

LOCALNEWS

City lends a helping hand

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

The Littlefork City Council Thursday approved a building use request from a citizen looking to expand his fledgling business.

Preston Hoy’s Lake States Computing will operate from basement space in the city administration building, city Administrator Sonja Pelland said. Hoy also runs Trykke Entertainment, a DJ service.

In exchange for providing troubleshooting services to the city, Hoy is renting the space for a discounted rate, Pelland said.

“He was looking for office space to rent so he can do more than he can now on his living room table,” Pelland said. “It’s good to support someone trying to start a business and it helps us, too.”

Hoy has just been running Lake States Computing for a few months out of his home, he said. His three major services are virus removal, hardware repair, and networking, though he will be able to work on “pretty much anything to do with computers,” he said.

He’ll operate out of the city administration building from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, he said, and is still working on setting up a phone number for the business. Virus removal or clean up will be \$75; any work on-site is \$25 per hour; and any work off-site is \$40 per hour, he said. He’ll also offer free computer pickup and delivery to International Falls, Big Falls, Littlefork, and Ray.

In other business, the municipal liquor store renovations have been

put on hold after discovering the store operated at a \$7,344 loss for 2013, Pelland said. The total sales and cost of goods were very close for 2012-2013, she said, but expenses in 2013 were higher than they had been in a few years. The city will now wait and see if changes made will help the store operate more efficiently.

“We’ll see the changes that have been made, and see if they start to help out,” she said. “We’re hoping we can turn it around this year.”

The city had earlier finished renovating both bathrooms in the store.

The city council also got an update on one of the two vacant buildings on either side of J C’s Restaurant on Main Street in Littlefork. Becky Belanger owns

the building at 310 Main St., and it used to house a sewing shop. Pelland said Belanger called and said she has a couple of people who are interested in purchasing the building, and “claims it’s structurally sound,” but that it needs a new roof and replacement glass in the windows.

A committee will meet this month to determine what to do about the buildings and make sure they’re safe, Pelland said. The committee may consider inspecting them. The city doesn’t have an ordinance for vacant buildings.

J C’s Restaurant has been sold to Jake Juen and will reopen on April 1 as the Jackpine Savage Grill, Pelland said. The city granted Juen a liquor license for the business, as J C’s Restaurant had a license as well.

A case of mistaken identity

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

A 1970 graduate of Falls High School said he is not the man being sought to face charges in Hennepin County for wrongfully obtaining public assistance over \$35,000.

Colin A. J. Chisholm III, 62, and his wife Andrea, 54, were each charged Friday with a single count of wrongfully obtaining public assistance after they illegally received more than \$165,000 between 2005 and 2012 from various government programs designed to help the poor.

Colin Chisholm, formerly of International Falls, told The Journal Tuesday from his Twin Cities residence, “I am not that person. The guy has caused a few problems for me in the past.”

The former Falls resident’s answering machine advised leaving a message for “Colin and Jill.”

Chuck Laszewski, Hennepin County Attorney’s Office, also confirmed the former Falls resident “is not our man of mystery.” He said the man the office is seeking grew up out East and attended mortuary school in a state in the Eastern United States.

The former Falls resident said the man charged may have claimed to be him in the past, and he stressed he is not the man charged, nor is his father, who is deceased.

Calls to The Journal from community members launched this story in an effort to correct the misinformation being distributed.

Hennepin County Sheriff’s deputies have been searching for the couple the past month and they are still



WEBSITE PHOTO

A photo of the couple being sought by the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office. The man in the photo is not from International Falls, contrary to rumor in the community.

at large.

“These rich folks ripped off the system,” Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman said Friday at a news conference. “We are going to do every darn thing we can to make sure they do hard time.”

Hennepin County’s Human Services and Public Health Department terminated all welfare benefits to the Chisholms at the end of March 2012.

Prosecutors will ask that the judge be allowed to impose a longer sentence called for in Minnesota sentencing guidelines because the Chisholms committed a major economic offense.

Freeman said Colin Chisholm III and his wife Andrea were receiving public assistance for their medical care, but they violated the law when they failed to inform Hennepin County authorities that they had moved to Florida to live on their \$1.2 million yacht, drive their \$30,000 Lexus, and collect welfare from the state of Florida.

VNP delays program for houseboats

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Voyageurs National Park will implement its new camping reservation and amenity fee program starting this spring, but will delay inclusion of houseboats until 2015.

The program will cover 34 select “frontcountry” campsites, all “backcountry” campsites, and all “backcountry” rental canoe

and rowboats, reports park staff in a news release.

The 2014 program will not include houseboats, the release states.

In a previously written press release, park staff reported VNP would implement a \$10 fee for houseboats. The fee will be placed on private houseboats and will start in the spring of 2015. Park staff plan to continue discussions with representatives of the four houseboat companies that will bring about the final fees and operational plan for those visitors who rent from private houseboat companies which operate in the park.

Whether a visitor has a private houseboat or rents from a houseboat company, overnight permitting of any houseboat will not be tied to a specific house-

boat campsite. Houseboats users will be required to make reservations for overnight stays but will be able to do so just prior to entering the park.

All fees collected from camping, boat rentals, and houseboat reservations will be used to maintain and rehabilitate the sites as well as offer new and expanded amenities in the park.

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5K for Relay—Run/Walk

Race for more Birthdays!
Saturday, May 3, 2014

Rainy River Community College 1501 Highway 71 International Falls, MN 56649

8:00 AM Registration 9:30 AM Race time

****The race begins and ends at the college.****

Join us inside the college for the Relay For Life event from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM!

T-Shirt Size: (No guarantee of a T-shirt if registered after April 11th, 2014)

Adult sizes: ____ XS ____ S ____ M ____ L ____ XL ____ XXL

Youth sizes: ____ S ____ M ____ L

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT GO DIRECTLY TO RELAY FOR LIFE!!

Registration Form

Please print clearly! One form per participant.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Zip _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Sex ____ F ____ M Age on race day _____

Before April 11th, 2014: \$20 check payable to: ACS/American Cancer Society, \$25.00 after April 11th.
Mail this form and your check to: Jill Christie 5K for RFL, 101 2nd St, International Falls, MN 56649

Please read and sign: I am entering this event at my own risk and assume all risk and responsibility for injuries I may incur as a direct or indirect result of my participating in this event. I, for myself, heirs and executors, also agree not to hold any and all participating sponsors and supporters and the directors, employees and agents of such parties responsible for any claims. I verify that I have full knowledge of the risks involved in this event. I am aware that extreme and/or severe weather conditions may exist at the time of this event and that I am physically fit and sufficiently trained to participate in it.

Signature _____ Date _____



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