

OPINION

PAID ELECTION LETTER

With a pooper-scooper, a little help from Santa, we can get through this

To the editor,
Greetings voters,
Due to a work engagement I will be unable to attend the Oct. 28 candidates forum at Backus. Voters can email or call me with any questions at frwoody@frontiernet.net, 218-355-0219.
Selfishly, I did not file til the last moment in the hopes that someone who shared similar thoughts would file. I am not looking forward to the task at hand. Koochiching County is like a puppy we all love and I'm merely offering to take my turn at cleaning up the doo-doo.
Clearly something needs to be done ... somewhere, somehow and sometime ... soon ...
■ Impose a two-term limit on commissioners. It shouldn't be a career.
■ Cut commissioner salaries by 25 percent. It's not a career.
■ Meetings at night so

more people can attend and so commissioners can also do their day jobs.
■ Meetings broadcast on local TV to bring about the most transparency.
■ Combine Rural Fire Department and Falls Fire Department into one part time fire department.
■ Merge Falls police into county. It's a cost saving measure happening all over the country.
■ With less than 2,000 students in the county we don't need four school districts, four superintendents and four school boards.
■ Get to the bottom of these outrageous water/sewer rates and mitigate, instigate or litigate.
■ Less obscure committee meetings. More decision making on the people's business in front of the people.
■ Wage/benefit freeze on all administrators/labor until the private sector catches up because

when private business cannot compete with local government for labor you are just left with government business.
■ I would encourage new Ranier to hold a referendum to un-incorporate if 5 percent of the registered voters put forth a petition. The people never got a vote.
■ County equipment purchases need to be scrutinized to a much higher degree.
■ RRCC should be a vo-tech. We need more people with real life skills to attract jobs.
■ Absolutely against any local sales tax.
■ No to taxpayers footing the bill for a rail spur or any more "if you build it they will come" schemes.
■ There is not enough space to mention all the issues here.
No two people agree 100 percent of the time.
But in order for any

motions to be brought to a vote they need a second. I feel strongly that I can work with Debbie Bowman because the course of Koochiching County affairs remains unchanged since the last election.
Please voters of District 4, vote for Debbie Bowman. Through her letters to the editor Debbie Bowman has pointed out that real change has to occur. It's primarily up to the voters of Districts 1 and 4 to make that happen.
Finally, if Santa is reading this, could you please make an early delivery in the form of a write-in candidate to challenge Kevin Adee in District 2. Competition made this country great and if given the chance it will again.
Barry 'Woody' Woods
candidate, county commissioner
1st District
Ranier, MN

PAID ELECTION LETTER

Track record spurs DFL hate mail

To the editor,
With the track record of failures the DFL Party has in Minnesota, the only recourse they have is to mail out "hate mail" against their opponents. Failures of the DFL Party are their alliance with Obama on all his issues that have had detrimental effects on Minnesota and the rest of the nation.
First, we were given Obamacare that has proven to be more expensive for Minnesota's middle class. Health care cost will go up even more because MNsure largest insurer, Preferred One which has 59 percent of MNsure enrollees, dropped out of MNsure. A thank you goes to Al Franken for this big lie that we can keep our health insurance and doctor since he voted for Obamacare. Honorable mention goes to Rick Nolan who has said he believes in a single payer system which is a complete take-over of our health care by the government.
Second, is Obama's war on coal and the XL Keystone pipeline. Al Franken is silent on these important issues. Instead, Al Franken does photo ops that do nothing to end the stalemate of the new EPA over regulations on energy. Obama and the Democratic Party are in bed with the EPA's proposed stringent rules for limiting carbon emissions. North Star Electric is concerned how these regulations will affect our/my electric rates in the future.
Third, Obama and the Democrats open border policies have left thousands

of illegals across our southern border to feed, house, educate and look for jobs. They have put a strain on our school systems and economy. Obama has plans for amnesty after the election. Our only hope to stop him is a Republican Senate. Where do Al Franken and Rick Nolan stand on this issue? They are silent and their silence is deafening.
Fourth, Obama and the Democratic Party are completely incompetent dealing with Ebola. Their first action should have been to stop all flights from countries with Ebola. This was not done because it is not politically correct. Knowing how deadly Ebola is, in September, Obama sent as many as 4,000 service members to West Africa to provide medical, logistical and security support. Does anyone besides me question the wisdom of this decision? My concern is for the health of our military and if they are qualified to handle Ebola. With ISIS taking over the middle-east and a threat to the United States, our military should be doing what they are trained for and that is to protect us from Islamic terrorists.
Obama and the Democratic Party have had nothing but one crisis after another and are totally incapable to handle them. So they have resorted to "hate mail" against any and all opponents as a means to make themselves look good. This November election is critical to the future of our state and nation.
Julie Hindman
International Falls, MN

PAID ELECTION LETTER

Jaksa will continue to work hard

To the editor,
To the voters of the West Ward of International Falls,
The International Falls community during the last two years has been through major job loss and a historic flood. We are working hard to do the best we can with the cards we have been dealt, but we can't do it alone.
The Nov. 4 elections are just around the corner and we have the job of choosing who we think will serve us the best through the tough times we face for International Falls. Local government is more important to us now more than ever. I have served as the East Ward City councilor in International Falls for the last 10 years. I have had the opportunity to work with our city staff and elected officials. I have

seen how hard everyone works for the citizens of International Falls.
One of the hardest working city councilors I have ever worked with is Cynthia Jaksa.
Cynthia travels more to Saint Paul to lobby for you than any one else on the council. She lobbied for you in Saint Paul to urge our legislature to continue to fund the Local Government Aid for International Falls as they have in the past. Those efforts helped us us to continue to provide the city with the much needed services such as police and fire protection.
Cynthia works tirelessly as the chairperson of the Budget and Finance Committee. Since she is an accountant Cynthia has the ability to keep a close watch on how your tax dollars are being

spent. Cynthia is always trying to save a dollar, whether is is trying to reduce costly paperwork or figuring out how to make the budget process more understandable for the council. Because of her efforts complicated city finances are easier for me to understand. Difficult budget decisions become less difficult to make especially during these harder times. She meets with the auditors every year to review city finances and works with staff to improve the accounting process.
Cynthia has done all of this and still has found the time to be a part of the Economic Response Team. Cynthia works hard the the future of International Falls. She listens to your concerns abut stop signs and traffic. She listens to your concerns about

unsafe housing. She listens to your concerns about the water rates. Cynthia listens because she because she wants our community to grow. Cynthia wants our area to be attractive enough for families to want to move here, not leave here.
Cynthia also wants you to know what our City Council is doing, to be transparent, so she spearheaded the effort to get our city council meetings on TV.
If re-elected, Cynthia will continue to work hard for you. I can't vote for Cynthia so I am encouraging you to vote for her. Please re-elect Cynthia Jaksa. She will help this community to move forward.
Paul Eklund
East Ward councilor
International Falls, MN

PAID ELECTION LETTER

High water, volunteers, National Guard

To the editor,
This summer I had the opportunity to help with sandbagging operations during the flood. Sheriff Brian Jespersen, as head of Koochiching County Emergency Management, contacted local businesses

for needed equipment and operators, sand bagging machines, etc.
With the call for volunteers, along with city and county workers, the Red Cross, The Salvation Army and the National Guard, a natural disaster

was managed and under control.
I was impressed not only by the response of the many volunteers from this community, but by Sheriff Jespersen's hands-on and calm management of the situation day after day.

Thank you to all involved for your hard work and commitment to this community. It was greatly appreciated and an honor to be part of.
Norman E. Waller
Ranier, MN
Big Piney, WY

PAID ELECTION LETTER

Droba is positive fit for council

To the editor,
Let me share some information with you about Harley Droba. I've known him from both church and school since he's been young. I remember him well as I was his eighth grade English teacher. His humor and ability to think "outside the box" immediately come to mind.
As time has passed, I've enjoyed seeing Harley change to a graduate, a soldier, a husband and father, a

businessman, and today, a candidate for Center Ward councilman. I've been particularly pleased with his seriousness and his willingness to stay with the problem until it's solved. Harley tries very hard to search for the best answers. He is a caring citizen of International Falls who's willing to talk and listen.
These characteristics make him to me a positive fit for our city council.
Lynda Faith
International Falls, MN

PAID ELECTION LETTER

Hedlund as sheriff a step in better direction

To the editor,
You have undoubtedly seen the host of sheriff campaign signs popping up around the community and county. Maybe you do or do not know who Perryn Hedlund is, or why you should vote for him. Allow me to give you just a few reasons why a vote for Perryn Hedlund is a vote for a step in a better direction for this county and for the sheriff's department.
In all things, Perryn Hedlund will put the employees of the Sheriff's Office first. You will find a leader who will make sure his staff is equipped, trained, prepared, and able to enforce the law fairly across the entire county. He believes those on the front lines must have the best

and most reliable resources at their disposal.
He has voiced his intent to open better lines of communication with surrounding town councils by periodically attending meetings and listening to the needs of our rural towns; something that has not been common practice in recent years.
He has discussed the proper relocation of department assets across the county to ensure a timely response to emergency situations when they should arise.
He has expressed his idea to open better lines of communication with local and rural fire departments and first responders, to ensure all aspects of emergency response will be expedient

and prepared for any possible situations.
He will oversee the hiring practices of the department to ensure consistency and fairness is provided to all applicants as well as dealing with current employees in a courteous and a professional manner. Through transparency and professionalism, he will lead the department in a way that will ensure department and community goals are aligned as one.
Through this election he has faced many challenges including misinformation from the now-acting sheriff, sign damage and vandalism, and of course the fight against the "good ol' boy" agenda. However, through it all, he has stood tall, taken the high road, and shown his supporters

why he is the best man for the job.
His vision is not short sighted; (just riding it out until retirement) he has a vision of how he sees our great county five, 10, 15 years down the road and knows the path forward for how to get us there.
Perryn also has the expressed support of a majority of the local law enforcement officers. This aspect alone speaks volumes as to which way we should go.
Please take the time to understand the importance of this race for our county. Vote for change, vote for new beginnings and support Perryn Hedlund for Koochiching County sheriff.
Amanda Lahmayer
International Falls, MN

To the editor,
I am excited about the level of interest in our future everyone is displaying; thank you for filing for office, putting out signs, knocking on doors in all races. Motivation is driven by many things; my desire to run for county commissioner District 4 came about through frustration and asking why doesn't someone do something to change things?
I sat back and wondered until the county board who can travel to Japan, Minneapolis and other places to meet with people to learn more about their business but, couldn't drive three miles or pick up the phone to learn more about a tax paying business that had been here for over 80 years.
I decided then we can do better. We should do

better. We need to work for the people that are here, not against them, we need to remain professional, polite and open minded. We need to learn more about each others needs. Thank those that make Koochiching County their home and hold hands with everyone headed in the same direction. Change that makes our lives better is needed. Elected officials have been busy creating jobs for government that never have to worry if the checkbook balances, they just ask for more from us, the taxpayers. I am ready for things to change and I know how to balance a checkbook.
Debbie Bowman
candidate, county commissioner
4th District
International Falls, MN