

LOCALNEWS

LOST AND FOUND

After more than 30 years, a lost class ring is returned to its owner

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

After more than three decades, a missing Falls High School class ring has been returned to its owner. The ring design is the oldest class ring tradition in the United States and is easy for a FHS alumni to spot. When an FHS ring was turned into the lost and found at Rainy River Community College last week, Berta Hagen, class of 1983, easily tracked down who it belonged to. “The women’s locker room was being renovated and two gentlemen turned in a 1982 ring,” the RRCC employee told The Journal.

A 1982 Falls High class ring owned by Jill (Ronning) Bixby was returned to her last week after being lost for more than 30 years.

“I looked at the initials engraved on the back and realized it belonged to Jill Ronning who is now Jill Bixby.” At first, Hagen thought the ring may have been lost recently, but after finding out no events had happened in the RRCC gym around the time the ring was found, she said she realized it might have been several years since the ring was on its owner’s finger. “Jill hasn’t lived in town for years,” Hagen said, noting the two women were

neighbors growing up. “That’s when I realized (the ring) has probably been there awhile.” Hagen reached out to a close friend of Bixby’s who informed Hagen she recalled Bixby losing the ring while she was still in high school. “I started getting really excited,” Hagen said. “Jill’s sister-in-law works at Super One, so I got a hold of her and Jill called me the next day.” Although Bixby couldn’t be reached in time for this story, Hagen said Bixby



Berta Hagen was able to locate the ring’s owner by the initials “JMR” engraved on the ring.

was thrilled to hear the news her ring was recovered. “I think I was just as excited as her,” Hagen said with a laugh. “Our class ring is amazing.” Hagen mailed Bixby the ring and it was back in its owner’s possession in time for Christmas.

FHS alumni to reunite

All class reunion set for Aug. 11-13, 2016

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Diane Edens is planning a party and she’s inviting 13,000 people. Along with Gordy Dault and Bob Anderson, and members of the Falls Education Foundation, Edens is organizing the fourth Falls High School All Class Reunion scheduled for Aug. 11-13, 2016. “We always start planning about two years ahead of time,” Edens said. “It takes a lot of time to get all the invitations out and get everything in place...Invitations will probably go out a year ahead of time.” Edens is a veteran organizer for such a big event. She helped chair the previous all class reunion held in 2007. She said it was time for some to “step forward and do it,” so she decided to take on the challenge. “We have a great start-up committee,” she said. “Everyone is working really



From the left, Falls High School All Class Reunion tri-chairmen Gordy Dault, Diane Edens, Bob Anderson and treasurer Mary Bigler meet to discuss the event set for Aug. 11-13, 2016. A meeting is set for 7 p.m. Feb. 26 at the Elks Lodge No. 1599 and is open for anyone who would like to help plan the event.

hard to make this the best all class reunion ever.” The local all class reunion has come a long way since its infancy in 1995. Back then, the organizers used their own funds to establish the event. Now, however, Edens said enough money has been generated to have an all class reunion account. “After all the bills were paid, \$5,000 was set aside for the following all class reunion,” she said. “In 2007, Gordy Dault headed up a committee to review remaining funds...It was decided at that time, to save \$10,000 off the top.”

Edens said the committee is fortunate to have start-up money and members are busy planning where the event will be held, what bands will play, what floats will be featured in the parade and other activities that will be available during the weekend-long reunion. “We’re not at a point to announce anything yet,” she said. There is still room on the committee for anyone who would like to become involved with the planning stages. At 7 p.m. Feb. 26, a meeting at the Elks Lodge No. 1599 is open to anyone and everyone looking to

become involved. Edens said there are still areas in need of a chairperson and the help is “greatly appreciated.” “We hope to have a great turnout with all those willing to volunteer and help any way they can,” she said. “The all class reunion is for all alumni. We don’t want just a small committee making all the decisions.” In addition to all alumni gathering together Aug. 11-13, 2016, Edens said individual classes are encouraged to plan their own reunions or multi-class reunions during the weekend.

Local Falls man fined for game violation

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Cody Christensen of International Falls pleaded guilty and was fined \$3,000 for failing to report acquisition of a game carcass. A news release from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources said Justice of the Peace Pat Clydsdale-Cornell heard the case in

the Ontario Court of Justice, Fort Frances, on Dec. 19. “Court heard that in 2013, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry conservation officers received information that Christensen and a Fort Frances resident had unlawfully hunted a bull moose near Graves Road, north of Fort Frances,” said the release.

A joint investigation with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Customs and Border Protection ensued. The investigation revealed that on Oct. 10, 2012, the Fort Frances resident arranged for another individual to export the moose to a taxidermist in International Falls, said the release.

Neither Christensen nor the taxidermist reported the acquisition of the moose carcass to the ministry as required. The mounted moose head was later seized from Christensen’s residence and forfeited to the Crown. The Fort Frances resident pleaded guilty to related charges in a case heard in October.



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AGENDA
City of International Falls - City Council
Regular Meeting
(Following Organizational meeting)
4:30 P.M., Monday, January 5, 2015
Council Chamber, 600 Fourth Street

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA (only by unanimous consent).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes of the Monday, December 15, 2014 regular City Council meeting (Council action-motion)
- Minutes of the Thursday, December 18, 2014 special City Council meeting (Council action-motion)

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS AND APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

- CLAIMS**
 - Transfer Claims
to: City of Intl Falls Fund #101 from: City of Intl Falls Fund #812 \$105.52
Lodging tax (Council action- motion)
 - Regular Claims (Council action- motion)

AUDIENCE – OPEN FORUM (The Open Forum is an opportunity for the audience to address the City Council on any matter not listed on the agenda. Please limit your comments to five minutes.)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

OPENING BIDS (AND/OR QUOTES)

- First Reading of Contract Ordinance for 2014 Street Improvement Project (Council action-motion)

OLD BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA The Consent Agenda allows the City Council to take action on routine matters by one motion that shall not be debated and shall be adopted by unanimous vote of those present. Any individual council member may remove an item from the Consent Agenda for discussion on the regular agenda. (Council action – motion)

- Year 2015 license renewals:
Cine, Inc – restaurant and theater
Ysen Snowplowing - snowplow

NEW BUSINESS

- Mayoral Proclamation - Catholic Schools Weeks at St. Thomas Aquinas School, January 25 – January 31, 2015
- Resolution #__-15 Supporting Paul Bunyan Expressway
- Resolution #__-15 Authorization to Execute Minnesota Department of Transportation Grant Agreement for Airport Improvement Excluding Land Acquisition, State Agreement No. 07450.
- Year 2015 license renewal – The Fisherman- 3.2 off-sale, cigarette, gasoline pumps, and restaurant
- Any other business.

REPORTS OF ALL BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

- Reports of the Administrator, Attorney, and Department Heads**
 - Police Monthly Report, December 2014
 - Fire/Rescue/EMS Monthly Report, December 2014
- Reports of the Mayor, Council Committees, Boards and Commissions**

AUDIENCE – OPEN FORUM

CORRESPONDENCE

- December 23, 2014 – Koochiching County Board meeting minutes
- November 12, 2014 – International Falls Public Library meeting minutes
- December 16, 2014 – Citizens for Backus/AB letter of appreciation

REMINDERS

- Next regular City Council meeting is **Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 4:30 P.M.

** Note Council date change due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday

ADJOURNMENT

Note: Matters inappropriate for consideration at the meeting or not in the order specified shall not be considered except 1) with the unanimous consent of the members of the City Council, or 2) scheduled public hearings or bid lettings, but not before the time stated in the notice.

The City of International Falls complies with the Americans with Disability Act. Individuals with disabilities requiring special aids should contact the City Administrator, 600 Fourth Street, International Falls, MN, 56649, 218-283-9484, at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.



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