

Enterprise

Park Rapids

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A COMPLETE LOSS

Fire destroys Blueberry Pines Golf Club; no foul play suspected, sheriff says

By Shannon Geisen

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Plumes of grayish-black smoke were visible for miles off U.S. Hwy. 71 on Wednesday afternoon as numerous firefighters battled a blaze at the Blueberry Pines Golf Club.

The Wadena County Sheriff's Office received multiple 911 calls around 3:55 p.m. from passersby reporting the fire. The golf club and restaurant is located eight miles south of Park Rapids or three miles north of Menahga.

Menahga Fire Chief Dave Kicker estimates it took 300,000 gallons of water to quash the fire.

According to the sheriff's news release, when law enforcement arrived, flames were already visible from the building. The Menahga Fire Department requested mutual aid from the Sebeka, Park Rapids and Wolf Lake fire departments.

Due to the intensity of the fire, Kicker requested additional assistance from the Wadena, Verndale, Staples, Akeley, Nevis, Bluffton and Carsonville fire departments as well. All told, Kicker said there were about 100 firefighters.

FIRE: Page A3



Photos by Shannon Geisen/Enterprise

Above: Menahga Fire Chief Dave Kicker and Assistant Fire Chief Jim Day met with the state fire marshal Thursday morning.

Top: The Blueberry Pines Golf Course lodge and restaurant was engulfed in flames Wednesday afternoon. The Menahga, Sebeka, Park Rapids and Wolf Lake fire departments were the first to respond.

Kienholz wins \$22,000 on 'Jeopardy!'

By Robin Fish

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When Park Rapids High School alum Kathryn Kienholz won a recent episode of the television quiz show "Jeopardy!" it opened up friendships new and old.



Kienholz

Kienholz defeated the previous "Jeopardy!" champion in the episode that aired Dec. 27, winning \$22,000 after staking \$9,000 on a "Final Jeopardy!" clue about geography. She then successfully identified Chile and Peru as the two South American countries with the longest Pacific coastlines.

JEOPARDY: Page A5



Submitted photo

Elected at the Park Rapids Fire Department annual business meeting early Thursday morning were, from left, First Assistant Chief Ben Cumber, Fire Chief Terry Long and Second Assistant Chief Bob Meier. Their election is a recommendation only until ratified by the city council.

Terry Long nominated for Park Rapids fire chief

By Robin Fish

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In the wee hours of Thursday, Park Rapids firefighters voted to recommend the appointment of a new city fire chief.

Outgoing Fire Chief Donn Hoffman retired, effective Jan. 2.

According to assistant fire chief Ben Cumber, the fire department's annual business meeting, scheduled for 8 p.m. Jan. 2, was delayed until approximately 12:30 a.m. This was because almost all Park Rapids Fire Department personnel were called out to the Blueberry Pines Golf Course fire.

LONG: Page A5

SPORTS

Battling for a title

Braves defeat Park Rapids in semifinals, give Cass Lake-Bena a battle in championship game — Page B1



OUTDOORS

Ice-fishing hot spots

Outdoors columnist Gary Korsgaden expects January will be ideal for fishing — Page B6



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