



Nevis School sports and happenings
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Mishap at Stocking Lake access ...
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Northwoods Press

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Hubbard County COLA participates in university research project

By Carrie Hitchcock

For the second year in a row, the Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) has been the beneficiary of an Indiana University (IU) master's degree capstone project, providing them with information to improve their organizational operations.

The project, undertaken during this fall semester and entitled "Enhancing Hubbard County COLA's Lake Monitoring Program," follows an IU capstone completed in the spring of 2013. Initiated by COLA requests, both projects

were done by students in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA), under the direction of Dr. Burney Fischer, clinical professor at the IU SPEA, and a summer resident on Big Mantrap lake.

The first capstone generated sustainability recommendations for both lake associations and COLA, and, in addition to the formal research report, resulted in an article entitled "Analyzing and Improving the Sustainability of Lake Associations." The article appeared in the Summer 2014 issue of LakeLine Mag-

azine, a quarterly published by the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS).

This earlier capstone was based on the theory that lake association sustainability would have a direct and positive effect on lake sustainability. COLA had three questions they wanted addressed with the students' research: (1) How do the actions of COLA and lake associations (LAs) affect their public image? (2) What is the best way to get people to engage in best (COLA continued on Page 6)



Members of COLA's Advisory Committee, from left: Lynn Goodrich, Jerry Knoblich, Sharon Natzel, Dan Kittilson, and Doug Kingsley. Photo by Carrie Hitchcock.

New funeral director offers wisdom beyond her years

By Carrie Hitchcock

At one point in her life, Allison Cease thought she might "walk the boards" on Broadway. Growing up in a musical family, she went to Concordia College after high school as a vocal performance and theatre major. But the pull of other aspects of her family grew stronger, and she found herself leaving school and going on a personal journey.

"I realized I wouldn't be satisfied unless I was helping people," the 25-year-old said. "I'm not a person who can sell myself, as far as being a performer. So I moved around, did some soul searching, and decided to come back to Bemidji. I missed my family."

Her family are the multi-generational owners of the Cease Family Funeral Homes. After returning home, Allison began taking classes at Bemidji State University (BSU) and helping her dad, Kevin, at their location in Bemidji. It wasn't anything new to her, having grown up around the family business.

"If Mom was busy, I'd go hang out in the funeral home, play on old (Director continued on Page 5)



Allison Cease has joined her family as a fourth-generation funeral director. Photo by Carrie Hitchcock.

Congratulations, Marv!



Marv Vredenburg gave the thumbs up sign after his last official Nevis School Board meeting. Vredenburg has been on the board for 23 years! He also celebrated his 60th birthday on Tuesday, December 16. Congratulations, Marv!

Photo by Sherm Anderson.

Nevis School Board sets levy for 2015

By Sherm Anderson

The Nevis School Board met on Monday, December 15 for its regular monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. after holding the Truth in Taxation Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Only three community members attended the mandated Truth in Taxation meeting. Superintendent Gregg Parks ran through a detailed presentation of the district's finances and did a good job of explaining the law and the regulations of notifications and the related time line to those present.

That time line starts in May, when the Legislature sets school finance formulas.

Health and Safety Project applications are due from the schools in July, followed by pupil projections and other school data necessary to complete initial levy runs in August; the date and location of the levy hearing are also set at that time. In September the schools receive initial levy limitations from the MN Department of Education, at which time the districts must also certify the proposed levy. Most districts certify the maximum allowable amount at that time, since they can come down from that amount later but may not increase it. The counties mail out the levy notices to property (Nevis School continued on Page 3)

Akeley City Council bolsters city's financial stability

By Carrie Hitchcock

For the purposes of improving the city's financial stability and increasing the availability of funds for future capital improvement projects, the Akeley City Council, at their Wednesday, December 10, regular meeting, took steps to facilitate those ends.

After approving a resolution to open an investment account designated for road improvements, they also authorized a transfer of funds to investment accounts for the municipal liquor store, parks and the newly created road improvements account, in the amounts of \$20,000, \$10,000, and \$22,000, respectively.

In other administrative business, the council:

- Authorized increases in wages for the Police Chief (to \$17.11), and increased him to full-time status at 32 hours per week; the Clerk Treasurer (\$16.56); Public Works Supervisor (\$14.32); and Liquor Store Manager (\$15.15).

- Approved a final levy in the amount of \$192,449 for 2015, an increase over last year due to those wage increases.

- Approved increasing the minimum amount of purchasing of goods or services for which bids are required from \$300 to \$500, as it was reported vendors are reluctant to provide bids for amounts less than \$500.

- Approved a resolution formally sponsoring the Akeley Paul Bunyan Trailriders for maintenance of the Round River Drive, with Councilmember Brian Hitchcock voting no.

- Approved renewing the liquor license for T&M Express.

- Authorized a letter of support for Reid Watson of Laporte to hold ice races on 11th Crow Wing Lake beginning the first weekend in January and going through mid-March, 2015.

- Approved sending a letter of support to the Minnesota Rural Water Association, for lobbying efforts to keep federal legislators focused on infrastructure and compliance issues facing small communities' water and sewer systems.

- Approved paying MidStates Wireless \$2,737 to link a local emergency siren to Hubbard County Sheriff's Dispatch in case of an (Akeley continued on Page 6)

The beginning of a wintery wonderland ...



The trees and grass had almost a half an inch of frost on them on Wednesday, December 10. This image was shot in southeastern Hubbard County on Wednesday afternoon. The scenery that day almost seemed surreal due to the high humidity, low overcast skies diffusing the light and all the frost. Photo by Sherm Anderson.

Christmas Wishes Merry & Bright

652-3475 • The Northwoods Press office will be closing early on December 24 and will be closed December 25 • nwpnews2@arvig.net

COLA.....continued from Front

practices in lake management, and how does this relate to lake-water quality? (3) What are the ways to aid in the recruitment and retention of members?

Using two online surveys, one sent to COLA representatives, and one to individuals living on seven lakes in Hubbard County, certain categories emerged as important concerns of the respondents. Those categories included maintaining a positive public image; expanding water-quality practices; building membership, leadership and a volunteer base; and increasing fundraising.

Although concern over public image was of primary concern for COLA survey respondents (due to a recent lawsuit and media articles), the lake residents surveyed held a positive view of COLA. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) was the number one specific lakes-related concern for both COLA and lake residents, that concern being one of 16 indices that were listed. The full report of this project can be viewed on a link on the COLA website's home page.

Current COLA President Lynn Goodrich said that this capstone "helped us recognize our strengths and weaknesses," improved their communication through "a new more dynamic website," and gave them ideas on "how

to build better relationships with other organizations and the community in general." He said he thought the recommendations from the project would help them "continue to protect the future environmental and economic health of Hubbard County and its citizens."

Focus back on lakes

As Goodrich explained, now that the COLA and LAs had information on how to sustain themselves as organizations, the current capstone focuses attention back to the lakes and their health. During a teleconference held on Monday, December 8, the students presented a summary of their project, assessing the current state of lake monitoring programs at both the COLA and LA level, to members of COLA's Advisory Committee.

The students defined the parameters of lake monitoring, which generally include physical water quality traits, the chemical composition of the water, and biological components like plants and wildlife. They also reviewed terminology common to various aspects of lake monitoring.

The group used literature reviews, phone interviews with personnel at state agencies like the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and Department of Natural Resources, about barriers

to and successes with effective lake monitoring, and developed a lake monitoring program (LMP) assessment survey. Of the 215 surveys sent out, the team received 84 responses from 21 counties, including Hubbard, which represented 11 COLAs and 54 LAs. Of those LAs, 27 were in Hubbard County, and 27 were from other counties in the state.

Although the full report of this capstone is not yet available on COLA's website, preliminary results highlighted showed that Hubbard County's lake monitoring activities are similar to those in other counties, although the students suggested one area of potential improvement would be to engage in higher nutrient (nitrogen, phosphorous, chlorophyll-A), lake level, and water chemistry monitoring.

The surveys also showed that the biggest perceived threats to water quality were nutrient pollution, AIS, development and erosion. The students pointed out there was some disagreement among same-lake responses as far as what lake monitoring activities their organization is actually conducting. They said there was more consensus to questions regarding AIS monitoring and secchi disk use (a secchi disk is a white circular disk, mounted on a pole and lowered into the

water, which measures water transparency at the point the disc is no longer visible), which they said was likely due to those practices being more common. They added, however, that there was also some disagreement between what is outlined on the LMPs and what was indicated by the survey responses.

Some of the team's recommendations to COLA included moving beyond the shoreline to address threats to water quality, including monitoring the watershed to take into account the entire area around a lake; using the MPCA's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for lake water quality sampling to ensure consistency; and to improve online LA contact information to facilitate better relationships with state agencies.

What was described as "one of the biggest takeaways from this whole process," was that there was a disconnect in people understanding what is really happening on their lakes, and that following the SOPs and having current contact information would be two good ways to ensure better communication among lake residents, LAs and COLA as to the health of their lakes.

Goodrich praised the IU students for the work on this capstone, and said that data gathered by water testing

Akeley.....continued from Front

emergency situation arises while the City Offices are closed.

•Heard from Clerk Sabrina Hegg that the city certified assessments to Hubbard County for unpaid water, sewer and fire bills, in the amount of \$6,713, including \$300 in fees.

East Hubbard County Fire District

Councilmember Bobbie Emery discussed proposed language changes to the Joint Powers Agreement by the municipalities involved in the EHCDFD. She reported that Akeley, Badoura and White Oak Townships had approved changes, but that she, as the representative for the City of Akeley, had opposed them. The council authorized the city attorney to look at the proposed changes.

Police

The council approved acceptance of a donation of \$200 from the Akeley VFW Post to go toward the purchase of night vision equipment, needing only \$600 of the total \$4,000 needed to make the purchase.

Liquor Store

Acting Store Manager Mike Lenander said that

the muni would be open on Christmas Eve from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., on Christmas Day beginning at 3 p.m., on Sunday, December 28 for the Vikings game, and on January 1, beginning at noon. He said that, by law, no off-sales are allowed on holidays, but the bar can be open.

New Business

The council approved a request from Marci Wosika to reduce the sewer rate on her business during the winter months, when her laundry is closed, to a lower category, an approximate \$50 per month decrease.

They took no action, however, on a request from Abigail's Antiques owner Ardell McAlpine for reimbursement, in the amount of \$325.56, for water and sewer from December 13, 2013 to May 31, 2014. According to a letter received from Ms. McAlpine, dated November 28, she was hooked up to someone else's garden hose to obtain water and was "cut off from services." She also said that when she returned to her shop in May, she was "without the availability of water" for a month.

Public Works Supervisor

Kelly VandenEykel disputed that McAlpine was without services, being "hooked up, like other people were last winter, with a garden hose," adding that it didn't go through her meter, but the water was available. VandenEykel said he had told McAlpine to just let him know after she returned in the spring, when she wanted water.

VandenEykel confirmed that she had been without the availability of water for the one month, and that he had shut off her water before digging the hole at the curb stop across the street to repair the water leak that was found to be the cause of water flowing into her store's basement earlier in 2013. He reiterated, however, that he had told her to let him know when she wanted water, and he would make it available.

After Councilmember Dan Riggs noted, "Everybody who leaves for the winter pays for water..." the council decided to take no action on the request.

In another matter regarding Ms. McAlpine, it was reported that she had accepted an insurance settlement for the

flooding of her basement.

Public Forum

City resident Chuck Andress appeared before the council to discuss the planning of a free-standing restroom that would be available for use by the public at Paul's Patio, the historical museum, the Heartland Trail, and the city park. He said the planning for such a project was in the very preliminary stages, and he was looking for people who might like to get involved with it.

Andress said that such a building might be designed for year-round use, possibly offering snacks for sale and space for advertising. He said he would seek funding for the planning and design stages, and that, with so many different entities involved, he wanted to take the time to plan carefully, to make sure the final design would be something with which everyone involved would be happy.

Councilmember Brian Hitchcock encouraged Andress in his efforts, saying that the council supported the concept, and asked him to keep them apprised as the plan progresses.

and vegetation mapping will allow COLA and the LAs to better understand the ecology of the lakes area and how it is affected by human presence.

"Having a history of the health of our waters will allow us to gain the involve-

ment of state and local politicians and monies," he said. "Perhaps our greatest challenge is in getting the people to appreciate what they have, and to care enough to become involved."

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

THEME: THE WILD WEST

ACROSS
1. French pancake
6. Trig function
9. *The steam ____motive drove Western growth
13. Flotsam and jetsam alternative
14. Earned at Kellogg School of Management
15. In any degree at all, archaic
16. Discrimination against elderly people
17. Black gold
18. Traction aid
19. *Spaghetti ____
21. *Precursor to cowboy
23. Type of tree
24. Cough syrup balsam
25. Contrary conjunction
28. Heracles' wife
30. Methane or carbon dioxide, e.g.
35. "Put a lid ____!"
37. Russian mountain chain
39. Lorry in America
40. Capital of Norway
41. Special Administrative Region of China
43. Tubular pasta
44. Rock bottom
46. *____Party, Manifest Destiny opponent
47. Norse deity and husband of Frigg
48. Shoe hole
50. Audio bounce-back
52. Lt.'s inferior, in the Navy
53. Frequenter
55. ____de Triomphe
57. *Type of Wild West wagon
61. Metallurgy factory
65. Run off to wed
66. Female sheep
68. "____two shoes"
69. RAF member
70. Spring mo.
71. Plural of ostium
72. A chronic drinker, pl.
73. *Billy the Kid's was less than 20 when killing his first
74. Lofty homes

DOWN
1. Bird weapon
2. Angry display
3. Shining armor
4. Fusilli, e.g.
5. Catch in a net
6. Ke\$ha's 2012 hit
7. ____Wan
8. Artillery burst
9. Beauty or babe
10. Curved molding
11. Blacken
12. Football great ____Graham
15. *Jury did it to Wild Bill Hickock after famous gunfight
20. Watery discharge from eyes or nose
22. Priestly garb
24. *She often worked in one room in Old West
25. *The Wilderness Road trailblazer
26. "Take it back!"
27. Found over "n" in Spanish
29. Brightly colored and showy, Scottish
31. Rice-like pasta
32. *Sacagawea, e.g.
33. To ____a play
34. *They were often traded
36. Work hard
38. Nonclerical
42. Early Irish alphabet
45. Bemoan
49. Triple ____loop in skating
51. *____Trail, spanning east-west
54. Swelling
56. Intimate
57. Large edible mushrooms with a brown cap
58. Assortment
59. Unit V
60. "Iliad," e.g.
61. Bone-dry
62. Marines' toy recipients
63. Prep for publication
64. Swedish shag rugs
67. Tail action

CROSSWORD

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Extra DWI enforcement is on Minnesota roads in December.

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