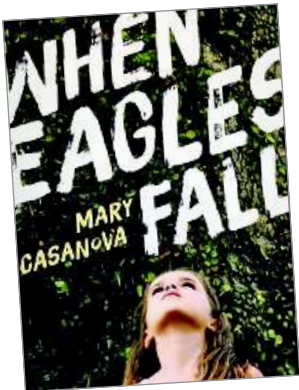


Back at it
Local author releases
new editions

A9



Fly,
butterfly, fly

Event honors
lost loved ones

A10



Find us on
Twitter



Find us on
Facebook



Scan for
The Journal
online

Wednesday,
August 6, 2014

The Journal

International Falls, Minnesota

www.ifallsjournal.com

\$1



STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

At left, Mike Holden, president of the Koochiching Labor Assembly, and Gary Fitch, start a 300-mile walk along Third Street Saturday. During the next 30 days, Fitch will walk from International Falls to St. Paul in an effort he is calling, "Minnesota Miracle." The goal of the effort is to raise \$1.5 million to help eliminate hunger in state.

THE JOURNEY BEGINS: Gary Fitch kicks off 30-day, 300-mile walk

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Teachers, nurses, representatives of several unions and other community members laced up their walking shoes Saturday morning to follow a man with one goal in mind — eliminating hunger in Minnesota.

Saturday kicked off a 30-day, 300-mile effort Gary Fitch is calling "Minnesota Miracle," which he hopes will raise \$1.5 million to help end hunger in the state.

"The reason I'm here is because everyone who has come on board cares," Fitch said.

The retired postal worker spent time Saturday at the Bob Walls Memorial Union Hall — where the walk began — talking to, thanking and taking photos with the about 30 people who walked with Fitch to the city limits line. Several people in return, thanked Fitch for taking on such a task.

"It's great what you're



Gary Fitch greets Emmitt and Everlie LaVigne, two of Saturday's youngest Minnesota Miracle participants.

More information

For more information or to donate to Minnesota Miracle, visit minnesotamiracle.com or the Second Harvest Website, www.2harvest.org.

doing," Kristie LaVigne, a teacher at Falls Elementary, told Fitch.

For the next 30 days -rain

or shine — Fitch will walk 10 miles a day until Sept. 1 when he reaches the Minnesota State Fair to join the labor parade.

"It's a grassroots labor movement," he said of Minnesota Miracle.

Since the more than two years after the idea of Minnesota Miracle began, Fitch has partnered with Second

Miracle to A7 >



Gary Fitch poses for a photo with members of the Falls High School volleyball team.

Councilor accuses mayor of bullying

Rognerud asks council to consider action

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor



Bob
Anderson



Gail
Rognerud

Accusations of workplace bullying were leveled during the International Falls City Council meeting Monday.

Councilor Gail Rognerud pointed to the code of ethics by which the council is expected to adhere and said "serious and abusive conduct" has occurred.

Rognerud did not specify Monday whom on the council she was accusing of "public and personal attacks" on a city employee, but told The Journal Tuesday morning her concerns focus on Mayor Bob Anderson.

Since Jan. 1, 2013, she said Anderson has taken part in "emotional battering toward an employee."

That employee, whom she declined to identify, has been placed on medical leave because of the stress created by Anderson's conduct, Rognerud said. In addition, she said two coworkers who have witnessed the conduct have submitted Worker's Compensation claims due to stress. The claims, however, have been denied because the program does not cover stress, she said.

"This has affected more than this employee," she said Tuesday. "It's affected supervisors, it's affected our workforce — they see what happens when someone who has the power to target you."

Anderson told The Journal

Tuesday afternoon he was not sure to what Rognerud was referring.

He acknowledged making a remark, which was he said was well covered in the newspaper, about Koolaid, "but beyond that, I really avoid having conversations with her (Rognerud) or Cynthia (Jaksa) or Shawn (Mason, Falls economic development director) unless I am in a meeting and certainly want good decorum in meetings and attempt to talk to them civilly, I hope."

Anderson said he does not know what Rognerud's charges are and acknowledged that censure would take a vote of the council.

"They have three votes that will hang together, so it's possible, but it's very politically motivated, no doubt," he said.

Anderson said the three women he refereed to have challenged him since he took the seat as mayor.

Council to A7 >



STAFF PHOTO BY SPENSER BICKETT

Bernie Woods shows off the plaques he had made to honor his father, Ed Woods Sr., former mayor of Ranier.

Ranier to honor influential former mayor

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

RANIER — One of the influential figures of this community's past will be honored Sunday with the unveiling of a plaque at the entrance to the city.

Bernie Woods championed a project to put a plaque honoring his father, Ed Woods Sr., at the entrance of Ranier, next to the Big Vic statue. The plaque will be unveiled during a short ceremony at 11:30 a.m. Sunday.

Ed was actually responsible for the placement of the statue his plaque will reside next to, Bernie said. Voyageurs National Park



Ed Wood Sr.

Honor to A7 >

INSIDE
TO REACH US

OBITUARIES/A6
PHONE: (218) 285-7411

OPINION/A8
FAX: (218) 285-7206

LEISURE/A9

SPORTS/B1

CLASSIFIEDS/B3

COMICS/B6

ONLINE: IFALLSJOURNAL.COM OR FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

VOLUME 5
NUMBER 63