

RALLY

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For the past week, Falls High School students rallied together to raise money for Gracie Bahr – a seventh grader who was recently diagnosed with Hodgkin’s Lymphoma and is undergoing treatments to fight the disease.

“They were so excited,” Hamers said of everyone involved in the effort. “Clara Palm and a few other students were discussing how they wanted to do a fundraiser for Gracie ... It was incredible to

watch. They organized it.”

As the planning process got underway, students began discussing a challenge that could coincide with the effort. The idea to have the boys basketball team wear dresses surfaced, but quickly generated interest from several other male students who began volunteering to be involved. Eventually, it was decided to host a prom-like grand march event during Wednesday’s spring sports pep fest.

“The girls were so excited to bring their dresses in and the boys were excited to participate,” Hamers

said. “It took them a little while to figure out how to wear (the dresses), where the straps go and how to tie up the backs. Many didn’t actually fit, but they went with the flow.”

Palm and senior Ben Humbert took the grand march idea a little further and worked in a way to crown Bahr “queen.”

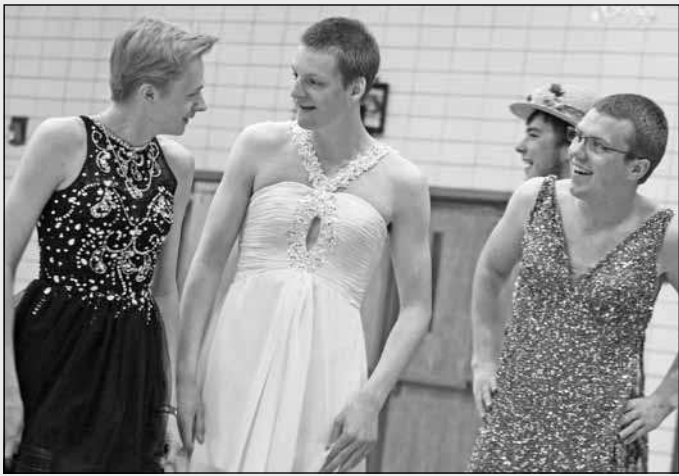
“Only a very select few people knew that was going to happen,” Hamers said. “You couldn’t pick two more compassionate and caring kids to be involved.”

The result was moving. Bahr had a huge smile

on her face when Humbert placed the crown on her head. Several students were moved to tears and crowded around the newly-crowned queen for a hug.

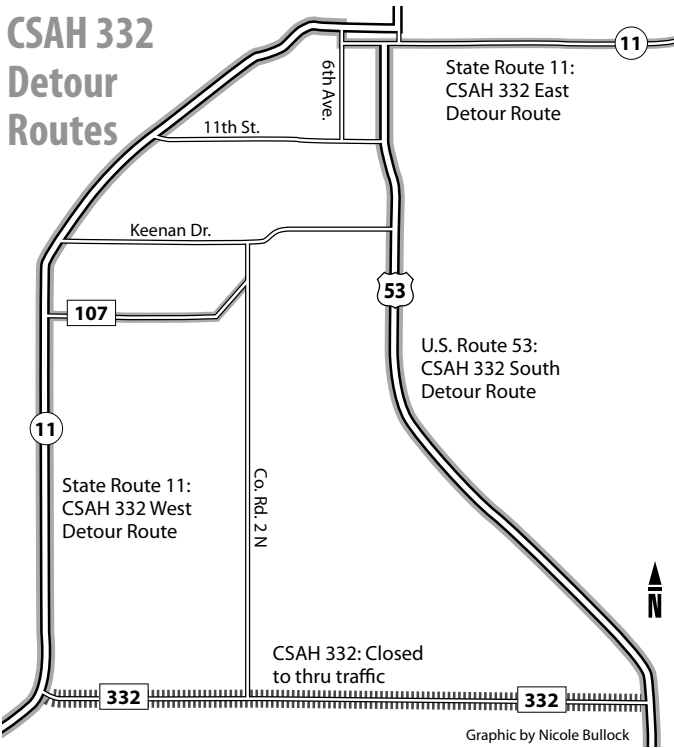
Hamers said while raising more than \$300 along with the reaction from everyone at the pep fest Wednesday was incredible, what stood out to her was the students involved.

“The kids don’t even realize how awesome they truly are,” she said. “In their minds, they did what anyone else would have done, which makes it even more amazing.”



STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

Falls High School boys from left, Isaac Johnson, Ben Everson and Andrew Strand, wear dresses in front of the school after raising more than \$300 for Gracie Bahr.



GRAPHIC BY NICOLE BULLOCK

The map shows the detour created by the closure of County Road 332 that begins Wednesday.

DETOUR

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zones along the detour. Along Highway 11, a no parking zone will be in place about 400 feet to the west of Sixth Avenue; once on Sixth Avenue, parking will be prohibited between Third and Fourth Streets; and on Fourth Street, no parking will be allowed between Fifth and Sixth avenues. Sutherland said while trucks can safely negotiate turns on the listed streets, vehicles parked in those areas could be a hindrance.

Working together

The county engineer said his department are working closely with Boise Paper, a Packaging Corporation of America company, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation in making the summer detour run as smoothly as possible.

“Boise has taken the steps to have some of their

winter wood delivered sooner,” Sutherland said. “They accelerated some of the delivery earlier this spring to take some load off the detour route.”

In addition, MnDOT is working to modify the traffic signal on Sixth Avenue to give more favor to traffic from Fourth Street.

“The current configuration gives preference to east- and westbound traffic on Highway 11,” Sutherland said. “Loggers expressed some concerns about the wait time at the signal... We are working on ways to work with Sixth Avenue traffic to get some more green time on the lights coming from that way.”

Highway 332 will be open to thru traffic, and Sutherland said property owners have been made aware of changes quickly coming their way.

“We chose to close the road to everyone else to compress the construction schedule,” he said.

MAKI

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During comments to an assembled group of RRCC professors and community members, Maki highlighted three things he plans to focus on as NEHED president: being thoughtful and respectful of input from others, being future-oriented when it comes to decision-making and having a plan for the future.

A good president considers input from others no matter the source, Maki said. The president should also look forward and have a plan, and not be afraid to change and adapt that plan. Also, a president should make decisions while considering the impacts of those decisions on the future.

“The convenient choice might be easy in the present, but might not be the best future decision,” Maki said. “You have to ask, ‘What does the district look like down the road?’”

As the head executive for NEHED, Maki said he won’t accomplish anything if he doesn’t have “every-one marching in the same

direction to accomplish our goals.”

Maki comes to NEHED from Bemidji State University, where he served as vice president of finance and administration at both BSU and Northwest Technical College since 2004. He thanked outgoing president Collins, who had served in that role since 2008, for her help during the transition process.

While he’s excited for the transition process, Maki said he still has to remember to slow down and enjoy the moments at the end of the academic year at BSU.

“Watching kids get their diplomas is so rewarding,” Maki said. “It puts a lump in my throat when I see their families cheering and hooting when they walk across that stage.”

There to introduce Maki to the community was Tom Renier, chair of the board of trustees for Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, of which NEHED is a member.

Renier cited the historical impact of the moment, as Maki takes over as only the third president in the history of NEHED. During the process of selecting a

new president, Renier said meetings at NEHED college campuses revealed a blueprint for a successful president.

“The president should inspire, motivate, excite and engage people,” Renier said. “The president should understand rural colleges and be willing to dream about new possibilities.”

RRCC Provost Carol Helland thanked Collins, who

was in attendance, for the impact she’s had on each college in the district.

“I’m inspired by Sue,” Helland said. “I can’t keep up with her, but I attempt to.”

The NEHED is made up of RRCC, Hibbing Community College, Itasca Community College, Mesabi Range College and Vermilion Community College.

AGENDA

City of International Falls – City Council Regular Meeting
4:30 P.M., Monday, May 4, 2015
Council Chamber, 600 Fourth Street

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA (only by unanimous consent).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Monday, April 20, 2015 regular City Council meeting (Council action-motion)

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS AND APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

1. Adopt Resolution No. ___-15, Approving Payment of Claims and Accounts Payable (Council action-motion)

AUDIENCE – OPEN FORUM (The Open Forum is an opportunity for the audience to address the City Council on any matter not listed on the agenda. Please limit your comments to five minutes.)

PUBLIC HEARING – ACTION ITEMS

OPENING BIDS (AND/OR QUOTES)

1. Approve low quote for two 2015 AWD Ford Taurus Police Patrol Vehicles from Wherley Motors in the amount of \$40,428 after trade-in allowance (Council action-motion)

2. First Reading of Contract Ordinance with Bowman Construction Company for 2015 Street Improvement Projects (Council action-motion)

3. Approve quote to purchase a 115 db Omni-directional Mechanical Siren (Civil Defense) from Federal Signal Corporation with equipment/shipping in the amount of \$7,155.00 (Council action-motion)

OLD BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA The Consent Agenda allows the City Council to take action on routine matters by one motion that shall not be debated and shall be adopted by unanimous vote of those present. Any individual council member may remove an item from the Consent Agenda for discussion on the regular agenda. (Council action – motion)

1. Year 2015 license renewal for Mickey Belanger dba Oh 4 Sweet Catering – itinerant restaurant

2. Approve license renewal application by Dollar Tree Stores, Inc. to conduct retail sales of fireworks at Dollar Tree 3694, 1905 Valley Pine Circle

3. Approve attendance for Building Maintenance personnel to attend the Dacotah Paper 2015 Trade Show Seminar in St. Cloud, MN on Thursday, May 7, 2015

4. Approve membership, registration, and travel fees for the City Administrator to attend the Minnesota City Manager Association (MCMA) meeting in Nisswa, May 13-15, 2015

- NEW BUSINESS**
1. JoAnn Smith, Viking Bar & Lounge request for street dance on 4th Avenue and 3rd Street - June 13, 2015 (Council action-motion)
2. Resolution No. __15 Application for Exempt Permit for the International Falls Bass Championship to conduct a raffle (Council action-motion)
3. Resolution No. __15 Application to Conduct Off-Site Gambling for the International Falls Rec. Hockey Association at the Elks Club on June 27, 2015 (Council action-motion)
4. Approve application to use Smokey Bear Park for Koochiching County Labor Day celebration on Monday, September 7, 2015, Joe Schwartz and Mike Holden (Council action-motion)
5. Approve Agreement between the City and International Union of Operating Engineers, Local #49 for the Public Works and Administrative Office Staff, January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2017 (Council action-motion)
6. Koochiching County Railroad Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Roundtable on May 6, 2015 (Council information)
7. Resolution No. __-15, Public Employees Retirement Association Spare Firefighter Engineer Declaration (Council action-motion)
8. Any other business

- REPORTS OF ALL BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENT HEADS**
1. Reports of the Administrator, Attorney, and Department Heads
- a. Police Monthly Report, April 2015 (Council information)
- b. Fire/Rescue/EMS Monthly Report, April 2015 (Council information)
2. Reports of the Mayor, Council Committees, Boards and Commissions

- AUDIENCE – OPEN FORUM**
- CORRESPONDENCE**
1. March 16, 2015 – North Koochiching Area Sanitary District meeting minutes
2. March 18, 2015 – Convention and Visitors Bureau meeting minutes

- REMINDERS**
1. Next regular City Council meeting is Monday, May 18, 2015 at 4:30 P.M.
- RECESS FOR CLOSED MEETING**
1. Council motion to a) recess the open meeting, b) call to order a joint meeting in the Council Conference Room with the International Falls Economic Development Authority (IFEDA), and c) meet in closed session per attorney-client privilege related to pending litigation with Richard Koeneman, Plaintiff vs. the City of International Falls, IFEDA, et al. Defendants, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 13D.05, Subdivision 3(b), (Council action-motion)
2. Council motion to a) adjourn the closed City Council meeting and recess the IFEDA meeting, and b) reconvene the City Council open meeting in the Council Chambers (Council action-motion)

- RECONVENE OPEN MEETING**
1. Present closed meeting item(s) for action, if any (Council action-motion)
- ADJOURNMENT**
- RECONVENE INTERNATIONAL FALLS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING**
1. Approve payment of Claims (Motion)
2. Next regular meeting: Tuesday, May 26, 2015

ADJOURNMENT

Note: Matters inappropriate for consideration at the meeting or not in the order specified shall not be considered except 1) with the unanimous consent of the members of the City Council, or 2) scheduled public hearings or bid lettings, but not before the time stated in the notice.

The City of International Falls complies with the Americans with Disability Act. Individuals with disabilities requiring special aids should contact the City Administrator, 600 Fourth Street, International Falls, MN, 56649, 218-283-9484, at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

LOMAN

RURAL FIRE
DEPT.
ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL
MEETING
TUESDAY,
MAY 5TH AT 7PM.
Bethany Lutheran
Church Hall, Loman

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As a Realtor and a highly visible fishing guide I am uniquely qualified to sell your Rainy Lake property. On a daily basis I am exposed to anglers, families and corporate leaders that are or become passionate about Rainy Lake. Before you list your lake or recreational property with non-multiple listing company “X” take into consideration:

- A high percentage of those that step in my boat have the means to readily buy a Rainy Lake vacation home.
- There is not a nook or cranny that could be bought or sold on Rainy that I am not familiar with. In addition to the view, the shoreline features such as water depth, bottom make up, prevailing winds, even close by fishing spots, all add to sales potential.
- As a Multiple Listing Service company we have agents from across Minnesota and the region who work with us.
- I have personally guided multitudes of real estate agents whom I remain in contact with.
- We pay out nearly half of our listing commission to any other brokerage that sells our listings. We will even pay a commission to non-MLS Company “X”

If you do not want to list your property but have it available to sell contact me because:

- A One Time Showing Contract may work for you.
- It is not uncommon for me to sign discreet, motivated, qualified customers to a yearlong Buyers Contract.

Call or email me and I would be happy to come over and look at your property.

Sincerely,
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