

COUNTY BOARD

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“I have not heard of anything regarding alternative routes,” Dale Olson, county Environmental Services director, told the board Tuesday.

Board Chairman Rob Ecklund said Commissioner Wade Pavleck and himself would on Thursday discuss potential alternative routes.

“I’ll leave it at that because we don’t know where discussion (with a landowner) will go,” he said.

Opposition to the quarry was expressed by property owners living in the Moonlight Rock area.

Resident Terry Randolph, who lives on County Road 144, said he lives less than one mile from the proposed quarry.

“If an alternate route or road is put in place, that is the only equation removed from all the environmental concerns,” he said listing concerns about runoff, dust, noise, vibration and a impact to a capped industrial landfill nearby.

Cindy Black, another County Road 144 resident, said she was also concerned about the landfill.

“With all the vibration of the trucks running by, if they find an alternative route, who is going to be responsible for that landfill?” she asked. “It’s not going to bust up this week or next week, but years down the line with all of that happening, where’s it going to run off to?”

Debbie Bowman reminded commissioners that Bowman Construction was in the middle of a project on County Road 144 in July, when the road was switched to a 4-ton road.

“That certainly hindered our job,” she said. “That road hasn’t changed, it isn’t any better. It stopped us from doing anything.”

Still, others voiced support for the project.

Craig Halla, Molpus Timberlands Management property manager, said while Molpus isn’t associated with the project, it is, the current landowner of the project.

“We feel the proximity of this property to Interna-

tional Falls has better use than open space,” he said.

Halla added while he understands concerns expressed by neighbors to the property, he felt the quarry would be a good opportunity for economic development.

MARGIE QUARRY

The second conditional use permit request came to the board from Gerald Albrecht for a quarry on County Road 61 southwest of Margie.

On a 3-2 vote, the board approved Albrecht’s request to expand the footprint of his current quarry that was rezoned in 2007. Adee and Pavleck voted against the motion.

Olson said there was “quite a bit of opposition” to the project.

Margie resident Dawn Eve said damage from blasting has occurred to her properties. Eve said she has shown the board photos of damage in the past and has spent thousands of dollars in legal fees concerning the damage.

“How do I get protected?” she asked. “I know that it’s not going to work to sue Gerald Albrecht because it drags out for years and years. Do I sue the county? I would never want to do that, I want to do good things for this county. I want help. I need protection.”

Pavleck said he believes Margie has been a victim of inconsistent practices by the county board over all the years he has served as a commissioner.

“Margie is an island in a sea of wetlands...It should be protected out there,” he said. “Yet the people don’t have enough of a voice to get the county board to relocate blasting operations further away...It seems to me if we continue this operation – when does it end?”

The commissioner continued that two years before Albrecht applied for the quarry, the county board denied a large contractor the ability to blast in Margie.

“Then two years later, we turn around and grant it,” he said. “These people have been a victim here in that sense...It’s nothing personal, it’s an issue of fairness.”

ICEBOX

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“Adults have to get a strike,” one of the young bowling pin managers said.

The kids, however, got a little more of a break.

Youngsters appeared a bit leery about the idea of bowling with – let alone holding – the frozen bird. Still, the end result of a juice box and candy – despite how many pins hit the snow – seemed well worth it.

So what is it about throwing freezer items at bowling pins that catches so much nationwide attention, including that of ABC News’ Juju Chang, who was one site Saturday?

“It’s because it is the absurd, in part, which garners attention for this winter festival,” Whitbeck

said of turkey bowling and all Icebox Days events. “Its zaniness and association with silly things such as gizzards, turkeys and all things frozen has put Icebox Days and the race on the global map...I think there’s a continuing appreciation for folks who not only accept, but celebrate the heritage of a town that has endured the northern climate in which it evolved. There’s a mystique about the people who choose to live here, and who can laugh at themselves. This arouses curiosity... There’s plenty of other little cold towns – who’s calling on them so frequently?”

Whitbeck said in the future, she is hopeful the event can attract more

“serious” bowlers and she is considering reaching out to bowling leagues to tempt them to take on

the frozen turkey bowling challenge.

After getting their fix of outdoor frozen fun, bowlers and other community members escaped the chilly temperatures outside for some chili inside.

The annual chili cook-off attracted 11 chefs looking to dazzle the taste buds of the judges, who just happened to be anyone attending the challenge.

According to Robin Bjorkquist, Backus event coordinator, more than 350 taste-testers poured into the community center in search of the best recipe.

“Backus had a great turn out,” she said, adding Bruce and June Wilson were named the cook-off winners.

Chili con carne, more commonly known in American English as simply “chili,” is a spicy

stew containing beef, chili peppers, tomatoes, beans and a plethora of seasonings based on the chef’s preference. This year, and Bjorkquist said since 2010, the cook-off has crowned a different winner each year.

“It was exciting to have seven completely new cooks throw their chili in the ring,” she said. “Backus is thankful we have a great building to hold fun community events in such as Icebox Days. While we do enjoy celebrating the cold temps that make us the Icebox of the Nation, we are very glad that we have a warm building to escape into for fun, also.”

Whitbeck possibly summed up the weekend’s festivities the best: “Our community is innovative, productive and resilient – not just in spite of our winters, but perhaps because of them.”

KEDA

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“It looks like we’re all in the same room, even though they might be somewhere across the world,” Favela said.

Pooling these resources has allowed RRCC to offer a calculus class through a collaboration with Mesabi Range Community and Technical College, Favela said.

Calculus can be a low-enrollment course at a two-year college, she said, so the four or five students in the class at RRCC work with the same number of students in Mesabi, and they’re able to offer a full class.

“It creates efficiencies in cost in that way, and also obviously for travel,” Favela said.

Part of her role with RRCC involves listening to

community needs, and offering courses and instruction that meets those needs, Favela said. There are community members with business ideas and plans, but lack the training to carry them out, so for fall 2014, RRCC will offer business certificates for accounting, office assistance, and business administration.

Once a student earns one or multiple of these certificates, they would be able to transfer to a four-year college and roll those credits over to a business administration degree, Favela said. RRCC is currently in talks with Bemidji State University, Minnesota State University Moorhead, and Metropolitan State University in St. Paul for a transfer agreement for the certificates.

Another large area in demand is for commercial truck drivers, and in fall

2014, RRCC will offer a commercial driver’s license certificate for 16 credits, Favela said. Upon completion, the student would be able to take the road test in Bemidji or Virginia. If they appealed to the Department of Public Safety, they may be able to bring the test to International Falls, KEDA board member Bob Anderson said.

In an city with 10-12 lawyers, there’s also a need for paralegal assistants, Favela said. With some of these assistants retiring in the next five to seven years, RRCC could offer a paralegal course temporarily to fill this coming need, she explained.

“At least for a short period, we can offer it and be able to fill some of those positions of the paralegals who might be retiring in the next few years,” she said.

Returning for the fall 2014 semester is an old course with a new name. Due to confusion caused by the name, “industrial technology” has been rebranded “industrial maintenance,” Favela said. RRCC officials will look for a space on campus with sufficient room, and also look to update the equipment, she said.

“If we don’t have enough space here, we’re going to see what we can get out in the community,” Favela said.

Being the dean of a two-year college means a frequent turnover in students, Favela said, and each new group brings something new and special to the campus.

“I think our campus is a wonderful place to be,” she said. “The first time I walked in I just had a great feeling, a warm feeling when I walked in.”



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Words cannot express how much we appreciated all the cards, memorials, food, beautiful flowers, and kind words we’ve received. Since the passing of DeAnna. Your thoughtfulness and support has meant so much to all of us!


Thank you Pastor Stephen Olson for the wonderful service and Doug Ashbrook for the heartfelt tribute to your sister, your words will forever be part of our memories.

Special thanks to Lanny Johnson & Breezy Peterson for the beautiful music, in memory of your Godmother.

A Special Thanks to the PER’s of the Elks Club for serving at the luncheon and all our family and friends for the wonderful food.

We appreciate everything everyone has done for us. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered. The turnout for DeAnna’s Celebration of Life was truly overwhelming; it was wonderful to see how many lives she touched with her love & friendship.

Thank you so very much,
Hilda, Butch, Amanda and family




Madalyn Karsnia, wishes to announce the arrival of her little sister

Natalie Morgan Karsnia

born on Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at 6:50 P.M. at Ministry St. Clare’s Hospital.


Natalie weighed 7 # 9 ozs and is 19½ inches long. Her Parents are Chad and Beth Karsnia Wausau, Wisconsin. Grandparents are Mike and Darlene Karsnia, International Falls and Dr. Leonard and Linda Tomcek, Hatley, Wisconsin. Great Grandmother is Teckla Symanietz rural Foley, MN



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