

LOCALNEWS

Ranier to add speakers to outdoor rink

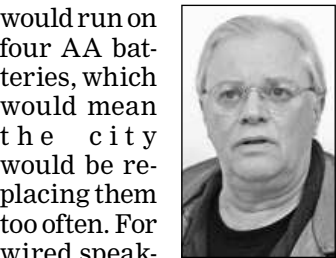
BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

RANIER — Improvements will continue at the Ranier skating rink, as the city council here Tuesday approved an increased budget for the purchase of two speakers and an amplifier for the rink.

Councilor Ron Wilcox said Mayor Dennis Wagner expressed interest in installing speakers at the rink, which Wilcox explored. The council had originally budgeted \$300 for the speakers, but Wilcox said the cost would be \$460 plus tax. The council then approved increasing the speaker budget to \$500.

The city could be reimbursed for the speakers if it is approved for a grant from Mid-continent Communications, former city Administrator Kim Nuthak said. The Mid-continent board reviews the grant applications at its February meeting, Nuthak said. If Ranier's application is approved, the funds will be applied towards the speakers, as well as other rink improvements.

Wilcox said he originally looked into purchasing wireless speakers, but they



Ron Wilcox

would run on four AA batteries, which would mean the city would be replacing them too often. For wired speakers, Wilcox said he talked with Jared Baldwin at Tyson Vending, who will be supplying the two speakers and amplifier.

"We'll have AM/FM radio off of it, and iPod hookups so they can listen to their music at the hockey rink and the fire pit," Wilcox said.

Tyson Vending operates the equipment at the municipal liquor store, including the jukebox, pool table, and electronic dartboards, Wilcox said. The speakers at the skating rink will be the same as the speakers outside the municipal liquor store, Wilcox said.

In other business, the council approved the hiring of Sherril Gautreaux as city administrator. Gautreaux replaces former Administrator Kim Nuthak, who resigned after taking an assistant executive director position at Woodland Apart-

ments. Nuthak has served as city administrator for 10 ½ years.

Nuthak will remain on staff part time as Gautreaux becomes familiar with her new position, Nuthak said.

"It's a lot of information, and I'm going to help Sherril as long as she needs me to help her," Nuthak said. "I don't have an actual end date, it's not like I gave my two weeks' notice."

In their first meeting of the new year, the council took care of various housekeeping items, including approving appointments for committees and designating agents for the city.

The council designated Lyndon Larsen as city attorney, and designated The Journal as the official newspaper for the city. It also named Councilor Todd Coulombe acting mayor, who would stand in for Wagner if he were unavailable.

City councilors also serve on various relevant committees, and the council approved these appointments Tuesday. Wagner will represent Ranier on the Koochiching Community Development Association, Councilor Tony Cole will serve on the Destination Voyageurs National Park committee and the Voyageurs National Park Governmental Affairs committee. Also, Cole, Wilcox, and City Councilor Brenda Bauer will serve on the Heart of the Continent committee.

Superintendent: 'Now is the time to get involved'

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

The time between the Falls School Board considering what cuts it needs to make for the district and actually making those cuts is narrowing and Superintendent Nurdy Nelson says now is the time to get involved.

The board will meet for a special work session at 5 p.m. Monday in the Falls High School cafeteria to continue the process of making cost adjustments to offset the about \$500,000 the district is losing in state funding with the loss of about 70 students since last spring.

"I think its really important for community members, parents and district residents to get at these different meetings held," Nelson said. "Decisions made at these meetings can really impact them."

Monday's session will be the third in a series of meetings the board is hosting to consider areas to which cost adjustments can be made.

The superintendent told board members in a statement that the district is no longer in an arrangement where fund balances will grow. The present district offerings and activities cannot be sustained and still keep revenues over expenditures.

In November, Nelson provided board members with a list he drafted which highlighted op-

Cost reduction areas for consideration include:

- Elementary and secondary staff positions
- Reconfigure educational support professional assignments
- Delay curriculum cycle
- Dropping seventh and eighth grade remedial classes
- Two non-revenue athletic teams
- Relocate the community education office
- Hall monitoring
- English as a second language (ELL)
- Alternate physics/chemistry every other year
- Contracting out the yearbook

tions for the board to consider to save the district about \$717,800.

The superintendent stressed items on the list, including staff reductions and eliminating two non-revenue athletic teams, were only options and didn't need to happen all at once. Still, the cuts would enable the district to avoid dipping into its about \$3.8 million in reserve funds.

During Monday's session, about seven or eight people or groups are expected to promote their individual departments and/or educational programs that are on the chopping block.

"That is not including the principals who will be presenting their reports on what I've asked them to do as far as enrollment and staff reductions," Nelson said.

But, the people whose livelihoods or programs that are at stake should not be the only faces in the audience Monday night.

Nelson said now is the time parents and other community members need to get involved.

"We've come out with a list reducing costs in quite a number of areas, and we haven't had a lot of interest generated from the community," he said.

The superintendent said it is understandable that people may not think their voices will be heard or their opinions will matter.

That is not the case.

While Monday's work session is slated for the specific groups which have already contacted Nelson to speak, the public will get its chance in the future.

"Final decisions will be made during the last Monday in April," he said. "Before then, we will give the community and parents their turn to speak...However, they should really be a part of the listening and discussion that goes on before any decisions are made."

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Benjamin and Dana Nemecek, of Mineral, Virginia are pleased to announce the arrival of their son, Braxton Andrew Nemecek, born on **January 1, 2014 at 9:56 PM** at **Martha Jefferson Hospital** in Charlottesville, Virginia. He weighed 8 pounds 0 ounces and measured 21 inches long. His maternal grandparents are Berny and Jan Smith, of Bumpass.

His paternal grandparents are Leo and Betty Nemecek of Littlefork, Minnesota. Braxton was welcomed home by his five-year-old sister Brooklyn, four-year-old brother Brayden, and two-year old brother Bryson.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Koochiching County is seeking proposals for the Construction of a locker room at the solid waste complex near International Falls, MN. The project is divided into 3 parts: General Construction, Electrical Installation, and Plumbing installation. Interested applicants may submit a proposal for part or the entire project.

Respondents must meet all licensing and insurance requirements as defined by MN State Statute and/or Koochiching County.

The selection process will not be based solely on the lowest bid. Koochiching County will also consider the applicant's company performance history and the overall proposal package to ensure the best services for Koochiching County residents.

Proposals will be accepted until 2:00 p.m. on February 14, 2014 at the Koochiching County Auditor's Office, 715 4th Street, Int'l Falls, MN 56649.

Interested applicants are strongly advised to visit the solid waste complex and inspect the construction area first hand, between the hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday, before submitting their bid. Please call 283-1157 prior to your visit if you would like to be accompanied by Environmental Services Staff familiar with the project.

For a copy of the complete "Request for Proposal", please contact the Environmental Services Department at 218-283-1157.

RAINY LAKE SPORTFISHING CLUB'S



29TH ANNUAL
FAMILY ICE FISHING
DERBY & RAFFLE

Saturday, February 22nd • 1-4pm
SAND BAY AREA - MAIN ENTRANCE: RAINY LAKE MARINE

YOU MUST HAVE \$10.00 RAFFLE TICKET TO ENTER DERBY AREA.
Children under 16 will receive a FREE Hot Dog ticket, must be accompanied by an adult to get the hot dog.

All proceeds go toward the improvement of local fisheries, scholarships and kid's fishing pond. 2013 Licenses VALID for this Event. No lines in the water until 1:00 p.m.! Bring your auger... help a neighbor!

CASH PRIZES
\$10 Raffle Ticket Required
1st - \$5,000
2nd - \$2,000, 3rd - \$1,000
plus Many More!

NOTICE: RULES FOR 2014

- All fish must be caught in the derby area.
- 4 different fish Categories: Walleye/Sauger, Burbot, Northern & Alternative Species
- Each fish category will have a 1, 2, 3 placing.
- Fish prizes donated by: Hardees, Farmers Insurance - Ronna Mackay, Loons Nest, Rainy Lake One Stop, Rainy Lake Spirits, Sportsmens Service

- You may enter 1 fish per category, at which time you will receive a ticket. After the derby is completed, a random drawing will be held for all tickets given out.

SLOT SIZE ENFORCED
★ Remember that you may not keep walleyes in Rainy Lake 17" to 28" and they will not be accepted for the Draw!
Need not be present to win prizes.
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\$10.00 RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:

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- Rainy Lake 1 Stop • Forestland • Randy's • Mels Corner Service • Littlefork Promersbergers Corner • Big Falls & Various Locations throughout Borderland

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