

LOCALNEWS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Durant crypt at the Falls Cemetery, which will be torn down in the spring.

Cemetery change coming in spring

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

A fixture of the Falls Cemetery will be taken down in the spring, as it has gotten beyond repair. The Durant vault is the only above ground mausoleum in the cemetery, Joyce Christenson said. Christenson's mother, father, and two brothers are interred in the vault, with her older brother Dewey being the first interred there in 1917. The concrete structure is crumbling and can no longer be patched, Christenson said. The decision to take it down was a result of this crumbling, she said, and because of that, there wasn't much room for emo-

tion in the decision. Her family members were removed, cremated, and buried near the vault, she said. The vault was initially supposed to be torn down before winter, but the heavy snow and cold temperatures after Thanksgiving meant it had to be put off until the spring, she said. Christenson's family is interred in the vault because her mother didn't want her father, who was Canadian, buried, she said. The vault was also used as a place to store those who passed away in the winter,



Joyce Christenson

until the snow melted and the ground unfroze in the spring, she said. Christenson's father was an engineer at the paper mill in Fort Frances, and he passed away in 1952. Her brother Dewey worked at a gravel pit in Fort Frances, and he died during a cave-in in 1917. Her brother William was a fisherman, who died up the lake during the winter in 1937, she said. The vault had been there for nearly 100 years, and Christenson said she "never expected it to be torn down." The youngest of five children, the 98-year-old Christenson said making these arrangements for her family members was something she wasn't expecting to do.

KEDA to discuss plans for 2014

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Koochiching Economic Development Authority Board Wednesday will discuss its plans and outlook for 2014. During the meeting, scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday at the Koochiching County Courthouse boardroom, the board will review its work plan for 2014. The work plan is a part of a long-term strategic plan, KEDA Director Paul Nevanen said. It's a general overview of what KEDA Board members expect they'll be working on in 2014, he said. "It outlines our primary focus areas for the year," he said. "It's also a



Paul Nevanen

way where we can look back at what we did, and look forward and see what you want to accomplish." Jenny Herman of the Small Business Development Center is also expected to present the office's quarterly report. The SBDC is housed in the KEDA offices, and helps small businesses in the area navigate the issues they often run into. Herman will discuss how many people she's met with, and present facts on how she's helped them,

Nevanen said. The board will also have an update on the foreign trade zone alternative site framework process. At November's meeting, the board directed Nevanen to move forward with Point Trade Services, a Florida-based company, on the application process for expanding the county's FTZ. Through the process, the FTZ would encompass the entire county, and would be an incentive for companies looking to relocate to the county. Nevanen said he has contacted Point Trade Services and begun the application process, which carries a cost of \$3,500.

Ranier to appoint replacement councilor

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Ranier City Council Monday is scheduled to hear from three candidates who have applied for a soon-to-be vacant council seat. The council meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Ranier Community Building. A public hearing on the proposed tax levy and budget for 2014 is scheduled to take place at 6 p.m. Councilor Fred Woods is resigning his position ef-

fective Dec. 31. The council needs to appoint a replacement to serve out the remainder of the term. Interested parties were to give their information to city Clerk Kim Nuthak, and three candidates are expected to be considered during Monday's regular meeting. The candidates for the position are Ron Wilcox, Jennifer Lahmeyer, and Jeff McHarg. The city council will ask each candidate why they want to be a councilor,

Nuthak said, and then will deliberate the candidates and appoint a replacement. Ranier's Truth in Taxation meeting is scheduled to take place prior to the city council meeting Monday, when the tax levy for 2014 will be considered. The levy is \$150,000, which is the same amount as collected in 2013. The council is also scheduled to conduct employee evaluations Monday, which will happen in a closed session.

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