

LOCALNEWS



The third History Café will take place Thursday at the Coffee Landing, the one-time home of the landmark Rauscher Brothers' Grocery Store. This photo shows the inside of the store. Behind the counters are Joseph Rauscher, an unknown worker, and Nicholas Rauscher. An unknown niece of the Rauschers stands in front the counters. Note the ceiling tiles, which remain in the building as it stands today.

History event to gather memories

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

After school activities past and present will be the theme of the third History Café, an initiative of the AGE to age program of International Falls.

The intergenerational event intended to gather stories will be held at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the Coffee Landing Café.

"We are inviting young and old to share stories of fun activities that they have engaged in after school," said Rachel Amdahl, coordinator of the local AGE to age program.

Information gathered at the history cafes will help in the publishing of a his-

tory trail guide for visitors and community members, Amdahl explained.

"AGE to age: bringing the generations together" is an award-winning member of the "KIDS PLUS" family of activities of the Northland Foundation. Launched in the fall of 2008, AGE to age enables elders, adults, and youth to explore how their generations are both alike and different.

Each AGE to age community develops an action plan that joins generations in projects to improve their community. Last summer the program launched the community garden located on Third Street near the International Falls Public

Library.

The third history trail event, the History Café III, will be held at the one-time home of the landmark Rauscher Brothers' Grocery Store, now the Coffee Landing Café at 444 Third Street.

Those who attend the History Café will be asked to talk about activities, where they took place and how they may have changed through the years. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. and will include soup and sandwiches as long as they last, Amdahl said.

"We especially would like to see young people, who can learn from their elders and share how they stay busy today," Amdahl said.

Blasting concerns to be explored

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

Concerns about rock blasting is expected to be a topic of discussion Tuesday when the Koochiching County Board meets.



Wade Pavleck

Area residents brought their concerns about a rock blasting operation east of Ranier to the board this week during a public comment period.

Commissioner Wade Pavleck said he started getting calls from residents of the area when Bowman Construction began blasting in the area four years ago.

"We need to find a way to get them under the same rules and regulations (as other permitted blasting operations)," Pavleck said of the operation.

Ranier resident Ida Dunbar said the blasting is damaging her psychological well being, her health and her home.

"Please make them stop," she pleaded to the board. "I feel that my rights are being violated."

She said her home, and she suspects others nearby, have cracks in the foundation and has been shaken by the blasting.

Suzanne Glennie, who lives on County Road 113, also said her house has been shaken by the blasting.

"As far as our operation, we were grandfathered in and don't have to go by the new standard, but all our blasting does meet that."

Carl Bowman
Bowman Construction Co. Inc.

Dianna Hoopengartner said the foundation of her home in Ranier has also been damaged. She and Glennie said they had reported incidents of blasting that they feel have been damaging to the Koochiching County Sheriff's Office.

Hoopengartner said she believes radon has been released from the ground into area basements, and the ground near her home and a pond has dropped because of the blasting.

"I am developing hefty medical issues from the blasting," she told the board.

Ranier Mayor Dennis Wagner told the board that area residents have sought information about the blasting from the Ranier City Council, but the blasting is not being conducted in the Ranier limits.

He wondered if Bowman's operation is under the same rules as newly issued blasting permits, which requires notification of some property owners prior to blasting, pre-blast surveys of some adjacent properties, and seismicographic information.

Carl Bowman, owner of Bowman Construction Co. Inc., told The Journal Thursday that he was unaware of the concerns and complaints. He said his company gets about a dozen calls from Glennie each year asking about blasting. About half the time she calls about a blast, his company has not blasted rock during that time, he said.

His operation was grandfathered in under previous blasting rules and is not bound by the recently established regulations for new blasting permits.

However, he said his company is meeting those new rules.

"As far as our operation, we were grandfathered in and don't have to go by the new standard, but all our blasting does meet that," he said.

As of Thursday morning, Bowman said he'd not been contacted by county officials about the concerns or the upcoming meeting.

"If the county wants to talk to us about it, I'd be happy to meet with them," he said.

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