

GRAND MOUND

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local officials to discuss the society’s plans for the site’s future.

The site, which includes a visitor center that interprets the Grand Mound burial site was closed in 2003 by MHS, which cited in its closure a lack of money generated by attendance.

Grand Mound lies just across the Rainy River from the Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung Historical Center, which focuses on the Manitou burial mounds created about 5,000 years ago by the same people, called the Laurel Indians. Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung Historical Center is operated by Rainy River First Nations.

At the conclusion of Tuesday’s meeting, Crippen said the society officials would return in the next few months to provide a time line and ideas of options for the site’s future.

He said the society sees the facility as a supplement to the Manitou mounds and facility.

The Grand Mound options could range from restoring the site and its operations to what it once was prior to closure to an unmanned site that offers interpretive programs on an occasional



STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

A chained gate keeps the public away from a visitor center and the 5,000-year-old burial mounds along the Rainy River, about 17 miles west of International Falls, closed in 2003 by the Minnesota Historical Society.

basis with open access to the mounds.

Restoring the site to what it once was could be tough, said Crippen. The visitor center is salvageable, he said but will require significant investment to bring it up to what it once was. Ben Leonard estimated costs of more than \$550,000 to make the building accessible.

Leonard said a plan for the site needs to work into the future.

“We need to be thoughtful in our plan,” he said. “It does no one any good if in two years from now we have the same conversation.”

And he said he’s excited that consensus seems to surround opening the site in some way to the public.

He said much thought and

many meetings need to be a part of the development of a plan. “I think the finished product will be worth it, even if it takes one year or three years,” he said.

Crippen noted the site is the only one with national historic landmark status that is not open to the public.

A part of the society’s effort to develop a plan has included visiting the Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung Historical Center, and meeting with officials from Rainy River Community College and the National Park Service, said Crippen.

Ben Leonard said opening the site to the public has been supported by members of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council.

He said programming

could be shared between the two sites helping provide cost savings for both facilities.

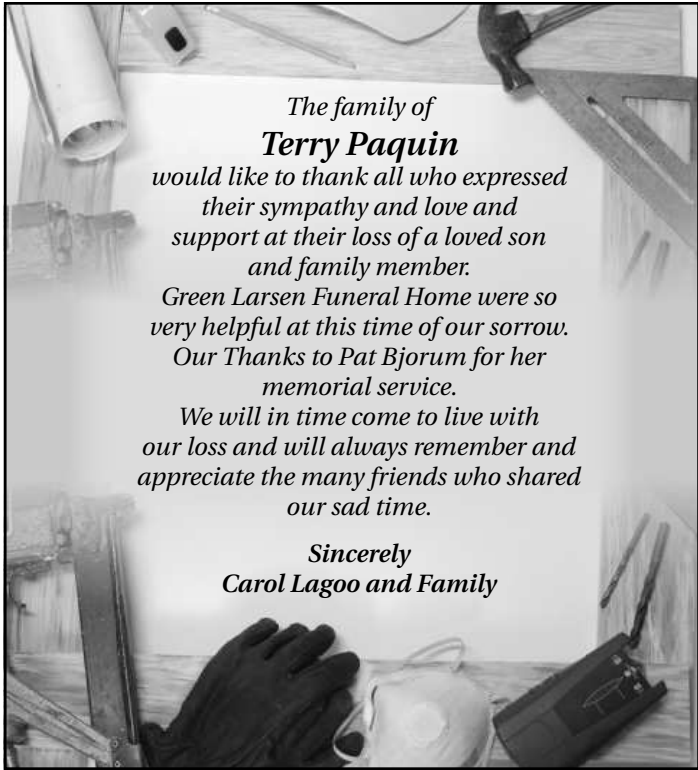
Commissioner Wade Pavleck said the site may be getting the short shrift because of its location in northern Minnesota. Had the site be located elsewhere in the state it would be fully funded and operational, he said.

Board Chairman Rob Ecklund said the site has been a valuable educational component for area schools. He suggested the board discuss the issue with local legislators and attempt to connect it with the state’s Waters of the Dancing Sky byway. He said he would provide traffic counts taken on Highway 11 to the society officials.

Commissioner Brian McBride added that visitorship would likely increase with the completion of a National Geographic project that will map area attractions.

Councilor Gail Rognerud asked whether Grand Mound could be incorporated into other school’s programming about the history of the state.

Mayor Anderson suggested the center be tied in with the area’s Convention and Visitor Center, as well as with an international effort to market the entire area.



ELECTION 2014

RECAP

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Republican candidates Jeff Johnson resulted in a victory for Dayton by an unofficial margin of 50 percent to 44 percent.

Joe Boyle, Koochiching County DFL chair, said the result was a reflection of the “great job” Dayton did in the last legislative session by establishing a fair tax policy and getting as many people covered by health insurance as possible.

“He deserved reelection, and the people in our area and state thought so,” Boyle said.

Terry Stone, Koochiching County GOP chair, said he had written the race off a long time ago, and there was “no emotional reaction there at all.”

U.S. Sen. Al Franken held onto his seat after fending off a challenge from Republican Mike McFadden by an unofficial margin of 53 percent to 42 percent. Franken took home slightly more than 1 million total votes, the most of any statewide candidate in a state or federal contested race.

Boyle said Franken’s large margin of victory requires celebration after his slim victory in 2008 following an arduous recount.

“Franken has worked very hard to be a senator for all the people in the state,” Boyle said. “I think it just shows people appreciate a senator working to protect them and their families and the programs like Social Security that seniors rely upon.”

Stone said again, the results in the race didn’t surprise him, but did note the race drew national focus, as well as a lot of money towards the respective campaigns.

The race for the 8th District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives between Democratic incumbent Rick Nolan and GOP challenger Stewart Mills III resulted in a victory for Nolan, by an unofficial slim margin of 48 percent to 47 percent. The two candidates were separated by 3,693 votes, according to unofficial results from the Minnesota Secretary of State.

Boyle said Nolan’s reelection was a victory for the middle class, seniors, and working families in the local community. Mills’ lack of specific answers for change may have hurt his chances, Boyle said.

“Never in all the ads I saw for him did I hear about how he was going to positively change any laws with any kind of specifics on the issue,” Boyle said. “I think that significantly affected the

outcome.”

Stone said the race’s close outcome didn’t surprise him, as it was always going to be a tough toss-up.

DFL incumbent David Dill will represent District 3A in the Minnesota House for the seventh straight term in 2014, after comfortably winning victory over Republican challenger Eric Johnson, by an unofficial margin of 65 percent to 34 percent.

Boyle said Dill has continued to work diligently for the people in his district, and people showed an appreciation for his efforts by his large margin of victory.

“The whole district showed they wanted him to return,” Boyle said. “I thought it was going to possibly be a different result than what’s normal. It turned out to be just the same as has been in the past.”

District 3A has traditionally been a stronghold of DFL support, Stone said, so anyone challenging Dill was “going to have his hands full.”

With Republicans winning back a majority in the U.S. Senate, as well as in the Minnesota House of Representatives, Boyle said it speaks well to Minnesota voters who reelected Democratic and DFL candidates.

“The voters truly listen

and understand the importance of these issues,” Boyle said.

Stone said he was baffled by the results, though with Republicans winning 11 seats and gaining a majority in the state House, “they don’t always get it wrong.”

“The real news here is the loss of total control by the DFL,” Stone said. “The good times will stop for the DFL. It’s going to be an interesting two years.”

Voter turnout

The Minnesota Secretary of State puts unofficial voter turnout for the 2014 midterm elections at 50.4 percent statewide. Locally, Koochiching County voters turned out at a much higher rate, unofficially at 75 percent.

County Auditor/Treasurer Bob Peterson said that rate was slightly up from the last non-presidential election year in 2010, which was closer to 70 percent.

There were slightly more voters registered for the November elections than the primary elections in August, which Peterson said was the result of a number of factors.

“People are more interested, or they change locations,” Peterson said. “There’s also college kids in town to register, and there was a push to register voters in different areas.”

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The Plans and Specifications may be examined at the following locations: Littlefork City Hall, the Engineer’s Office, the Hibbing Builders Exchange and the Duluth Builders Exchange.

Copies of the Plans and Specifications may be obtained at the office of the Engineer, JPJ Engineering, 303 East 19th Street, P.O. Box 656, Hibbing, Minnesota 55746, upon deposit of \$20.00 for each set. No refund will be provided.

Alternatively, digital copies of the Bidding documents are available at www.jpjeng.com under the “Construction Bidding Information” link for \$10.00 (non-refundable). These documents may be downloaded by selecting this project and entering the eBidDocTM Number 3579043 on the “Search Projects” page. For assistance and free membership registration, contact QuestCDN at (952) 233-1632 or info@questcdn.com

The City of Littlefork reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive irregularities and informalities, and to award the contract in the best interest of the OWNER.

10/29/2014

Sonja Pelland, Administrator
City of Littlefork

To honor our veterans who are members and those in our communities, all TruStar and TruInsure locations will be closed in observance of Veterans Day on Tuesday, November 11, 2014. Thank you for your service!

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