowitz (of the Mille Lacs Co. Sheriff's Office) then arrived, and the officers carried the suspect to, and put him in, Erickson's squad car, where the suspect yelled obscenities at the officers and kicked the doors, "so hard I could see it starting to open slightly when he would kick," Officer Rice wrote in her report.

It was going to be necessary to put a leg shackle on the suspect to prevent him from injuring himself, an officer, or the equipment. Erickson got the hobble strap; when Rice opened the car door, the suspect kicked at her, and Erickson found it necessary to apply the *drive stun* (a taser without darts - unlike the (Continued, "Mille Lacs" p. 8)

### In this issue

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Itasca Co. Sheriff's Candidate Preview - p. 12

**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

### "Third World" Jailing Practices Now in Minnesota

"Itasca County - Come on vacation, leave on probation" -- an Itasca Co. jailhouse saying

GRAND RAPIDS -- Every now and then Americans hear stories about how others in third-world countries and Mexico have no civil rights - that they can just be picked up off the street or in their homes, arrested, and held in jail, unable to make necessary outside contact, for long periods without proof of any crime. In flat defiance of the U.S. Constitution, that sort of rightsless "justice" has come to Minnesota and is firmly entrenched in Itasca County.

In this remote Northern Minnesota burgh, the courts and law enforcement, closely tied to and directed by a women's advocacy group known as the "Advocates For Family Peace", operates on the premise that they can bring charges, based upon flimsy, or no, evidence; and if they hold the subject, without bail, long enough, he'll eventually plead guilty in order to be released. It's a funny system: if one is guilty, they're out; but if they're *not* guilty, they're held. When they finally plead guilty, though, the release is with strings; this enables them to be picked up again later. That's what keeps the system in business.

**The Steve Samuelson Matter -- assault without a victim.** Itasca County authorities say that, on November 25th, 2009, Steven Samuelson, 44, assaulted his fiancée, Jennifer Bardine, at his home just north of Nashauk. But the fiancée says that never happened.

Moreover, Bardine, who has steadfastly stood by Samuelson through this ordeal, has adamantly stated that Samuelson, a particularly mild-mannered disabled Navy man, has *never* abused or assaulted her in the two years they've been together.

Charged with two counts of domestic assault (case no. 31-CR-09-3704), Samuelson has been held in the Itasca County jail since just before Thanksgiving 2009, (Cont'd, "Frontier Justice," p. 9)

LEADING EDGE JOURNALISM - FOLLOW-UP

### Snyder Pleads To 6 Counts

GRAND RAPIDS -- Former Itasca Co. Sheriff's Deputy Gregory Alan Snyder, 43, pled guilty to 6 of the 33 counts with which he was charged for committing nonconsensual unnatural acts with his minor stepson, on multiple occasions, over a period of several years. The other 27 counts were dismissed. (See *Corruption Erupts in Itasca County Sheriff's Office, NH* of 10/26/09, at northernherald.com)

Snyder was sentenced, March 9th, 2010, to serve up to 18 yrs., 1 mo., and fines and costs, with conditional release possible after 10 years. He is presently serving his sentence at the prison in St. Cloud, where he may have the opportunity to reacquire himself with some of the people he knew in Grand Rapids; and also, appropriately, to meet other men of his romantic persuasion, although as we understand it, those guys don't particularly like child molesters.

LEADING EDGE JOURNALISM - FOLLOW-UP

### Batchelder Cops Plea

BEMIDJI -- William James "Bill" Batchelder, operator of Bemidji Woolen Mills, has pled guilty to an amended complaint charging two counts of *making obscene/harassing phone calls* (case no. 04-CR-09-3083).

Under the plea bargain, he was sentenced January 26, 2010 to 90 days, with 75 of them stayed for 2 yrs., and the remaining 15 days to be served on a monitoring bracelet; 2 yrs. probation; and fines and costs of \$591.

Batchelder had originally been charged with three counts of Stalking/Harassment in connection with several incidents involving his previous consort, Susan Marie Brunette, of Bemidji (see *Batchelder Charged*, in NH of 10/26/09).

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### Rep. Howes Tries To Save Motorists Money

ST. PAUL -- State Rep Larry Howes (R-4B) introduced legislation (HF 2300) in the Minnesota House which purports to save many drivers money by eliminating duplicative insurance costs. Howes acknowledged, though, that passage would depend on whether legislative support for the measure could be mustered.

As of the 2010 session close, the bill remained in committee with no action taken.

As an affected motorist explained it, current law requires mandatory auto insurance to contain an element known as *Personal Injury Protection (PIP)* which pays the insured's medical expenses due to an accident. But what if a driver has other medical insurance, through other private plans, or through work, that already provides this coverage? Essentially, proponents contend, these people are having to buy insurance twice to cover the same exigency. Also, people on government plans such as Medicare or Medical Assistance may already be covered for these same medical costs, and so, may not need this additional insurance.

Howes's bill to change this, introduced on 4/7/09, would allow a person to waive PIP in their auto policy, if they have similar coverage from other insurance; provides that the auto insurer must allow a commensurate premium reduction; and prevents the other (health plan) insurer from raising rates as a result of the waiver.

"As a rule, Democrats are opposed to changing it [the auto insurance requirements]," Howes said in interview. He also anticipated opposition from attorneys; though not necessarily from the insurance industry itself.

Ultimately, whether the bill passes may depend upon public support of it, and whether people communicate that support to their legislators (Minn. House & Senate). *Minnesota Legislature contact info:* <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/>

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### Country Fest Happens, MOON Is On The Way!



WALKER -- Country jammers swung and swooned to a huge *Moondance Jammin' Country Fest*, June 17th-19th, and this year's *Moondance Jam, July 15th-17th*, may be the

(Text continues, "Country/Moon", p. 14; more photos, col. 2, below)

Left, carried aloft on shoulders into the crowd, *Bomshel's* Kristi O. plays fiddle for the fans! At inset, the other *Bomshel*, Buffy Lawson.

Right and below, hairs fly from *John McEuen's* bow as the *Nitty Gritty Dirt Band*, now in its 43rd year, packs the grounds, all the way from stagefront to the *MDJ Saloon!*



Editor's Recommendation: Do you really know where your supermarket ground beef came from or what's in it? Fact: The Minnesota Dept. of Health has said that while e.coli in beef is illegal, it is sometimes present in some supermarkets' beef.

**Sushi? Sil! Tartare? No.** Did you get sick from "undercooked" beef from a store or fast-food? Fact: Wholesome, *clean* beef can be eaten *raw* (although tastewise, we don't suggest it, unless you're European, or a dog).

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### BEMIDJI CRIMINALS AT IT AGAIN Joan Goranson, BSEA Treasurer, Suspected of Embezzlement

BEMIDJI -- Bemidji has been known as the Crime and Corruption Capital of the Midwest. Saloon shootings are becoming rarer (though, still, not unheard of) here, and the trend, now, has been toward more sophisticated governmental and white-collar crime. So when someone puts a Bemidjian in a position of trust and responsibility, well, they sometimes get what one might expect.

A letter, dated November 11, 2009, which purports to be from the Minnesota School Employees Association (MSEA - the labour union comprised of paraprofessionals, secretaries, food service workers, bus drivers, custodians, and technicians who work in the schools), and specifically from their Executive Director, Christina Clark; and directed to members of the Bemidji School Employees Association (BSEA), discloses:

"... MSEA became aware ... that BSEA treasurer Joan Goranson might have been withdrawing money for her own personal expenses ... When she realized that MSEA was looking into this possibility, [on Sept. 24th, 2009] Ms. [sic] Goranson came forward and informed me that she had in fact used BSEA funds for her own personal expenses. Ms. [sic] Goranson submitted her resignation as BSEA treasurer."

The letter continues, "... on September 28, 2009, Ms. [sic] Goranson appeared before the BSEA board and again stated that she had used BSEA funds for her own personal expenses. She apologized and said she was fully responsible for her actions. She also promised to repay the funds."

The letter continues that, "the next day", Goranson submitted a check in the amount of \$5,000 and has promised to repay the



*events is the choice of music genre. There's something for everyone, and a great place to dance is by the acoustic stage at the Lazy Moon Saloon. Above, the very beautiful Ali Gray performs great classics at the Lazy Moon dinner show at Moondance Jammin' Country Fest, June 18th, 2010. The on-site Lazy Moon features a full sit-down menu; screened and covered patio where fans drink, dine, and watch the Main Stage acts come and go, backstage; a super AYCE Bloody Mary brunch every morning (what a way to start the Moondance Day!); and this year, the new, adjacent, Tiki Hut Bar!*

rest of the money, which has been agreed to amount to \$1,000.

The letter states that BSEA Secretary Karen Tank will serve as Secretary/Treasurer for the remainder of Goranson's term; and discloses more stringent cash management policies upon which the BSEA Executive Board has agreed to put into effect.

As of April, 2010, the Beltrami County Attorney, Tim Faver, had filed no charges against Goranson in this matter; but this is not uncommon in Bemidji, where top officials are sometimes allowed to get away with these sorts of things, depending upon who they are.

*Northern Herald* attempted to contact Mrs. Goranson for her statement, but she has not yet returned the call.

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## Bemidjians' Apathy Dominates Legislators' Listening Session

BEMIDJI -- If a hard-working legislator arises in a sleepy Northern Minnesota town, and no one bothers to come and hear him, does he make a sound?

Well, in the case of **State Rep. Joe Atkins** (DFL-So. St. Paul), he certainly did. Atkins is Chairman of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, and also sits on the Energy Finance and Policy Division, and Higher Education and Workforce Development Finance and Policy Division, committees.

As part of several public workshops (Cont'd, "Atkins," column 3)



Rep. Joe Atkins

### THE HEART OF CORRUPTION - THE BEMIDJI CITY COUNCIL



Insets, from left, City Attorney Alan Felix, Mayor Richard Lehmann, Coun. Ron Johnson

## Bemidji To Squeeze More \$\$\$ From Seniors, Singles; But "Yellow Bags" Remain For Existing Customers

BEMIDJI -- We're talking trash here. Some have a little, some have a lot, and no one wants any. People with small children and seniors, maybe a bag or two a month. In the past, Bemidji's common sense refuse pickup fee adapted to this. One could elect monthly service for a fixed rate (about \$10), or by-the-bag at about \$2.25 per - a justified savings for people who only put out one or two bags per month for pickup, and fair to all. But in April, 2010, that changed.

As, apparently, a revenue measure, Bemidji proposed to terminate the volume-based yellow-bag service. At its regular meeting, April 19th, 2010, the Bemidji City Council had the second reading of the new "fee schedule" ordinance, terminating "yellow bag" trash pickup service. People on it would have to go to the higher monthly rate, or haul their own trash to the dump.

But speaking against the change was Susan Foster, a senior citizen, who approached the podium wearing her oxygen hookup, and, citing a list of 30 Bemidjians who used the yellow bag service, said that the change would only generate \$1,400 to \$1,600 per year for the money-hungry City (which just reported a cash surplus and is now building a \$90 million events center), at the expense of some of those least able to afford it.

In recent previous years, slamming the environment, Bemidji also discontinued its curbside recyclables pickup. The City also,

several years ago, began charging residents a "sewage" fee based on irrigation water which doesn't enter the sanitary sewer system. These actions have been disincentives to recycling, and home gardening, by Bemidji residents.

**Eliminate the competition, then raise rates.** Private refuse haulers in the area would have provided an option, and one contacted was willing to do light volume-based pickup similar to the yellow bag plan; except that the City of Bemidji has passed an ordinance outlawing private residential pickup, and has made non-compete agreements with those haulers who would have been exempt due to grandfathering. In Bemidji, when you're talking trash, you're talking The City; exclusively.

And this will be affecting more people, some of whom never intended to be subject to Bemidji's politics, and so bought their homes in the "county". Like a mushrooming malignant cancer, the City of Bemidji is now in the process of swallowing up those surrounding townships through annexation.

But at that April meeting, at least for *existing* yellow-bag customers, Mrs. Foster prevailed. The council amended the new ordinance to "grandfather" those already on the yellow-bag service and allow them to continue using it. The people, however, at the meeting, who said "I wish I'd known about that," are out of luck - the yellow-bag option is no longer an option for *new* customers.

## Atkins from column 1

around the State to take public input to guide the new legislative session, Atkins came the 225 miles to Bemidji, January 28th, 2010, to convene the public session, co-hosted by **Rep. John Persell** (DFL-4A), at the Bemidji Public Library conference room. Regarding this legislative outreach to Greater Minnesota, Persell, in the meeting notice, explained, "We are a long way from St. Paul, which makes it difficult for my constituents [to] travel to the Capitol for meetings."

But, although amidst a lot of public talk and criticism over state budget and business issues, and although the listening session was well publicized a few days before the event, only 5 Bemidjians bothered to show up for it. Of those 5, two were with organizations which had interests in possible funding this session, and one was a lead figure in the local Republican Party; the average Bemidjian just didn't bother to be there at this opportunity to have direct input to one of the key legislative figures, just before the 2010 session.

The selective attendance though, didn't slow down the well-organized and enthusiastic Rep. Atkins. He immediately launched into an informative hour-and-a-

half session, telling those there, as well as the press, the key issues that would come before the legislature in the 2010 session; and taking whatever public opinion was offered.

Although initially slated primarily for business issues, Atkins used the extra time to tell of many diverse topics facing the legislature and asked the attendees for their thoughts, if any, about a wide spectrum of issues ranging from bonding (capital projects - land acquisition and building) and taxes, to health insurance, how the economy has affected Northern Minnesota, the nuclear power ban, the Headwaters Science Center, state park funding, what to do about the Vikings stadium, and whether cell phone use in cars should be restricted.

**Always a complaint.** John Carlson, a sometimes spokesman for the local Republican Party and head of their candidate search committee, opened the meeting by complaining that area Republicans had not been adequately notified of the session. This, despite that the session was well-publicized in the *Bemidji Pioneer* of Jan. 24th; that Carlson obviously knew of it, so to be there, and that he could have asked the other Republicans to come if he had wanted to.

## Killing Cats Is Important To The City of Bemidji

BEMIDJI -- The Bemidji City staff and Council believed it important enough to write and pass an ordinance to achieve the purpose. Notwithstanding overwhelming opposition to a new dog and cat ordinance, expressed by residents, falling on deaf City Councilors' ears in public hearings at the second reading of the proposed ordinance, during April and early May; the Bemidji City Council, on May 17th, 2010, passed the new law on a 4-2 vote with one councilman absent.

Among other things, the ordinance **prohibits cats from being let outside**, except on leash or otherwise restrained; and although they must now be kept inside, **all cats must be licensed, with an annual license fee.** Cats found "at large" (outside, unrestrained) are subject to **impoundment, impoundment fees (\$40), and execution.**

Also, under the new ordinance, **all "neighbourhood cats",** even if they are being fed and cared for by someone, **will be rounded up and executed.**

Further, the ordinance establishes a limit of not more than three cats, and not more than three dogs (but not to exceed an overall limit of four animals, total) per household. Households presently with more than that will be allowed to keep their present pets, but over-limit pets may not be replaced when their time comes.

**Voting for** the cat-killer ordinance were: Councilmen Ron Johnson (now a candidate for Bemidji Mayor), Jerry Downs (also an agent for Farmer's Insurance Group, Bemidji), and Greg Negard; and Mayor Richard Lehmann (now a Republican candidate for State Rep).

**Voting against** this increased regulation were: Councilwoman Barbara Meurs, and Councilman Kevin Waldhausen. Councilman Roger Hellquist was absent.

It is not clear just where the ordinance proposal originated; it does not appear to have been suggested by any councilperson; but it was drafted by City Attorney Alan Felix, and appears to have been put on the agenda at the suggestion of city staff.

The ordinance took effect June 20th, 2010.

A petition is already being circulated by a group of Bemidji residents known as *Going To Bat for Dogs and Cats!* to, under the referendum provision of the Bemidji Charter, suspend the new pet ordinance and call for a citywide referendum vote on it. Persons interested in signing or helping to circulate the petition may contact *Going To Bat for Dogs and Cats!* at 218-759-1162.

## Wild Food from p. 5

members.  
The Forest History Center is located at 2609 County Road 76, Grand Rapids. For more info: 218-327-4482; http://www.mnhs.org/places/sites/fhc/

### IF YOU LIKE TO SMOKE KNOW WHERE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS GO.

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

A PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE OF THIS NEWSPAPER

# RODEO

## 55th Annual NORTH STAR STAMPEDE

JULY 23RD, 24TH, 25TH

Rodeo starts at 5 p.m. Fri.;  
2 p.m. Sat. & Sun. Adults \$13 Kids \$6

**NEW THIS YEAR!** Straight from last fall's Rodeo finals at Las Vegas, and from Auburn, Neb., **Rodeo Clown Jerry Wayne Olson!**

RAIN OR SHINE  
EFFIE, MINN.  
FREE PARKING

*Recent & Upcoming* **NORTHERN MINNESOTA EVENTS**

For full Northern events calendar, map, and videos, visit <http://northernherald.com> - click on Events Map

**In Focus**



**Snomo Racers Do It On The Ice at Hackensack! TWO Back-To Hack Fests This Year!**

HACKENSACK -- Back-To-Hack 2010 got off to a good start Jan. 22th, with the Parade of Lights, giant Community Bonfire and free Hot Dog Roast, comedy show at Lucette's, and fireworks; but, come Saturday, a surprise ice storm iced-out most of that day's events. Ice or not, though, the American Legion held their annual Chili Feed and sold 15 gallons. By Sunday, Jan. 24th, the storm had cleared and Back-To-Hack resumed with its snowmobile radar runs, and automobile ice races, on Birch Lake.

Making lemonade out of the lemons that the weather dealt, Hackensack hosted a second Back-To-Hack this year, in March, to feature

Above, a snow covered Lucette Kensack stands before Hackensack's Birch Lake to greet visitors to the Back-To-Hack Snomo Radar Runs there, Jan. 24th, 2010. At inset, sled owner, Lori Mroska, and driver, C. J. Harden, both from Rice, Minn., take the trophy for best speed overall; the track's readout of their speed (146 mph) is at top. Running in various classes, Neil Graunke, of Howard Lake, took 5 trophies, that day.

the events that would otherwise have happened on Saturday, Jan. 23rd. For a lot of people, this meant another chance to visit Hackensack, where something is always happening!



Ride a bucking horse! Here, at the 2009 event, fans watch from the shade of their umbrellas in the packed stands as Brandon Beaver, of Deerwood, Minn., prepares to dismount.

**WRANGLERS TO RIDE AT NORTH STAR**

EFFIE -- It's none of that newfangled stuff. You know, prissy rules that get in the way of true competition; the idea of holding rodeo indoors! That sort of thing. None of that!

Each year, Chief Ramrod Howard Pitzen, of the North Star Ranch at Effie, produces the longest-running (in the same location), traditional, open rodeo at Effie, Minn. This will be its 55th year. Because of its open style - the cowboys (and cowgirls) can just come

up and do their thing - this is the rodeo that attracts some of the best riders of the U.S. and Canada. Each year, they come back to Effie to meet, share good times, and ride! It



Howard Pitzen

all happens under the big sky, like rodeo was meant to be, and if this event gets any more packed - well, they'll have to build more bleachers.

The stock is expected to be very good this year, as always. North Star Ranch, known for its bucking stock breeding program, has acquired a new saddle bronc, named "Wolf".

This year's event will be July 23rd-25th. In Effie, rodeo weekend means flea markets and lots of goings-on. The annual Effie Parade will be Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m., after the Saturday performance of the rodeo.



Hayley Hughes, from New Salem, No. Dak., runs the barrels in 18.096 sec.; the event was won by Laura Carter, of Orr, Minn., with 15.75. With this win, Carter became a 4-time (consecutive) champion.

**It's Not Just Ribs . . .**



At above left, Scooter Q's Ribs, of Bemidji, serves up a rack of ribs. They also featured wild rice brats that a diner described only as "delicious".

But this year's Cass Lake Rib Fest will feature their first ever Rib Cook-Off to see just who makes the very best ribs! Really, whether they're from Famous Dave's, or someone else famous there, it's hard to go wrong. This year's fest will be July 23rd - 25th, at Cass Lake.



A big part of each year's fest is the live music, and the artisans' and flea market. Here one can find all sorts of stuff, much of it handcrafted, from burl furniture, to western hats, artist portraiture done on-the-spot, toys, jewelry, lady's elegant long dresses, and much more than can be described here. At left, a man's sterling and turquoise watchband, sold by Earl Chico, of Bemidji.



BACKUS -- With a tad of tartar sauce is how Vietnam Vet Daryl Rudquist likes his fish, cooked to golden brown in the Backus firemen's secret beer-batter recipe. Mr. Rudquist was in the 264th SS Company near Saigon, and fought in the Tet Offensive. Now, with fireman's gear hanging in the background, he enjoys AYCE Cod and Smelt at the 2010 Backus Firemen's Smelt & Fish Feed, May 1st, 2010. Above right, Fireman Bruce Eveland dishes up seconds and thirds of the superb fish to the hungry crowd that packed the hall to, at times, standing room only. With over 700 attending, Fire Chief Karl Flier said that the \$3,000 or so raised would go to the new equipment they'll need this year, including safety gear and SCBAs (breathing apparatus). The Backus Volunteer Fire Dept. was also recently awarded a \$51,562 grant from FEMA for rescue, including water rescue, equipment and gear.

Mark your 2011 calendar. This annual feed is always the first Saturday in May, from 4 to 7 pm. If this event gets any bigger, they'll have to build a new fire hall.



Below, naturalist Bill Carpenter shows the group a stem of the beaked hazelnut.

**Tasting Wild Foods!**

The Forest History Center (FHC), at Grand Rapids will be conducting another wild foods walk, August 21st, 2010, from Noon to 3:30 p.m., where visitors can learn of a variety of naturally occurring foods indigenous to the area. If one was lost in the forest, this could easily answer the question, "What's for dinner?"

Generally, FHC offers a gourmet-prepared sampling of some of the wild foods, just before the outing; so, if one wants to try this (DO!) they mustn't be late.

Below, naturalist Bill Carpenter shows the group a stem of the beaked hazelnut.



The Forest History Center is a nonprofit organization, affiliated with the Minnesota Historical Society. Admission for this event is: \$8 adults, \$6 seniors/students, \$5 ages 6 to 17; free for age 5 and under, and MHS (Continued, "Wild Food," page 4)

**Upcoming Summer Events worth going to**

- Every Tues, all summer thru 8/24, Kids' Fishing Contest at Hackensack City Pier, starts at 11 am
- June 17-19, Moondance Jammin' Country Fest at Walker
- June 19-20, Sweetheart Canoe Derby on Birch Lake, Hackensack
- July 2-4, 4th of July Pow Wow, Cass Lake
- July 3, Independence Day Celebration, Laporte
- July 6-8, Red Lake Independence Day Pow Wow, Red Lake
- July 10, BBQ & Dance, Hackensack Fire Hall
- July 10-12, Nwds Arts Summer Theatre, Hackensack
- July 11-13, Sweetheart Days at Hackensack
- July 15-17, MOONDANCE JAM at Walker
- July 17, Pig Roast at Amer. Legion, Backus
- July 23-25, Cass Lake Rib Fest, Cass Lake
- July 23-25, North Star Rodeo at Effie
- July 31, Woodcarvers' Fest at Blackduck
- Aug. 4-8, Clearwater Co. Fair at Bagley FREE-this is the one to go to!
- Aug. 6-8, White Oak Rendezvous at Deer River
- Aug. 12-15, Remer Harvest Festival at Remer
- Aug. 14, Corn Fest at Backus
- Lions' Laporte Days, generally 2nd wknd in Aug.
- Aug 14, 2 pm, Lakeside Concert, Hackensack
- Aug. 19-21, Cajunfest, Walker
- August 21 at Forest History Ctr., Grand Rapids: 11-4, Minnesota Music; Noon, Wild Foods Walk
- Sept. 4, Hobo Day at Boy River
- Sept. 4-6 Labour Day Pow Wow, Cass Lake
- Sept. 11, Hubbard Sheriff's Posse AYCE BBQ & fund raiser, at Posse Headquarters near Lk George. For details call Sheriff's Office
- Sept. 17-Oct 2, Fall Has It All, at Hackensack, Walker, Longville
- Sept. 24-26, Nat'l Chainsaw Carving Invitational at Hackensack
- Every Sat. in Oct., Pumpkin Party at Carter's Farm Market, Park Rapids
- Last Fri. & Sat. in October, Remember When Dance, Bemidji. Details: Contact BSU Music Dept.

# EDITORIALS - OPINION

## Preparing For Armageddon

In Bemidji, a young woman, olive-complected with stringy dark hair, approaches the checkouts at Johanneson's *Marketplace Foods*. With her and in tow are two small bratty children, screaming and running about her in the checkout line. No man, who might have been their father and her husband, is in sight. The woman was almost a child herself; per the norm of the region, this litter was likely the first of many that she'd have during her career. On a Bemidji neighbourhood street, a man takes an evening bicycle ride. A kid-carrier pulled behind the bike holds two small children. Each of these scenarios, will, in a relatively short time, result in twice the number of the cars presently on the road in the U.S., and a doubling of the nation's present energy need.

Meanwhile, about 1,500 miles away, oil continues to gush into the Gulf of Mexico at a rate fast enough to fill an oil tanker the size of the Exxon Valdez in about 6 days. And it has been gushing for over 60 days now.

There was a time, and not too long ago - I remember it well - when we didn't think we could possibly pollute oceans. They were just too vast. We didn't think we could fish them out, either; it was taught that they were a virtually limitless supply of food. Now,

### Letters to the Editor

#### READERS TOOT OUR HORN

... This is the only paper I read front to back. ... Although some of the articles make me cringe, others make me happy with the honest opinions (and they make me laugh). ... I truly do love this paper, the tips, articles, all of it; it's fantastic!

-- A renewing subscriber from Minneapolis, Minn.

Finally, someone who prints the truth about [the] Gestapo Itasca Co. Sheriff Dept. ...

-- A new subscriber in Itasca County, Minn.

about 50 years later, technology has enabled us to deplete about 90% of the big food fish in those oceans. They are now gone, as are almost all of the biggest whales. Halibut is in such short supply that it sells for about \$19, or more, a pound.

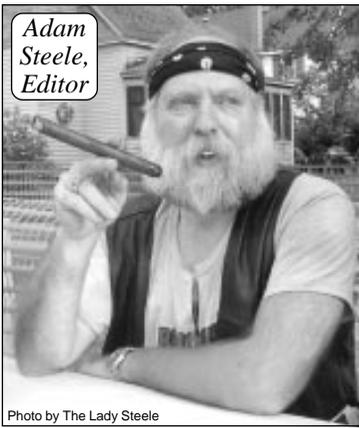
The ocean now has to feed many more people, worldwide, as well as, in the U.S. alone, about twice as many, as it did 50 years ago. And technology has enabled us to now pollute those oceans in their vast entirety.

**Econ 101.** Whether it's seafood, or anything else, a shortened supply with an increasing demand makes for a much higher price of the commodity; put differently, everyone's standard of living is reduced. With higher prices and shortages, the next generation doesn't enjoy nearly the quality of life as the last.

They say that the BP oil spill is the greatest environmental disaster that humans have faced. The earth is durable, of course, and will, in time, recover; just as it recovered from numerous megavolcanoes and even asteroid hits. It just may not be a place where you'd want to, or could, live, in the interim. Providence made the earth habitable by humans in six days; but these days he doesn't seem to work nearly that fast when we goof it up.

It's funny how, one after another, we always seem to be having the *worst* ecological disaster. There was Three-Mile Island, and then Chernobyl, then the Exxon Valdez, and now the BP disaster which is already 10 times greater than the Valdez. Of course, as we go from one *biggest disaster* to the next, world population is steadily increasing. This is not a coincidence.

Nor is it a coincidence that all of the greatest recent disasters have been energy-related. Whether it results in blowing off mountaintops in West Virginia for coal, burning the rain forests to create farmland for soybeans that will be turned into Brazilian (Cont'd, "Armageddon," p. 13)



### YOUR TAX \$\$s AT WORK

## How To Have Airline Safety With Less Hassle, Better Protection

OK, let's see if we've got this straight. Loyal, patriotic, Americans are now subject to the biggest invasion of their liberties ever. Their personal communications are monitored by various of several agencies; they are, effectively, searched when they enter public buildings; their financial dealings are no longer confidential; they need a passport to drive from International Falls to Ft. Frances; they are detained and searched again at the airport (take off your shoes, please); while they *are charged a fee* to have their personal baggage inspected; and amidst all this inconvenience and money spent snooping into the Constitutionally-protected affairs of law-abiding Americans, we somehow can't seem to keep a known Nigerian and al-Qaeda-linked terrorist suspect from boarding a plane and (if not for the heroic actions of a passenger who jumped on the terrorist) blowing it up over Detroit.

The name of the would-be bomber is now better known than that of **the heroic passenger**, who was **Jasper Schuringa, of Amsterdam** (source: CNN).

The passengers, as the ultimate safeguard (as they also were on one of the 9/11 planes), causes one to wonder: Suppose *all* of the airline passengers were simply allowed to carry their guns (with the cockpit, of course, made bulletproof and kept locked)? Wouldn't that kind of make any terrorist plot, whether hijacking or bombing, an effort in futility? Wouldn't that be the cheapest, and best, preventative measure?

Sometimes, for answers, we need only look to the wisdom of the American Constitution. Almost uniformly, when a community arms itself, crime drops dramatically. If the 9/11 passengers had been allowed to bear arms as the Constitution provides, would those two planes have ever reached the World Trade Center; or would the few Arab terrorists on board, instead, have likely died in a hail of gunfire before they could murder the flight crew?

### While We're Talking Airlines

Have you ever wondered why, if a person chooses to travel with luggage (what a novel idea), it's \$40 extra; a small, quiet, pet on-board is \$75; and yet when someone brings on a screaming, stinking, "lap child" that harasses everyone else on the plane, that's free ?!

One would think the airlines would put all of the people with small kids together so they could enjoy each others' noise & stink, but they don't bother to do that either.

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

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

"This will be an age of liberty here and across the world. ... Freedom and fear are at war... They [our enemies] hate our freedoms... our freedom of speech... They follow in the path of fascism, Naziism and totalitarianism....

**"I ask you to uphold the values of America; ... we are in a fight for our principles and our first responsibility is to live by them. ..."**

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

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

### Thank Obama for 90¢ a can peas, and a hidden 20% "tax" that you paid from your savings.

The bank and Wall Street bailouts, and the rest of Obama's fast and loose spending in the name of economic recovery, were financed with the printing of new, unbacked currency. In the past year, that's caused about a 10% to 30% inflation (depending on how one figures it) - a reduction in the buying power of the dollar.

That's why a 60¢ can of peas now costs 90¢ (or, on sale, 60¢ instead of 40¢), and why the U.S. Dollar has fallen, since April '09 and through mid-Jan. '10; about 10% against the Yen, 12% against the Euro, 18% against the Canadian Dollar, and 22% against gold, the ultimate benchmark. The policy of Obama and the Treasury have made the dollar worth less and buy less.

This amounts to the equivalent of about a 20% "tax", not on income or real estate, but rather, on people's cash *savings*, no matter how large or small, and their other money in banks. As such, it is a very regressive tax. This is what paid for the bailouts.

This falls hardest upon the poor, and people on fixed incomes, due to the higher prices they'll pay; and upon retirees - even those who thought they had adequate savings for a secure retirement may now

see them dwindle fast amidst a continuing inflation, causing earnings (from interest) and assets to spiral down, and leaving them without a means of generating retirement income.

**What can one do?** It is uncertain what the coming year will bring economically, but it may be a time when people will want their savings in some medium other than cash. Gold is a popular alternative, and it is usually recommended that part, at least, of one's portfolio be in gold; although, right now, the price is high.

Another alternative is stocks, particularly natural resources, agribusiness, and the stronger retail stocks (like Wal-Mart), which tend to rise as the dollar inflates, and which will suffer less in the event of another major market decline.

Stock dividends and *call writing* (see *Weighing One's Options*, NH of 10/26/09, at northernherald.com) can provide more current income than what bank rates now offer, while providing some protection against market decline.

Curiously, should the stock market decline substantially, the likely effect would be to strengthen the dollar, and reduce the gold price, making it a better buy at that time.

### "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. NORTHERN HERALD's open editorial policy encourages you to speak out on your views, complaints and approbations ... even if they're so outlandish as to not agree with ours! And our Consumer Corner is to give the consumer a voice in Northern Minnesota. Your verifiable complaints, compliments and comments regarding businesses are welcome and can help other consumers!

Send letters (800 words or less) for publication, or consumer comments, to: NORTHERN HERALD - Letters (or Consumer Forum) - P.O. Box 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. Letters which have appeared in other papers, or from outside the Northern Herald circulation area receive a lower publication priority.

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**Northern Herald**

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## Consumer Corner

Readers are invited to submit consumer complaints or compliments to this column, and to our Auto Service Forum. Send info c/o this paper, P.O. Box 1132, Bemidji, MN 56619

## Beyer's Auto Center, Inc. - Road Charlatans In Hoffman, Minn.

Motorists traveling through the West Central Minnesota area near U.S. 59 at I-94, and near the towns of Barrett, Elbow Lake, Alexandria, and Ashby, are cautioned to avoid the fraudsters and/or inept mechanics (our opinion) who operate under the name of **Beyer's Auto Center** at Hoffman, Minn., and, having one of very few tow services in the area, apparently prey on motorists disabled on U.S. 59 and other roads in the region.

**Beyer's Auto Center, Inc.** is operated by the Beyerses - a father and son - and is a **NAPA Auto Service facility** and NAPA parts dealer.

In the reported incident, on Oct. 26th, 2009, a car lost its brakes, due to a burst front brake hose, at a stop near the junction of U.S. 59 at I-94. Beyer's was called for a tow to their shop for repairs. Beyer's towed the car to their facility, and in the yard outside the shop, Mr. Beyer, Sr. performed a precursory "inspection", walking around the car (on the ground) and looking under it, without bothering to put

the car on a hoist and light the lines and hoses, as normally would be done by a competent mechanic. Had this been done, the burst hose would have been very obvious.

Beyers told the driver to pump the brakes, and when there was no "pedal", told him that he needed a new master cylinder. Beyers had not bothered to bleed the master cylinder, another routine procedure; a competent mechanic would have known that the master cylinder would have gotten air in it from the broken hose, and would have to be bled in order to function.

The driver told Beyers, Sr. that, on the road, the brakes did pump back up right after the failure, but then went to the floor (as they would have done as fluid oozed out of the broken hose), but Beyers simply replied that that's the way the master cylinder goes out.

The customer authorized the recommended repairs. The new master cylinder could be ordered, to be received and installed the next day. The motorist, who lived about 150 miles distant, made

arrangements to pick up the car the following day when repairs were completed.

The following afternoon, the customer called Beyer's to ascertain that the car was ready to go, and was told that the master cylinder was installed, but the car also needed a brake hose, and that would take another day to get. The customer, now suspecting that something was amiss, told Beyer's that he was taking the car that day, and asked if the broken hose could be clamped off, so there would be, at least, some brakes for the return trip. At first, Beyer's refused to do this, but later, called back and said that they'd applied a small Vise-Grips to the hose and bled the system and there was *some* brake. Beyer's said that there would be an extra \$40 charge for that. All in all, the charges were \$70 for the tow, \$127.64 as parts, labor, & misc., for the master cylinder, and \$40 for the temporary hose clamping, totaling \$237.64

When the driver got in the car, however, he found the brakes almost to the floor - about the same condition as before the repairs. He also observed that the radiator, which had held water before the incident, was now leaking and empty. He bought a can of stop-leak from the Beyer's NAPA store, installed it, and took the car.

Back home, the motorist brought the car to *his regular mechanic* there, who ascertained that the reason there were almost no brakes was that although Beyer's had claimed to have bled the system along with the emergency hose clamping (and charged for same), they had not done so. There was again air in the master cylinder. In about 15 minutes, the mechanic bled the new master cylinder, and the brakes returned to about 50% of functionality. He also properly diagnosed the problem as being a burst brake hose and replaced it, which returned the brakes to full function.

Following this, the customer

## Some Bemidji Vets Compared

If you own a pet, sooner or later, you're going to need a vet. And in a pinch, any war will do. Here, we report the same client's experience with two Bemidji vets examining, one day apart, the same condition on the same animal - a cat. The malady was a skin condition that had produced a large number of small dry itchy scabs. Compared are **Animal Care Clinic** (Dr. Eric Thorsgard) and **Friendly Vet Clinic** (Dr. Randy Murray); both in Bemidji.

**The vets.** Cats are sometimes "skittish" at the vet's, anyway, particularly if they are unfamiliar with the doctor's credentials, or the schools that issued them. But some vets seem to have more or less rapport with the animal than others. In our reported instance, the cat was particularly uncomfortable being examined by **Dr. Thorsgard**, snapping almost whenever Dr. Thorsgard would try to touch him, which wasn't helped by the doctor persisting in areas that particularly upset the animal. Muzzling (muzzling a cat?) seemed to be Animal Care Clinic's answer to this and they just

happened to have one handy. Except that the owner, figuring the animal was stressed enough, wouldn't allow it; and simply waited until the animal calmed down again, and then showed the lesion sites to the doctor, plucking off and giving him a requested specimen from one of them.

**Dr. Murray's** rapport with the animal was strikingly different. From the start, the cat allowed Dr. Murray to examine the lesion sites without much protest. The examination appeared far less stressful to the animal.

**The diagnosis?** Well, at **Animal Care Clinic**, there was none, actually. Dr. Thorsgard was unable to state, or even guess at, the likely cause of the skin condition, but nonetheless prepared a "shotgun approach" procedure recommendation that included, immediately, Frontline® *Top Spot* (a flea, tick, and mite preparation, even though no evidence of these parasites had been discerned. One can't be too careful we suppose; and, after all, needed or not, it's a quick \$ 37 for the clinic). He also recommended immediately culturing the specimen (for an additional \$32) to determine if the skin condition might be fungal, rather than bacterial or parasitic (in that case, fungicide would be extra);

and offered the option of an anti-bacterial shot, once again, *before* it was determined what the cause of the problem was. In the end, it would have been the client's wallet that would have been shotgunned, but the pet owner elected to just pay for the office call alone, and seek a second opinion before treatment.

At **Friendly Vet Clinic**, the diagnosis was also uncertain. Dr. Murray found no skin irritation at the sites, and no obvious parasites. He recommended a fish oil supplement for continued skin and coat health, and to watch the condition to see if it cleared up on its own. Later, when it didn't, Dr. Murray recommended that, before going further, a broad-spectrum anti-parasitic first be used to eliminate unseen insects as a possible cause. Although he uses drugs when needed, Dr. Murray seems to utilize a homeopathic and natural "common sense" approach when possible, minimizing the risk of overmedicating.

The pet owner opted to use Frontline® *Plus*, which, unlike *Top Spot*, works against parasite larvae and eggs, as well as adult insects. (source: <http://www.discountpetmedicines.com/frontline-products-frontline-plus.htm>)

As it is now an over-the-counter preparation, Friendly Vet Clinic no longer stocks Frontline®, but was able to direct where to buy it.

This treatment was effective.

	<b>ANIMAL CARE CLINIC</b> (Dr. Thorsgard)	<b>FRIENDLY VET CLINIC</b> (Dr. Murray)
* Included: Frontline <i>Top Spot</i> (\$37), fungal culture (\$32), anti-bacterial (\$20.50) and tax.		
<b>Office visit cost</b>	<b>\$28.00</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Recommended medication/procedures</b>	<b>\$92.21*</b>	<b>\$35.24**</b>
**For (4 mos.) fish oil supplement w/tax (\$20.33) and Frontline Plus (\$14.91) purchased elsewhere		

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

## Wal-Mart Introduces New Cell Phone

**Straight Talk® offers more minutes, better coverage, for less.**

In a little-advertised move, and in collaboration with Tracfone Wireless, Inc., Wal-Mart has now substantially lowered the cost of quality, broad-range, cell phone service.

Entering a market previously dominated by higher priced, or lesser-range carriers, as they have done in so many other product lines and services, Wal-Mart's expansion into this line is expected to bring high quality service to the average person for a reasonable cost, and it's available at Wal-Mart stores now.

The product is the **Straight Talk®** cell phone and prepaid cell service. **Straight Talk®** is operated by **Tracfone**, using the broad-coverage **Verizon** network; and is

marketed exclusively through **Wal-Mart**. A map of the coverage area is generally available at the Wal-Mart store.

**Straight Talk®** offers two monthly plans: **Up to 1000 minutes for \$30, or unlimited minutes for \$45.** Both plans also include **texting** and **data transfer**, and **free directory assistance.**

As with so much else that they have done, this move is representative of how Wal-Mart has empowered the average shopper, giving him or her a voice in the previously closed manufacturers' marketplace; and resulting in better products at more reasonable prices.

It's American as Apple Pie!

asked his mechanic to bench test the *old* master cylinder that Beyer's had removed. The mechanic reported that it was holding pressure and was fully functional - there was nothing wrong with it. In fact, due to an interval before picking it up from the mechanic, it had held pressure, on the mechanic's bench, for about a month.

When the consumer contacted Beyer's, reported these findings, and demanded a refund, Mr. Beyer (Sr.), initially, negotiated a compromise settlement for \$130; but then failed to send it. Recontacted regarding this, Beyer (Jr.) then told the customer that they were still deciding whether to pay it.

The consumer filed a conciliation court suit for a full refund, as well as court costs and punitive damages for fraud (by way of Beyer's saying that, in making the temporary clamping repairs, they'd bled the system, and charging for same, when, in fact, that had not been done). The Court

found Beyer's work negligent; and awarded the customer a partial recovery.

In instances such as these, although compensation is sometimes available\*, a lot of time and trouble can be saved by simply not dealing with disreputable merchants, and *Northern Herald* will continue to let readers know who they are, right here.

**If one breaks down in the area of U.S. 59 at I-94,** they should be aware that **there are other nearby auto service facilities** at Barrett, Ashby (the **CENEX**), and Elbow Lake. A different towing service is available at Elbow Lake, and the **CENEX** auto repair shop, at Ashby, though not having a tow truck, can pull a car in off the road using a truck and chain.

\*see *How To Sue The Bastards*, in *The Library*, Vol. 7 at [northernherald.com](http://northernherald.com)

**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.

**This issue: MAXELL VCR Cassettes, ZINWELL DTV Converter Box**

**MAXELL VCR Cassettes.** The 8-hour blank video cassette (T-160, UPC# 25125 21301) released under the **Maxell** brand, when used in a standard VCR, "skips" frequently (as much as every 15-30 seconds) greatly reducing the fidelity and intelligibility of the recording. The fact that **Maxell** has released this magnetic media product without necessary quality control warrants particular caution when buying any **Maxell** product, and if any other brand is available, it may be preferable. Given that **Maxell** doesn't mind dumping inferior and defective product on the consumer market, if one is considering using the **Maxell** brand, it may be just as well to simply buy a bag of steer manure, and push that into your electronic device. The results may be comparable, as that is the quality that **Maxell** seems to be selling these days.

**ZINWELL DTV CONVERTER BOX.** Most of these were sold during the Great DTV Farce of 2008 and 2009, which was a design by Congress and the President to take a little more money from average working people and give it to the multi-millionaires of the electronics, TV manufacturing and sales, and cable and dish industries; and, for many, bring an end to one of America's last traditionally free

(Cont'd, "Things," page 15)

## NORTHERN HERALD SCHOOLS PROGRAM

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

## Has Google's Time Come And Gone?

**New MSN Search Engine, "Bing", Appears More Thorough, More Current**

Can't find it on Google™? You might want to try Bing™ (<http://www.bing.com>) - for that matter, you may want to try Bing first.

**Bing** is MSN's new search engine which looks a lot like Google, but in *Northern Herald's* testing, seemed more effective in finding what was being sought. In one test, using the same, very specific, search criteria, Google returned only one result; Bing returned three.

In another search, for new, recently posted info, on a recently updated page, Google didn't appear to have it; Bing did.

And besides, it brings to mind the fine old days of Bob Hope and Bing Crosby. Google doesn't do that.

Friendly Vet Clinic also stocks *Taste of the Wild* pet foods, a *reasonably-priced* grain-free and soy-free dry food, made with smoked salmon, roasted venison, and other healthy ingredients, that cats actually seem to like. (Why doesn't anyone make a cat food out of things they naturally eat in the wild - like mice and small birds?) More info? Visit <http://www.tasteofthewildpetfood.com/products/>

**FRONTLINE for Cats in Bemidji**

**ANIMAL CARE CLINIC (Top Spot) ..... 3 for \$37.00 Bemidji FLEET (Plus) ... 3 for \$39.95**  
**Headwaters Veterinary Center (Plus) ..... single dose 13.95**  
 Tax is not included in prices.

## SMOKING

*It doesn't just look cool, It is cool!*

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

(You can, however, get "in trouble" and make an illegitimate kid at 16. In Minnesota, that's completely legal as long as you don't have a smoke afterward.)

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## Mille Lacs from p. 1

full taser, this does not fully immobilize the subject). The suspect asked, "Is that all you got?"

The officers were then able to hobble the suspect's legs and transport him to the hospital at Onamia for his bloody hand, which required stitches. The Onamia ambulance arrived to attend the female victim, whose face was "covered in blood" per the report.

Rice reports that, at the hospital, "it took 7 officers to hold [the suspect] down on the gurney," and that he was "out of control" and assaultive the whole time he was there. Erickson reports that he kicked at the E.R. staff, and that he kicked Sgt. Dukowitz in the face. Officer Derrick Naumann, called from being off-duty to help restrain the suspect at the hospital, reported that the suspect tried to bite his hand. The suspect was sedated, treated, and discharged, and another officer took him to the Mille Lacs County jail.

The officers report that the suspect also had spat upon them, and they had substantial contact with his spit and blood, creating a further hazard to the officers.

Reports filed by other officers corroborate the foregoing. By its end, the incident required response by several Mille Lacs officers, as well as those from the Sheriff's office, and at least one State Trooper. Officer Erickson sustained injuries to his leg and back from being kicked by the suspect in the legs and knees, and when the suspect made him fall; requiring use of a knee brace. His doctor wrote that he would be unable to participate in physical activities until the condition subsided.

In a letter from Chief Reed, also dated October 6th (the day of the casino arrest), Erickson was notified that he would be under investigation for a possible charge of assault (on the suspect) for his actions in making the arrest at the casino hotel; and pending same, was "placed on Administrative Leave with Pay", the letter recited. But, in actuality, he didn't get paid during his leave, which ended with his being forced to resign from the force (presumably under threat of

the career-ending charge of criminal assault, and lengthy unpaid leave while it was pending).

Regarding the circumstances of the arrest, said Erickson, in interview, "I had to use 'pressure points' to . . . get him to cooperate, which was within our training and policy." Anybody who viewed the video [of the arrest] could see that it wasn't excessive [force], especially with . . . what we were dealing with. 'Cause there's only two of us there [when they were trying to remove the suspect from the hotel, before other units arrived] - there would have been three of us there, but earlier this summer, [Chief Reed] had terminated my Sergeant [Neimier]."

Sgt. Dukowitz, of the Mille Lacs Sheriff's Office, when asked about Erickson's actions, stated that he arrived toward the latter part of the incident, so could only attest to what happened during the time that he was on the scene; and "I did not see anything inappropriate. . . ."

Sgt. Dukowitz further said that he regarded Erickson's limited use of the *drive stun* - the taser without barbs - appropriate under the circumstances, in dealing with the combative suspect who was violently kicking the car doors, and at the officers.

**Erickson forced to resign.** Erickson has graduated from extensive schooling, over many years, in law enforcement, and particularly, proper use of force. He made a career of it. Now, if he didn't resign, "they [MLTPD] said that they were going to put into my file that I was fired for excessive force; which would eliminate me from getting another job in law enforcement," Erickson said.

**The Fox Watching The Henhouse; and nowhere to go.** The Band has changed the process for police officers' appeals of disciplinary action. Before, Erickson explained, actions against an officer could be appealed to a board outside of the Department itself. "Now, . . . we appeal it to Rjay [Rjay Brunkow, the Band's Solicitor General] and it doesn't go any further than that; which doesn't make sense because Rjay has a lot to do with the [original] discipline, being the Chief's boss."

Erickson said that Brunkow had, earlier, "pretty much basically said that he's not gonna let people overturn . . . [disciplinary] . . . decisions" against the officers, discouraging use of the appeal process.

*Northern Herald* attempted to interview Police Chief Reed, and Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Marge Anderson regarding their side, if any, of the incident; and the position of the administration on the apparent politics in the Tribal Police Dept. In trying to talk with the Band's Chief Executive, we were given the roundabout, through many "buffer people"; and finally got a call from someone *in the Twin Cities*, who said that the appropriate person would contact us. The next morning, we received a call from Rjay Brunkow, the Band's, reportedly, highly-paid "Solicitor General", and, apparently, their "damage control" person. Here is that interview, of Jan. 14th, 2010, which confirmed our suspicions of cover-ups and evasion by the highest Band officials:

*Northern Herald (NH): What was the excessive force alleged against Officer Erickson in the 10/06/09 incident?*

*Brunkow:* "We are not at liberty to discuss that case at this point."

*NH:* What was the official charge leading to the earlier firing of the Sergeant [Sgt. Neimier] on Erickson's team?

*Brunkow:* "We do not discuss personnel issues with the media"

*NH:* Is there any appeal after the Solicitor General reviews the case?

*Brunkow:* "No."

*NH:* When can we meet with Chief Reed?

*Brunkow:* "Chief Reed is not available to meet with the media." Brunkow said that the Solicitor General [i.e. himself] is the *sole source* of contact for media inquiries.

*NH:* How much are you [Brunkow] paid?

*Brunkow:* "That's not public."

**Adding larceny to injury.** Upon Erickson's termination, the Department demanded that he turn in many items of equipment, some of which belonged to Erickson, and not the Department. These items included his *duty belt*, bulletproof vest, and 21 other items of working gear. Additionally, the Department refused to replace his uniform, which was rendered unusable, in part by staining by Oswaldson's bodily fluids, in the hotel incident.

**Although his suspension letter,** dated October 6th, 2009, from Chief Reed, placed Erickson on *administrative leave with pay*, pending the investigation into the incident (which would eventually lead to Erickson's forced termination), Erickson states that he never received that back pay.

**Unemployment contested.** Following Erickson's termination, the Mille Lacs Band challenged his application for unemployment compensation. Erickson was finally adjudged to be entitled to same, but it was **not enough to continue making his house payments**, and, as of April, 2010, Erickson told *Northern Herald*

that he was "on the verge of bankruptcy." **MLTPD has also failed to furnish Erickson with the (required) COBRA medical insurance** applications, and, as a result, he is uninsured and facing high medical expenses due to work-related injuries which the Mille Lacs Band has refused to cover under their worker's comp.

**Erickson said that the continued oppression of his team**, by Chief Reed, resulted in an ongoing situation within the Department that reduced its efficiency and posed a hazard to the officers. The team of Erickson; his partner, Sara Rice; and their Sergeant, Scott Neimier, (before his termination); as well as Sara's husband, Jason Rice, (also an officer, on a different team); were, said Erickson, "afraid to take calls" because they were not being allowed by Chief Reed to protect themselves, and their decisions in the field were being "second-guessed" by the police administration after the fact. "It was all the scrutiny that they were putting down on just us four. We didn't *not* take calls, but every call we went to . . . you think, 'What is my Chief gonna do?' . . . Now, we're second guessing ourselves at *every call* we do." Erickson explained that this results in a danger to the police officer, when, for example, he's confronted with a suspect with a knife, and unfettered decisive action by the officer can mean the difference between his life and death.

Since these events, **Sara Rice's employment with the Department has also terminated.** She now works for Mille Lacs Band's DNR. Rice was the last member of the oppressed team.

**Officer Erickson has lodged a complaint with the Office of Minn. Attorney General Lori Swanson**, regarding the inability to appeal his termination to impartial authorities outside of the Department; but Swanson signed off on it, stating that Band sovereignty precluded action by her office, and referred Erickson back to Rjay Brunkow (the Band's Solicitor General) as his only avenue of appeal or of filing a complaint against Chief Reed. "I'd have to appeal it to Rjay anyway, and he's the one that said he's not . . . going to let me come back to work," Erickson said.

**Suspect in prison.** As reported by the *Mille Lacs Messenger* on Dec. 31, 2009, the 28 year old suspect arrested in the Oct. 6th hotel/casino incident, Edward Lyle Oswaldson, who claimed to live in Garrison, pled guilty, on Oct. 23rd, 2009, to a charge of 3rd, and one of 4th, degree assault. In the plea deal, the four other charges against him were dismissed. He was sentenced in December, 2009 to concurrent terms of 24, and 17 months. He is expected to be released from the prison at St. Cloud June, 6th, 2011; in case anyone is planning a "welcome home" party.

A letter was sent to Oswaldson, in the prison, seeking his side of the story, and information as to anything in the course of the arrest that he believed was inappropriate. He has failed to respond to that inquiry.

**Band Members Outraged.** Some of the reaction of,

*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](http://northernherald.com)

or at [bmj.com](http://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.)

presumably, Band members, to the treatment of the police officers involved, appears in an Internet blog on the *Mille Lacs Messenger* website: <http://www.millelacsessenger.com/current-stories/two-sentenced-to-prison-terms-3>

These comments particularly express outrage over the treatment of the officers involved, whom, one person wrote, "should . . . [have] gotten an award with great honor instead of . . . being forced to resign, . . . [harassed] enough to quit and lied about enough to . . . [destroy] your reputation as officers." Much of the outrage was also directed at Chief Reed, and Rjay Brunkow, who are characterized on the blog as being highly corrupt.

*Editor's Note: It is essential that the government of the Mille Lacs Band, and other bands of Ojibwe in Minnesota, be sovereign. The reluctance of the Minn. Attorney General to get involved, thusly, is understandable. But this matter broaches on the security of each Band member, and the safety of their guests, including visitors to their casino; and hence, the continued success of their businesses. It is a matter of tribal business which is properly resolved within the tribe and the Band, and we would think that the Band, possibly with the help of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, would want to address these concerns promptly, before they fester.*

*Until they do, however, and at this time, we feel that it is imperative that people who have any sense of injustice, or concern for good law enforcement, stay away in droves, from the Mille Lacs' Grand Casinos (at Mille Lacs, and Hinckley). The money you spend there supports and enlarges this corruption. There is also a personal safety issue, as the police force there appears (in our opinion) to be mismanaged, short-handed, and barely able to respond in an emergency. For anyone really wanting to gamble, well, there are other, better, places to do it\* where your losses will not support a highly corrupt and tyrannical administration which is ruining the careers of good cops, to the detriment of the quality of law enforcement in the entire state.*

-- A. Steele, Editor

*\*such as the (Leech Lake Band's) Palace at Cass Lake, and Northern Lights at Walker, both of which have highly professional law enforcement from two departments; and also the (Red Lake Band's) casinos at Red Lake and Warroad.*

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*"It's just like being there!" - Cpl. Punishment*

**Actual real-life game characters!** Meet "Maj. Setback", "Friendly Fire", "Gen. Unrest", and many others you've heard about on the news!

A new idea that'll never fly: "Respect for religion must be reestablished. Public debt should be reduced. The arrogance of public officials must be curtailed. Assistance to foreign lands must be stopped or we shall bankrupt ourselves. The people should be forced to work and not depend on government for subsistence." - Cicero, 60 B.C.

## Frontier Justice fr p. 1

without trial, (which would likely have ended in a hasty acquittal, given Bardine's testimony).

**"In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial . . ."**

So reads the Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. But the Minnesota Courts have a couple of ways of getting around that inconvenient right; and a 1990s amendment to federal *habeas corpus* procedure now generally denies the accused timely recourse to the federal courts to invoke this right; particularly when one is without substantial cash assets and so their attorney is the public defender, who has other things to do besides invoking their "clients'" rights in court.

**"...and to have the assistance of counsel for his defence." -- last clause of the 6th Amendment**

Making matters worse, even though *neither party asked for one*, the court immediately put a no-contact order in place. Bardine would be unable to write to Samuelson during the 8 months (so far) that he's been held; and although jail detainees are generally allowed to make telephone calls, telephone contact, either direct or indirect, with Bardine was thusly prohibited. As Bardine was a key responsible party in his life, this effectively cut Samuelson off from contact with the outside world, precluding his ability to effectively hire private counsel, receive and sign over his military disability benefit checks to pay them, and to have done what was necessary to maintain his home and property (or even ascertain the status of same) during his jailing.

Bardine, who had lived with and had been supported by Samuelson, was left homeless and penniless. Herself on probation for a DWI, Bardine said that her probation officer told her that if she remained at, or went to Samuelson's home; or even attended his hearings, the probation officer would have a warrant issued for her arrest. Bardine said that, in an effort to drive a wedge between herself and her fiance, Mr. Samuelson, the "Advocates For Family Peace" contacted her probation officer (P. O.) and counselors and told that he was "the third most dangerous man in Itasca County".

Bardine said that the *Advocates* made many unsolicited intrusions into her life, and actually came to her treatment (required for DWIs) at *Rapids Counseling*. "They [Bardine's P.O. and counselors] have made my counseling, my treatment, and my place of living impossible because of what they had heard from the *Advocates*, mainly Melissa Scaia [the *Advocates'* executive director]," Bardine said, "Right now, I'm teetering from living in a motel or homeless shelter, because my probation officer won't let me go live where I was living at Steve's house in Nashwauk; because of what the rumours were, what they heard from the *Advocates*, and mainly, Melissa Scaia." Bardine subsequently found temporary lodging with a relative.

The necessities of household life requiring same, and it being a time, through the winter, when pipes freeze and household maintenance is necessary, Bardine and Samuelson tried to communicate on necessities. Bardine said, ". . . it's been problems with his house - with the septic system, the furnace breaking down . . ." and that she needed to get in touch with Samuelson to find out, for instance, where he bought the furnace and

who she should call to maintain the septic. Again, Bardine was Samuelson's main responsible person on the outside. This attempted contact resulted, by January, 2010, in there being brought against Samuelson, 34 additional felony counts of violation of a no-contact order, and attempting same; to be added to Samuelson's charges (case no. 31-CR-10-169). He said that a charge of "attempting" resulted from things like an *unsent* letter to Bardine being discovered in his cell; and contact with others which authorities interpreted as disguised attempts to contact Bardine. Eventually, Samuelson's telephone privileges were revoked. He is presently not allowed to call anyone from the jail, or to receive messages.

As no one (neither Samuelson, nor Bardine) asked for the no-contact order, it patently violates First Amendment rights of freedom of speech, and to associate, at a time when contact is most important.

Also in his charges is an allegation of a probation violation, by way of Samuelson allegedly having had a few drinks in his home (though not intoxicated, as it is usually understood - he blew .086) the day of the arrest. This is the charge for which the court has refused to set bail, resulting in Samuelson's being jailed pending trial. It is likely that he did have a few drinks, but that is all he appears to have done. If he was guilty of this, the jail time for consumption of alcohol while on probation would likely be far less than the many months that he has already been held.

**Probation? For what?** Samuelson's past is not lily-white, but what he did was about 15 years ago, when he was much younger, and he recognizes that it was inappropriate, and has not repeated the type of act since. In 1995, when his then-wife's 14 yr. old sister, Tina, was visiting, after she'd been showing off her endowments (above the waist) to a neighbour, Samuelson became curious, and while Tina was retired on the couch, Samuelson copped a feel. Samuelson writes that he immediately recognized that what he was doing was wrong, and so stopped. Tina woke up, and then went back to sleep. In the years that followed, Samuelson's folly became common knowledge in the family, but was not regarded as any serious matter. Not, anyway, until, about 2001, when Samuelson's wife, Kelli Samuelson, decided to break their holy vows -- that she didn't want to be married anymore. That was the start of Samuelson's troubles.

Charges were brought against Samuelson for his errant feel (case no. 31-K5-01-531, filed 03/19/01). He was charged with 2nd degree criminal romance. Not having a prior felony record, and given the nature of the offense, Samuelson was offered a short jail term, with a stay of adjudication on the criminal charge. -- If he remained law-abiding, it would be dismissed and removed from his record. He agreed to this and was sentenced Sept. 5th, 2001.

That would normally have disposed of the matter. But an odd turn of events, propagated by Grand Rapids' misnamed "*Advocates For Family Peace*" and Itasca Co. Deputy Greg Snyder (now serving time for having unnatural acts with his stepson - see article, page 1, this issue) happened.

**Games married people play.** During Samuelson's marriage to Kelli, they had liked to play bedroom games. The kind that involved bondage and restraints and such, and some dramatic fantasy acting. They liked this so much that they did it frequently,



**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.**

and so to enjoy the incidents even when not participating, they made a number of videos that they could look back on.

Per Samuelson, in 1999, Samuelson's mother-in-law, Donna Christensen, made a CHIPs complaint against Samuelson and his wife, that they were arguing in front of the children. Without any investigation, the children were removed from the Samuelsons' home, and placed, for paid foster care, with Christensen, the children's grandmother. (Later, Steve Samuelson explains, when the foster payments stopped, Christensen no longer wanted the kids.)

And, much later, in 2001, Samuelson states, Donna Christensen broke into his car, and stole the videotapes of Steve and Kelli playing in the bedroom. According to Steve Samuelson's recount, Christensen turned the tapes over to the "Advocates For Family Peace", presumably to gain leverage for Kelli in the pending divorce action, and a single tape was selected to be given to the Itasca Co. Sheriff's Office (which works closely with the "Advocates" - Sheriff Pat Medure is on the Advocates' Board of Directors) and investigated by Deputy Snyder for criminal charges against Samuelson.

Although, again, no complaint had been initiated by the alleged "victim", Samuelson was soon charged with 2 felony counts of 1st degree criminal romantic conduct, and 2 felony counts of kidnapping (case no. 31-K5-01-2263, filed 08/01/01) based upon the videotape. The other tapes would have tended to exonerate Samuelson, by showing that the acts were frequent and voluntary; but his then-attorney, Chad Sterle, told him that they had been destroyed by the "Advocates".

Kelli was told, by the "Advocates" to not impede the investigation, and to go along with it, if she ever wanted her kids back. She has since provided her affidavit indicating that all of the acts on the videotape were consensual, and that the "Advocates" attempted to coerce her into giving false testimony.

**(For Kelli Samuelson's full affidavit indicating subornation of perjury by the "Advocates" under this threat, see "The Samuelson Papers", at "For The Chosen", accessed from northernherald.com)**

Steve Samuelson has volunteered to take a polygraph test regarding the consensuality of the acts shown on the videotape.

And Kelli, who had voluntarily participated in the acts and the videos, couldn't, honestly, testify at trial that the acts were nonconsensual. So it became important to Itasca County that the matter not go to trial.

## "Abused" Women?

Jennifer Bardine reported that, at one time, during her romance with Samuelson, she wanted to have her own apartment, but had no money. She had heard the the "*Advocates For Family Peace*" at Grand Rapids could help her with the first 3 months' rent. So she went there. Once there, she was told that they could only help with rent if she was 1) homeless, and 2) coming out of an abusive relationship (whether marital, or illicit). Bardine told the "Advocate" that she hadn't been abused. The "Advocate" took her into a back room and explained that that was the only way she was going to get rent money, and encouraged her to lie and say that she'd been abused, either verbally or physically, by Steven Samuelson. "They wanted me to lie and say he was being abusive," Bardine recounts. Bardine refused.

Creating these sorts of false accounts of abuse is how women get support money from the "Advocates" and other similar agencies; and also how the "Advocates" continue to receive grant and government funding.

Samuelson was held, without trial, for about 8 months, until he was, finally, on 04/09/02, willing to plead guilty to a reduced charge -- a single count of First Degree Criminal Romantic Conduct -- in order to get out. He was sentenced to a fine, and costs, and 30 years' supervised probation.

But his guilty plea to this *romantic conduct* (from the videotape) charge carried another string attached to it: **the previous stay of adjudication for his copped feel was rescinded** and sentence imposed. Although it was for fines, costs, and a term of 25 years supervised probation, it also carried conditions of probation, including a 25 year no-drink order (in Northern Minnesota, this is a commonly imposed condition, whether or not the crime was caused by alcohol; it is also a common ground for violation of probation), and that Samuelson register as a romantic offender. That sentence was ordered, by Judge Maturi, on 05/14/02.

It was these terms of probation that, eight years later, Samuelson is alleged to have violated the day before Thanksgiving, 2009, by having drinks in his home, and also by the alleged assault, which the alleged victim denies; and for which he has been held in jail, without bail set, since then.

**The arrest.** On Nov. 25th, 2009, at about 5 p.m., Samuelson and his live-in fiancee, Jennifer Bardine, were having a heated discussion at Samuelson's home north of Nashwauk.

Bardine's daughter, Ashley Garmaker, of Onamia, called and Samuelson hung up on her. The daughter called Bardine's niece, Elizabeth W. Noel, in Keewatin, and Noel put in a call to law enforcement, who came to Samuelson's home.

Bardine told authorities then and there that there had been no assault or abuse, and refused to make a complaint against Samuelson, but, per Bardine, a deputy was overheard to say, "I think we can make a case."

Samuelson was then arrested for the alleged assault, and the alleged probation violations by way of having the drinks, and the suspected assault.

**"Excessive bail shall not be required . . . ." -- Eighth Amendment, U.S. Constitution.**

The court set bail at \$25,000 for each of two counts of alleged domestic assault (both allegedly against Bardine), but ordered Samuelson held, without bail, on

the probation violation.

Although the report, filed by police, is convincing and damning, Bardine has stated that it is fabricated as to what she told police at the scene. It is not known why Itasca authorities wanted to make a case of this, but Bardine responded, for example, to the statement in the police complaint against Samuelson, that Bardine had told police, at the scene, that she was "punched in areas that would not leave marks," by saying, "That is a total lie -- he's never hit me!" A transcript of a law enforcement tape made at the scene discloses someone saying over the police radio "We'll see if we can put the grab on him."

**Did you think this couldn't happen in America? Do you think it can't happen to you?** As of May 10th, 2010, Samuelson remained in the Itasca County jail; he had been in jail for over 5 months, without bail being allowed, without trial, and without being allowed contact with Bardine, his primary contact on the outside. He is in jail simply because certain Itasca County authorities and organizations (such as the misnamed "Advocates for Family Peace") want him there and want to destroy any life he may have in Itasca County. Samuelson has said that, over the years, the "Advocates" have interfered with any meaningful romance that he has tried to develop; his former girlfriend, Jamie Boos, has stated that they were together for 6 years, and that Samuelson never abused her in any way; but these outside pressures and harassment finally resulted in her inability to stay with him. She has offered to come forward and help in his current struggle. Historically, this insidious method of targeting people, and interfering with the most personal and intimate aspects of their lives was a method used by the "Stasi" (the secret police of communist East Germany) to impede the lives of people that they didn't like by destroying their marriages, etc., during the days of the iron curtain (1961-1989) in eastern Europe. Apparently, it also happens in Northern Minnesota.

The no-contact order has effectively prevented Samuelson from retaining effective counsel, both for trial, and to work on getting him out of jail. With Samuelson in jail, Bardine has to be able to receive his checks and cash them; pay household bills, get Samuelson an attorney and pay him, and do other things on Samuelson's behalf. Effectively, Bardine is Samuelson's primary responsible contact with the world (including potential legal counsel); but the court order impedes her doing what has to be done to keep up Samuelson's home, and keep an attorney retained for him, while he is in jail. As of May 10th, Samuelson's former private counsel (whom Bardine had found and hired) quit because he claimed that communication problems with the Samuelson family had resulted in his not being paid, and Bardine, who could have paid him, reported that the attorney, *Thomas Nolan, Jr., Esq.*, of Minneapolis, had told her that because of the no-contact order, he could not tell her how much was owed so she could pay it. Nolan denies that conversation, but has been otherwise uncooperative with the press and refused further comment regarding his curious withdrawal from the case at a crucial time.

**We become a police state.** Prior to Nolan's withdrawal, and on March 29th, there were scheduling proceedings, before Judge Maturi at Grand Rapids. Bardine, and Samuelson's family -- his brother and grown daughters - attended the hearing. Bardine, still with Samuelson, despite that they have (Cont'd, "Frontier Justice," p. 16)

# Why advertise in Northern Herald?

Your advertising dollar goes farther and works longer than in any other paper.

1. The rates\*, per placement, are about the same as the other papers, but *Northern Herald* is quarterly, so you don't have to pay for a new ad every week. **One ad placement circulates for 3 months.** That gives you 12 times more bang for your buck. \* \$12 per column inch

2. **Northern Herald reaches markets that you'd have to advertise in six of the other papers to reach.** In *Northern Herald*, you reach over 5,000 people everywhere in Northern Minnesota, from Grand Rapids to Bemidji and Bagley; and from Brainerd to Red Lake. Additionally, about 7,500 people per year, worldwide, hit the site of our online edition.

**Does your ad in the other papers really get seen?**

Some papers seem to regard their advertisers as a secondary thing, rather than the engine that keeps the paper going. At *Northern Herald*, our **advertisers are important** to us. So,

3. Whereas other papers just dump a bunch of ads into the inside corners of the pages (does anybody ever look there?), **with Northern Herald, they run high on the page, or on the outside**, where they'll get seen.

4. With inserts, the other papers nest them - so yours might not get even get looked at unless the reader looks *inside some other advertiser's insert*. At *Northern Herald*, we figure you're paying to be inserted in the paper - *not in someone else's insert*. So **we place them in the paper individually**, where each insert stands out.

5. Was your ad "buried" in another paper? We have no bad placement areas. Due to our *Leading Edge Journalism* and *In Focus* events coverage throughout the paper, **more people read Northern Herald cover-to-cover**. So regardless of what page it's on, *your ad gets seen*.

Finally, here's something else to consider,

6. **Your advertising keeps the traditional press free and independent, as it must be, in Northern Minnesota.** Aside from the sound money-wise business reasons to advertise here; it's no secret that real journalism - the stuff that keeps government corruption and big corporate corruption in check - is in crisis. Newspapers, even the very largest ones, are, daily, succumbing to this. Many have gone out of business, and many others are cutting costs by laying off journalists and reducing the reporting function. In a recent *NOW* broadcast, with professor Bob McChesney and journalist John Nichols, it was stated that only 14% of today's news articles are *original journalism*. The other 86% come from wire services and releases - the self-serving propaganda that governmental agencies and big corporate business churn out and disseminate to the media that will have it. Is this where you want your news to come from? At *Northern Herald*, those releases usually hit the wastebasket right after we receive them. Almost all of our journalism is original. **We investigate** the important stories that affect our region, and **we report** them, so we know that they are credible, and relevant to our readers, before they are published. The reader gets **News** - not just a rewrite of someone else's song and dance to sell you on something. This is the traditional American journalism that our nations' Founders knew was essential to maintaining a free state; that's why they protected it in the very First Amendment of the Constitution. Now it's under fire, and, in America, it's dying, and with it, the Founders' vision. But it's alive and well here in Northern Minnesota; just as it was in Franklin's day. People get it right here, in the *Northern Herald*, and your business message can be a part of it. Your advertising keeps it coming, so it's advertising you can feel good about. If you're going to advertise anyway (and in this economy, everyone needs to), wouldn't you rather do it in the paper that you look to for the straight news?

Do you think that no one reads newspaper ads anymore? Well, you just read this one. If it had been yours, right now, a lot of other people would know about your product or service, too.

**ALL ADVERTISING COSTS YOU; GOOD ADVERTISING PAYS YOU.**

**NORTHERN HERALD 218-759-1162**

**WE MEAN BUSINESS.**

## February In Remer Means Chili And Mush!

REMER -- The chili gets eaten at the annual AYCE chili cook-off and feed; the mushing, though, is from the cross-country *Mid-Minnesota 150* sled dog race that ends in Remer that same day, so the mushers can also enjoy the feed after their long trek! The 2010 event was February 13th.

To assure impartiality, and so it wouldn't become just a popularity contest, the chili-cook off has gone to a "blind" competition in recent years. The entries are identified only by letter, and although entrants are required to bring a roaster-oven



Sled race winner, Stacey Hazen



for serving, they get shuffled, so that an entrant's chili can't be identified by their cooking vessel.

The 11 entries varied in spice and heat; some chilis were made with jalapenos, wild rice, sliced sausage, or other tasty custom fixings. They were served with

## Remember When from above

Dr. Konecne said that the Department would be hiring a new music instructor, but for now, he'd come out of retirement to serve for these events. "We're not going to give it up. . . .," he said, and, complimenting the band on their performance that evening, added that doing the live performances enriches the band's education and preparation for a music career, "because they get this atmosphere; a lot of times in the school atmosphere, they're a little too uptight, and they don't relax and, you know, play with emotion, enough. And in this atmosphere, they tend to loosen up and have a good time."

The *Remember When* dance is normally the last weekend in October. The Jazz Fest public concert is generally the first Friday or Saturday night in February. For exact dates and locations, readers may contact the Bemidji State University Music Dept.

condiments and extras - cheese, chips, corn muffins, saltines, everything one would need to make the AYCE meal complete. For \$6, it's quite the deal. The event, held at the Remer Fire Hall, raised about \$500 for the Remer Chamber of Commerce and is used to fund other community events and activities.

First Place (\$50) winning chili was entry "D", submitted by the

(Continued, "Remer," page 14)

## Dr. Steve Konecne, BSU Jazz Band I Invite All To Remember When



BSU Music Dept. head, Dr. Steven Konecne, *thought* that, after many years in the Department, including bringing special events, like the multi-school *Jazz Fest*, and the *Remember When* dance to their present form, he was going to retire.

But no one can do those events, important to BSU Jazz, like Dr. Konecne, so all were pleased to see him

return to conduct the *Remember When* dance, Oct. 30th & 31st, 2009; as well as the 2010 Jazz Fest, in February.

(Text continues, col. 3, below)



John Konecne on sax

## WHERE ITASCA CO. TAX MONEY GOES

### Questionable Investigation Costs Itasca Co. Taxpayers

GRAND RAPIDS -- Forester, and Itasca County Land Commissioner, Garrett Ous has a big job to do, and some people might find his no-nonsense management style a little "gruff."

Apparently, that was the cause of a personality conflict between Ous, and Itasca County Commissioner Catherine McLynn, who embarked on what has been termed by some, a lengthy "witch hunt", against Ous. She was joined by Cmmrs. Lori Dowling and Karen Burthwick.

In the end, the effort resulted, in June 2009, in a mediated settlement of Ous receiving a three-day suspension for actions

which, per the arbitrator's decision, affected office morale within his Department; and for not implementing the County Board's mandate to Ous that he "improve the human relations atmosphere in the Department."

The arbitrator was also somewhat critical regarding *the Board's* own actions, but acknowledged that, "it is not the County Board that is on trial here though."

Per official sources, Itasca County paid investigators \$31,890.60 to investigate McLynn's complaints against Ous, but the total public cost of this pursuit of Ous, including out of town attorneys, etc. for the complicated and lengthy case, is expected to be much higher and may top \$200,000.

## LEADING EDGE JOURNALISM - FOLLOW UP

### Sigfrinius Gets Off With 90 Days

GRAND RAPIDS -- Can a person commit nonconsensual homosexual acts with a minor and get off with just 90 days? In Itasca Co. they can, if they happen to be the *right* person.

Former Itasca County Head Jailer (Itasca Co. Sheriff's Office), **David Allen Sigfrinius**, 60, of Bovey, having been charged (Itasca Co. case no. 31-CR-08-3939) with felonies and gross misdemeanors including 4 counts of criminal sexual conduct relating to homosexual relations with a minor, and 2 counts of furnishing alcohol to a minor; pled guilty, on June 1st, 2010, before Judge John R. Solein, to two reduced gross misdemeanor charges (one count each) of *5th degree* nonconsensual sexual contact; and furnishing alcohol to a minor. The other 4 charges were dismissed. Prior to the plea, Sigfrinius had been scheduled to be tried in July.

On June 29th, Judge Solein sentenced Sigfrinius to 90 days in jail, with work release, and "Sentence To Serve" privileges; and 275 days stayed with 2 yrs.

supervised probation.

Sigfrinius had served 16 days while awaiting trial, and was then released on bail.

*In the end, Mr. Sigfrinius will have served less time for having had nonconsensual homosexual relations with a minor, than Mr. Samuelson (story, page 1, this issue) has served for having consenting, videotaped, heterosexual relations with his wife! But then, in Itasca County, being a former employee of the Sheriff's Office has its advantages. -- Ed.*

For futher reading, see the initial coverage of this story, "Volcano of Corruption Erupts In Itasca County Sheriff's Office", pg. 1, NH of 10/26/09, at [northernherald.com](http://northernherald.com); and also background stories, "Was Wendy Carlson Forced to Have Oral Romance With Itasca County Head Jailer" (NH of 04/26/2000, Vol. 5 No. 9) and "Itasca Co. Head Jailer Retires", (NH of 05/24/2000, vol. 5 no. 10), both available in *The Library*, Vol. 5, at [northernherald.com](http://northernherald.com)

**RESTAURANT HOURS**  
11 AM - Midnight  
7 days

**BAR HOURS**  
11 AM - Close  
7 days

**Madden's DUTCH ROOM Bar & Lounge**

Mad Dog Pizza & Restaurant      Madden's Dutch Room Bar

FINE FOOD      ON & OFF SALE

★★★★ In Grand Rapids, it's where people in the know, go.

**FULL MENU From Appetizers to our 16 oz. T-Bone Steak, and everything in between • Buffalo Wings • Kids' Menu • Homemade Soups & Chilis • Salads • Ribs • Chicken • Shrimp • Sandwiches**

• **Famous MAD DOG'S SUBMARINE w/ Mad Dog Sauce (feeds 3)**  
• **22 BURGERS from MAD DOG'S Puppies (2 oz.) to the BIG DOG (a full pound)**

Happy Hour 4:30-5:30 M-Sa • Daily lunch specials 11a - 2p • Dinner Specials 4p - 10p

• **REGULAR and SPECIALTY PIZZAS** • **TUESDAYS Pizza & a Pitcher \$11.99**

Cheeseburger-Bacon, Crab Alfredo, many more. Or have a Double-Decker BIG DOG - over 8 pounds of PIZZA!

4 Regulation Pool Tables

Call for Take-Out or Delivery of Food, Beer, Beverage  
Pizza Delivery: 218-326-1774      702 NW 4th St.  
Liquor Delivery: 218-326-9119      Grand Rapids, Minn.



*A good idea. A silent policeman stands at the North and South entrances to Hackensack, on Hwy 371. A lot of good drivers don't intentionally speed, but, coming up the highway at 55, might just forget to slow down. So Mayor (and former police chief) Mel Rateike implemented this cost-effective way to painlessly remind them. He reported that it has resulted in less speeding through town.*

*A pleasant place to pop on in, is the Popple Bar, at Laporte! Here, their picture window overlooks the smoking area, their putting green, and Garfield Lake.*



Come on over and enjoy a pastry 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.

*Open for Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

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

★★★ Editor's Recommendation: This is a wonderful meal of meat, potatoes, and veggies wrapped in a delicious baked pastry crust, with gravy. It's quite the treat! Stop in and take a whiff - the homestyle quality is obvious.

*(Pastry shown with avocado and parsley garnish added)*

*5 varieties: Regular (beef, potatoes, onions, carrots), Beef & Kraut, Rutabaga (our most popular), German, and even a Breakfast Pastry w/ eggs and sausage - all \$4.50!*

**Pasties Plus • 218-326-2234**

★★★★ In Hackensack

**River House Dining & Lounge**

• Area's Largest Salad Bar

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

**Every Saturday AYCE Fried Chicken AND BBQ Rib Buffet \$16.99**

**Thurs.-Sat., Certified Black Angus Prime Rib**  
12 oz. \$20.99, 17 oz. \$22.99

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

★★★★ 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.

☺☺ denotes the few (due to Minnesota law) restaurants which can still be hospitable to all, whether or not they smoke.

~~ A Northern Herald Restaurant Review ~~



★★★★ (Q3, 1/2\$, 1/2+)  
**El Potro Mexican Restaurant**, 510 S. Pokegama Ave., Grand Rapids, 218-326-6275

It's great to have Mexican in Grand Rapids, now, and El Potro has become a very popular place. Their big menu features appetizers, including the favorite, guacamole, which is \$2.25; many lunch (11-2:30) specials from \$4.99 to \$6.75; and many dinner

combinations in the \$7-\$8 range. There also are many special dinners that with chicken, beef, and pork; they include carne asada, chimichangas, chile verde, steak a la Mexicana, and many kinds of fajitas. Also offered are seafood, and vegetarian dishes. There is also a child's menu (WHY would anyone bring them to a restaurant? - Too peaceful and romantic?)

The beverage list includes Margaritas, as well as Mexican beer; and all served in a relaxed but festive Mexican decor, with, in the background, tasteful Latin music that reminds one of dining in Old Mexico. Distinctive South-of-the-Border desserts include flan, and fried ice cream.

The guacamole had a lovely bouquet; the serving size was adequate for one (couples should order two). At \$2.25, not a bad deal.

The service was very fast - the entree (an enchilada combo) arrived before the appetizer was finished.

The enchiladas came covered with red sauce and the traditional Mexican creamy light cheese, and were very good; as were the rice and the frijoles refritos. The only thing we would have done differently is that the beef might have been shredded (or carne asada) rather than ground. The cheese was very flavourful and a perfect compliment to the enchiladas. All in all, the cuisine was more authentic Mexican than most - the chefs obviously know how to use Mexican ingredients and spices - and very much appreciated in the Grand Rapids area. *Muy Bien!*

~~ A Northern Herald Restaurant Review ~~

DEPRESSION PRICING - AIN'T IT GREAT ?!?!?

Coming this fall . . . A GREAT Five-Star Sunday Brunch in Bemidji for \$11.99

The following meal deal, reviewed last winter, has been withdrawn for the summer season, but is set to be resumed about September. Prices are expected to be about the same. So put it on your fall calendar, and to confirm when it is happening, it is recommended to call the restaurant at 218-444-1875

★★★★ (Q3,\$,+)  
**Green Mill restaurant**, located at the Hampton Inn, 1025 Paul Bunyan Dr. S., Bemidji. Rated: Sunday Buffet Brunch

Great food, great motif, great service, great price. Can't ask for more. This Sunday brunch ranks right up there with the way Sunday brunches used to be at the top Twin Cities restaurants, like The Orion Room, costing \$20 or more. Now, it's here in Bemidji for a lot less.

It's a real deal on a great five-star AYCE brunch buffet. Very excellent food and lots of it.



With two pans going, the omelette and crepe chef produces a perfect fresh raspberry crepe (inset), drizzled in chocolate, to order.

picture windows on the lake, a diner might stroll by the crepe station

where custom omelettes and fruit crepes, including fresh blackberry, are made to order and included with the brunch. A big Caesar salad, with cubed bread and veggie dip, heads a generous chafing dish promenade that just goes on and on, with breakfast favourites including excellent eggs, links, and bacon; hash browns, biscuits & gravy, fresh fruit, muffins, outstanding bread pudding, and more. Then one can go back for great lunch stuff including hand-carved roast beef & ham, many other fine entrees, decadent desserts and, really, way more than we can list here - you just gotta see this huge layout of good food!

Great ambience, too. Dine at lakeside either indoors, or outdoors, weather permitting.

The brunch is every Sunday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The regular price of \$11.99-adults, \$9.99-seniors, and \$7.99-kids 3-12 (under 3 are free), includes your choice of one non-alcoholic beverage (juice, coffee, etc.) and refills. That can save another dollar or two right there.

The great thing about a depression is that prices get so reasonable, and people can do neat things they otherwise wouldn't be able to. So try this, and let's make this depression all that it can be!

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. Open M-Sa at 5; at 4 on Sun. For more info, please call. 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, 218-326-1774

★★★ (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, 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.

## The Candidates: Itasca Co. Sheriff Primary

All three candidates list their addresses as in Deer River. Williams is the Deer River police chief, Scherf and Shevich are deputies in the Itasca Co. Sheriff's Office. All candidates were asked, essentially, the same set of questions: Itasca Sheriff candidate questions: 1) Can you ride a horse and shoot? [we require this of all Sheriff candidates, everywhere]; 2) How do you feel about the Sheriff's Mounted Posse (a citizen organization which assists the Sheriff - in Itasca County, they are known as the Volunteer Search And Rescue Squad); 3) What is the primary thrust of your campaign?; 4) What positive changes will you bring to the office?; 5) Can you work within the framework of corruption that is entrenched in Itasca County and bring betterment?; 6) What is your experience and training in law enforcement; 7) Without necessarily indicting or naming any other candidate, how do you feel about the Troy Mann case (e.g. policy weaknesses, administrative considerations, how to avoid recurrence, etc.); 8) Current Sheriff Pat Medure is on the Board of Directors of "Advocates For Family Peace" (AFP) which is directly, and not impartially, involved in law enforcement investigations and activities, including matters calling for exercise of judgement (e.g. whether or not an arrest would be proper) by the investigators and officers. 8a) Do you believe that this poses a conflict of interest? 8b) Do you believe that AFP has, in some regards, overstepped its bounds and unduly influenced Itasca County law enforcement, county agencies, and the judicial system in Itasca County?

### Victor J. Williams



Northern Herald photo

Whether on vacation, or living there, Deer River is one of the most pleasant and peaceful places where one can be. One of the reasons may be the 14 yr. service of Victor Williams as their police chief. Law enforcement in Deer River is firm and "no-nonsense" as to lawbreakers, but it is also *common sense*; and the only negative thing we've heard from locals about his run for Sheriff is that they don't want to lose Williams as their police chief.

To encapsulate the most significant part of his new job, if elected, Williams said, "I think it's the trustworthiness and the honest approach that I'm going to try to put into that [the Sheriff's] department."

Chief Williams attributes his success with the Deer River Police Dept. (DRPD) to having had extensive *administrative*, as well as law enforcement, background. Things like personnel management, budgets, and the like, that, in a county like Itasca, are as important to the Sheriff's job as knowing how to shoot and ride a horse (both of which Williams says he can do very well, if necessary).

He said, "I come with an administrative background; and I think at this point, right now, that it's crucial, due to economic conditions in the rest of the State that whoever steps into that position -- it's crucial that they have an understanding of how the money, how the personnel management, works. Because right now . . . whoever takes this job over is gonna take a real bath on having to establish themselves as an administrator."

He continued, "As a 12-year administrator for the police department, I know the rules and the obligations that it takes to be a law enforcement manager," adding that also, as a former school board member (Dist. 317), he had oversight over a \$12.3 million dollar budget.

Graduating his training in 1989, Williams has worked as a peace officer in Deer River for 20 years, the last 14 of them as Acting Police Chief (2 yrs.), and then as Chief (12 yrs.), his current position.

Cost-effective citizen posses can be of great help in many important Sheriff's operations, especially *search-and-rescue*. Asked if he supports the Itasca County Volunteer Search and Rescue Squad, Williams said, "I'm a big supporter. . . . Anytime that you can involve citizens in a law enforcement capacity, when they can assist us in any manner, as far

(Continued, "Williams," p. 13)

### Dean Scherf



candidate-furnished photo

Dean Scherf says that he can both ride a horse and shoot.

Scherf said that his pledge in this campaign, "is a commitment to excellence in our service to the citizens of Itasca County. And I also believe that the Sheriff should work *with* the citizens of Itasca County.... Initially, I don't know if there will be any major changes . . . that would affect the Department. My goal, right now, if I was elected, is to capitalize on the employees that are there, have them use their skills and what they're good at to further the Department and, more or less, build on the foundation that's there.

But Scherf said that he would not necessarily continue Sheriff Medure's management philosophy; " . . . I have my own ideas for the Department, . . . [I would] try to make the Department more self-sustaining in that we don't have to rely on other agencies to perform duties that we could get people trained in to perform; such as accident reconstruction, crime scene reconstruction . . . Working in cooperation with those agencies [such as Minn. State Patrol, BCA, etc.] is important, but I feel we have a talented enough staff where we could capitalize on what these employees are interested in and be a self-sustaining department . . .

With regard to the Itasca County Volunteer Search and Rescue Squad Scherf said, "I'm very much in support of that program . . . they're very dedicated individuals and they take pride in what they do . . . they're very well trained . . . and I would certainly support and continue that program." Scherf said that the Squad presently has 20 to 25 members.

Asked whether he could work within and bring positive change to the corrupt framework of Itasca County, Scherf said, "I believe I can; and again, that commitment to excellence and our service to the citizens is very important to me. I've been a law enforcement officer for 25 years. I personally have never been sued civilly for anything; I've never been reprimanded for any wrongdoing on my part as an officer and I think that's important. We have a lot of training opportunities and we have taken advantage of a lot of those opportunities as far as the Sheriff's Department goes; to deal with issues that may arise; to keep us within the boundaries, so to speak, of what our rights are as law enforcement officers. I think it's very important to continue to capitalize on any training that becomes available to have our officers take part in that so they're not exposed to lawsuits, so they're not exposed to departmental

(Continued, "Scherf," p. 13)

### Darin Shevich

Darin Shevich was not available for interview at the initial scheduling, and requested that the questions be posed in writing for his answers, also in writing. *Northern Herald* sent the questions, but has received no reply.

**One can always bury one's head in the sand.** Shevich did, however, respond, by phone, to the question of whether he can work within the highly corrupt Itasca County system and bring positive change within that framework. Shevich said, "I don't believe there's any kind of corruption within the Itasca County Sheriff's Office."

Darin Shevich was the officer accused of excessive force in Troy Mann's recently settled lawsuit against Itasca County, et al. (see coverage, this page)

### Candidate Analysis

Opinions are like coffeemakers; everybody has one - this is ours.

#### Reading between the lines.

In doing the candidate interviews, it became our impression that Victor Williams was very positive and candid, and made himself a little bit more available to the public than any other candidate. This, despite that Williams had to do his regular job during the same period (the other two candidates took required (for *county* employees) administrative leave during the campaign period). Williams seems like a hard worker, and yet has a very good attitude toward the job; and the experience (and results, in his community) to back it up. Availability is very important in a Sheriff; there are times when people may have to reach their Sheriff, and someone else, or an answering machine won't do.

In our opinion, both Scherf and Williams are qualified for the job. Williams, however, comes across as *emphasizing* the importance that the Sheriff be an impartial and thorough investigator - a finder of *fact*; and that he act on those facts, alone, and without interference. While Williams didn't indict any entity within the County as having conflicts of interest, he gave the distinct impression that if there were any, he'd root them out and not allow them to interfere with the sound and just operation of his Department, and that he wouldn't tolerate less than that. And integrity is very important to him. Right now, that is what Itasca County needs from its Sheriff.

Finally, a number of problems have recently come to light as regards the current Itasca County Sheriff's Office and some of its personnel. Although we were impressed with both Chief Williams, and Deputy Scherf; and we recognize that Deputy Scherf's unique position as Mr. Troy Mann's brother-in-law may have given him a keen insight

(Cont'd, "Analysis," p. 13)

### DEPRIVATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS CLAIMED

## Itasca Co., Medure, Shevich Settle Excessive Force Suit

ST. PAUL -- A tentative partial settlement was reached in April, 2010, in the federal lawsuit of Troy Mann v. (Itasca Co. deputy) Darin Shevich, Pat Medure, Itasca County Sheriff; and the County of Itasca (USDC case no. 08-CV-5202 (ADM-RLE)). The negotiated settlement settled claims against Itasca County, but it is reported that claims may remain for further litigation against deputy Shevich, and Sheriff Medure.

Although the Plaintiff, Troy Ernest Mann, 41, has been unavailable for comment, official sources have stated that the settlement with Itasca County was for approximately \$150,000.

**A pain in the neck.** The Complaint, filed before the United States District Court on 09/17/08, alleges that, on July 17, 2008, while Mann was outside his Deer River home with his 9 year old son, deputy Shevich, without provocation, grabbed Mann by Mann's arm and neck and shoved Mann into the side of a truck; that Shevich pinned Mann there for a period of time while yelling threats at him; and that due to Shevich's actions, Mann suffered, and continues to suffer, severe pain in his neck and upper and lower back.

**It didn't happen?** In their Answer, the Defendants (Shevich, Medure and the County) summarily denied most of these allegations.

**Charges.** As of July 23rd, 2008, charges were filed (Itasca Co. case no. 31-CR-08-2496) against Mann, from the 7/17/08 incident, of 1) Reckless driving, 2) No proof of insurance, 3) Seat belt not used, and 4) Obstruction/ Interfering with a peace officer. On 08/19/08, Mann pled *not guilty* to all four charges. On 09/02/08, the prosecutor (Christopher Strendlie) moved to dismiss all four charges. Accordingly, Judge Maturi dismissed them.

**Mann's civil Complaint** before the federal Court alleged that Shevich's actions constituted "excessive, unreasonable, and unjustified force", assault and battery, and "false arrest/imprisonment"; in violation of United States Code, Title 42, Section 1983; the U.S. Constitution; and also common law. Damages were claimed 1) for unreasonable search and seizure of the Plaintiff's (Mann's) person in violation of his civil rights under the First, Fourth, Fifth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution; 2) for loss of physical liberty; 3) for physical pain and suffering; emotional trauma, and past, current and future medical expenses; and 4) loss of income.

Mann is the owner of Mann's Excavating, at Deer River; their business phone, however, no longer appears to be answered; and appears to now be connected to a computer or fax modem. Computers do not excavate well because they don't usually come with a large enough bucket.

**What they know can hurt you.** The Complaint further alleged, in its claims against Sheriff Medure and the County, "Defendant Medure and the County knew, or should have known of Defendant Shevich's history of committing unconstitutional misconduct, including assault, unreasonable force, and false arrest." The Complaint maintained that Medure and the

County were negligent in retaining deputy Shevich, and that that negligence proximately caused Plaintiff's injury.

The complaint further alleged: ". . . the County of Itasca developed and maintained policies or customs exhibiting deliberate indifference to the constitutional rights of persons in the County of Itasca, which caused the violation of Plaintiff's rights. . . . It was the policy and[/] or custom of the County to inadequately and improperly [investigate] . . . citizens' complaints of officers' misconduct. . . . Acts of misconduct were instead tolerated by the County . . ."

The suit originally sought \$150,000, plus costs, attorney fees, punitive damages (against Defendant Shevich), and other relief as the Court deemed appropriate.

*Editor's note 1: From reporting, it is our opinion that this incident is a drop in the bucket as concerns unlawful activity by officials in Itasca County. It is well that this case was brought, and a number of other recent civil rights suits against Itasca County, and its officials, are pending.*

*Unfortunately, a lot of the incidents never come to light, or compensation, when the victims aren't people who own their own businesses, and have neither the means, nor the ability, nor the attorney, to bring a federal case (generally, the appropriate Court) on Constitutional grounds. In the Mann case, his attorney was Ross Hussey, Esq., of Minneapolis (612-802-1632)*

*Editor's note 2: A funny incident that happened some years ago. In late summer, 1995, the Northern Herald hadn't happened yet, but was about to.*

*My salesman, Mr. Shindelar, and I were just wrapping up a successful sales (of advertising for the first issue) day-trip, in Grand Rapids. We were both in particularly good spirits from the day's work when I stopped at the M & H for gas on the way out of town. A somewhat attractive woman was filling on the other side of the pump, and I asked her if she might like to be kissed. She declined the offer. She finished filling, paid for the gas, and went on her way; similarly, I finished filling, checked the oil, paid, and Mr. Shindelar and I were on our way back to Bemidji.*

*When we got about to the Forest Lake, I noticed flashing lights behind, so pulled over.*

*Two Grand Rapids city officers got out of the squad, and put us on the ground! Asked why, the officers said it related to my offer to kiss the woman at the M & H, which, somehow, they considered to be an assault.*

*On the way to the police station, one of the officers said words to the effect that "We don't like guys coming here and grabbing our women." Neither of us had grabbed, or touched, anyone.*

*Our car was towed, and my salesman (who hadn't even said anything - he was sitting in the convertible while I was filling it) and I were put in a holding cell for about two hours. Finally, after police consulted by phone with the County Attorney, Jack Muhar, and presumably were told that asking a woman if she wanted a kiss wasn't yet a crime,*

(Continued, "Itasca," p. 13)

**Scherf from page 12**

reprimand . . . just building on that foundation that's there with the individuals that are there and making it known to them that certain behaviours -- certain ways to deal with situations -- are not going to be . . . [tolerated] . . . and as an administrator, I would make sure that everything was done as much aboveboard as possible and to the best of the officer's abilities to stay free of these lawsuits and these complaints from the citizens . . . and again, that excellence, I believe, has to be in place, and the expectation has to be there, from the administrators down to the line staff of the Sheriff's Department to make sure that's carried out. . . . We need to hold ourselves to a standard; whether we're on duty or off-duty, people know *who we are* . . . I personally would not like to tolerate any complaints from the public as far as excessive use of force, false arrest, things of such. I believe that if officers are out there, if they're trained properly, they're using good common sense . . . [and] . . . playing within the boundaries . . . I believe those circumstances can be avoided; and again, if the expectation is there from the administration . . . [and training and guidance is provided], . . . we can avoid a lot of the situations that may arise."

Scherf has a 2-year (this is usual) law enforcement degree from Hibbing Vo-Tech, and started in law enforcement when he was 20, working part-time with the Itasca County Sheriff's Mounted Posse. Following graduation, he worked with the Rolla, No. Dak. police dept., and the Mahnomen police dept.; and in 1989 was hired by the Itasca Co. Sheriff's Dept. as a patrol deputy. He said that of his 25 yrs. in law enforcement, he has had 16 yrs. supervisory and investigation experience with the Sheriff's Office; and now, "my day-to-day functions

are supervising and overseeing the operations of the Sheriff's Department; and I believe that I've had enough experience in that to make me a good administrator." Additionally, Scherf said that he graduated in 2000 from the 2-week FBI law enforcement executive development training program, dealing with law enforcement leadership; and has taken several supervisory courses through the Minn. Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA).

Dean Scherf is the brother-in-law of Troy Mann, who recently settled a lawsuit against Itasca County alleging excessive force by a deputy.

Scherf emphasized that, any observed wrongdoing and "complaints against officers will be dealt with immediately", to avoid "muddy waters" down the road, and "the appropriate action [will] be taken to make sure that it doesn't happen again."

"My pledge in this campaign is a commitment of excellence in our services to you, the citizens of Itasca County. The other high points that I'm stressing is my experience, my honour and my integrity as a law enforcement officer. With my years of experience, my supervisory experience, and the high level of training that I've had, I can honestly say that I've been there and done that, so to speak. . . . If [I'm] elected Sheriff and an officer comes to me for advice, . . . I feel confident that I can guide them in the right direction, give them the answers that they need and make sure that everyone is dealt with accordingly; because I've been there, I've done it and I've had the experience . . . [and] . . . training to deal with any situation that may arise."

Scherf did not offer comment on the questions relating to the Advocates For Family Peace (AFP).



Left, opening his campaign for his 19th term, 8th Dist. Congressman Jim Oberstar made an appearance in Bemidji June 5th, 2010 at a downtown cafe. At inset, Oberstar chats with former Leech Lake Band Chairman Eli Hunt.

"To be a represent-

ative, you have to **represent people,**" said Oberstar, displaying a traditional karate hand position. "We have eliminated subsidies for big banks, he said, and he spoke of the recent "reforms to prevent abusive practices by credit card companies," which will keep millions of working Americans from being scammed by big banks and big money through predatory banking practices. As to the health plan, Oberstar said, "I'm glad I voted for it."

**Itasca from page 12**

we were released without charges, but with a tow bill.

We were on a sales - not reporting - errand, so didn't note the name of the officers that had put us on the ground. But the Grand Rapids police chief should check records and dig them up and give them a medal. The keen insight that they provided (to just the right person), into how law enforcement works in Itasca County, has helped us in our reporting of just about every corrupt incident that we've reported from there; in knowing who's credible, who's not, and how things are done there.

It's kind of reminiscent of the

days of the loggers, the voyageurs, and the cowboys; when, in an edge-of-the-frontier burgh like an early Grand Rapids, remote and far removed from the Constitutional restraints and due process of Philadelphia and Washington; the law of the region was whatever the Sheriff said it was.

In time, we've been able to trace the corruption from law enforcement, to the other county agencies with which they work, and even into the courts, and local bar. And it appears, in some part, to stem from the misnamed "Advocates For Family Peace", whom, some have testified, tell the officers what to do.

It's a reasonable premise. You

**Williams from page 12**

as being a new set of eyes out there for us, I *do* support."

Asked if he would be able to work within the (currently) corrupt framework of the Itasca Co. Sheriff's office, Williams said, "I think that the overall condition of that Sheriff's office [is that it] has good people. And I think the good people, with direction, will strive to be excellent law enforcement [officers]. I think that things that have happened in the past have been dealt with and are behind us now and I think what I'm gonna focus on is a new direction. . . . I think with the right people and the right leadership, things can be turned around."

Chief Williams believes in a positive approach, but also sound and firm disciplinary policy, when needed, within the department. "What I believe in -- it's a balance of instilling integrity back in those officers, and making it so they *want* to get up and go to work, but what I want to do, also, [is for them to] be under the understanding that I do not tolerate negligence [or inappropriate conduct]. If there's proof . . . [of negligence or malfeasance by officers] then I will use the authority that's granted to me to punish [them] to the fullest extent," he said.

Because Chief Williams was one of the officers whose duty was to investigate the allegations made in the Troy Mann case, to avoid prejudicing anyone's rights, he preferred not to discuss specifics of that case at this time, while it still remains open as to certain litigants (it has been settled only as to the *County's* liability). But Williams stated his position that, "I think *every* citizen complaint should have honest and faithful review based on the *facts*."

As to whether Sheriff Pat Medure's being on the Board of the Advocates For Family Peace (AFP) poses a conflict of interest, Williams said that it would, "if that position has *any* control over the decision-making process," and stressed, "I'm careful about what positions I take and what positions I control because the Sheriff's position should be one of impartiality. If you have too many tentacles out there, you have a lot of influence from different directions."

Williams said that, in his experience in Deer River, he knew of no incidents where AFP overstepped their bounds, but added that there aren't very many domestic incidents in Deer River, so his involvement with AFP has been limited, and he was interested in seeing what goes on in the rest of the county. "I'm interested in seeing how they are working, I'd like to see *where* they are working, and that there aren't any conflicts," he said.

take a house full of recently separated, or otherwise personally disagreeable women, whose day-to-day activity involves working closely with a bunch of horny\* officers who are on a loose leash and who, as a matter of policy and custom, are allowed to misbehave and operate outside of the laws; now, what do you think is going to happen?"

\* as evidenced by the recent Snyder and Sigfrinius incidents - and those were just the ones you heard about because they involved homosexual conduct with minors - the amount of compromising heterosexual activity with adult women can probably never be known.

**Armageddon fr p. 6**

alcohol fuel, or matters concerning nuclear, the source of the most toxic substance (plutonium) which we can't get rid of after it's used; or oil; a burgeoning population requires more energy. The media documentaries, like, for example,

**Analysis from page 12**

into troubles within the Itasca County Sheriff's Office; we believe that, with respect to that Office, the "think outside the box" approach that may be needed for fair and clean law enforcement to become something upon which County residents can depend, may have to come from "outside the box". Of the three candidates, only Victor Williams, a highly trained and experienced officer with a good track record, and coming from outside the current Sheriff's Office, meets that criterion. -- Ed.

a recent one on PBS, dance around this point. They'd rather say that the problem is a greater energy demand *per person* due to computers, more TV sets, etc. They won't touch on the population factor - no one wants to say that. But per capita energy use hasn't gone up enough to explain today's energy demand, and in many cases may, in fact, have gone *down* now that people are using low-wattage light bulbs, driving more fuel-efficient cars, and being more conscious of home insulation. It's a simple equation: the reason for our skyrocketing energy demand is that there are *TOO D—N MANY PEOPLE*. When each person produces a child, given a few years (to the child's maturity), the number of cars on the road doubles, as does the number of households to be heated and lit, and as does the demand for energy and resource-intensive infrastructure.

This is not a new discovery. The "Population Explosion" was a buzzphrase in the 1960s -- when the U.S. had about half as many people as now -- and its consequences were known. Still, and aware of this, people tend to say, "Yes, it's a problem, but I'm going to have *my* child or two." That's why we are where we are now. We are at a point where, facing rolling blackouts, brownouts, and other energy shortages, we are desperate enough for the energy that sustains the lifestyles to which we have become accustomed that we do such foolish things as to insert a little metal straw deep down into the ocean's floor, so deep that we can't see it and where divers, even in submarines, can't go to fix a catastrophe that may, and did, occur; in order to provide the energy that today's burgeoning population demands.

And yet they breed, and they breed, and they breed some more. What will the next -- the new "worst" -- disaster be?

We don't know if BP will be able to stop the leak in August, as they say they will try to do. They also thought that they could stop it in the first few days. It's hard to stop 40,000 barrels of oil a day - a flow rate of over 1,100 gallons per MINUTE - when it's gushing from a mile below the ocean's surface. One thing is certain - the long-term effects of this disaster will be much greater and far-reaching than anyone is letting on.

Oil, sequestered deep within the earth's crust, is very toxic to living things. That's why Providence put it down there, securely enclosed in rock. For now, forget about the shrimp beds. How about the health of the ocean's phytoplankton from which we derive about 50 to 80% (depending on whose numbers you use) of our atmospheric oxygen? (Most of the rest comes from the rain forests - oh, wait a sec - due to population, we burned a lot of those down.)

We don't yet know, for sure, what effect a thin film of oil on the water, covering much of the oceans' surfaces, would have on oceanic evaporation; but it has the potential to create another *dust bowl* in the

U.S., and a *starving* world drought; particularly over much of Asia and the Middle East, which depend upon rivers and precipitation for their agricultural water supplies. And it has the potential to make the *current* global warming crisis look like nothing.

And yet, people continue breeding. Many scientists believe that that was the way the technologically advanced Mayan culture met its end. It had the technology, but it outbred its resources. From the periodic rise and crashing of insect populations every few years, to humans, that's what happens when a population is so successful that it outbreeds it's immediate resources. For today's highly mobile humans, "immediate resources" mean those of the whole planet.

And yet they breed and breed.

**Do you play the lottery?**

Some middle-class people think that their kid will be the next Albert Schweitzer. Statistically, the chances are better that it would turn out to be more like Charles Manson. For some reason, that seldom occurs to people. And the odds are overwhelmingly best that neither would happen -- that any particular child would turn out to be *inconsequential* in the greater scheme of things. Whether a wage-earner or a wino, inconsequential; but still a draw on the world's limited resources.

**Tony Bouza** was the Police Chief in Minneapolis when I lived there in the 80s. A "think outside the box" kind of guy, he was a great and innovative Chief. He recently appeared on a public television talk show and explained why crime took a dive in the 90s. He correlated it to an unexpected source: the 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* decision. The 1990s was the decade when the first wave of unwanted children who *weren't* born due to *Roe v. Wade* would have otherwise become teenagers and young adults, with many of them, from impoverished homes, turning to crime; and replacing their peers of the generation before.

But *Roe v. Wade* changed that -- those unwanted and impoverished children didn't happen, and normal attrition, as the past generation of young hoodlums matured, diminished the population of criminally-inclined youth. Again, a simple equation - fewer people meant less crime. Particularly when the reduction in unwanted births took place in the sector most susceptible to persuasion to crime, due to need.

But it may just be a temporary fix. U.S. population is still increasing. As prices go up, and energy and food become scarcer, particularly for the lowest socio-economic groups, well, desperate people do desperate things. In crisis, when enough people are hungry, rioting and crime in the streets tend to become rampant and uncontrollable. And, speaking of hungry people, how about the ones in other nations, particularly the billions in Asia and the Middle East, if they were stricken with a starving drought? Would this country, with its land, water, and a complacent populace, be attractive to them?

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Is the BP oil disaster the start of Armageddon? Is it a wakeup call? This disaster, and the current state of world population, can well be analogized to the sinking of the Titanic. Life just went on as usual, with people partying and the bands playing; as the ship slowly edged lower and lower into the water. Few noticed anything wrong until it approached the breaking point. But the current crisis differs from the Titanic in that this is one that people can change - one where (Cont'd, "Armageddon," p. 14)

**NOW! Find FARM AND LOGGING MACHINERY and HEAVY EQUIPMENT in NORTHERN AUTO & BOAT SHOPPER, page 16**

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## Armageddon fr p. 13

they can control their destiny if they so choose. Because if people don't control their population, as with the insects and the Mayans, nature will control it, in ways that most people won't like.

The officials will, no doubt, try to sort out whether the blame for the BP mess should go to BP, or to Deepwater Horizons, or BP's other contractors; but the cause of it is much easier to sort out; it is clear. Individual overpopulation, plain and simple, may now have caused us to destroy our oceans and the life-sustaining properties they possess.

It's something to think about before making another person.

## Country/Moon fr p. 2

biggest yet with, for the first time, national bands in all 5 Main Stage time slots, from 3 p.m. 'til after midnight, all 3 nights. VIP seating is already sold out, but another great thing about Moondance is that there's no reserved seating front and center - a general admission ticket is all it takes to

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You can often have your stamps, ordered by phone, and mailed from Reese, faster than if you ordered in person somewhere else! -- Ed.

get a front-row view of these nationally-acclaimed acts, just as close to the stage as one wants to be.

Also new for Moondance Jam 2010 - the 19th performance of the nation's premiere classic rock festival - will be the "Moondance Shuffle", which gives everyone a chance to win prizes, backstage passes, and much more - even a FREE 2011 Camping & Jamming package FOR TWO! For more info on this, and to see the lineup on all three stages, readers may visit

## HELP WANTED

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

### Positions now open:

- **Office Work** - P/T, about 30-35 hrs. every 8 wks. \$7.25 - \$8.75/hr. based on merit. We also pay advance EIC. In Bemidji. Smoker preferred.
- **Outside Advertising Sales** - Energetic, reliable and honest person for Part Time work - your hours. Fully commissioned at high rate - make about \$400 - \$600 per month servicing our established, and new, accounts. Work mostly from your home or office - some driving. Students, Homemakers OK, wisdom of Seniors welcome.
- **Delivery** - Openings for Grand Rapids-Deer River, Walker-Brainerd, Akeley-Nevis-Pk Rapids routes. Motor routes are about 5-10 hrs. every 8 wks. \$7.25/hr plus actual car expenses.
- **News Stringer** (P/T freelance reporter) in Grand Rapids/Deer River Area.
- **Kids (and adults too!) MAKE MONEY TODAY** as a Northern Herald cubside vendor. Work weekends, after school - your own hours, selling the Northern Herald and keeping America free!

218-759-1162

**Northern Herald**  
Creating New Jobs for Northern Minnesota

<http://www.moondancejam.com>

**For when you want to be alone.** This year, Moondancers will find that the sanitary facilities have been moved to the North End of the Fairgrounds, for greater privacy.

June's Jammin' Country Fest saw cool weather, and a little rain; but the weather didn't dampen anyone's spirits as they piled in

## NORTHERN PERSONALS

### GUYS SEEKING GALS

Northern Minnesota. WWM. Fun, easy going, happy, healthy, energetic, nice looking, slender semi-retired homeowner enjoying most everything N. Minn. has to offer. ISO SF, 40-60 yrs. young who knows how to enjoy life; that is fun, healthy, happy; slender to medium build. Let's talk - it may be the beginning of a great relationship. Phone, please. #10156

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

### GALS SEEKING GUYS

Bemidji area. SWF, 64, 5'2", 129 lbs. NS, ND, I have a small dog. ISO male companion. Likes quiet life, country music, some TV, going out for coffee. #10157

### TO RESPOND TO NORTHERN PERSONALS

Seal your letter to the person in a stamped envelope, with only their ad # in the lower left corner, and send that envelope (in another envelope) and \$5 per reply, to NORTHERN HERALD, P.O. Box 1132, Bemidji, MN 56619.

### TO PLACE YOUR FREE AD

Write it out and send it, with your name, address & phone no. (not printed - it's to forward your replies) to the above address. The first 30 words are free, additional are 25¢ per word.

## Smoking Hot!



This person's Country Fest pic didn't get used last time, so we'll use it now.

## MISC. WANT TO BUY



Wanted: Children's Kidillac pedal car from about 1950 on. Any condition considered. Call Kay at 701-772-5306

As always with Moondance events, the Country Fest was personally managed, with producers, Mr. & Mrs. Bieloh, on-site to make sure that everyone was having enough fun, their incomparable Security Team, to ensure that everyone could do so in a safe and secure environment, and the great Moondance Staff, the guys (and gals) who really Make It Happen.  
Let's Party Like It's 1999!



# MINNESOTA REAL

PRIMIER NORTHERN REAL ESTATE Area codes 218 unless noted

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

## HOMES FOR SALE



Deer River. On U.S. 2, two mi. W of Deer River. 3 to 4 BR home on 20 acres - 10 wooded. Full basement, partially finished. 1 1/2 BA. Central air, oil heat w/propane backup. New well. Water softener. New washer, dryer; newer stove, refrigerator. Can sell w/furniture. 2-stall garage w/wood stove, plus 2-stall Morton building. Paved driveway. Best deer hunting, connected to eleven State 40s; lots of wildlife trails, pond; a naturalist's dream. Well maintained. Come and see to appreciate. \$169,900. Pre-qualified only. 218-246-8507



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



### COUNTRY HOME AND BEAUTIFUL ACREAGE, REASONABLY

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



## LAND FOR SALE



Bemidji. By owner. Almost one acre lot, located on dead end city street with lots of lilac, between Lake Irving & Lake Bemidji. Trees, some spruce. Lots of space for your dream house and yard (lot is 160' wide, length is greater). Close to town. \$40,000. 320-763-4496

Deer River. 10 acres on U.S. highway 2, two mi. W. of Deer River. Bare lot near water. Cleared, but near woods; a good building site. \$20,000 218-246-8507

## PAUL BUNYAN RV PARK

### DAILY, SEASONAL CAMPING, OR OWN YOUR OWN SITE!

On Hwy 371 just S of 200 (near the casino "Y") about 5 miles S of Walker. Adjacent to Chippewa National Forest. On Paul Bunyan Trail for hiking, biking, snowmobiling. 50 Sites. Common area w/ pavillion for large groups. Pool, hot tub, sanitary facilities & showers. For reservations, please call 218-547-7653

## COMMERCIAL

Grand Rapids, Downtown. Prime retail location. 1300 sq. ft. retail space, w/ 2 apts. above and 1100 sq. ft. insulated shop. \$149,000. 218-327-8181

## LAND WANTED

Would like to purchase small parcel of land (2-10 acres) in Nora or Minerva Township, suitable for building and accessible year-around by a state, county or township road. Leave message at 218-849-4794

## MOBILE HOMES

Grand Rapids. Older 3 BR furnished mobile home on lot in country on U.S. 169 S of Grand Rapids. Washer, dryer, refrigerator, stove, TV, sofa, 2 double beds. Garage and storage shed. Nice quiet neighbourhood. For sale, or rent with option to buy. 218-246-8507



Stacey Hazen, and her dog team, from Angora, Minn., cross the finish line at 5:53 p.m., completing the race well in the lead.

## Remer

from page 10

Remer Clark station; Second

(\$25) was Jenny Brown's chili, and Third Place (\$15) went to Woodland Bank's entry. Winners were determined by "people's choice"; all diners were given a ballot.

In the pro division of the Mid-Minnesota 150, top honours went to Stacey Hazen and her dog team. She was so far ahead, that she was able to stop during the race for a photo (someone else's), and still end far ahead of the others. Her son, Nate Holmes, was the Third Place finisher.

## LIMITED TIME OFFER

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

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

## Making It

Northern Herald's tips to help regular people make ends meet in a tough economy and live well for less

### YOU FIND IT ALL AT THE MART OF WAL \$3 Vacuum Sealer Extends Meat, Produce, Sale Values

Grilled Porterhouse steak with wild rice and asparagus; brie, with

sourdough bread and good wine; hot Reuben sandwiches with kraut and swiss on old world rye; these can all be on the budget menu, if one does it right.

The trick is to get these things when they're on sale (like asparagus for \$1.99/lb., porterhouse at \$5.99, corned beef near St. Pat's Day at about \$1.99, and brie when you're in France), and buy a lot of them then. (Yes, cheese freezes well - so does butter.) But you may not be able to use them all at once, and freezer-burned stuff isn't a bargain.

So, what does one do? Well, there are home vacuum-packers for freezing, but they are cumbersome and expensive - you could spend, on the machine, more than what you'd save on the food.

But now, ZIPLOC® has found a better, and cheaper way! Freezer bags with a special valve that allows them to be evacuated, and an easy hand-pump that fits in your utensil drawer. And it works! (For long-term storage, bags may need to be checked and repumped every now and then).

The bags are about what you'd pay for regular freezer bags, and the pump is about \$3. On the plastic wrap aisle, at *Wal-Mart*, and at certain other grocers.

### FROM THE MINNESOTA HIGHWAY SAFETY CENTER (MHSC)

## 55 Or Over? Save 10% On Car Insurance!

ST. CLOUD -- Yep, per an MHSC release, they are offering a Driver Improvement Program for people 55 yrs. and over. It's an 8-hour "brush-up", and whether one needs it or not, it saves 10% on one's auto insurance for the next three years (per Minnesota law)!

The Rules of the Road don't change much (same white line, etc.); but they have changed some since many learned to drive. Do you know what the Ted Foss Law is? Not knowing it can cost you about \$137. So there might actually be some interesting stuff here; and you get to meet a bunch of people who are 55 and older - people who've been there, done that, and know what's going on! What could be better?

The cost (8 hrs.) is \$24, and there is a 4-hour refresher course for \$20.

Initially, taking the 8-hour course brings down one's insurance cost for three years; after that, taking a 4 hour refresher every three years will keep it down.

Here are the local locations, dates and times:

#### 8 HOUR FULL COURSE

July 15<sup>th</sup>, 8a - 4:30p, Sacred Heart Church, Hwy 371; 300 1<sup>st</sup> St. S; **Hackensack**

July 20<sup>th</sup>, 10a - 6:30p, Walker Public Library, 207 4<sup>th</sup> St.; **Walker**

#### 4 HOUR REFRESHER

July 13<sup>th</sup>, 8:00a - Noon, Sacred Heart Church, Hwy 371; 300 1<sup>st</sup> St. S; **Hackensack**

July 19<sup>th</sup>, 9a - 1:00p, Pine River State Bank, 103 Mill St. S; **Pine River**

July 21<sup>st</sup>, 8:00a - Noon, Lutheran Church of the Cross, 5064 Cty Rd 13 - Sportland Corner; **Nisswa**

July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2p - 6p, Park Rapids Public Library, 210 W 1<sup>st</sup> St.; **Park Rapids**

July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 8:30a - 12:30p, Bemidji Kitchigami Regional Library, 509 America Ave. NW; **Bemidji**

The Driver Improvement course is open to the public; pre-registration is requested. A Minn. Highway Safety & Research Center certified instructor teaches this class. By utilizing the most up-to-date research in the field, participants will be provided the latest information in regards to driver safety, new laws, and vehicle technology.

For more info or to register, visit [www.mnsafetycenter.org](http://www.mnsafetycenter.org) or call (toll-free) 1-(888)-234-1294.

### Things from page 7

entertainments. They say you can steal a little from a lot of people as long as you don't steal too much from any one.

What a joke. Next thing, they'll be taking your money to give to *bankers* and *insurance companies*.

Why we keep electing these politicians is beyond us. **What is needed is an executive order from the**

## 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.

## If You Were Low/Moderate Income In 2009, Minnesota Wants To Give You \$25!

### But You Gotta File A Tax Return To Get It.

Yep, for 2009 taxes, Minnesota has introduced the Lower Income Motor Fuels Tax Credit. It's name is, perhaps, more complicated than the credit itself. The credit is meant to offset the taxes paid on gasoline by lower income people.

Basically, it means that if you are

- 1) 18 or older, are not anyone's dependent, and are a U.S. citizen or otherwise lawfully present in the U.S.; and
- 2) Your Minnesota Taxable Income does not exceed these limits: Married-joint return or qualifying widow(er): \$33,220; Single: \$22,730; Head of Household: \$27,980; Married-separate return: \$16,610;

then the State will send you a check for \$25 (\$13 if married-separate returns) (refund may be applied to back taxes owed, and other state-collectible debts, if any).

But you gotta file a return to get it, even if you had no income, or otherwise don't owe tax. Even if you're not required to file, to get your \$25 or \$13 check, get a Minnesota form M-1 from your local library, or at [www.taxes.state.mn.us](http://www.taxes.state.mn.us) fill it out, and send it in!



**Making lemonade.**  
This CountryFester, floating on an air mattress, knows what to do when the weather doesn't quite suit.

## Partial Settlements Reached In I-35 Bridge Suits

FOLLOW-UP

MINNEAPOLIS - Court appointed mediators Steve Kirsch of St. Paul, and John Harens from Minneapolis, have announced a settlement of all claims between the Plaintiffs - I-35 bridge victims and their heirs, and Defendant Progressive Contractors, Inc. (PCI), in the approximately 122 lawsuits that remained open. The suits remained pending as against URS Corporation and Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. (For previous coverage, see "I-35 Bridge Victims Bring Suit" in NH of 10/26/09, at [northernherald.com](http://northernherald.com))

Per a joint release, the settlement was approved by Hennepin County District Court Judge Deborah Hedlund on Friday, November 6.

The State of Minnesota had earlier partially compensated all 179 eligible victims.

Per the release, Jim Schwebel of the Minneapolis law firm of Schwebel, Goetz & Sieben, representing 34 of the I-35W victims and their families, stated, "It's gratifying to see that both the State of Minnesota and Progressive Contractors, Inc. have acknowledged the enormous losses of the I-35W victims and acted to lessen their financial hardships."

Also per the release, Kyle Hart, PCI's attorney, stated, "Under the

parties' global settlement, PCI's insurers tendered the limits of PCI's liability insurance policy in effect at the time. The State and other claimants, decided between themselves, without input from PCI or its insurers, how to divide the insurance proceeds. While PCI believes that last year's findings by the NTSB cleared PCI of any wrongdoing, PCI is pleased that this settlement allows PCI to put this matter behind it while providing for compensation to the victims of the collapse."

The allegations in the filed Complaints against PCI included that, "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. . . .", and, "On August 1st, 2007, just after 6:00 p.m., bridge 9340 [the I-35 bridge] 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 [which plates were alleged to be buckled], contributing to the collapse. As a result of the collapse, thirteen people were killed and many others . . . were severely injured. . . ." (cited from case no. 27-CV-08-28254)

This ad conforms to Minnesota Board of Accountancy Rules, and the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct, which prohibit misleading advertising.

## VERY EXPENSIVE TAX SERVICE

### Questions and Answers

- Q: Who needs Very Expensive Tax Service?  
A: It is unfortunate that people have to pay anything to file forms that are required by the government. At one time we proposed that these fees be a credit, so the government would pick up the tab for this. That went over like a lead balloon. Hopefully, your taxes are simple enough that you can do them yourself without error. But there are tax law and form changes that are hard for a taxpayer to keep up on, and sometimes, new ways and strategies to save money on tax. Unfortunately, for both simple and complex returns, a person may need Very Expensive Tax Service to avoid paying too much.
- Q: What is Very Expensive Tax Service?  
A: It is tax service that is very expensive. Simply put, Very Expensive Tax Service costs more than other kinds of tax service, which we'll call "Cheap Tax Service." If you feel that you will do as well with Cheap Tax Service, you should probably use it.
- 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. 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: Almost everything. 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.

### From simple returns to complex situations, this is what real people say about Very Expensive Tax Service

"I have used Adam Steele's very "expensive" tax service every year for thirteen years, now. . . ."

"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."

-- Dr. Frank Saccoman, former Dean (ret.)

Division of Science and Mathematics, Bemidji State University

## NOW!

### PROBLEMS WITH IRS?

IF WE CAN'T FIX IT, YOU DON'T PAY!

Call to see if your case qualifies for our Audit Resolution Contingency Plan.

"We contacted Adam Steele . . . for audit assistance on our tax returns which had been originally prepared elsewhere.

"His work was very slow and extremely expensive. It involved lengthy consultations, combing through all of our documents on site, repreparing the returns from the ground up; sampling transactions, and gathering full documentary and even photographic evidence supporting the returns and included in the comprehensive report he submitted to the Department of Revenue.

"Steele seems to take forever to do anything. In the end, and even after his exorbitant fee, his work saved us \$29,684.89 over the amount originally assessed."

-- Timothy and Susan Anderson, Spirit of the North Resort, Walker, Minn.

Office in Bemidji, Minn. - Expensive remote on-site service available nationwide



**ADAM STEELE** 218-759-1162

**TAX AND ACCOUNTING SERVICES**

**President declining to enforce the DTV Act, and allowing stations to return to analog if they so choose.** If it's not broke, don't fix it.

Anyway, one of the products that made a lot of money as people got ripped-off for it in this Farce was the **Zinwell ZAT-950A converter box**. This was one of very few boxes that had a timer (albeit a female canine to try to use) for VCR recording. True to form, Washington approved this box for coupon use (and thus opened the cash flood gates for its manufacturer) even though it was only warranted to work for 90 days. In our testing, the sample box failed after a little more than one year. It developed a condition where, when it was turned off (necessary, for some daily, in order to use the analog pass-through function), and then on again, it lost the audio on one of the digital stations. To get the audio back, it is necessary to have the Box fully rescan all channels. Of course, when one does this, all timer settings are lost. You have to reenter them, if you remember them. And you have to do this drill every time the Box is turned off, and on again.

What a piece of junk (our opinion), from **ZINWELL** aka **ZINNETusa**, and brought to you by the FCC, Congress,

and the President.

We note that both the TV and VCR that the Zinwell box was connected to have worked, without fail or repair, for over five years. But the much simpler Zinwell converter failed after about one. But then, Zinwell didn't have to produce quality. Our government produced, for that industry, a captive market. The public couldn't just say no if there wasn't a product they wanted to buy - they *had* to buy one of them. This is what happens to quality in that kind of market.

And if certain politicians have their way, that's what's about to happen in the health insurance industry.

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

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

## NORTHERN AUTO &amp; BOAT SHOPPER



**Warba Tire** 218-492-4111

**NEW & 1,000s OF USED TIRES**

**Alignments**

2 wheel \$40, 4 wheel \$50

• Ball Joints • Tie Rods

• Struts • and More!

Tues-Fri 10 am - 5 pm Sat 10 - 4

**HOW ADS ARE ORGANIZED**

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

**AUTOS WANTED**

**BUYING JUNK Cars.** Paying cash! We buy scrap iron. 218-838-2953

**SERVICE, TOPPERS, PARTS & ACCESSORIES**

**REPAIR OF ALL MODELS SNOWMOBILES, ATVS.** Any small engine repair, 2 or 4 stroke, including snowblowers, ice augers, chainsaws, wood splitters, generators, weed eaters, lawn mowers, and other small engines. 218-556-5787, 218-766-8181

**ANTIQUE, CLASSICS**

1953 CHEVY PICKUP. 4WD frame, 383 cu. in., 33" tires. Best offer. 218-831-1015

**CARS**

1972 Cadillac Eldo convertible for parts or restoration. Engine probably good. Must tow. \$500. 218-759-1162

2002 PT CRUISER. Loaded. Sunroof, heated seats, CD player. Special Edition with lots of chrome. 62,000 miles. Excellent shape inside and out. Asking \$10,500 or best offer. 218-328-5136

**MOTORCYCLES**

**THE HAWG PEN** for all your motorcycle service & repair- all makes. See their advertisement in this issue.

2005 HONDA GOLD WING 1800 CC. Excellent condition, like brand new. 18,700 mi. 40 mpg. Lots of extras, back rests, fog lights, radio. \$14,000. 218-732-6548

**UTILITY TRAILERS**

20' 1997 ENCLOSED HAULMARK TRAILER. \$4,400. 218-675-6693

**TRACTORS & MACHINERY**

2N FORD TRACTOR. \$2,100. 218-675-6693.

**HEAVY EQUIPMENT**

1984 215 CAT EXCAVATOR w/ Dennis 2000 stroke delimeter. In good condition. Winterized with Pro-Heat engine heater w/ 7-day timer. 807-487-2548

1987 JOHN DEERE 648-D GRAPPLE SKIDDER w/ HD ring chains. In good condition, w/ Espar engine heater w/ 7-day timer. Ready to work. 807-487-2548

Lots of good used 640/648-D JOHN DEERE SKIDDER PARTS. Also JD 420 CAT sprockets and rollers. 807-487-2548

**\$19 flat runs your up to 6 line ad until SOLD! up to 39 weeks.**

**Photo: only \$10 more! 218-759-1162**

**Thrifties (\$500 or less): 6 lines - 39 weeks - \$10**

**DID YOU KNOW ?**

That \$10 extra will put a picture of your item in the paper and on the web? Well, now you know.

**BOBCATS**

2003 BOBCAT S185 \$12,900

BOBCAT 642 \$5,000

BOBCAT 610 \$3,500.

2001 BOBCAT 773 TURBO C/H

\$11,500.

320-393-4703

**SNOMOS & TRAILERS**

**REPAIR OF ALL MODELS SNOWMOBILES, ATVS.** Any small engine repair, 2 or 4 stroke, including snowblowers, ice augers, chainsaws, wood splitters, generators, weed eaters, lawn mowers, and other small engines. 218-556-5787, 218-766-8181

**BOATS, DOCKS, AND WATERCRAFT**

14' DEEP WIDE ALUMACRAFT. New 25 horse, elec. start, Mercury motor. Loaded. Depth finder, trolling motor, everything. W/trailer. All like new, excellent shape. Asking \$5,000 or best offer. 218-328-5136

**There's nothing**

**like results ...**

*From a private party:*

"Would you please run the ad on the ----- again. We got a lot of responses from the last one, resulting in the sale of the 4x4 runner. --- Thanks."

*From a dealer:*

"We've gotten a lot of calls on our cars -- and we don't advertise anywhere else!"

**NORTHERN AUTO & BOAT SHOPPER 218-759-1162 WE MEAN BUSINESS.**

sit a long time in prison".

For the last few weeks before the trial, Samuelson had been held, essentially, incommunicado at the jail - kind of like we do to soften people up at Guantanamo. He was not allowed telephone calls, or mail - in or out. Given his state of mind at that time, Marcotte was able to convince him to plead guilty to 2 of the 34 DANCO counts, with dismissal of the rest.

His family was surprised and horrified when the plea was entered - his daughter ran out to the hall and threw up her hands.

Judge Maturi accepted the guilty plea and set sentencing for August 3rd, 2010, with a presentence investigation ordered and with Samuelson to remain in the Itasca Co. jail until sentencing. The two counts pled to carry a maximum of 10 years in prison, and also trigger a probation violation.

Now that there was no domestic assault charge, a motion was made to remove the no-contact order between Samuelson and Bardine, so Bardine could contact him while he was in jail awaiting sentencing. Marcotte said, "Samuelson's personal affairs, at this point, are a mess," and she said that Samuelson is in jeopardy of losing his home, and that Bardine was willing to handle those matters and it was to discuss those essential matters that the contact would occur.

But Judge Maturi denied that motion and left that DANCO order in place.

After the hearing, when Samuelson had time to come to his senses, he immediately wished to withdraw his plea.

But he was still being held without phone contact, and as of June 8th, Northern Herald verified, with the Itasca Co. jail, that Samuelson was not allowed to send or receive mail, except to or from his attorney (Marcotte). He was not allowed to call any other attorney. As it had in the past, this would make it difficult for him, or others acting on his behalf, to now hire competent counsel to represent him. At a later date, however, jail staff answered an inquiry saying that business mail would be given to him, allowing him to receive a Power Of Attorney (POA) enabling that other counsel could be hired and paid on his behalf. Samuelson, now held in the jail's maximum-security area, however, could not get the POA notarized. Despite that the jailers are also notaries, and the courthouse is full of notaries, neither the jail, nor Judge Maturi's court, would provide for the document to be notarized; they insisted that an outside notary be paid to come in during visiting hours to do it. This has further delayed and impeded Samuelson's attempts to get competent legal counsel to withdraw the plea prior to the scheduled sentencing date.

Miss Bardine reported that Samuelson had been put in solitary confinement because of allegations that Bardine had tried to send him money for deposit to his jail account (the inmates use that to buy day-to-day things while in jail).

**This has gotta stop.** Any

attorney interested in assisting Mr. Samuelson in withdrawing his plea (possibly due to Marcotte's obvious conflict of interest) and getting a fair trial, and then bringing a massive federal lawsuit -- possibly a class action -- against Itasca County, the "Advocates For Family Peace" and organizations that support them, and Deputy Gregory Snyder (the Itasca Co. Sheriff's crim sex investigator who likes to have romance with his teenage stepson, and now resides in a large building in St. Cloud) for the many Constitutional violations involved in this case, and others; is asked to contact this newspaper at 218-759-1162.

*Coerced "plea bargains" have made criminals out a lot of innocent people and have denied them their civil rights (due to "conditions" imposed). Plea bargaining, under threat of a lofty and unreasonable sentence that would otherwise be sought, amounts to extracting a confession under coercion and duress, which, presumably, is not to be allowed under our Constitutional and judicial systems. Seeking an unreasonable sentence for the crime (used as the threat in plea bargaining) amounts to the threat of a cruel punishment, prohibited by the Eighth Amendment. The same rationale applies to a judge imposing, firstly, an unreasonable sentence, and then suspending it if certain "conditions" are agreed to, which conditions waive civil rights (like a 55-year no-drink order - in another, unrelated, case we witnessed, a man was released on the condition that he be gainfully employed, or a student. That defendant was 65 years old! These ludicrous "conditions" are put in place to provide an opportunity to, later, again arrest the defendant, should authorities care to do so).*

*Additionally, the practice of county authorities and the courts of bringing bogus charges against people, and then stringing out the proceedings so as to keep them in jail until they'll plead guilty (to get out of jail), and accept conditions waiving their civil rights, is patently unconstitutional. Finally, the Minnesota courts lack jurisdiction to impose a "no-contact" order where neither of the parties has requested same, and such imposition violates the First Amendment. But, unfortunately, the persons affected by this are usually people of limited means, and so cannot afford to challenge the application in federal court, as would be appropriate; hopefully, someday, someone will. -- Ed.*

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been prohibited from communicating since he was jailed, wanted the court-imposed no-contact order modified so to allow limited communication which would enable her to maintain Samuelson's house which has fallen into disrepair over the winter, and pay his necessary household bills while he is in jail.

**Authorities, Judge, make it as tough on Samuelson as possible.** So Nolan Jr., as Samuelson's attorney, brought on the motion to allow the limited contact between Samuelson and Bardine so to allow Bardine to perform necessary household maintenance, receive checks, pay bills, and act, as necessary, on Samuelson's behalf. Samuelson's married daughter, Sarah, testified that due to her own family obligations, she alone could not keep the house maintained in Samuelson's absence, and that it had fallen into disrepair. For no apparent good reason, the motion was opposed by John Muhar's (the County Attorney's) office, and also by the Itasca County Sheriff's Office who claimed that jail staff didn't have time to monitor the limited mail, or visits, that allowing the contact would entail [this is patently ridiculous - that's what the jail is supposed to do, and routinely does with inmates' mail and visits. -- Ed.]

**Judge Maturi denied the motion, leaving the no-contact order in place.**

**That bothersome right -- in Minnesota.** In Minnesota, defendants are not given the right to a speedy trial unless they formally demand it; and most, of course, don't know that they have to do this. Samuelson states that, initially, he was assigned Grand Rapids public defender Anne Marcotte. This was an obvious conflict of interest, as Marcotte sits, along with Sheriff Pat Medure, on the "Advocates For Family Peace" Board of Directors. Samuelson stated that he asked Marcotte, early on, to make a demand for a speedy trial, but she



Samuelson's family came to support him at the 03/29/10 hearing. Outside the Courthouse are, from top left, fiancée Jennifer Bardine; brother Lance Samuelson; daughters Sarah Lippincott, 22; and Amy Samuelson, 21. They try to smile for the camera, but, after the results of the hearing, Miss Bardine (the woman he supposedly assaulted) couldn't quite muster it. Samuelson's ex-wife, Kelli, also came for his trial date, June 8th.

refused. Prior to his withdrawal, however, and on April 9th, 2010, attorney Nolan, Jr., did file the demand for a speedy trial. Under Minnesota law (M.R.Crim.Proc.) Rule 11.10, an accused person must be tried within 120 days of the demand, or, generally, must then be released pending trial upon nonmonetary conditions.

On May 10th, 2010, at the pre-trial conference scheduled for that date, Nolan Jr., appeared in court to announce his withdrawal. Judge Maturi re-appointed Anne Marcotte as Samuelson's public defender, and continued (postponed) the hearing to May 17th. On May 17th, Marcotte was out of town and failed to appear. The case was again continued to May 25th, at which time the pre-trial conference was had, and jury trial was scheduled for June 8th, 2010 at the Grand Rapids (Itasca Co.) Courthouse before Judge Maturi.

**Home broken into.** Here in Northern Minnesota, we live on the Edge of the Frontier, amidst all of the frontier crime and corruption, and frontier justice, that goes with that. When it is known that someone is in jail for a while, thieves come out of the trees and steal their stuff. So, with Samuelson's home unattended because Itasca authorities (unlawfully) prohibited Bardine from living there, on May 10th, Samuelson's daughter, Sarah, reported to Northern Herald that the home had been broken into and gone through, with belongings stolen from inside.

On Tuesday, June 8th,

Samuelson appeared in the courtroom dressed for trial. Again, he had been charged with 2 counts of domestic assault, and 34 counts of violating the no-contact order put in place because of the domestic assault charge. His immediate family, including his ex-wife, Kelli, his children, and fiancée, Miss Bardine, were there to support him, and Miss Bardine was prepared to testify that no domestic assault occurred - that those charges were shams - frames - subterfuges to arrest Samuelson cooked up by the Sheriff's deputies, possibly at the behest of the Advocates.

But just before trial, Samuelson's public defender, Anne Marcotte (again, who also sits on the Advocates' Board) had confronted him outside the courtroom. Per an interview with Samuelson afterward, Marcotte told him that she, the prosecutor (Mr. Webb, of County Attorney Jack Muhar's office), and Judge Maturi had a meeting on the case the previous Friday. She told him that the domestic assault charges were going to be dropped (they would have fallen apart anyway when Bardine took the stand); but as to the 34 counts of violation of the no-contact order (DANCO) put into place pursuant to the phony domestic assault charges, Samuelson said that she told him that if he "wastes the judge's time and takes this to trial, there is a 100% chance that you [Samuelson] will be found guilty and you will

**Itasca County File and Jail Procedures**

**Court Records**

Although files are available at the court clerk's window, due to storage, many files have to be ordered a day in advance from the court clerk. Persons planning to view files should notify the clerk a day ahead, if possible, so the file(s) can be made available.

**Jail Visiting**

Visiting is on Tu. 9-11a; Thurs. 1:30-3:30p; and Su. 1:30-3:30p; but one can't just come in during those hours and see an inmate - **you have to have an appointment.** Inmates are allowed only one visit per day, of up to three people. So if he's seeing a relative, he can't also see a friend or reporter that day unless they schedule a single group visit.

For visiting appointments, call 218-327-2874 or 218-327-0697. Inmates have limited (outgoing) telephone access. To leave a message for an inmate, call 218-326-9504.