

OPINION

FIRST AMENDMENT “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press or the right of people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

OUR VIEW

Local cause, local benefit

Donating to a cause can be tricky. The contributor wants to be sure the organization is legitimate. You wonder how much money goes to paid staff, where the money ends up, and how much truly benefits the people your donation was intended to help. The Community Cancer Walk is truly a grassroots cause. The money and awareness it raises benefits the people we call our family, our friends and our neighbors. It was started by local people who faced the challenges of being treated for cancer in Borderland. As a result of the travel they endured for treatment, they began the walk to assist local people with the travel costs involved in cancer treatment when you reside in this community. Ellen Hart of the Rainy Lake Medical Center’s chemotherapy department drove the point home when she said everyone diagnosed with cancer in this community must travel at some time for some service, whether it be to meet with an physician or to have treatment. The Community Cancer Walk gas card program has no requirements other

than being diagnosed with cancer. Income, age, gender and type of cancer does not matter. There is no applications to fill out and no one asks for personal information such as Social Security numbers. Instead, a simple call to the RLMC chemo department to ask for a card for yourself or for someone else diagnosed with cancer is all that is needed. No one should feel they are undeserving of the card. It is meant to lessen the load of all local residents receiving cancer treatment. The cards are purchased with money raised by local people and sent with the best of wishes because they care, as was evident at Saturday’s sixth Community Cancer Walk. As an added benefit to the community, the gas cards are purchased locally, in an effort to benefit area businesses. Kudos to the organizers who seek no credit for this truly local and unique effort. Congratulations to all those who donate, no matter how much, and participate in the walk, which also raises awareness of cancer. You are all a part of something very special and very local.



PAID ELECTION LETTER

Hedlund for sheriff, secure our future

To the editor,
It is imperative that the sheriff of Koochiching County have knowledge of the county, knowledge of civil and criminal laws, the ability to communicate, investigate difficult crimes, lead by example, and more. However, the reality is most experienced officers possess these abilities. Perryn has accomplished much in these areas and a discussion with him about his knowledge and experience will make anyone realize he has everything he needs to be our next sheriff. That being said, what sets him apart, makes him unique, and most importantly why vote for him? The world has changed. Koochiching County has changed. A conversation with the retiring generation will confirm that technology has gotten so advanced that many turn to their children or grandchildren for daily routines that now require a computer, smart phone, GPS navigation, social networking, to name just a few. Many day to day tasks are now accomplished online including banking, shopping, entertainment, communications, and a list of others. A current smart phone can handle your phone calls, phone book, bills, alarm clock, calendar, grocery list, map, weather, music, messaging, camera, photo album, e-mail, calculator, etc. With basic data or WI-FI you can access the Internet and accomplish just about anything. The current challenge among us now is technology, which is changing many jobs, including law enforcement. Perryn Hedlund is a bit of a hybrid if you will. He grew up at an age where people were taught to communicate using their voice, but also grew up concurrently

where changes in communication such as Twitter, or Facebook, or others are not “new,” but an everyday part of the world he lives in. Perryn understands the next generation, the future, and the challenges ahead in Koochiching County. It goes without saying that he has investigated serious assaults, rapes, burglaries, drugs, DWIs, suicides, accidents and other calls officers are given in our city. He has done these things and been commended for his actions. However, he also understands times have changed and the way crimes are being committed is changing. There are crimes that are occurring on computers, smart phones, tablets or other devices on a daily basis, including harassment, stalking, terroristic threats, child pornography, identity theft issues, scams and so on. What an advantage our county could have to get a sheriff who can communicate with the older generation, yet grew up with the current technology to understand the younger generations, including his own children, and bring about the future in law enforcement. He will be able to lead us on the new fight and challenges officers face daily and help protect the public the most efficient way possible with the latest technology possible. Perryn understands change, desires change, and realizes that using obsolete practices will keep us isolated, keep us limited, keep us from our full potential. Please think ahead for the future generations of this county. Go out and vote Perryn Hedlund for Koochiching County sheriff on Nov. 4. **Mitch Lessard International Falls, MN**

How to contact your lawmakers

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PAID ELECTION LETTER

Schwartz: An asset on Falls council

To the editor,
I have known Joe Schwartz since he moved to International Falls 25 years ago. I have had the privilege of working with him on the Koochiching Labor Assembly and on the Labor Day Picnic. There is no one who works harder or is more committed than Joe. He cares deeply about our community and the local, state and national issues that affect our community, especially those concerning working men, women and their families. Joe’s name may not

be familiar to some people as he tends to be a quiet man. He does not seek praise for his accomplishments, but works tirelessly when he believes in something. He raised two sons instilling in them the value of hard work and caring for others. Joe’s accomplishments are too many to list here. Some have previously been addressed. I would urge people to vote for Joe as he would definitely be an asset serving on the city council. **RaNae Whitbeck International Falls, MN**

PAID ELECTION LETTER

Briggs would put people before politics

To the editor,
There’s still time to save International Falls with a new city council. Is it politics before people, like it stands now? Or is it people before politics? What this town doesn’t need is another clique group running the town. You see what that’s done for the town. A career military man who knows you put your men and women first, a person who will put people before politics, and not themselves first. A person who knows not to waste taxpayers’ money and put it to

good use, with a plan. A person who will listen to the people, to their wants and needs. A fair person. A person who is willing to go that extra mile to get the job done right. A person who won’t let the power of office go to their head or abuse that power like what this town has seen happen already. A person who knows the meaning of democracy. That person is Brian Briggs for East Ward on city council. Vote for Brian Briggs. **Darren Wallen International Falls, MN**

Share your point of view

Make a difference by writing a letter to the editor or contributing to our online discussions. The Journal’s Opinion page is where meaningful community discussions take place.

The Journal welcomes letters from readers

Letters should be limited to 500 words or less. Longer letters may be edited. Letters must be signed and include the telephone number and address of the letter writer. Only the author’s city address will be published. Mail letters to The Journal, 1602 Highway 71, International Falls 56649. Letters can also be sent by e-mail to laurel@ifallsjournal.com.

Candidate letter policy

The beginning of 2014 brought a new policy to The Journal. A charge of \$30 will be required to publish letters to the editor from candidates or about candidates. The letters must be 500 words or less and the fee must be paid prior to the letter being published. The name and city of the author will be published with the letter. Letters may be emailed to laurel@ifallsjournal.com. The Journal will publish a deadline for publication of paid election letters prior to the Aug. 12 primary and Nov. 4 general elections.