

Short rocks shorts for a good cause

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

As the temperature continues to drop in Borderland, one aptly-named UPS delivery driver keeps donning his brown shorts every morning before work and continues to bare his calves to the elements, all for a good cause.

Jason Short is raising money for and awareness of hunger by wearing his brown shorts to work, despite the falling temper-

atures. Like many ideas, Short said this one came to him as he was driving around town.

“I put on a lot of miles, so it gives me a lot of time to think,” Short said.

A woman saw him wearing shorts one day, Short said, and said he was crazy. She took a picture of him, he said, and that sparked an idea to see if he could raise some money. He started with a goal of raising \$1,000 for the Falls Hunger Coalition,

and hit that goal within four days. He upped the ante to \$1,500, and made that goal in six days.

Short’s goal is currently at \$2,000, and he surpassed that Tuesday, he said. People are still sending money in, he said, so he’s not sure when he’ll stop.

“Who knows?” Short said. “I might keep going. I’ll just go with my shorts until the snow flies anyways.”

Short said he personally donates to the FHC every

year, and he said he believes hunger is a big cause in the community.

“I’m a driver, and I see households and see people, who are not people you’d think would need food,” Short said. “It’s heartbreaking. Some people hit a rough spot and they need a little help.”

To donate to Short’s cause, go to www.fallshunger.org or hand your donation to him if you see him driving around town.



STAFF PHOTO BY SPENSER BICKETT

UPS driver Jason Short said the idea to wear shorts to raise money for hunger came to him behind the wheel one day.

DEMO

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jacket of the lead core bullet, along with chunks and tiny fragments of lead.

“It’s neat stuff,” Hiller said of the demonstration.

He serves as assistant professor of biology and wildlife specialist at Bemidji State University. He also is the student chapter adviser of the Minnesota Chapter of The Wilderness Society.



STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

At left is a copper bullet shot by Logan Phillips. At right are the lead fragments and copper jacket of the lead bullet.

can come hard to some hunters “especially when a bunch of egg heads are telling you about it,” Hiller said.

Instead, he said more people are convinced of the benefits of copper bullets by shooting traditional lead and copper themselves and seeing the results in the traps.

“I don’t want to ban lead bullets; nobody wants more regulation,” Hiller said. “What we want is you to make an intelligent choice based on the evidence we provide you. We want to show you this.”

Windels said the only time regulation is needed is when people don’t voluntarily do what’s in the best interest of the public.

“The effort in Minnesota is to try to do this through education and outreach and let people make their own choice,” he said. “I think a lot of people have never stopped to think about what happens when that lead leaves their gun.”

Windels said alternatives to lead perform just as well.

“If hunters are OK with the lead fragments filtered from the bullet trap going into the venison they and their family eat, then OK,” Hiller said. “That’s your

choice. But understand you are making a conscious decision to eat something we know is going to create problems with your neurological system.”

Hiller has studied how lead moves through the environment and impacts people and wildlife. He has papers pending publication on contaminants in American woodcock. While that study was not focused on lead versus steel shot, it ended up providing results, he said.

“We found significantly higher lead, arsenic and selenium concentrations in lead-shot versus steel-shot birds,” he said.

Minnesotans shoot about 100,000 deer in a season, Hiller said.

“We’re leaving gut piles out there and if we’re contaminating those with lead intentionally or unintentionally, we’re possibly killing animals after the fact,” Hiller said.

Burke, a student at Vermillion Community College, Ely, is part of the school’s Forestry and Wildlife Club. He said he was assisting in the demonstration to gain information to pass along to club members.

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Research Burke participated in last semester focused on the effects of lead in California condor and what California, Arizona and Nevada are doing to reduce lead in that bird population, he said.

“So this is intriguing because I live here and can see the effects on the bald eagle and other wildlife,” he said.

More nontoxic bullet demonstrations are planned in the state with a grant from the Legislation-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources called “Hunter’s Choice Alternative Ammunition,” Windels said.

Those demonstrations will be led by The Raptor Center with partnerships with the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association and other organizations, he said.

MDHA has been active in the discussion on nontoxic ammunition, supporting the efforts like the demonstrations to bring information about the performance to hunters, Windels noted.

COUNCIL

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representatives of the Falls, the county, Ranier and area property owners.

With approval of the resolution and agreement by the council and county board, a chief administrative law judge would act on the request for annexation and issue an order in 30 days, Shermoen said.

No hearings are needed on the proposal, he said.

Shermoen said the annexation process is routine. Had the city owned the 51.3 acres of the district not now in the city limits, it could have annexed it through ordinance. Instead, the city’s Economic Development Authority owns it, prompting the annexation process.

“I don’t see this as controversial at all,” he said. No objections are expected from the state, he added.

The plan calls for developers to pay taxes on the property and create jobs, Shermoen said. Now, no taxes are paid on the property.

Concerns of residents in the area, west of Second Bridge and east of the city, have been addressed with inclusion of a significant buffer zone to the north, Shermoen said.

Officials hope wetlands contained in the buffer zone can be used as credit for development of other wetlands in the district, Shermoen said.

Anderson wondered about a request by the annexation committee to provide a Second Creek protection easement.

Shermoen said an item in the agreement states the

city and county will support efforts to improve the water quality and fish habitat in Second Creek, but he said an easement must be addressed by the owner of that area, Boise Inc., which is owned by Packaging Corporation of America.

“My thought is we could assist and work with them to secure protections for the area, but I don’t know we can do more than that,” Shermoen said. “I don’t want to over-promise if isn’t within our control.”

Anderson said he would discuss the easement further with Shermoen and others involved.

In other business, the council voted to repeal wording in the current ordinance establishing council procedures at regular meetings.

Once the process to repeal the wording is completed, councilors agreed they would adopt language that allows the procedures to be established by council resolution.

The issue stems from earlier discussions about whether the council should approve the agenda with additions and deletions and how those additions and deletions would be handled.

Establishing the procedures for regular meetings through resolution provides flexibility for change by the council, Shermoen said.

The council is expected to approve a proposed agenda by majority vote, after additions or deletions are made through unanimous vote. The council noted deletions to the proposed agenda may be made prior to its approval by the councilor who asked for the item to be placed on the proposed agenda.

WRESTLING

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“I know there are kids who are leaving (the district),” he said. “This will help keep kids here...This is a good thing and I support it.”

He added the program “needs to start somewhere” and “this is the time to do it.”

Weak participation in the wrestling program in 1993 prompted the school board

to eliminate the sport, which helped bring more balance to the school’s sports programs, which had been dominated by boys.

Adding wrestling to the school’s offerings is still in compliance with Title IX, which requires schools that receive federal funds to provide female athletes with equal opportunity to compete in sports, Grover said Monday. The percentage of boys participating in sports has

room to increase by about 20 participants without having to add a girls’ sport, he said. But, the percentage is figured out annually and could change as enrollment fluctuates, he added. The wrestling program would be open to both boys and girls, he said.

Meanwhile, principal reports from Tim Everson and Melissa Tate showed enrollment at the high school is 627 and the elementary school is 581. Both principals said

the early release time every Wednesday has so far been successful and allows staff to consider different areas of data.

In other business Monday, the board agreed to increase the rate of substitute educational support professionals from \$9.08 to \$11 per hour. The notion behind the increase is to attract more qualified substitutes, according to Grover.

“The pay rate is lower than


most places,” he said of \$9.08 per hour.

The board also agreed to:

- Accept the resignation of Levi Pearson as a school custodian.
- Accept the resignation of Beth Anne Slatinski as a paraprofessional.
- Accept the resignation due to retirement of Dan Wagner as a school custodian.
- Accept the resignation due to retirement of Judy

Hair as an administrative assistant.

- Approve the hire of Steve Johnson as the head boys and girls golf coach for the 2015 season.
- Approve the hire of Brenda LeDuc as an hourly Title I teacher.
- Approve the hire of Jeremy Anderson as a full-time transportation coordinator.
- Approve the hire of Kersten Krause as a full-time custodian.




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Featuring the Races for:
International Falls Council, Ranier Council, Koochiching County Board, County Sheriff, and Minnesota House Dist. 03A.

Candidate questions developed by special Forum Committee as well as submitted by the public

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Chamber 283-9400

