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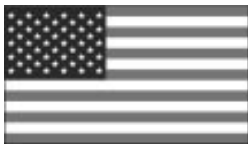
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page 10

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VOLUME 12

NO. 1

North Central Minnesota's Eight-Weekly Regional Newspaper

DECEMBER 27, 2006 - FEBRUARY 20, 2007



Eleventh
Anniversary
Issue !

Employee Conditions Questioned at Cass Lake IHS Hospital

LEADING EDGE JOURNALISM

CASS LAKE -- A former employee of the Indian Health Services Hospital at Cass Lake (formally, the *PHS Indian Hospital* and abbreviated here as *IHS*), has said that a hostile work environment there may be affecting efficient delivery of patient services.

Debora Williams, RN, of Solway, Minn., who had worked there as a nurse on the night shift (the night shift nurse has to deal with most anything that comes in), from the mid 90s until she was terminated in July, 2005, said, "The employees are never going to be

WITH A GRAIN OF SAND

Unauthorized Aircraft Shot Down

BAGHDAD -- An unauthorized aircraft which refused to identify itself was shot down as it flew into Iraqi airspace on December 24th, shortly before midnight, Iraq time.

Remains of the pilot were not found and he is thought to have ejected before impact. Allied forces in Iraq are presently searching, that he might, if found, be detained for questioning. The U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security reported that the craft held a lot of cargo, boxes of what the Dept. is concerned may have been weapons, IEDs, or other military or surveillance equipment destined for insurgents, and pieces of which were found in the debris.

The aircraft is believed to be foreign, as also in the wreckage were found the remains of at least 8 caribou, not indigenous to Iraq.

A local resident who witnessed the slender and skeletal flaming craft, of unknown make, fall from the sky said, "It was a big red fireball - everything was red - in the flash on impact, it almost looked like even the nose of one of the caribou was red."

With a Grain of Sand is satire. It should not be confused with the real news, which is funnier and scarier. This newspaper supports our mission, and our troops in Iraq, and supports bringing them all home to a heros' welcome *when their courageous job there is done.* -- Ed.

able to provide a good service if they're afraid all the time;" and revealed the tense staff atmosphere that allegedly exists at IHS, where, she said, employees were "written up" for taking time off for their own medical emergencies, expected to work unpaid hours and without overtime pay, and were subject to retaliation if they pursued an internal complaint.

The investigation tended to corroborate this, evidencing a closed and secretive environment. **Jennifer J. Jenkins**, the hospital's CEO, was unavailable, reportedly on leave from the mid-December to early January; the person acting in her stead, who refused to give his name, other than "Terry", responded to inquiries by simply saying, "no comment" and hanging up the phone. Attempts to contact other former employees were met with similar apprehensions and refusals even to give contact information indicating that some may have been fearful were they to say anything.

The hospital, a U.S. agency operated by Public Health Service under the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, provides services for many Cass Lake area residents.

A Long History. When the Honourable Chairman (Leech Lake Band of Chippewa) Eli Hunt came to power in 1996, he pledged to end a long period during which reservation employees feared voicing grievances due to job retaliation. But Chairman Hunt has been out of office for a few years now, and this sort of thing seems to have returned, at least to the hospital there; and the fact that it is a U.S. agency, and not under the Reservation Tribal Council, does not change the lay of the terrain.

The complaint. Although there is a question as to "award time" and other benefits owing to her on termination, Miss Williams's complaint stems primarily from an IHS practice, she said, of requiring the night shift nurse to work 84 hours per pay period, but only paying for 80. The other 4 hours, which would normally be subject

to overtime compensation, were not paid at all. She said that she worked under those conditions for the last two years of her job at IHS, and although there were promises of correcting the condition, nothing was done to either reduce the hours to 80, or adjust pay for the extra 4.

When she continued to pursue resolution of the matter, her long-standing schedule was adjusted to one far less convenient for her, and finally, when she protested that and insisted upon using her accrued leave time while the matter was being settled, she was fired.

In the face of the escalating harassment, Williams had pursued many administrative appeals, including to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, but to date, there has been no change in the disposition.

She was subsequently hired, at a better pay scale, by St. Mary's Clinic at Duluth, where she presently works; and Miss Williams said that she likes that job more, although it requires her, now, to commute 280 miles (round trip) every two weeks, and to be away from home during her alternating work weeks.

A fellow former employee corroborated the hostile political environment for staff at the IHS, which has had high employee turnover since management changed, about 2004.

The employee, we'll call her Mrs. X, had worked for IHS for 17 yrs. and she said that she never got a negative employee review until **Teresa Chasteen** came on as her supervisor in the primarily women-run facility.

After the change, Mrs. X began getting written-up a lot, for such things as *AWOL* during a dental emergency, where Mrs. X had cleared her seeing the dentist (in the same building where she worked) with the IHS Deputy Administrator.

She was finally fired, in Sept. 2005, under a ruse of reading people's e-mails; something Mrs. X, an information technology specialist and a security officer, said she never did.

In this issue

Upcoming Events: Back-To-Hack at Hackensack, Bemidji Jazz Fest • New Restaurant Reviews

Single guys and gals: No more Hamburger Helper.®

Our *personals by mail* are so efficient, you *could* be married next week! Check out our **Northern Personals** to contact one of the eligibles listed or to find out how to place your own free ad.

THIS IS BEMIDJI - HOW BEMIDJI "CHARITIES" WORK

Bemidji Habitat For Humanity Reneges, Leaves Woman Homeless

LEADING EDGE JOURNALISM

"Beware of benefactors. The most blatantly corrupt and vicious people can be those who have become known for the good that, in other cases, they've done."

-- Adam Steele

BEMIDJI -- People who've come here often say that they can't quite put their finger on it, but there's just something odd about Bemidji, in a way that isn't good - not inviting. An Internet blogger wrote, "I am starting to understand a bit more about that 'weird' feeling I get from Bemidji. . . . I'm almost afraid to learn more than I already have."

How could a seemingly benevolent organization like *Habitat For Humanity* act other than for the public good? How could it actually damage a person, and *cause them to become homeless*? Well, in an place where the people tend to be corrupt, the fuzzy-named organizations they run tend to follow suit, and here in Bemidji, our local chapter found a way; and it's not anything, we think, of which Pres. Carter would have remotely approved.

If this story has a moral, it's that, when dealing with *Habitat For Humanity* here, don't rely on promises, 'til it happens. Actually, that's good advice when dealing with Bemidjians, generally. It's the story of how a single mother thought she was getting a new house, and as a result, she ended up totally homeless - without her promised new, or old home, either.

Although the organization disclaims that they never guarantee anyone a particular house to be built, in early 2006, Bemidjian Evelyn Bauer was, essentially, promised a *Habitat* home. The promise was reiterated over the summer, as she worked on its construction. She said, "They notified us that we definitely will be one of the two

homeowners" of two houses to be built in 2006. "That's what I heard through the entire summer, 'This is *your* house, you're moving in, this is yours, there's nothing that can go wrong now!'," Bauer said.

Bauer, at the time, was living with her three illegitimate children at Bemidji's *Hillcrest Manor* mobile home park, where she owned an older unit, and for many years, had paid lot rent, generally, on a semi-annual (twice a year) basis.

Life would have been easier for Bauer were she married to her children's father (and, to be sure it happened, preferably before they had them); she has obviously elected a path that runs across the grain of society, and makes things more difficult for her and her kids. Still, employed full-time in Bemidji, she was getting by OK, and her only major problem was that she and her children needed a new home - *Hillcrest Manor* had been telling her for some time that they wanted the older units out of the park, and replaced with newer ones. If she did not update the home by fall, she'd have to leave.

It seemed that Bemidji *Habitat For Humanity* (hereinafter *BAHFH* or "*Habitat*") had a solution. On March 21th, 2006, they "selected" her for a house to be built that summer at 1412 Park Avenue, Bemidji. The selection was made after the *BAHFH* committee interviewed Bauer and her family at her home at *Hillcrest Manor*. Bauer agreed to routine conditions including that she put in at least 250 hours of *sweat equity* in the building of the home in exchange for the down payment, with house payments to begin, as usual, after she moved in.

So, Bauer made no plans to improve or change her mobile home, she'd be moving out in the (Cont'd, "Habitat in Hell," p. 8)

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BSU Jazz Bands Play at Suzy & Hondo's

BEMIDJI -- BSU Jazz Band I, Dr. Steven Konecne conducting, made a special appearance, Dec. 16th, at Suzy & Hondo's Dance Studios' monthly dance held at their studio in the Bemidji Elks' building.

Surprise guests included expert competitive dancers, Jim & Diane Harris, of Akeley, shown left in photo. The Harrises also teach dance, at Fargo.

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COMING EVENTS

Big Back-To-Hack Jan. 19-21

If anything's happening, you can bet it'll be happening in Hackensack! Each year, in the dead of winter when most are hibernating, this enthusiastic community of 285 swells to many thousands as the businesses and residents come together to produce the gala annual winterfest, *Back-To-Hack*. It's a weekend filled with fun and great events for the whole family, featuring, as a main event Saturday night, their notorious *Snowflake Queen* pageant!

This year's fest (see full schedule in their ad, p. 3) will be quite the blowout, starting with the **Parade of Lights, huge community bonfire and free hot dog roast** (hot cocoa and pop too!) Friday night, followed by **fireworks**. It's well worth making a special trip to not miss this opening night!

Lucette's Friday Comedy Night this year will feature the side-splitting humour of two stand-up comics, including Bob Larson of Hecklefest (review from last year, *NH* of 09/19/05, p. 9, at northernherald.com).

The **Senior Center** will host family-oriented **karaoke** and dance.

The emphasis at the **Saturday Craft Fair**, generally, is not so much on quantity as on quality. It's one of the best going, because, in the past, it's been limited to some of the *best* crafters from around the state and elsewhere. One finds stuff here that they might not see anywhere else. Also on Saturday will be the snowmobile radar runs, hay rides, treasure hunt, movie matinee, teen dance, and, of course, *Snowflake Queen*. To

warm the spirit, particularly for those who just came from the hay ride or off the ice, the **American Legion's Chili Feed**, also Saturday, is just the thing. Great chili with all the fixins. It's hard to eat just one bowl!

Snowflake Queen packs the fire hall Saturday night. It starts at 7 pm and there are no advance tickets sold, so really, to be sure of getting a seat, rather than standing room, one should be there well before; the doors open at 6.

This is perhaps the most unusual beauty pageant going. Five lovelies on stage from which the winner must be chosen. True glamour, except that, if they haven't been totally meticulous, they might show just a bit of 5 o'clock shadow.

It's more than just a costume show; it's a well-written skit that provides two hours of hilarious fun each year.

And the guys involved are good sports - often put up to it by their wives, who sometimes help with the costuming, to raise \$\$s for the area's great First Responders and volunteer Fire & Rescue Dept. Last year's event raised several thousand dollars for these essential services! This year's pageant theme is Country Hoedown, with



Drew Hairymore at last year's pageant

Bemidji Jazz Fest Nears, Feb. 3rd

BSU Jazz Bands Play *Remember When*



BEMIDJI -- It could just as well have been the Glenn Miller Band - one wouldn't have noticed the difference whether it was Bemidji State University (BSU) Jazz Band I, or II, that was playing the great legendary dance tunes - things like *Summertime* (done as a Bossa Nova) and *In The Mood*; as the annual end-of October *Remember When* dance was held Oct. 27 & 28th, at Jammers.

Dr. Steven Konecne, BSU Director of Music, said that February 2007's 34th annual Jazz Fest concert, generally held at the Beaux Arts Ballroom on campus (public invited), will feature celebrities: pianist Billy Carrothers, and jazz trumpeter Jeff Jarvis.

Double Barreled Conducting. Below, the multi-talented Dr. Steven Konecne conducts, then plays sax (front row, left) with BSU Jazz Band I, while Amy Strandell sings "I'm Beginning To See The Light".



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a dance to live music, usually 'til midnight, with refreshments and cash bar following the show.

Those who wake up before 11:30 am Sunday can enjoy **Breakfast at the American Legion** before the **Ice Races** (provided the ice is safe) and **Chili on Birch Lake**, and the **Raffle** drawing.

Visitors to Hackensack will also find great eating there; the city boasts a number of top quality rated restaurants (see Rest. Guide, p. 8). Lodging is available in Hackensack, as well as nearby Walker, Longville, Pine River, and Akeley.

Each year, with amazing spirit, the whole Hackensack and area community pulls together to make this, and their many other events a success and to make Hackensack the fun place that people like to go to. Some of those who made this event possible include: Northwoods Trail Runners (Radar Runs, donated tickets for raffle), Mark's Market and Cass Company Insurance (food, beverages, and supplies for hot dog roast), UCC Youth Group (Karaoke and Chili on the Ice), Hackensack Senior Citizens' Club (Lunch at Craft Fair), Hackensack Visitors' Center and Lucette's (Treasure Hunt), Triple B (movie matinee), UCC Church (babysitting during adult events), Students Against Drunk Drivers-SADD (Teen Dance), and Birch Lake Ice Racers (Ice Racing).



The Jazz Singer. Above, the incontrovertibly beautiful and talented Danielle Stadick sings with the very polished Jazz Band II, at left, conducted by Craig Haugen.



"It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing!" -- Irving Mills Above, a packed floor dances at **Remember When**, October 27th, 2006.

IF YOU LIKE TO SMOKE KNOW WHERE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS GO.

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In Focus

AT BACKUS, THE HUB OF NORTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA!

Backus Corn Fest!

Announcer
Minnie Pearl

Generally, the second Saturday in August marks the City of Backus's great annual corn fest, when residents and visitors alike gather to enjoy the parade, crowning of Miss and Little Miss Backus, games, flea market, dance, fireworks, and, of course, to eat corn at the Fire Hall. This 2006 Fest was August 12th.

There's a lot to do, but if you ask people why they came, most will say it's for the corn. The Corn Fest committee selects a particular corn, and their method of preparing it is a closely guarded secret. The results, though, each year, are obvious as people line up, out the Fire Hall door and down the block to get all they can eat of it, along with meat and the rest of lunch. For \$6, it's not too bad a deal!

(Backus winners, see p. 11)

Elbows on the table are perfectly fine at Corn Feed! Left from center and then clockwise, enjoying their corn are Tony Alarcon; Tony Knoll; Teri Grove; Dan & Kathy Schott, who came from Riverside, Calif.; Brenda Johnson, Mayor Chuck Murphy of Stewartville, Minn.; and Magaen McCoy.

Rusty's Up North Realty in the parade

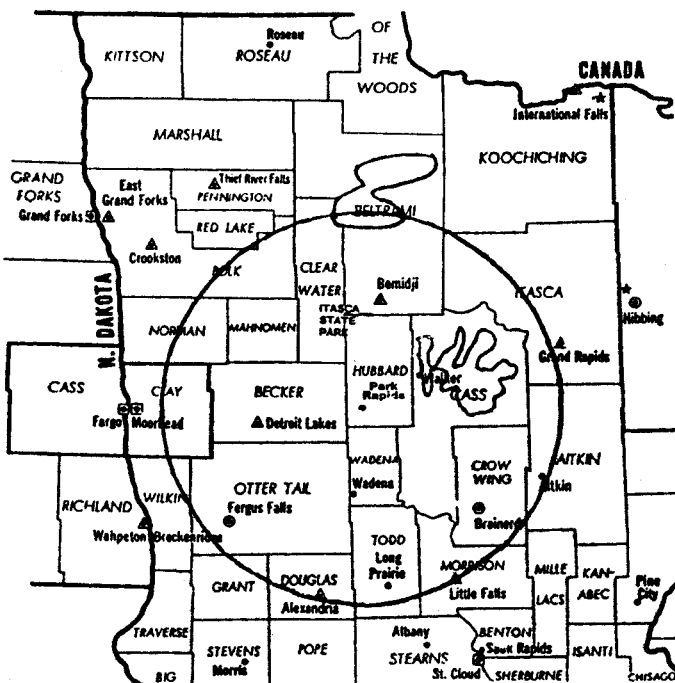
Backus's King Corn



Above, the Park Rapids Friendly Squares float dances through the parade!

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OFFICIAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19th



Free Hot Dogs by the Fri. Bonfire

6:30 pm Parade of Lights on First St.

7 pm - Community Bonfire and Free Wiener Roast

7:15 PM FRIDAY FIREWORKS



on Birch Lake

8 pm Family Karaoke at the Senior Ctr.

9 pm Comedy Night at Lucette's Pizza & Pub

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20th

9 am - 3 pm Craft Fair & Lunch at the Community Bldg.

9 am-4 pm Snowmobile Radar Runs on Birch Lake (subject to ice conditions)

11 am - 3 pm TREASURE HUNT Maps sold at the Visitor Center from 11 am-2 pm

Pick up prizes at Lucette's before 3 pm

Noon-4 pm Chili Feed at American Legion

1 pm movie matinee at Bear Pause Theater

1-3 pm HAY RIDES from the City Park

7-10:30 pm Teen Dance at Community Bldg.

All activities are weather and ice permitting and at YOUR OWN RISK

7 pm The Snowflake Queen PAGEANT

at the Fire Hall (rated: PG-16). This year's Pageant Theme: **Country Hoedown**, followed by **live music** and the

SNOWFLAKE DANCE (21 and older)

Babysitting available from 6:30-10:30 pm at Union Cong. Church. \$10/child. Pre-registration required: call 218-675-6300

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21st

8:30-11:30 am Breakfast at the Legion

11 am RAFFLE DRAWING at Am. Legion

Noon Ice Racing on Birch Lake and Hot Chili on the Ice 'til 2 pm (subject to ice cond.)

2007 RAFFLE PRIZES

Tickets are \$2 at the Visitors' Center and participating businesses during Back To Hack

FIRST PRIZE: A GAS GRILL from Ace Hardware

SECOND PRIZE: AQUA VIEW from Swanson's

THIRD PRIZE: THREE \$50 GIFT CERTIFICATES Winner's choice of participating Chamber businesses

FOURTH PRIZE: \$100 GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR GAS at Southside Self-Service

SUMMER FUN

Rib Fest At Cass Lake!

CASS LAKE -- Providence created man in his image, and from a rib thereof, and to be his helpmate throughout eternity, woman.

So it is that, generally, the third full weekend in July, Cass Lake celebrates the rib with Rib Fest. This 2006 event, the 6th annual, was July 21st-23rd. When it's summer, and you're in the mood for a good rib, fun, art and good music, and other good food, and lots of events, this is the place to be.

The 2007 event will be July 20th-22nd.



Passing the crown!



Cass Lake lovlies. The Miss Cass Lake pageant takes place at Rib Fest. Above, from left, contestants Elizabeth Baird; Miss Congeniality, Amy Fuller; 2nd runner up, Lisa Hamre; Miss Photogenic, Cassie Norenberg; outgoing Miss Cass Lake, Sheena Seelye; newly crowned Miss Cass Lake, Lindsey Wittner; and 1st runner up, Amy Nyberg. In front are outgoing Little Miss Cass Lake, Katie Holland; and 2006 Little Miss, Anissa Burt.

Music for the Rib Fest was provided by the Northland's own great recording band, *Indian Country*; and Grandma Eileen on piano.

Great food vendors included *Famous Dave's Ribs*, *Tommy's Treats of Walker*, and *Larry Knop*, of *Cass Lake's North Country Junction Bar & Grille* who served fresh hot ears of corn to the crowd.

The arts market included many, in many media, including Bemidji's *Tom & Carolyn Halverson*.

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EDITORIALS - OPINION

Analysis of the Vote

"The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter." -- Sir Winston Churchill

In the overall, Northern Minnesota voters voted for higher taxes and higher gas prices, and will probably get both of those things for the next two years.

In District 4A, the pro-life Republican faction supported Rev. David Myers even though he offered little new (toward the end he even sided with Moe, the Democrat, on spending), and didn't show up for many of the forums and debates - he got about 31% percent of the vote.

In neighbouring Wisconsin, some of the pro-life faction helped support the death penalty, which easily passed there as a non-binding advisory referendum.

In South Dakota, a Judicial Accountability Initiative Law (known as *J.A.I.L. for Judges*), was strongly defeated, 11% to 89%. A curious phenomenon is that the tallies showed far fewer people voting for the judicial accountability measure than had signed the petitions to put it on the ballot.

"We've always voted that way." Nationally, as well as in Minnesota, the religious right, which is neither, continued to vote in large numbers for candidates of the Republican Party, notwithstanding the lack of morality and base criminality for which that part is known, and as demonstrated recently by the Tom DeLay scandal; they even voted for those Republican candidates who did not strenuously campaign. But *War is Hell*, and with the initial fireworks and enthusiasm for going to war now spent, and the realities and casualties of war setting in, the growing national sentiment to abandon our mission in Iraq, as we did in Vietnam, carried the day and swept, primarily, Democrats into office.

In Minnesota, Democrat Amy Klobachar, the Hennepin County Attorney who refused to prosecute Bemidji Police Chief Bruce Preece for swindling over \$1 million (see *NH* of 08/28/06 at northernherald.com), was overwhelmingly elected to the U.S. Senate where she'll have the opportunity to exercise the same diligence, on behalf of our State in the *national* arena, for six years.

In Bemidji, a ballot question proposed extension of the city sales tax to build an Events Center. The projected cost of the mammoth center is expected to be between 35 and 60 million dollars, in a city of about 12,000 people, and so will likely produce long-term debt. Additionally, some have projected

that the Center would run at a deficit which could have to be subsidized by increased property tax revenues. Most permanent Bemidji residents voted against the measure; but it passed due to an odd quirk in the law that allows transient college students to vote where they're going to school, including voting in city elections.

The Events Center would give the Bemidji State University hockey team a new place to play, and voting yes was strongly pushed on campus by faculty there. In the end, the students' vote pushed the measure over the top, by 44 votes, and determined the taxes that the permanent Bemidji residents will pay for some time to come.

This phenomenon calls into question the wisdom of allowing transient college students to vote on local issues, essentially letting this temporary population, which, by and large, does not pay local taxes (except for a small amount of sales tax), control city revenue and spending measures that will affect area businesses and homeowners over the long term when those students are long gone.

Some would say that a city population should not be held captive by a school that it hosts.

From those same fine people who brought you Bush and Gore. In both high, and local office elections, candidates who tended to think outside the box, were independent of party loyalties and the conflicts they bring, strongly addressed near-term solutions to our energy problems, and/or ran as something other than Republicans and Democrats, were largely ignored in favor of the more dogmatic candidates of the traditional parties that brought us the problems to which we're now looking for solutions.

In a hard-fought run for, again, the U.S. Senate, Independence Party (IP) Candidate Robert Fitzgerald toured the state in his campaign bus that ran on used fryer fat. He might have brought some fresh ideas to the Senate, but only about 3% of the voters wanted that; an amount reflective of the vote of other such candidates, both statewide and locally. Peter Hutchinson, the Independence Party's candidate for governor, polled about 6%, barely enough to keep the IP still considered a major party.

The Rock for President in 2008. That's not to say that a third party candidate can't win - but he'd have to have been a pro wrestler first.

The Minnesota Independence Party started, in the 90s, as the party of Ross Perot, a presidential



Adam Steele, Editor

candidate who, if as many people voted for him as now say they did, should have been elected by an overwhelming margin.

Vietnam Wall Travels to Deer River



DEER RIVER -- The names were in small type, narrowly spaced and tightly lined into their columns. Altogether, 58,248 of them would have to fit onto the 250 foot Traveling Wall.



These were the courageous men who had all made the supreme sacrifice for country and humanity in a distant, small, Providence-forsaken corner of the globe that we called ...



... Vietnam



The Vietnam Traveling Wall, a 50% scale of the one in Washington, was brought to Deer River by the combined post of the American Legion, #122, and VFW #2720 at Deer River, and was open to the public from Sept. 15th - 18th, 2006. The Minnesota Army National Guard flew in a Blackhawk helicopter, piloted by Chief Warrant Officer (CW4) Ron Boutch, co-piloted by CW3 Joel Kozlowski, and staffed by Sgt. Rick Gendreau, for the opening ceremonies. This, *"The Wall That Heals"* is the only authorized one of the 5 non-affiliated Traveling Walls; and is transported and maintained by the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Fund (805-550-3590). Set up of the Wall includes a search service so that visitors can easily locate any name, for viewing or to take rubbings.

Letters to the Editor

READERS TOOT OUR HORN!

You have the best paper. Don't want to miss an issue. Keep up the good work.

A renewing (through 2009) subscriber from Gilbert, Minn.

Where To Draw The Line

I am incarcerated at the Beltrami County Jail, and have been for some time now. Therefore, I see first hand what kind of decisions our judges and prosecuting attorneys make. I'm writing this letter to advise the public of what kind of choices our court system has decided to make. . . . How many times will they continue to make those choices ?!?! . . . Keep in mind that this [is] my own opinion based [upon] factual bases.

Last week a ... [romantic] ... offender was released from jail again on electronic monitoring.

**What It Means:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

This individual was originally put on probation for a car accident. Then only two months later, he admitted to having ... [romantic] ... relations with a fourteen-year-old girl. Even with the seriousness of this crime, he was granted Huber release to go to school, which he did not need, due to another conditional release. With only \$5,000 bail that he posted, he got out again on conditions of release. Only two weeks later, those conditions of release were violated for getting into another car accident, but with a minor girl that got hurt due to the accident. Not only was this the second time his conditional release ... was violated, the judge gave him yet another chance. Which, in return, he ended up violating ... [by] ... driving a vehicle through a business wall and injuring the store owner. With another chance, he posted bond and has been released again!

In conclusion, the question is, how much leniency does a case like this deserve? In addition, why are not all cases treated equally?

-- Allen Foster, Bemidji

Mr. Foster is being held on charges of theft (case no. 04-KX-06-1431), and has asserted, for consideration in disposition of the case, that he suffers from kleptomania. He likes to steal things. Clearly, this man could put his condition to constructive use for society. Like Tom DeLay and many others, he could have a bright and successful future in politics.

That aside, Mr. Foster submitted with his letter (truncated for space) a copy of a letter Beltrami County prosecutor Randall Burg sent to Foster's public defender. Foster maintains that in some cases there is too much leniency, but in others, there is none; and Mr. Burg's letter corroborates that, in some cases the prosecutor will ignore any grounds for departure from sentencing guidelines, even clinical pathology, of which Burg's letter indicates that he takes a dim view.

Burg's letter recites, " ... Even if I did believe that Mr. Foster is a kleptomaniac, I would still conclude that prison is the place for him. Persons with psychological (Cont'd, "Letter," p. 5, col. 1)

"Freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one."
-- A.J. Liebling

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

Send letters (800 words or less) for publication, or consumer comments, to: *NORTHERN HERALD - Letters* (or *Consumer Forum*) - P.O. Box 1535, Bemidji, MN 56619. Sign your letter and print your name, address & phone number for verification. *Consumer comments* may be edited for space. *Letters* may be printed anonymously, if sender prefers and so indicates, but we have to know who sent it to verify contents.

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

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

Northern Herald

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

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Editor.....Adam Steele

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Notwithstanding the lies and nonsense some publicly-supported organizations try to feed the public . . .
Secondhand Smoke Has Never Killed Anyone
and does *not* cause the major lung and heart diseases often attributed to it.

To read the comprehensive 40-year study that showed this, and also tells how the anti-smoking lobby derived its phony scare statistics, see our issue of 10/25/04 in The Library, Vol. 10, at northernherald.com, or go to bmj.com Vol. 326, p. 1057. (This is the British Medical Journal site. The study was conducted in the United States, but due, apparently, to political pressure in opposition to the scientific results, would not be published here.)
On the horizon: Now that smokers are being harassed nationwide, they newest thing the anti-smoke nuts are up in arms about is wood-burning fireplaces. They're saying they cause cancer too, and are trying to get them outlawed. All this, while those same nuts drive cars that put tons of pollutants into the air each day, and cause global warming. If smoke bothers them that much, why don't they all just go to Mars?

Letter (con't from p. 4)
disorders frequently engage in illegal behavior which must be severely punished . . .
"Moreover, I am personally convinced that all forms of psychotherapy (exclusive of the administration of legal psychoactive drugs) are utterly useless. . . ."
OK, crazy or not, we're convinced that some people, like convicted killer Rodriguez, should fry. It's a necessary evil and whether or not

he's sane is just not material. But on lesser matters, where the offender's mere being does not pose an imminent threat to society, Burg's letter is telling as to just how far a claim of impairment can be expected to go with the prosecutors in Beltrami County. It is well for the public, as well as the judiciary, to know just where Mr. Burg stands on this.
Mr. Burg is an Asst. Co. Attorney, under the Office of Beltrami County Attorney Tim Faver. -- Ed.

John Weins, in rain gear for the Alice Cooper concert, is Activities Director for the Longville Chamber, and winters near Cooper in Phoenix.



Above, from the Cass Lake area, Larry Knop, Mary Almendinger, and Ron Boock

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.

Moondancers All!



Laurie Kilbury, from Staples

More photos, coverage, p. 6



The Park Rapids Radio Crew (KDKK) is VIPing this year!

PREVENT FREEWAY CONGESTION, GLOBAL WARMING, AND HOMELESS STRAYS
where it's legal,
SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR KIDS TODAY.

It also makes them more affectionate, and they stay closer to home, don't spray, and fight less. Without much reason to live, they may, however, get fat.
A public service message of this newspaper

Consumer Corner

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

GOOD NEWS!
Pepperidge Farm® Stuffing Fine To Use Again

Yep, for years, their Herb Seasoned stuffing has been one of America's favourites. It's because of the good job Herb does.
But for a while, their ingredients list began to look like inventory at a chemical supply house.
The good news is that they've changed back to mostly wholesome, natural ingredients, so you can feel good again about putting Pepperidge Farm® on your holiday table.

THINGS THAT JUST DON'T WORK
"There is no product that someone cannot make a little worse and sell a little cheaper. Those who consider price alone are this man's lawful prey."
This column is cumulative, and provided for consumer awareness. Signed consumer submissions are welcome.
For review of the following things that just don't work, from past issues, see *Things That Just Don't Work* at northernherald.com:
• **PATTON®** Oil-filled Electric Radiators
• **CELLULAR-ONE®**
• **HI-VAL®** (I/O MAGIC®) CD-RW drives
• **SYMPHONIC®** VCRS.
• **LEXAR®** Compact Flash cards
• **OFFICE MAX®** REBATES
• **HEWLETT-PACKARD®** product support
• **carsoup.com**

PUBLIC NOTICE

FEES AVAILABLE FOR INFO
A civil suit (no. C3-06-1870) has been commenced in the Beltrami Co. Court against William Batchelder (a local Republican leader and President of Bemidji Woolen Mills), Louise Mengelkoch (a BSU instructor), and others, for making false, libelous, and slanderous statements against *Northern Herald* Editor, Adam Steele. Additional witnesses with new information are sought, and will be paid fees, totalling 10% of the eventual judgement, for their court testimony, if used.
If you have personal knowledge (i.e. it was said to you, or you overheard it, or you were exposed to defamatory written material) of any statements by Batchelder, Mengelkoch, any person in a position of authority at Bemidji State University, or any other person, to the effect or leading to the belief that Adam Steele is or has ever been a rapist, wife beater, or child molester; or that he ever committed any similar infamous crime; or that he ever threatened anyone with a firearm; **please call 218-759-1162** to determine whether your testimony is usable.
We are aware of the publication, by Louise Mengelkoch, of the article, *All The News That's Not Fit to Print*, and we have all necessary documentation of same. If you, however, were advised or directed by Mengelkoch, or any other person, to read said article, particularly in connection with a BSU class, then your testimony as to that may be usable.



At bottom, in the Arts & Crafts Village, wooden salad bowls, and mosquito house (on far right) by Allen Hochsprung, of Crosslake; a decidedly midwestern topiary with pheasant feathers, antler, cattails & leaves, by Vixen & Vines, Detroit Lakes (this is striking in colour, but you'll have to come next year to see it that way).

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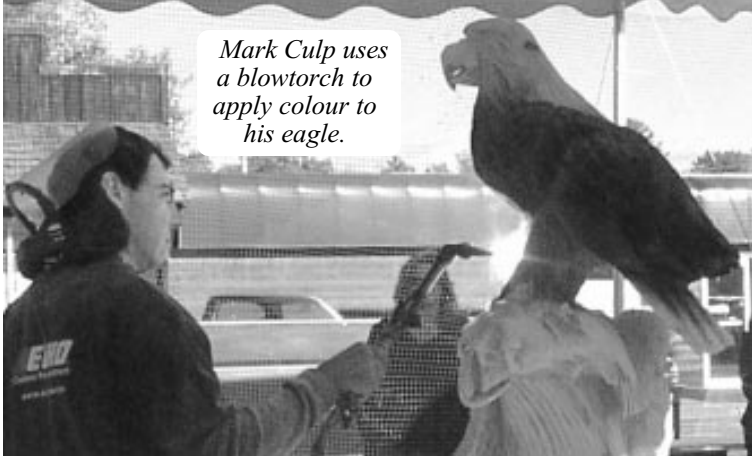
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IT'S ALWAYS HAPPENING AT HACKENSACK!
Brad Sharp Is New Chainsaw Champion!
Sharp and Scoggins Trade Titles

Left, Brad Sharp works on his masterpiece. The **finished** work can be seen in full colour (it would lose a lot here in B & W), at <http://www.hackensackchamber.com/specialevents/chainsaw.htm>
Below, carver Jeff Klatt, of Iowa, uses one of his chainsaws.



Mark Culp uses a blowtorch to apply colour to his eagle.



HACKENSACK -- Using, as his medium, plain raw logs, Brad Sharp, a carver from California, took honours in the National Chainsaw Sculpting Invitational at Hackensack, Minn. for the second time, in as many years there; as thousands watched the event.
Having placed just Second to big winner Dayton Scoggins of Mississippi in 2005, Sharp clinched the big award in 2006; and Scoggins finished second.
But the bidders had other ideas. At auction, although Sharp's excellent work of dogs 'n ducks, interpreted in wood, drew \$4,400 at the auction, Scoggins' carving, featuring a deer and a wild turkey, bested him. It sold for \$6,500. The chainsaw competition, a part of the tri-city *Fall Has It All*, benefits the charity, *Faith In Action*, and is co-sponsored by Delahunt Broadcasting which broadcasted live from the event (KDKK), and others.
Third and Fourth places went, respectively, to Mark Culp of California, and Justin Howland of Wisconsin .
Judging the carvings were A.J. Lutter, Mike McVay, Paul Albright, Dennis Roghar, and Susan Miller. The judges also carved, but did not compete. Judges' lodging was provided by the Owl's Nest motel.
This year's competition was narrowed down to only 10 top carvers from all over - as far away as Australia (Angie Polglaze, the only lady carver there) - to take part in the Championship event which happens each year in the final weekend of the last week of September, with auction of the masterpieces on Sunday. This 2006 event was Sept. 29th - Oct. 1st; the 2007 event will be Sept. 28th - 30th.
But people looking for a little something for around the house don't have to wait until Sunday - the smaller works, called *quick carves* are available throughout the event in the Arts and Crafts Village, which also features, on sale, top quality (really - they weeded the chaff out!!) distinctive crafts from the best artisans in a variety of media, including pottery, forged metal, glass, and even dried flowers, as well as wood.

MOONDANCE Main Stage Talent

STEPPENWOLF



John Kay



Michael Wilk



Danny Johnson

Someone hard-to-buy-for on your Hanukkah list?

No problema. Just give them a ticket to next year's jam!

The Main Stage, over the four Jam days, hosted 20 acts, including The Guess Who, The Gregg Rolie Band (band members and music of Santana), Alice Cooper, Ted Nugent, John Kay & Steppenwolf, The Doobie Brothers, Heart, The Little River Band, Dennis De Young, Steve Miller Band, Mountain Ash, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, The Bangles, Poison, Black Valentine, Starship, Mark Anthony's Storm Project, Outlaws, T. Albert Lloyd & The Kingpins, and Y & T.

John Kay is the voice of the legendary band, *Steppenwolf*. Shortly after it's inception, Kay explained, the band got a big boost when a couple of actors asked to use their music in a movie score. They were Dennis Hopper and Peter Fonda. Now, after 40 years, Kay said that next year would be their last year of tour; "I'm going to apply my efforts to the benefit of some people that . . . are making a difference in the lives of people everywhere - in Cambodia, Tanzania, . . . and here at home in New Orleans; and I want to be part of that team," he said.

Ron Hurst



The genius of

Alice Cooper

More than a set, it's a super-set; a series of fascinating and amusing (though not necessarily *funny*) interwoven skits tied to his music. It's kind of like watching a musical play, but interesting - with dazzling colours, superb imagery, poignant drama, dance, and great but unobtrusive rapport with the audience (he doesn't put anyone on the spot - he just shakes money off of a sword and into the crowd (inset at left), throws props to the fans, and stuff like that); all written and

performed by the one and only Alice Cooper! Seeing this performance is like reading a book that you just can't put down; and like that book, you don't get tired of it - when you revisit it, you uncover nuances that you missed the first time. If Cooper ever put his schtick on Broadway, it would never close; but then, he'd have to move to New York and probably wouldn't like that a bit.

In fact, Cooper's home is in Phoenix. His friends, John & Sandra Weins, came to this gig, and clad in

parkas, were, like everyone else, willing to brave waves of torrential rain to see it. They attend the same church as Cooper, where his wife, Cheryl, sings with them in the choir.

At home in Phoenix, John said that Cooper is a regular guy, who owns a sports and rock restaurant (*Alice Cooper'stown* - "Where Jocks and Rock Meet"), and is the founder of the *Solid Rock Foundation* which has raised several million dollars to provide inner city kids with such things as education, medical care, food, clothing, housing and after-school and summer activities; and to encourage them to stay away from gangs, guns, and drugs. It also works with the schools, helping direct activities and performances.

So, would one recognize him when he walks into church? "You bet you would!" John said, adding that there's no mistaking that hair.



Mardi Gras Tent



Father of the Bride!

At Right, Ahrens, Kathy Bieloh's father, has Mardi Gras beads for everyone!

If one's tastes ran in the direction of the Cajun sound, Moondance had a place for them too! There was a Mardi Gras every day, and it went over *BIG!* The Mardi Gras Tent, which provided authentic cajun music all day and all night, was one of the most popular (and populated) areas throughout the Jam! Still, if one was patient, it was usually possible to find some room on the dance floor to do some hot swing or mambo. Here from Louisiana, and both

making it through the storm, at top right, Charlie Duthu of the Treater Band tied up a boat in the backyard when his home town of Houma was hard hit by Hurricane Katrina; and at top left, master fiddler Curtis Coubello, who has played with Charlie Daniels, and is known to fiddle with the instrument held behind his back, or with someone else holding the bow. He came home off of tour to care for his daughters, 4 and 8, during the hurricane. Also featured were the Elijah Blue Band, Karl Commers, and Charlz Newman.

Feeding Time at the VIP Tent



Below, VIPs Kim Overholser, of Appleton, Minn., and Jill, who comes to Moondance from the Twin Cities. "I love it, it's the only way to go," said Kim, who's been to seven Moondances and always VIPs. She said

These are the real PARTY ANIMALS. So they're kept behind a chain-link fence to keep the other jammers safe. And with an open trough (like, unlimited) of beer and Jack Daniels cocktails, as well as lots of great free food and other amenities, they tend to stay there. Moondancers can look through the fence, but no putting fingers through the wires.

she likes the "free beer ... food's good, and I like the shade ... we have our own lavatories, it's nice!"

Right, Todd Swanson has been coming for all 15 Moondance years, but is VIPing this year: "Nuttin' better. Cheap cocktails and free food. Only way to go," he said.



The Campgrounds



At left, *The American Site* at Moondance was put together by Dennis Peterson, of Walker, and Jason Moen, from Oklee, Minn.

Stew's On! This is one of the most picturesque locations on the grounds. Below, relaxing in this newly opened rustic area of the North General campground are Kevin & Brenda Larson, Steve Whittaker, and Paul Whittaker.



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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.

(Pasty shown with avocado and parsley garnish added)

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

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Habitat in Hell

from page 1

fall anyway.

Bauer also became aware that Hillcrest Manor manager Shawntel Mistic had been giving her a bad credit reference, so Bauer notified BAHFH January 31st, 2006, in her application letter, "Shawntel will most likely tell you that I have never paid my lot rent on time However, for the last ten years, I have always paid my rent . . . every six months or so. . . . I have never paid late fees, and . . . I never knew that [it] was an 'issue' until I tried to move out."

This is Bemidji. Bauer also addressed in her application letter problems with the vermin* around her; problems that are all too familiar to many of those who live here. She cited acts of violence by her neighbors and their undisciplined and delinquent kids, that her son had four bicycles

stolen, and that, "I would complain to the management and nothing. . . . I got the restraining orders which have helped . . ."

She worked on the BAHFH home over the summer, and was repeatedly assured that it was going to be her home. But come August 31st, 2006, due to her regular job obligations, and there not being another parent to watch the kids, she'd only put in about 196 of the required hours. Bauer said that part of the problem was due to her first being told that her kids could be on the site, and, in fact, could help by picking up nails and stuff. But then, said Bauer, ***Jerry Hamilton*** (BAHFH Board Chairman) told her that the kids

* As used here, "vermin" does not refer to the literal - rats, mice, etc.; it means certain types of people. If any offense is taken, we wish to apologize in advance to the law-abiding rats, mice, raccoons, squirrels, and others, for our possibly having demeaned them by comparing them to Bemidjians.

~~ *NH Restaurant Reviews* ~~

Shelly's Open at Deer River

Chef and co-owner (the husband) Wade Snyder prepares omelettes to order at Shelly's Sunday Brunch Buffet. They're done to perfection and one can get them with anything or everything. Muffins include blueberry.



★★★★ (Q3 \$) There's way too much that we could say than would fit in this space. Great chef, great food, elegant rustic atmosphere and decor, daily specials, Sunday Buffet, equally good seating for those who smoke and those who don't, the list goes on. Shelly's is in Deer River where Shay's used to be. But they've completely redone it and now there are two rustic dining areas - one is by the ice cream bar, which features huge home-style baked muffins piled high with frosting.

The Sunday Buffet (10am-2pm) is a true brunch. One finds eggs, breakfast meats and fruit, but also, if one feels like ribs or other lunchy stuff, that's there too. It's AYCE for \$8.95, so if you leave hungry, it's your own fault.

Let it suffice to say that we hope that reporting tasks find us in Deer River on more Sundays, so we can stop in and enjoy this! You might want to also.

River House Upgrades



Bill
Durand
on
piano

★★★★(Q3 \$+) Hackensack's **River House** has long been the dependable place where one could always count on getting a really good meal at a good price. It's unquestionably the kind of thing that warrants four stars; but now they've grown a fifth.

Still great food, with new AYCE daily specials; but the motif of River House has been redone (yes, they kept the fish) with a beautiful new rustic wood smoking-optional room with fireplace, and live entertainment while dining, weekends.

couldn't be there, which created a child care problem and limited the time Bauer could work on the house; "I had all three of them [the BAHFH people] telling me three very different things, and nobody was on the same page," Bauer said.

So, on August 31st, BAHFH agreed to allow Bauer to put in the needed 54 hours (this number is approximate, as there appears to be some confusion in the BAHFH documents as to exactly how many hours Bauer had performed - BAHFH has acknowledged that their figure of *196 hours* in omitted some time that should have been credited), at the rate of 20 hours per month, in volunteer service at the Bemidji Boys' & Girls' Club, Evangelical Covenant Church, and clerical work for BAHFH; they signed agreements with Bauer to that effect. Accordingly, Bauer signed up with the coordinators of the organizations and scheduled the volunteer work.

(Continued, "Habitat," p. 10)

NORTHERN HERALD RESTAURANT GUIDE

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

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

WALKER AREA

★★★★ (Q3 \$) **The Ranch House**, Walker. Daily AYCE specials served homestyle. Salad bar. Giant popovers (excellent) with all meals. Specials: Su: Roast turkey, baked ham & fried chicken, \$10.99; Mon: Tenderloin & sirloin tips, \$13.99 ; Tu: Steamed shrimp, \$17.99; Wed: Ribs & chicken, \$13.99; Th: Alaskan snow crab - market price; Baked chicken \$10.79; Fri: Fish Fry, \$8.59, w/soup & salad bar \$12.54; Sat: Steamed shrimp, \$17.99 Open 7 days a week, Mon.-Sat. at 4:30 pm, Sun at 11:30 am. 9420 Hwy 371 NW, 218-547-1540

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

HACKENSACK AREA

★★★★★ (Q3 \$+) **Arthur's Ten Mile Lake Inn**, Hackensack. Very excellent food amidst lakeshore ambience. Live pianist and dancing on weekends, and Thurs-Sun. in summer. Nautical motif with lots of glass for the lake view. Unique summer/fall dining under the stars in screened in porch with see-thru roof & lake view. This is where you'd bring your wife on that special anniversary or occasion. Daily summer specials, call for details. Open 7 days a week in summer, lounge at 4:30 pm, dining from 5:00. Hours subject to change after Labor Day. Full bar, well stocked, including sherry and cognac. 4777 Hwy 371 NW, 218-675-6576

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

★★★★★ (Q3 \$+) **River House**, Hackensack. Daily AYCE specials served home-style: M: Ribs, \$14.99; Tu: Chef's choice special, or Deep fried chicken, \$11.99; W: Steamed peel 'n eat shrimp, \$15.99; Th: Baked chicken, \$10.99; F: Fish fry, \$10.99; Sa: Crab legs, \$27.99, or Deep fried chicken and BBQ rib buffet \$14.99; Su: Roast turkey, \$10.99 **Also**, gourmet special dinners (not AYCE): Th, F, Sa: Certified Black Angus Prime rib, 12 oz. \$17.99, 17 oz. \$19.99; F, Sa: Bone-in pork prime, 12 oz. \$14.99, 17 oz. \$17.99 All dinners, including AYCEs, include their lavish salad bar and popover or dinner roll. Full bar. Dine to live piano on weekends. 222 Highway 371, 218-675-6200

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

EMMAVILLE

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

PARK RAPIDS AREA

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

NISSWA-PEQUOT LAKES AREA

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

CASS LAKE AREA

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

BEMIDJI AREA

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

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

GRAND RAPIDS-DEER RIVER-REMER

★★★ (Q3) **Pasties Plus**, Grand Rapids. This is a wonderful hot meal of meat, potatoes, and veggies wrapped in a delicious baked pastry crust, with gravy. It's quite the treat! Stop in and take a whiff - the homestyle quality is obvious. All pasties (including breakfast) \$3.99; w/gravy just a few cents more (get it!) 1405 Hwy 2 W (1 blk. E of Jerry's Liquors), 218-326-2234

How we rate: We don't rate by request - we have to stumble onto the good establishment. We don't accept free food, and try to be anonymous, like any other guest, when sampling the restaurant. This is a cooperative effort by Northern Herald and the better dining establishments to let residents and visitors know where to find good things to eat. After being rated, restaurants listed here share the cost of the space for the guide - the ratings and editorial commentary, though, is ours and can't be bought.

THIS IS BEMIDJI

An Accident Waiting To Happen Occurs



Left, collision at Midway Dr. & Cross St., 2:45 p.m. Sept. 22nd, 2006.

BEMIDJI -- Gemmel Avenue is a peaceful place, usually. This is the historic 2 block street in south Bemidji where the homes of the mill workers were built around the 1920s. Many remain pretty much as they were. The street ends in a cul-de-sac, although there is an unmaintained and rough shortcut on the south end. The only official egress (a female eagle) is on the north end, where Gemmel Ave. becomes Cross St., and crosses Midway Dr., continuing a block to Bemidji Ave. (aka Paul Bunion Dr.). It's kind of a hybrid. It has the conveniences of being in the City; but the rustic woods and terrain, bordering the railroad tracks and Lake Irving, are more like living in the county. The City of Bemidji has pretty much passed over these two blocks, which suits the street's residents fine; they have city utilities, but avoid most of it's noise, congestion, and corruption. There used to be a pastoral field adjacent on the south, but that was replaced in the 90s by the eyesore townhomes of Irvingboro. Still, the block maintains much of it's old growth trees and historic charm. In an arial photograph, one might not even be able to make out the street - like in the country, it appears as just the roofs of a few homes protruding through woodland. And it even had a "back way" to downtown. Although once considered, there never has been a semaphore at Cross St. & Bemidji

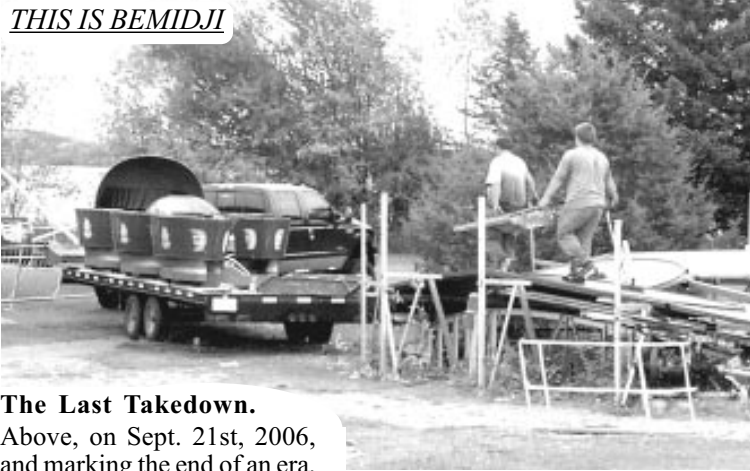


Ave., and turning onto Bemidji Ave. was difficult. But Gemmel residents could simply take the two wide-laned Midway Dr. (two-way, then) into downtown; or if they were going through town, then to the light at 2nd & Bemidji Ave. MN DOT and the City of Bemidji changed all that, though, in 2002, with the "Bemidji corridor". At enormous public expense, this 3-year project converted the 6 lanes of travel on the two-way Bemidji Ave. and Midway Dr. to only the 4 one-way lanes that exist today. The perfectly serviceable 4 lane bridge over the Mississippi was demolished, and two costly two-lane bridges built. The other usable 2-lane bridge on old Midway Drive was taken out of service (except for traffic to the sewage plant and lake access), and barred by roadblocks. Another casualty was the small secluded fishing dock on the Mississippi between Lake Irving and Lake Bemidji, a favorite place for many of the anglers here who liked to fish the inlet. And it converted the wide and slow Midway Drive, a relaxing back street to downtown, to an unending torrent of cars augmented, and the chaos added to, by cars turning out of the many high volume business driveways along and adjacent to Midway

Drive. For the many coming and going each day on Gemmel Ave., it changed a convenient thoroughfare to a dangerous intersection where people have to dodge a river of traffic, literally driving through and between the cars of the 35 mph (or supposed to be) steady cross-traffic on Midway Drive, and then dodge traffic again to get onto Bemidji Ave. The drivers, pretty much, tempt disaster every time they go across. And disaster happened September 22nd, 2006 in the minor accident shown above which undoubtedly will be repeated, possibly with more impressive results.

To make matters worse, the way the intersection was put together, this Midway Drive torrent of cars lies at the base of a short but steep hill at the north end of Gemmel Ave. In even light snow, a car braking on this hill will skid and may be unable to stop - it could easily skid right into the fast and heavy cross-traffic. When (not "if") this happens, both the City, and MN DOT, could incur liability, which would be richly deserved. The idea has been broached, before the City Council, that what used to be railway right-of-way paralleling Midway Dr. be used to create a two-way frontage road to the *old* Midway Dr. bridge, thus restoring convenient downtown access and egress, reducing the hazard, and providing, again, six lanes of travel; but the Council scoffed at the idea. It's more in their plan of the Bemidji motif that this become a trail, rather than provide a safer road. Now that the inevitable has happened, they may take another look; but then too, Minnesotans learn very slowly. It may a take a kid being squeezed like an orange in wreckage, in a high-speed broadside, perhaps assisted by any one of Bemidji's many inebriated drivers, before something is done about this.

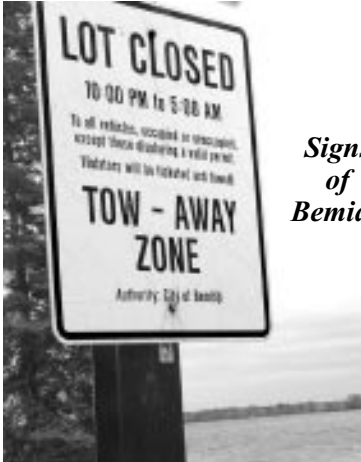
THIS IS BEMIDJI



The Last Takedown.

Above, on Sept. 21st, 2006, and marking the end of an era, the Scrambler and Tilt-A-Whirl are loaded up for the last time, by purchaser Tony Forcier & his son, Andrew, at the Bemidji waterfront Paul Bunyan Amusement Park, at the close of the 2006 summer season. They won't be back next spring; as the Park, which has entertained resident and visitor families since 1965, and given them a reason to stop and shop downtown, downsizes to just the train, concession stand, mini-golf, and maybe one small kiddie ride. Park founder/owner William Gary Trueblood, Bemidji, said that the downsizing was largely prompted by skyrocketing insurance rates which jumped by about 40% in the two years after 9/11/2001; "It took a month of our [three month] season to pay the insurance," he said. By removing the big rides, the Park will qualify for a different insurance classification and rate. And Trueblood said that part of the problem was also that over the years Bemidji has converted to more of a retail, rather than a tourist location. With less tourism, resorts have closed and that has

affected Park business. "We got good *local* support," Trueblood said, but with overhead and insurance, that wasn't enough to keep the park. And the City of Bemidji didn't help when, in the 90s, it reduced the amount of land it would lease to the Amusement Park, causing the elimination of the oft-used classic carousel, water slide, other large rides, and the canoes, kayaks, and pedalboats. **Why Tourists Don't Come Here.** Unlike surrounding towns,



Signs of Bemidji

the City of Bemidji is not tourist-friendly. There are few people-oriented facilities like phone booths, water-fountains and benches; they've been replaced by what some Bemidjians consider to be art. The lakefront is fenced. You can't go to the waterfront, park, and watch moonlight on our big lake - the sign at below left tells you that your car is subject to being ticketed and towed, even if you're in it. Kids love to feed the ducks, but you don't feed the water birds at the lakefront, that's prohibited too, as is skateboarding, virtually anywhere in the city. Bart Simpson would have no place to play here. After-dark walks downtown, and by the lake, are restricted too: if you parked on downtown streets, you have to remove your car by 1 a.m. or it can be towed. This is true, also, if you're visiting someone who has one of the many downtown apartments. Strange - downtown traffic isn't exactly congested at that time of the morning. Guess they have to have the cars off so they can roll up the streets. But there is a place people can go, if they happen to be stuck in Bemidji overnight. Wal-Mart offers the hospitality (including overnight RV parking) that



This ad conforms to Minnesota Board of Accountancy Rules, and the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct, which prohibit misleading advertising by CPAs as concerns fees, etc.

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, Certified Public Accountant. We're located in Bemidji, Minnesota but we also do on-site remote service at your location (travel may be limited, at our discretion). This, however, is very expensive.

Q: Can I smoke when I am receiving Very Expensive Tax Service?

A: Yes. Anyone who is paying that much has a right to be comfortable, in hospitable surroundings. Besides, we kind of like it when people smoke in our office.

Q: What assurance of accuracy do I have with Very Expensive Tax Service.

A: 26 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

"We contacted Adam Steele C.P.A. 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.

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

"Steele is very old, slow, ramshackle, eccentric, and methodical. He takes a long time to prepare the return, and the client pays for every minute of it. He is sometimes absent-minded: one time, he simply forgot to deposit my check for his fees - for about a year. He does tax in the old, slow, traditional way where the client interacts directly with the C.P.A. doing the return; with thorough investigation of all possible avenues of deduction and credit, extensive tax law research as necessary, and consideration of the client's overall circumstances to the end of reducing current and future tax to the fullest extent permitted by law.

"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

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

ADAM STEELE218-759-1162

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Bemidji doesn't. So Wal-Mart gets the \$\$\$s that the Bemidji Downtown Merchants don't. In the heart of downtown, foot traffic, distinctive shops, and affordable housing have been replaced by the recently-built, oversized, tax-paid government buildings. Buildings, apparently, are more important to the City Fathers than people. But that doesn't make people want to come here. And this trend, in Bemidji, shows no sign of changing. Now,

with the Amusement Park smallified, there'll be one less reason to stop downtown; one less reason for families to come here. If one wonders about all the empty storefronts downtown, well, give your thanks to the Bemidji Chamber of Commerce that since the early 90s, along with the City of Bemidji, has helped bring this about.



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

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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

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

RATES AND PLACEMENT

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

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★ **Septic Tank Pumping**
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RUBBER STAMPS



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

from BAHFH until she completed her work hour obligations and got the bills paid so she could actually take ownership.

But when she was ready to move stuff from the mobile home, and called BAHFH to ask for the keys to store it at the new home, BAHFH refused. Bauer said, "*De Pickett* [for BAHFH] told me that . . . they talked to my old landlord, Shawntel Mistic, and . . . they were no longer able to support me as a 'Habitat partner'; and that they would hold an official Board meeting on Sept. 21st to make that decision."

If BAHFH was concerned about Mistic's reference, though, well, they knew about that as early as January, when Bauer addressed it in her initial application letter (ante), well before being "selected", and working on the home.

As to the promises that she could store her belongings and rent the house pending ownership, "Geri Hickerson informed me that the Board members that made those promises were out of line in doing . . . [that] . . . and that they have resigned from the Board and they are no longer with Habitat; and that what they said to me was not binding, because they're [those Board members are] no longer with them [with BAHFH]; and that the deals that I made are no longer doable; and that we were just out of luck," Bauer said.

In interview, Hickerson denied ever saying that anyone was "out of line", or that Bauer was "out of luck". She also reiterated, "There was no contract or promise to put her in that house."

Homeless at this point, Bauer and her kids lived in her van, which she parked at Bemidji State Park, so they'd be proximate to sanitary facilities and a shower. She wrote to *Habitat for Humanity*, "... These last 12 days have been the least humane of my life."

On Sept. 19th, Bauer sent a letter to the BAHFH Board, detailing how she was getting different answers from different people there, and complained that BAHFH Board Chairman Jerry Hamilton had made unwarranted comments and appeared to be standing in the way of her getting the home. The letter recited that, in the construction phase, when she was at the home painting, Hamilton insinuated that she was a drug user (which Bauer adamantly denies - her job, in fact, requires FBI clearance) and quotes



Marshfield
DoorSystems

PRODUCTION TEAM LEADER

Marshfield DoorSystems is seeking an experienced professional to become its Production Team Leader for the Particle Board Plant. The position reports to the Operations Manager and is responsible for leading and managing the Operations Team to accomplish business objectives and goals. Key variables in this position are safety, quality, productivity and development of team members. The successful candidate will have a Bachelors degree in Business, Wood Science, or related field plus 3-5 years of supervisory experience. Good communication, teamwork, leadership, time management, honesty, and interpersonal skills are necessary for selection and success. The position is based in Marshfield, Wisconsin and must be willing to work various shifts in a seven day/week, 24 hour/day operation.

As the world leader in architectural doors, Marshfield DoorSystems® is providing bold new insights and innovative design solutions for industry specifiers around the globe. Marshfield DoorSystems, Inc. offers a competitive salary and full benefits package including health, dental, life, disability, flexible spending, 401(k), and more.

To apply, please submit resume and salary history to:

Marshfield DoorSystems, Inc.
Attn: Human Resources
1401 East Fourth Street
Marshfield, WI 54449
Fax: 715-387-4382
E-mail: jobs@mdrsys.com

JOIN OUR BEMIDJI ADOPTION TEAM!

Permanent Family Resource Center is a non-profit, full service adoption agency, licensed by the State of Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Job Details: Permanent Family Resource Center is searching for a social worker who is a self starter and a team player with a high degree of empathy for families and children. This social work position would provide services to prospective adoptive families, including home assessments, placements and follow-up supervision and support. In addition, the employee would be expected to participate in recruitment and training activities.

Job Qualifications: Applicant must have excellent knowledge of child development and issues of loss, grief and attachment. Applicant must be computer literate and have excellent writing and speaking skills. Requirements: MN licensure, and in-state travel. Preferences: MSW degree, Adoption and/or foster care experience. Recent graduates are welcome. Licensure supervision is available.

Part time w/full time potential, flexible hours, work out of home. Salary \$24K-\$30K. **Benefits:** paid days leave, flex plan, holiday pay, bonuses and other benefits as outlined in the employee manual.

To apply please mail résumé and three references to:

Human Resource Manager
Permanent Family Resource Center
1220 North Tower Road - Suite #101
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

For more information on
Permanent Family
Resource Center go to:
www.permanentfamily.org

Hamilton as saying, within her earshot, " . . . we just got done dealing with a Habitat home that was turned into a meth lab, and I am not going to let the same thing be done with this home." The letter also recites that in their first meeting, Hamilton, first off, asked her what reservation she was from, but an BAHFH colleague upbraided him and told him he couldn't ask such a question.

In interview, Hamilton denied both of such remarks.

Bauer's letter to *Habitat for Humanity* concluded, " . . . this kind of garbage happens every day in this town [Bemidji] to low-income, hard-working, honest, drug-free [people] . . . Charity work isn't supposed to be about making yourself feel superior. . . . Bi-County CAP has the funding available to me for the heating bill, that's the only issue . . . Why, then am I still living out of my van?"

The phantom fax. Matters reached finality on Sept. 25th when, she recited, she was told by Bi-Cap that they had received a fax from Habitat to the effect that Bauer wouldn't be getting the home. When, in investigation, we tried to see the fax, Bi-Cap stalled for about a week. Then at a press meeting at Bi-Cap it was revealed that Bi-Cap

never actually received any such fax - they were told Sept. 22nd of Habitat's disposition by Lucille Moe, again, Exec. Dir. of Bi-Cap, and member of the Habitat Board. Bi-Cap produced at the meeting a fax indicating that Bauer had been de-selected for the home, but the funny thing was that the cover letter revealed that the fax had been actually sent *by* Bi-Cap, *to* Habitat, and not the other way around.

When a 401(k) plan is closed out, one generally doesn't get the funds immediately. At the end of September, Bauer received about \$2,600 from her 401(k), more than enough to pay her heating bill (about \$1,100) and back lot rent (approx. \$1,200). But by that time Habitat had arranged to rent the home to someone else.

In the end, as with so many things in Bemidji, the matter may have been decided on a personality conflict (which Habitat denies). It's not necessarily legal or ethical; but as Red Green says, "It's not smart, it's not correct, but it's one of the things that makes us what we are."

Hickerson has said that Bauer's work hours with Habitat will be banked, and she can reapply for a home next year. But we haven't seen many pigs flying around lately, so it is doubtful that she will. When she

THERE ARE LOTS OF
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got her 401(k) money, Bauer rented an apartment in Lake George, and seems to have had enough of Bemidjians, and their agencies and organizations, for a while.

She has, however, contacted the Minnesota Attorney General's office, where, Bauer said that, the investigator there was interested in the situation, but could not act, probably because *the State* doesn't have a financial interest in it, and no *criminal* law appeared to have been broken.

Bauer has indicated, however, that she intends to pursue a civil action seeking specific performance against Habitat, to try to cause them to live up to what they had told her all summer - that she would be able to buy the Park Avenue home. (Habitat does not give away the houses, they sell them on a sliding scale mortgage. The *sweat equity* counts toward the down payment.) As she suffered damages by relying upon representations made by BAHFH, Bauer said that she would consult with an attorney to determine if there is liability on their part. Closing the interview, Bauer said, with regard to her dealings with Habitat, "I didn't do anything wrong."

A **veil of secrecy** appears to cloak BAHFH's location and operations. They are not listed in the phone book, so it might be hard for a person to find them to apply for a home. The *Northern Herald* investigation, however, pierced that (Cont'd, "Habitat in Hell," p. 11)

Habitat from page 8

But there were some other issues: Bauer had shattered her wrist in a fall in an ice storm in November, 2005. She had to be off work and had gotten behind in paying her heating bill. So she owed for back utilities that would have to be paid before heat could be furnished to the new home, a BAHFH requirement; and her fall payment of lot rent at Hillcrest Manor was due which was of concern to BAHFH; although Bauer made arrangements to close out her 401(k) to pay the lot rent and, if she couldn't get fuel assistance, the utilities as well.

Bauer qualified for fuel assistance to help with the utilities, but Bi-County CAP (the local agency charged with, and staff paid for, distribution of federal energy assistance funds) wouldn't make the payment without assurance that BAHFH was going to let her move in, and BAHFH wouldn't state that she could move into the home unless she got the back utilities paid and the heat hooked up and turned on. **Geri Hickerson**, BAHFH Executive Director, said, "... I think she kinda got caught in a *Catch-22*."

When a person is getting the runaround from one Bemidji "charitable" organization, they might not find the remedy in another, for reasons that will become obvious. It would seem here that the problem was a simple lack of communication between Bi-County CAP and Habitat; that the left hand didn't know what the right hand was doing. But not so. As it turned out, the right hand was also the left hand. The Executive Director of *Bi-County CAP*, **Lucille Moe**, also sits on the *Habitat* Board of Directors.

The stuff hit the fan on Sept. 7th, when the home was essentially completed. Bauer had to vacate her mobile home that day, and, she says that *she had been told, more than once, by Jerry Hamilton and others at BAHFH, that she would be able to start moving her belongings and store them in a storage shed at the BAHFH home. She had also been told that she could rent the home*

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

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

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TO RESPOND TO NORTHERN PERSONALS

Prepare your letter to the person. Place the letter in an envelope, with your return address (optional), but leave the recipient's address area on the envelope blank. Write the recipient's five digit code number in the lower left corner of the front of the envelope, then stamp and seal each envelope.

colour guard was *Nisswa American Legion*. The winner of the Youth Traveling Trophy was the *Talking Tree* float.

New Backus royalty included Vanessa Cihra, 13, Backus Jr. Princess; Laura Birch, Princess runner-up; Katelyn Borman, Princess runner-up; and Alisha Hagerty, Backus Princess.

The distinguished panel of judges included Cindy Paulsen, Jo Moore, Cara

Martin, and Justine Piper, from Faribault, judging royalty; and Brian McAlister, Eugene Turek, from Faribault, Jerry Keane of Panama, Iowa, and Shannon Bye of Monticello, judging the parade.

Live Irish music during the corn feed was performed on guitar and fiddle by *Mike and Ross Duval*, of Merrifield, Minn. On Sunday, *Frankly Country* performed at the Backus American Legion.

Habitat in Hell from p. 10

veil and found BAHFH operating out of a basement office at First Lutheran Church at 9th & Bemidji Ave., Bemidji. Their mailing address was listed on a web site (another entity's) as P.O. Box 1067, Bemidji 56619.

Geri Hickerson appears to be involved with several Bemidji nonprofit organizations. In addition to BAHFH, she is Board Chair of the *Beltrami Humane Society* which has recently experienced financial problems, and is listed as the Director of *Northern Cradle* (pregnant teen housing support and assistance). Northern Cradle was formerly known as *April's Shelter*, whose former Executive Director, *Judith Selby*, was charged with various financial offenses including theft by forgery, false representation, and medical assistance fraud; Hickerson took over as Executive Director shortly thereafter.

Northern Cradle lists, as it's address, Hickerson's home address of 9267 Turtle River Lake Rd, Bemidji, and Hickerson said that she's in the process, now, of dissolving it as a non-profit following the loss of state funding. "We closed down operations last August," she said.

Your tax money at work. Coincidentally, Miss Bauer happened, at one time, to have worked for Northern Cradle when

it was located in Nymore.

Bauer said that their only residents at that time were a woman and her children who had been placed there under court order for evaluation of her parenting skills. Northern Cradle was being paid for this sole client by public funds.

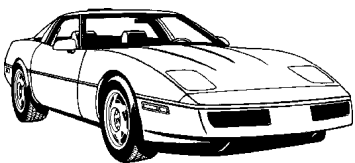
Bauer said that although the client's parenting was beyond reproach, Hickerson called the staff into a meeting and directed them to start finding flaws with the client's parenting, presumably so that *Northern Cradle* would retain the funding for the continued placement of that client. "I told her, 'Geri, she's a great mom' . . . and I went upstairs and I . . . turned in my notice because that, to me, was just so immoral - to keep this girl there with her baby when she did not need to be there," Bauer said.

Backus Winners

(Fest photo coverage is on p. 3)

BACKUS -- Taking *First Prize (Best float overall)* in the Backus Corn Fest parade was the *Itasca Vintage Car Club* with their vintage calliope float; Second Place was claimed by the *Park Rapids Friendly Squares*; Third Place went to the *Schrupp Excavating and Bonnie's Day Care* float; and Fourth went to *Backus Locker*. Best

NORTHERN AUTO & BOAT SHOPPER



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CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

