

# LOCALNEWS

## Breakfast recognizes all military veterans

Vietnam Veterans Day breakfast raises funds for national memorial

BY LAUREL BEAGER  
Editor

Antone Proszek’s parents may never have fully recovered from their son’s death in Vietnam April 27, 1967. His sister Linda Chezick was a young girl when he died. She said the effect of his death continues today and showed for years, every time the “Star Spangled Banner” was performed before her sons’ swim meets.

“I would be the only one in the bleachers with tears rolling down my cheeks,” she said.

It wasn’t until she got involved in the Peter Graham Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary No. 2948 that she got some relief.

“I started to feel like I paid back for some of what we lost,” she said.

Now, it’s important to her and others to recognize Vietnam vets and help future generations understand the conflict.

Chezick, who now serves as treasurer of the auxiliary, is leading an effort to recognize Sunday as Vietnam Veterans Day.

Locally, a breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m. that day is free to all veterans at the VFW Post. Non-veterans are asked to donate \$7 and children \$3 for the breakfast.

She recognized Dave Stewart, of Stewart’s Super One, who has again donated all the food, allowing the breakfast to serve as a fundraiser for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and education center in Washington, D.C.

“It’s a chance to say thanks to veterans,” she said of the breakfast. “Most

### If you go

**What:** Vietnam Veterans Day breakfast

**When:** 8 to 11 a.m. Sunday

**Where:** VFW Post, International Falls

**Cost:** Veterans free. Non-veterans are asked to donate \$7 and children \$3 for the breakfast.

veterans just like to hear ‘welcome home’ and ‘thank you for serving.’ Some never got that.”

This year marks 43 years since the end of the Vietnam war, she noted.

But the local breakfast is intended to recognize all veterans, she said. While the nation recognizes all veterans on Veterans Day, she said VFW and auxiliary members are very busy presenting educational programs about the wars and their service at area schools.

Eighteen people from Borderland, including one man from Fort Frances, were killed in the Vietnam war, she said. Proszek graduated from the Falls High School Class of 1965, a class that suffered a lot of casualties in the war, she said.

The breakfasts from 2012-14 have raised \$1,185 for the memorial, she said.

Visiting the wall is indescribable, she said.

“My brother is on panel 18,” she said. “I am sure all 58,000 families do the same thing I do: anytime they show a picture of the Vietnam wall, you can’t help but scan to see if someone’s name is on it.”

## Bill could cut costs for mills, plants

Could result in higher electric costs for homeowners, small businesses

BY LAUREL BEAGER  
Editor

To keep Minnesota paper mills and taconite plants globally competitive, paying taxes and employing people, a bill at the Legislature would establish a process to consider rate cuts.

Sponsored by Rep. Tom Anzelc, DFL-Balsam Township, House File 1782 would allow energy-intensive, trade-exposed electric utility customers to negotiate with an energy provider a lower rate and then ask the Minnesota Public Utility Commission to implement the adjustment. Should the rates be lowered, the proposed bill calls for the utility to recover costs from non-energy intensive, trade-exposed customers, likely homeowners and small businesses.

The bill has been approved by a House committee and is considered for inclusion into a larger, omnibus energy bill later in the session. A companion bill, Senate File 1312, is sponsored by Sen. Dave Thomassoni, DFL-Chisholm, but no hearings have yet been held in the Senate, where it is also sponsored by Tom Bakk, DFL-Cook; Tom Saxhaug, DFL-Grand Rapids; John Hoffman, R-Champlin; and Julie Rosen, R-Vernon Center.

Anzelc, and Dill, said the impetus for the bill is retaining jobs in northern Minnesota, at places like the Boise Paper mill in International Falls. Without those jobs, they said small businesses and homeowners will have more to worry about than energy costs.

“I can’t over estimate these jobs, they’re the lifeblood of the region,” said Anzelc of the real target of the bill. “They’re jobs that have collective bar-

gaining agreements, have defined benefit pensions or good pensions, jobs that have health care, jobs that are critical to the economic future of the region.”

Anzelc estimates energy bills account for about 25 percent of production costs at paper mills and taconite plants.

When the energy costs for the large energy consumers become too great, he said jobs could be cut and plants and mills shut down.

“What I hope is that some relief can be the result for these large energy consumers trying to compete in the globaleconomy,” said Anzelc. “Once the paper mills are gone, once the taconite plants are gone, the future is pretty bleak. We cannot sustain an economy based exclusively on our beautiful lakes, our resorts, our fantastic vacation destinations, our fishing, our hunting, our outdoor recreation — it’s not enough.”

But critics, including Terry Stone of International Falls, say a cut in rate for large energy users means an increase in rates for homeowners and small businesses to make up the difference.

“These businesses are not being subsidized with taxpayer money, but with the power company’s money,” Stone said in an email to The Journal. “Worse yet, power companies are commanded to get the money back from residential power customers, like The Journal, Soundnorth, my house and your house.”

Stone points to the last sentence in the proposed bill: “Upon approval of an EITE (energy-intensive trade-exposed customer) rate sched-

ule, the utility shall recover any costs associated with the EITE rate from the utility’s non-energy, trade-exposed customers.”

Anzelc said critics allege he is transferring responsibility for rates from industry and business to residential customers. “And that is not what I am doing,” Anzelc said. “If the process results in a rate reduction for the large business interests, what happens after that, again, is up to the PUC. I am not shifting costs, only the PUC can shift costs.”

The House bill is also sponsored by Reps. Dave Dill, DFL-Crane Lake, and Dave Baker, R-Willmar, in the House.

Dill said the bill would allow large users of electricity to negotiate with their energy provider — Minnesota Power in most cases in northern Minnesota.

“But then it doesn’t mean that anything happens,” said Dill. The customer and provider then make a case for their adjustment, just as any other rate case is made of investor owned utility.

An amendment, not yet added to the bill, would exempt low-income people from any increase that might oc-

cur, said Dill.

Dill said Republicans, which have a majority in the House, are advancing the bill.

And he noted Boise generates more than 80 percent of its own electricity, leaving it to purchase just 20 percent.

“If we value having energy-intensive, trade-exposed industry in our community, and we value having good-paying, strong union jobs in that mill, the company has to find a way — if possible and PUC believes it’s correct — to make an adjustment to their power costs, which could in whole or in part impact users that are non-industry, non-trade exposed, like homeowners.”

Homeowners paying an additional \$3, or \$4, or \$5 per month on their electrical bills is not ideal, said Dill.

Dill said the value of businesses and property in International Falls and the surrounding area would be much less, should the Boise paper mill shut down because high production costs made it unable to compete in the global economy.

Lori Lyman, public affairs manager, Boise Paper, a Division of Packaging Corporation of America, declined comment.

2015

AWARD SEASON EVENT



2015 Jeep Patriot 4x4

High Altitude Pkg, Sunroof, Leather

MSRP \$26,480

**\$23,995**

W/Rebates



www.wherleymotors.com

309 5th St. • I. Falls, MN • 283-8486 • 1-800-816-3673

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN  
COMMUNITY EDUCATION!  
SPRING  
2015

**Scuba Certification:**

Includes online course and open water dives  
Saturday & Sunday, April 11 & 12  
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. both days  
Falls High School Pool  
\$169 online  
\$360 payable to Community Ed upon registration  
Instruction by The Dive Depot, Bemidji, MN

**Defensive Driving:**

Wednesday, April 15, 2015, 5:30 p.m. RRCC Theater, \$20/person

**ATV Safety: (youth ages 11-15):**

Classroom: Monday, May 18  
6-9 p.m. FHS Choir Room  
Field Operating Class: Thurs., May 21  
Beginning at 4 p.m.

**Ink with the Canvas Butcher –  
Mason Wilson:**

Session 1: April 9, Intro to Inkwash  
Session 2: April 16, Inking Flowers & Foliage  
Session 3: April 23, Inking Birds & Wildlife  
Session 4: April 30, Final Ink  
6-8 p.m. FHS Art Room 120  
\$100 for all sessions & Supplies

**Canvas & Ink at The  
Thunderbird – Mason Wilson:**

Create your own masterpiece!  
Friday, May 15, 7 – 9 p.m.  
Thunderbird Banquet Room • \$30/person

**Polymer Clay Projects:**

Create your own beads for bracelets & necklaces  
Monday, May 4, 4 – 5:30 p.m. • FHS Room 130  
Instructor: Darcy Sullivan

**Bike Rodeo:**

Tuesday, May 19, 5 – 7 p.m.  
Kerry Park Arena • Free & Open to All Ages!

**CPR/First Aid:**

Adult CPR & AED  
Infant/Pediatric  
First Aid, Adult & Pediatric  
Dates to be determined  
FHS Room 130  
Call for interest & specific times

**Open Swimming:**

Adult Workout Lap Swimming:  
Sept. through May  
Monday-Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

**Family Open Swimming:**

Mondays & Thursdays • 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.  
Saturdays • 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
All \$2/session or \$20 per ticket  
Purchased from Community Ed

**Driver's Training:**

April 7-27, 2015  
Instructor: Tony Casareto  
6:00 – 8:30 a.m. • Mon.-Thurs. • \$100/student  
  
May 18-June 3, 2015  
Instructor: Tony Casareto  
3:30 – 6:30 p.m. • Mon.-Thurs. • \$100/student  
  
July 7-23, 2015  
Instructor: Leon Ditsch  
8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. • Tues., Wed., Thurs.  
\$100/student

**Tae Kwon Do:**

Beginners Tues. & Thurs. 5:45 – 6:45 p.m.  
Advanced Tues. & Thurs. 6:45 – 8:30 p.m.  
Falls Elementary Gym or Cafeteria  
Instructor: Ken Krueger  
\$25 for an 8 session ticket purchased  
At class or at Community Ed

**Just One Step:**

Wellness talk, Yoga Demo, Chaga Tea Instruction  
Discussion on healthy choices and behaviors  
Wednesday, April 22, 6-8 p.m. FHS Room 130  
Free for all ages  
Instructors: Lindsy Barnhart and Shirley Earley

**Yoga:**

Tues. & Thurs. through May  
5:15 – 6:15 p.m.  
2nd floor of Faith United Church  
Cost: \$20 for a 5 session ticket or \$4/class  
Payable at the door  
Instructor: Shirley Earley

**Chess Club:**

Now through May 25, 2015  
Grades 3 and up – Mondays 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.  
Grades 6 and up – Thursdays 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.  
Falls Elementary School  
3rd Grade and up  
All levels welcome  
\$15 for 5 sessions or \$4 per person  
One session free for a trial

**Computer Technology Courses:**

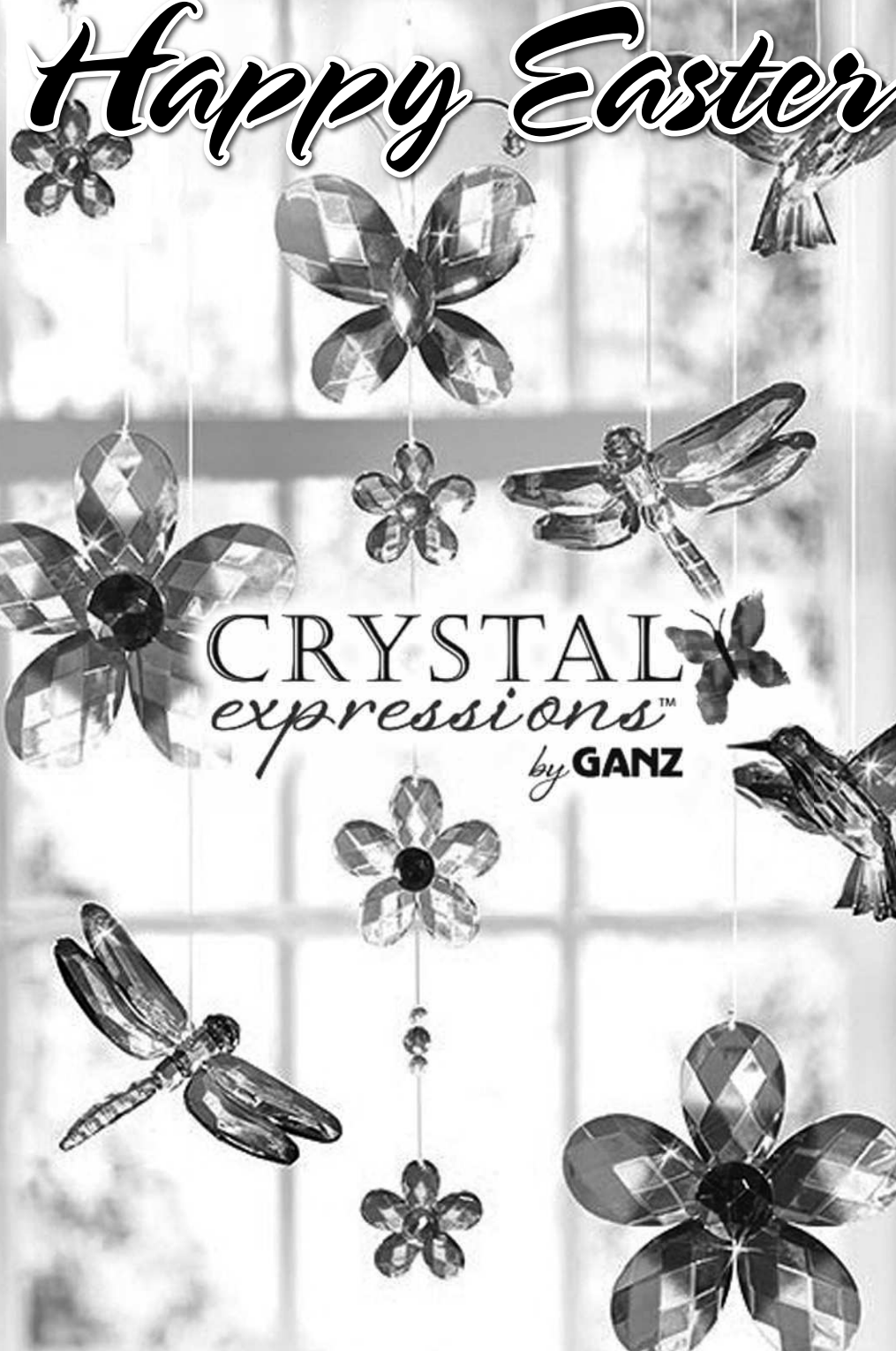
Microsoft Word (Intermediate)  
Monday, Mar. 30 and Tuesday, Mar. 31  
  
Microsoft Excel (Intermediate)  
Monday, Apr. 20 and Tuesday, Apr. 21  
Cost: \$17.50/class  
Instructor: Keith Boelk




**ED2GO Online Courses:**

Over 250 courses to choose from Some topics include:  
Computers, Finance, Pers. Development, Health &  
Medical, Law & Legal For more information or to register  
visit <http://www.ed2go.com/ifalls> • \$79/course

Call Community Education at 283-2571, ext. 186, for more information or to register,  
or view our catalog and flyers at:  
[www.isd361.k12.mn.us/communityed](http://www.isd361.k12.mn.us/communityed)  
Or look us up on Facebook at Community Education of International Falls

Happy Easter





CITY DRUG

283-3061

[www.citydrugstore.com](http://www.citydrugstore.com)

**283-3061**

Mon. - Sat. 8 am - 6 pm