

COUNCIL

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those parcels have begun. Following council approval to seek an extension to the 2014 end of a \$657,000 grant provided by the state to assist in the district development, Rognerud sought action to schedule a date to open the bids “so we can start preliminary work this fall if the weather permits.” She told the council the city needs to begin to spend the grant to avoid risking the state withdrawing it. “It’s too much money to give up,” she said. Anderson asked whether contractors would be held to the bids sought six months ago and said it would be unfair to reveal the bids in a public process if they were not still in effect. Councilors discussed the issue and Rognerud said she was told by city Public Works

Director Gary Skallman the bids would not be “good” if they were not opened and awarded soon. She urged the council to set a bid opening date or seek new bids if they were no longer valid. Anderson said the bid opening was not on the agenda and said other issues may play a role. He handed out a report on a meeting he attended Sept. 30 with county officials and residents who live near the district and described how annexation, rock removal at the site, a new radio tower and a desire to restore Second Creek could affect the development of the district. Rognerud said those issues do not impact opening bids for installation of utilities to Parcel A of the district. She said some of the issues have been verbally resolved. As the council considered its next step, Shawn Mason, city economic and commu-

nity director, returned to the meeting to tell the council Skallman, via telephone, had just informed her he had no bids. “He said he was told to pause it by the mayor,” she said, adding Skallman told her he needs authority to allow him to seek bids and set a bid opening date. Rognerud asked how and why a council motion on a public process was stopped. Anderson replied he had questions about the grant agreement and did not think it wise to proceed with bids until he had answers. “Should that have come back to the full council?” asked Rognerud. “I don’t think that you had authority to stop a motion of the full council.” Anderson said he serves as chief executive officer of the city and was required to sign documents for the grant and would “not do it without

a clear understanding of what funds we have (to do the project).” Rognerud said she was very disappointed and his action may have delayed development of the district. But Anderson said he had not delayed anything since there is no official client for the district. He acknowledged a client is interested, but has not moved forward formally. Councilor Paul Eklund encouraged better communication between the council and urged it to move forward with seeking bids. Anderson said he would like items, like the bid issue, to be placed on the agenda, rather than be brought to meetings as a “surprise.” “The surprise is that we don’t have bids,” said Rognerud. “That’s no surprise,” replied Anderson. The council also on Monday agreed to accept and in-

stall playground equipment at the Sixth Avenue East playground. The action was based on request from Robin Bjorkquist, event coordinator, Backus Community Center, who said the center plans to conduct a “Pennies for Play” fundraiser, as was conducted a couple of years ago and resulted in a donation of playground equipment at the Kerry Park Playground. Bjorkquist told the council a carnival will likely be associated with the fundraiser, which will collect pennies and other change in receptacles placed around the community. The goal, she said, is to collect \$20,000 by spring, but added donations will be accepted until the goal is reached. Backus will act as fiscal agent and will seek donations from other sources, as well, she said. In addition, she raised concerns about the delay of

installation of equipment provided for Kerry Park Playground and asked that the Sixth Avenue equipment be installed as soon as possible. Bjorkquist said she would also look for other resources to install the equipment. Councilors said the equipment would be installed as staff time allows and thanked her for the her efforts to help improve the community. In other business, the council will ask Koochiching County officials to provide a conditional use permit that would allow the addition of four campsites for pop-up style campers on the west side of City Beach. In 2008, the county approved a CUP to allow tents at City Beach. The council also agreed to sell timber from city property on the Van Lynn Road in a November timber auction conducted by Koochiching County.

WALKING

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their way to Bronco Arena Saturday morning to raise funds for free gas cards given to community members who travel out of town for cancer treatments. “The turn out was about the same number of people (as last year) with a couple more dogs in the mix,” Loop told The Journal. Money raised by the effort stays in Koochiching County to be used towards gas cards and about \$8,600 was raised at the annual event. “We weren’t sure what kind of turnout we would have due to the difficult time our community is going through right now,” said organizer Wendy Mayer, referring to the loss of 265 jobs at the local Boise Inc. paper mill. “(The community) continues to surprise us with its strong support for our Community Cancer Walk.” Mayer added fundraising doesn’t stop after the walk and organizers continue to raise funds for gas cards throughout the year. Nov. 1 begins a new year for the gas card program and people who have gotten gas cards in the past are eligible for a new card. The upcoming program will run through Oct. 31, 2014. Requests for gas cards should be made to the chemotherapy department at Rainy Lake Medical Center hospital campus at 283-5484. “We (the committee) are always pleased with the community turnout for this event,” Loop said. “The show of support from all who came and walked and visited, to the people who donated money, (shows) what a great community we live in. I am very proud to be a part of this group. Giving from locals to stay local is very important.”



Kevin and Terri Nagurski make their way around Bronco Arena.



Adam Coe, administrator of the local Good Samaritan Society, poses by the sign for a new service offered by the facility — Northwinds Assisted Living. The apartment-style assisted living facility is something that hasn’t been previously offered in the community.

ASSISTED LIVING

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“We didn’t have an apartment-style assisted living facility in our community and we’re excited to add that,” he said, noting there are apartments still available. “Assisted living is somewhat needs driven, and we do expect (the units) to fill up.” Coe explained that while they are connected, the nursing home and assisted living facility are two separate services. “A lot of people see it as one, but really we have two separate services available here,” he said. Northwinds Assisted Living includes 24 apartments, each about 500-square feet consisting of one bedroom, a living room, bathroom and kitchenette. The facility is broken down into three neighborhoods, each with eight units and each is intended to put out a “community-like at-

mosphere,” Coe said. A grand opening for Northwinds Assisted Living is scheduled for 2-5 p.m. today for the public to experience the new facility, Coe said. “We’ll have a grand opening for the nursing home eventually, but we don’t have a date set yet,” he said. The nursing home portion of the facility encompasses a total of 54 beds, Coe explained. It is laid out into three separate households, along with shared common areas for residents. “The rooms are considerably larger than the ones we used to have,” he said, adding each household has a different color scheme and look, but is laid out the same way. Rooms at the former facility were about 180-280-square feet, and are about 325-square feet in the new building. Coe said the rooms weren’t over sized so residents would leave and inter-

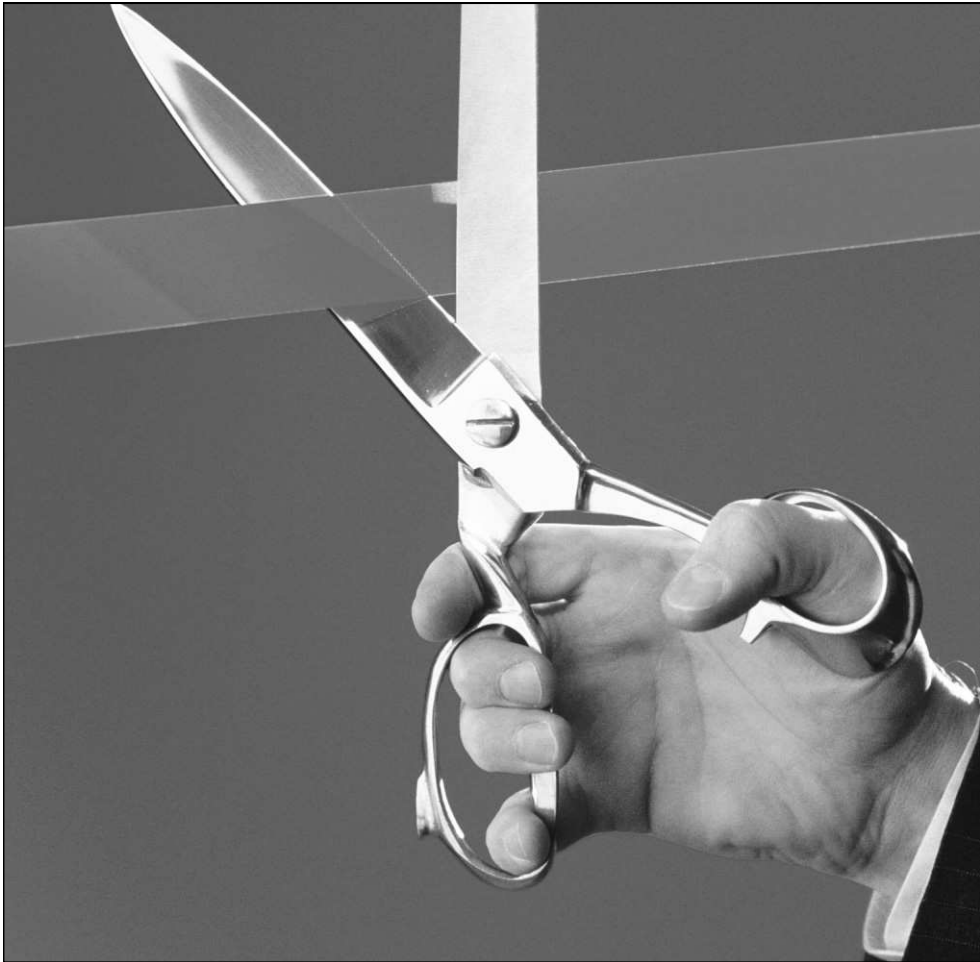


Geraldine Howard, left, is welcomed to the new Good Samaritan facility last week by volunteer Punky Stadum.

act with each other. The administrator concluded that as he walks around to the different neighborhoods and households of the new facility, the entire atmosphere is different than what was at the old site. “It smells and feels like home,” he said. “Everyone is home.”

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Lakers
Fort Frances
HOCKEY
Featuring
Former Bronco Hockey Players
Mason Meyer
and
Lucas Debenedet
Next home game
Sat. Oct. 12 – 7:30
Wisconsin Wilderness
vs.
Fort Frances Lakers
Ice for Kids Arena,
Fort Frances



Northwinds
Assisted Living Grand
Opening Event
Wednesday, Oct. 9 • 2 – 5 p.m.
2101 Keenan Drive
Please join us for our special Grand
Opening featuring tours, refreshments and
a ceremonial ribbon-cutting at 2:30 p.m.
www.good-sam.com/ifalls
To learn more, call Danette at (218) 283-1329.
Good Samaritan
Society
NORTHWINDS
ASSISTED LIVING
All faiths or beliefs are welcome.