

Catch and release

Lake sturgeon numbers recovering

A4



Taste test

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B6



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Council approves Thompson appointment

McBride urges judge to get involved

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

An appointment by Falls Mayor Bob Anderson to the local sewer board was confirmed by the International Falls City Council Tuesday after failing earlier in the month on a tie vote.

Anderson's appointment of Robert Thompson to a 3-year term on the North Koochiching Area Sanitary Sewer District Board was approved by the council on a 3-2 vote, with Councilors Pete Kalar and Cynthia Jaksa voting

no. The meeting was held on Tuesday because of the Martin Luther King Day holiday recognized by the city on Monday.

The appointment was first brought to the council Jan. 5 at its organizational meeting, which is held each year prior to the first regular meeting of a new year. At that time, the appointment failed on a 2-2 vote, with Anderson and newly sworn-in Councilor Harley Droba voting in favor. Councilor Brian Briggs was absent from that meeting.

On Tuesday, Briggs took the

oath of office prior to the start of the meeting and then broke the tie by voting for the appointment with Droba and Anderson.

Briggs reiterated thoughts voiced Jan. 5 by Droba, saying the only question for debate before the council is whether Thompson should be appointed to the position. He said he knew of no reason not to confirm the mayor's recommended appointment. Briggs' appointment as council president pro tem was unanimously approved at the organizational meeting.

Discussion about the lack of reappointment to the sewer board of Brian McBride, who has served

six years on the board, is off track, said Briggs.

"The only discussion should be about the integrity, character and ability of Mr. Thompson to fill the position. Period," Briggs said.

He pointed to the city's charter which calls for the mayor to appoint with approval of the council. He said the charter does not call for the mayor to reappoint, nor does it say the council may tell the mayor who to appoint or that the council shall choose an appointee.

"The council has bigger fish to fry than quibbling over the mayor's appointment," said Briggs, comparing the mayor's appointments to the selection of admin-

istration by the governor and president.

Meanwhile, McBride addressed the council and asked the mayor about conflicting reasons for a lack of reappointment. Anderson has said he has no concern about McBride's service, but in a letter to a district judge said he did not reappointment him because he had heard from a number of people who believe it is improper for McBride to serve on a board that oversees the work of the district's executive director, Tim "Chopper" McBride, who is Brian's brother.

Council to A7 >

KOOCHICHING COUNTY BOARD

County jumps into the future

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

The Koochiching County Board Tuesday took a step into the 21st century when it approved a motion to update its website.

The county will contract with CivicPlus, a web development business based in Kansas, to overhaul the current site and implement a newer site with more capabilities. The company, which provides website services to counties and cities throughout the U.S., will also provide annual maintenance.

The cost for the first year is \$17,518, with an annual maintenance fee of \$3,927 for the following four years. The motion passed on a 4-1 vote, with Commissioner Wayne Skoe voting against the motion.

Skoe agreed the website should be updated, but said the cost required to do so was too high.

"We're looking at \$34,000 (over the next five years)," Skoe said. "And how many of you have ever gone on another county's website?"

Skoe said he had visited other northern Minnesota counties' websites, and some were easier to use than others. Accessibility, he said, is determined by the content Koochiching County would put on the site.

County to A7 >

More information

To see the kinds of websites CivicPlus builds, visit www.civicplus.com.



John Pozniak and Emily Goehring have teamed with the Make-A-Wish Foundation in hopes of raising \$5,000 to fund a child's wish before their June 6 wedding.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS
Emily Goehring, far right, spends time in Hawaii with her dad, Bob; brother, Patrick; and mom, Suellen. After she takes and passes an upcoming exam, Goehring will start working as a registered nurse at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center in the blood and marrow transplant unit.



Pozniak takes a break from chemotherapy treatments to enjoy time on Rainy Lake in the boat he received from the Make-A-Wish Foundation in 2001. The former Falls resident is currently pursuing a career in clinical trial management for a contract research organization based out of Cincinnati. He said he specializes in working on oncology trials with the aim of accelerating new, safe and effective drugs to market and ensure trials are conducted in compliance with Food and Drug Administration regulations.

WISHES DO COME TRUE

BY EMILY GEDDE | Staff Writer

John Pozniak and Emily Goehring don't want a gravy boat or matching towels as wedding gifts. Instead, they want to make a child's wish come true.

Pozniak, a former International Falls resident, and his fiancée are teaming with the Make-A-Wish Foundation in hopes of fully funding the wish of a child diagnosed with cancer.

The wedding is a perfect platform for helping to make their dream a reality, the couple said.

Former Falls resident and his fiancée hope to fund the wish of a child diagnosed with cancer

"We are using the wedding as a time frame to raise money," Goehring said of their June 6 wedding. "We want to reach people outside of our guest list for donations and have the last push for donations to be at our wedding reception."

Wishes to A7 >

INSIDE
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