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Shooting leaves one dead, others traumatized

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

A Saturday morning shooting in Ray left one man dead and two families traumatized, officials say.

Benjamin Beaudoin, 34, of Mendota Heights, attacked Ethel Himes, 72, at her home on U.S. Highway 53 near Ray, and was fatally shot by her son, Bradley Himes, according to the Koochiching County Sheriff's Office.

"It's a very unfortunate incident," Sheriff Brian Jespersen told The Journal Tuesday morning. "It's a traumatic thing for the all the families involved."

According to a routine preliminary investigation, Beaudoin, who was in the area for a wedding in Ash River, around 5 a.m.

Saturday forced his way into the home of Neil and Jody Reller who live a few miles from the Himes' on Highway 53. The Rellers told investigators a man, later identified as Beaudoin, busted into the home through a locked door. Neil Reller retrieved an unloaded shotgun and engaged in a struggle with Beaudoin, during which Reller struck Beaudoin several times over the head, breaking the stock off the gun.

The struggle continued until Beaudoin fled the home in his vehicle.

The Rellers provided The Journal with comments about the incident, but later decided they didn't want any additional information outside of a press release printed.

While the sheriff's deputy was taking the report at the Rellers, a

911 call came in about an incident at the Himes residence. When the deputy arrived at the second location, he saw Beaudoin's vehicle in the driveway.

Beaudoin arrived at Ethel Himes' residence with blood on his face saying he'd been assaulted, said the report. She let Beaudoin into her home and the report said he then grabbed Himes, throwing her to the living room floor, choking her and beating her head on the floor.

Bradley Himes came into the room and saw what was happening and demanded Beaudoin stop the assault. When the attack didn't stop, Bradley Himes went to his bedroom to retrieve a handgun.

Shooting to A7 >



STAFF PHOTO BY SPENSER BICKETT

A cleaning service crew works Monday morning at 5741 Highway 53 east of Ray, where a home invasion Saturday morning left a man, identified as Benjamin Beaudoin, dead.

Falls EDA hosts regional business marketer

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

The International Falls Economic Development Authority Monday heard a presentation from a regional economic development organization, touting the organization's ability to promote business growth.

Brian Hanson, president/chief executive officer of Apex, talked with the EDA about his company's positive impact on businesses in northeast Minnesota and north-west Wisconsin. Apex, a non-profit organization with 68 investor-members, works outside political boundaries to bring business investment to the region.

"These members are really actively involved," Hanson said. "They want to see us succeed. When we need help, we ask for it, and we get it."

Sometimes with economic development, the focus is on job creation and increasing the tax base, Hanson said, but it all starts with investment.

"Driving that investment, making sure those dollars are spent here, invested here, I really think that's key, so that's key in our mission," Hanson said.

Apex was founded in January 2004, Hanson said, and since then, has had a significant impact on the arrowhead region. The company has impacted the creation or retention of more than 3,500 jobs since its inception, he said, which has created \$128 million in payroll and an estimated \$17 million in state and local taxes.

What sets Apex apart is its ability to make a compelling case to businesses, in order to justify the cost of locating or expanding in northeast Minnesota or northwest Wisconsin, Hanson said. Apex sells the area's natural beauty and the ready work force, he said, but in the end, it comes down to the numbers.

"It's about putting together that compelling business case, so

EDA to A7 >

STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Neutrino detector complete

BY EMILY GEDDE | Staff Writer



Left: International Falls Mayor Bob Anderson, left, listens as William Miller, NOvA lab supervisor, explains components of the project.

During a tour of the NuMI Off-Axis Electron Neutrinos Appearance far detector Thursday, Cory Kolodji, an environmental studies teacher at Chisholm High School, points out the electronics box that holds the frontend board and avalanche photo diode together. Kolodji served as a tour guide for the project.

ASH RIVER – Scientists from all over the country celebrated coming one step closer to the possibility of understanding the universe Thursday.

Down Bright Star Road in Ash River, more than 100 people gathered at the NuMI Off-Axis Electron Neutrinos Appearance, known as NOvA, far detector building to commemorate the completion of the NOvA far detector.

"For many of us, we have been working on the NOvA project for 12 years," said William Miller, lab supervisor.

NOvA consists of two detectors, one at Fermilab, located near Chicago known as the near detector, and the far detector in Ash River. The newly-completed 15,000-ton particle detector in Ash River will study subatomic particles called neutrinos, fundamental building blocks of matter that can help researchers discover how the universe was formed

NOvA to A7 >

STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

Craig Group, assistant professor of particle physics at the University of Virginia, explains the NOvA project to Eloise Maki, of California, who was in town visiting her cousin, International Falls City Councilor Cynthia Jaksa. Maki took several photos of the NOvA detector and building and appeared very interested and excited about the project.

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