

DATES FOR 2021 TO BE ANNOUNCED

AND CONTRACTOR



Saturday, June 6, 2020

bemidjipioneer.com



Windows along the first level of the Law Enforcement Center in Bemidji remained boarded up on Friday morning.

Jillian Gandsey / Bemidji Pioneer

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Mastin, Beitel respond to questions following May 30 protest

By Hannah Olson holson@bemidjipioneer.com ocal law enforcement leaders recently responded to community questions regarding actions of last weekend and plans for the next. Clarification was also received from Waste Management regarding accelerants being placed in dumpsters in downtown



Regarding the Off Grid Armory citizen patrol situation, Beitel said an investigation is underway. 'First of all,

when we found out they were

in the city, they were there without our knowledge, it was past the curfew, and they did ask, 'how can I help?' and I told them to leave the city limits," he said. They were not cited for being in violation of the curfew, Beitel added. "An investigation is taking place to see whether there were any crimes committed and that event happening after all the dust settled of this thing," he explained. According to Beitel, an independent investigation into the action of these citizens is being conducted by the Brainerd Police Department. "We didn't use any vigilantes, we didn't ask for anything," Beitel said. A member of the crowd cut him off to define the word vigilante – "a member

of a self-appointed group of citizens who undertake law enforcement in their community without legal authority," she read off of her cellphone.

She argued that the word vigilantes would fit in the situation Beitel was describing.

"Now is there a statute that we could prosecute Sam (Smith) for being a vigilante? That is my question," she asked. Smith is the owner of Off Grid Armory located near Itasca State Park.

"I am actually the lead organizer of the event and I was not informed," the man said. "If we were to have received that information we would not have marched to the police station, we would have left and gotten more security for our event."

Beitel said he would not have wanted the organizers to have obtained more security as "we were the security." he said

primary **Candidates load city**, county election slots **By Matthew Liedke**

Packed

mliedke@bemidjipioneer.com

BEMIDJI — Aug. 11 will be a busy day in Beltrami County as many voters will go to the polls to determine which of the many local candidates running will advance to November's general election.

The race for Bemidji Mayor alone has six candidates running for the seat. Not in this year's race, though, is Bemidji Mayor Rita Albrecht. Instead, Albrecht is running for Minnesota State Senate District 5 on the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party ticket.

The candidates who are running in this year's mayoral contest are:

▶ Robert Ellliot, a 40-yearold real estate broker.

► John Henningsgaard, a 63-year-old retired teacher.

▶ Michael Meehlhause, the current Ward 1 Council member and Academic Advisor at Trek North School.

► Jorge Prince, 48, Chief Financial Officer of LaValley Industries.

▶ Ivan Smith. Attempts to reach Smith were unsuccessful.

▶ Mark Thorson, owner of Mark Sand and Gravel.

For city council, there are several candidates running in Bemidji Ward 1. They include:

 Ryan Enger, a 33-year-old shuttle driver at the Bemidji DoubleTree hotel and BSU student.

 Laura Fairbanks, a 39-yearold BSU student studying political science.

▶ Joe Gould, a 33-year-old teacher at Voyageurs Expeditionary School.

► Adam Hellquist, a 40-year-

Bemidji on May 30.

Sheriff answers questions after county board meeting

Beltrami County Sheriff Ernie Beitel addressed constituents who appeared to be upset after they were unable to ask him questions during the County Board meeting Tuesday night.

Outside of the County Administration Building, a circle gathered around Beitel, who attempted to offer transparency regarding the events of last weekend.

Beitel reiterated his earlier statements, and clarified his written press release to the small crowd. Many had questions surrounding the citizens who were reportedly conducting city patrols.

Credible threats

Many times throughout the discussion, Beitel was cut-off and interrupted in his attempts to provide answers. "Please, please let me finish, do you want to hear an answer or not?" he said at one point.

Some organizers from last weekend's demonstration were in attendance and asked why if there were credible threats made, they weren't made aware of them.

"Why wasn't that released to the organizers of the event?" a man asked.

"They did know," Beitel replied.

"Your demonstration was already happening when we found the evidence and we were told there was evidence," he said. "That's why law enforcement took the action they did to make our town safe." "I don't have any control of

the mayor, what she says or what she does," Beitel added.

He explained that their system of communication was overloaded last weekend, and regrets this, saying "The people in charge didn't hear about it until after the fact."

Commissioner Tim Sumner, who stood among the crowd, said he liked having an open discussion with law

Jaycees slate 'Quarnival'

to replace Water Carnival

CONCERNS: Page A5

After

old systems administrator in the information technology field.

Audrey Thayer, a 68-yearold Leech Lake Tribal College instructor.

Representation for Bemidji Ward 2 will also be determined on Aug. 11 in a special election. The election was ordered after Mike Beard resigned the position in January, citing health reasons. Ward 2 candidates include:

▶ Josh Peterson, the Executive Director of Visit Bemidji.

▶ Jaime Thibodeaux, a 38-year-old environmental ecologist.

Bemidji Ward 3 is one of two city elections with an incumbent running for reelection. The

PRIMARY: Page A11

Carve a path

Exploring Bemidji area hiking trails

By Bria Barton bbarton@bemidjipioneer.com

BEMIDJI — Of all the impressive features that life in the Northwoods has to offer, one of the best is the abundance of hiking destinations right at your fingertips.

With 66 state parks in Minnesota, as well as 25 state trails, 35 water trails, and 62 state forest campgrounds and dayuse areas, our backyard is



Bria Barton | Bemidji Pioneer

Now is a great time to get outdoors and explore some of the many trails this area has to offer, including the Ozawindib Trail in Itasca State Park.

brimming with possibil-ity, and our only job is to discover it.

Luckily, there's no need to go far from home to find what you're looking for

\$2.00

hiking trail, there's sure to be an option just minutes from home. And if you're one who prefers diving into the great,

If you prefer a paved **HIKING:** Page A5

On Thursday, June 4, the group announced the 76th annual Water Carnival will go on as planned from July

1-5 — but with a special twist.

By Bria Barton bbarton@bemidjipioneer.com

months of uncertainty and

countless summer event cancellations due to the coronavirus pandemic, the

Bemidji Jaycees are giving the community something

to look forward to and cel-

BEMIDJI

ebrate.

Now dubbed Water "Quarnival," the event will feature returning traditions and a variety of new activities, which

QUARNIVAL: Page A9



Annalise Braught | Bemidji Pioneer

The Bemidji Jaycees float makes its way down Beltrami Avenue during the Grand Parade last summer. Now dubbed the Grand "Unparade" - the parade will still be held, albeit with some changes. Parade floats will now be stationed and parked in the Sanford Center parking lot, allowing folks to drive through the floats while maintaining social distancing.



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OBITUARIES

Lillian Bertha Amelia (Rentz) Love

Lillian Bertha Amelia (Rentz), 92, of Bemidji, MN died on Monday, May 25, 2020 at Neilson

Services will be at Gateway Park Pavilion in Emmons, MN at 10:00 AM on June 12, 2020 and interment will be at Rose Hill Cemetery at 1:00 PM in Wells, MN.



Lillian was born in Waseca, MN to William and Martha (Radke) Draheim on April 7, 1928. She attended school in Waseca, MN and graduated in 1945. Lillian married Raymond R. Rentz on December 5, 1946. She lived in Wells, MN and worked at the JC Penney Store and later at Banquet Foods. In 1977 she and her husband Ray moved to the Bemidji area and bought a resort. Ray passed away in April 1982. Lillian ran the resort until 1989 when she sold the resort and married Joseph Welch on November 28, 1989. They resided in Hines, MN until they moved to Iowa where Joe passed away on April 21, 2007. Lillian then moved back to MN and married Joe Love from the Bemidji area on October 12, 2008. She lived in the Bemidji/Turtle River area until her death in May. She was a member of the Faith Lutheran Church in Blackduck. Lillian enjoyed sewing, fishing, hunting, and in her later years going to the casinos for what she called "therapy". She loved spending time with the family and friends who greatly enjoyed her homemade cinnamon rolls and pork steak hotdish.

Lillian is survived by her 2 sons, Steve (Pam) Rentz and Ray (Jackie) Rentz; 2 daughters, Diane Cain and Susanna Williams; 7 grandchildren, Josh (Laura) Rentz, Richard (Laura) Carmack, Adam (Rob) Carmack, Danny (Holli) Fogelquist, Amy Fogelquist, Niccole (Pete) Hillman, and Crystal Rentz; and many great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Raymond R. Rentz, Joseph Welch, and Joseph Love; her parents, William and Martha Draheim; 4 brothers, Harold, Archie, Leonard, and her twin William Draheim; 4 sisters, Alice Mahler, Norma Hecht, Lois Manthey, and an infant sister.

Marianne Moos Prock

Marianne Moos Prock, of Orange City, 81 Florida, formerly of Bemidji, MN, passed away on May 14th, 2020, surrounded by her children, at her son Michael's home. She was 2nd, born on August 1938.

She was married to Kenneth Fairchild from

1956 to 1977. She worked as a school cook at Sandy's Restaurant in the mall, Colonial Kitchen, and Horace May Elementary until she retired and moved to Florida. She loved to play golf, bowl, play cards. Marianne loved to be with her children and enjoyed doing daycare while they grew up.

She was married to Lloyd Prock, on December 17th, 1985 in Winter Springs, Florida. Marianne and Lloyd were very active in her home church of Grace Baptist Church in Deltona, Florida. At Grace Baptist she really enjoyed spreading the gospel to those in the area. Marianne and Lloyd loved to travel and visit all their kids. Marianne and Lloyd were avid fisherman and enjoyed it when they could on their travels. They enjoyed playing domino's, spinners and other board games with their friends. She loved their kids and enjoyed every moment she could spend with her grandkids, great grandkids and great-great grandkids. She is survived by: Her brothers Francis(Lucv) James(Phyllis) Moos, Moos and sister Victoria(George) Bittman. Children: Michael (Linda) Fairchild of Otsego, Mary Fairchild/Peterson/ Cole/Noreen of Bemidji, and Mark (Julie) of Bemidji, Doug (Deb) Prock of Deltona, Florida, Cassaundra (Randy) Krehbeil of Westminster, Colorado, and Brenda Kamstra of Attica, Kansas. 18 grandchildren, grandchildren, and 5 38 great great-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents: Mathias and Barbara Moos, Spouse: Lloyd Prock, and siblings: Eleanor(Howard) Gensler, Evelyn(Andy) Walseth, Joseph(Barbara) Moos, Elizabeth(Jake) Zimmerman, Lorna(Laurence) Eischens, Margaret(Virgil) Massie, and Kathleen(Karl) Edelman.

CONCERNS

From Page A1

enforcement and asked the sheriff if the conversation could continue via phone.

"Is there a place or a number where individuals can reach you to ask some questions? I think there's a good dialogue going on and I think it needs to continue," Sumner said.

Beitel said that his number is on their Facebook page, and he also gave it out to those involved in the discussion. Anyone who wishes to contact Sheriff Beitel can reach him at (218) 333-4136.

Mastin answers community questions

Bemidji Police Chief Mike Mastin addressed local business owners during a Business Round Table meeting held via Zoom on Thursday.

Mastin answered questions about the dumpsters found in the downtown area, what can be done to protect property, how business owners should prepare and how the Bemidji **Police Department** handles threats.

He briefly recounted the events of last week.

"We react based on information, and last week it really evolved," he said. "When I left here on Friday night, there were no concerns."

"It rapidly grew Saturday morning, to the point that we did put out a mutual aid request and asked for extra officers," Mastin said.

Mastin said the mutual aid response was smaller

HIKING

From Page A1

unrestrained wilderness, then there's bound to be a nearby hiking opportunity for you, too.

So, if you're looking for a sign to get out on the trail, look no further. Here's a small taste of what Bemidji and its surrounding areas have to offer both the novice and experienced hiker.

Itasca State Park

oldest state park, having it doesn't mean your hike been established in 1891. has to be short. These It totals more than 32,500 acres and has more than 100 lakes, which makes it a premiere hiking destination for those looking to experience the preserved beauty of the Northwoods. The park has a variety of trails to match individual needs and skill levels and has six miles of paved trails that hikers can share with cyclists. Mississippi Headwaters **Trail:** The trail is 0.5 miles with multiple loops, and the first quarter-mile of trail is along the river and offers views across Lake Itasca. This is an excellent hike for those interested in birding. Dr. Roberts Trail: The trail is a two-mile loop, and hikers can travel through a bog, visit Old Timer's Cabin, and climb a ridge overlooking Lyendeck-er Lake. This is a great hike for those interested in wildflower photography. Ozawindib, Red Pine, and Deer Park Trails Loop: If you're looking for more of a challenge, this trail is for you. Depending on the route you take, you can easily hike anywhere from five to 10 miles. Although you'll be trudging up steep sections of trail along the way, the path takes you through a mix of pine, birch, maple and aspen, as well as various wildflowers.



Minneapolis.

"It was really spread thin," he said. "There was a coordinated effort by people to cause chaos across northern Minnesota last week."

Dumpster questions

Business owners pressed Mastin for more information regarding the dumpsters filled with flammable materials.

He said he could not answer the majority of their questions – where were they found, who found them, how many were there – but he did tell them the concern was

investigation and I can't talk about that," he said.

Management was called in to clear out the dumpsters, and that he spoke directly with a Waste Management employee who told him they smelled gas in a dumpster.

Some business owners raised concerns about the legitimacy of the dumpster complaints, which Mastin did not entertain.

"Just the idea that this is a conspiracy that this didn't happen – and I'll be blunt – pisses me off," he said. "If I can't believe a Waste Management employee, we're in a

personally search the dumpster due to time

a spruce/tamarack bog. While on the boardwalk, hikers can view some of the bog's more unusual plants, such as the carnivorous insect-eating pitch-

trail is a 1-mile loop, and it takes hikers to an overlook that is the highest point on Lake Bemidji. When making your way back, hikers can take a self-guided interpretive trail through a

Paul Bunyan State Trail: Although the park only has Itasca is Minnesota's 1.3 miles of paved trails, trails connect with the Paul Bunyan State Trail, which is the longest of Minnesota's state trails.

trusts the descriptions he was given. "Dumpsters are a target during demonstrations, they absolutely are," he added.

Waste Management response

Waste Management manager of government affairs, Julie Ketchum, said the dumpsters were investigated due to a report from the City of Bemidji.

Ketchum said six dumpsters with accelerants were found, all around the downtown area.

The dumpsters were filled with flammable materials and seemed to include makeshift wicks made from socks soaked in gasoline.

They "likely would've caused significant damage," if the materials were to catch fire, she said. "We were directed by (Beltrami) County to take the materials to a site that they had approved."

She and Mastin both said as a precautionary measure, the dumpsters would be emptied ahead of this weekend.

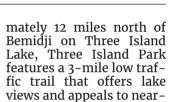
"There is a plan to clean out the dumpsters Saturday morning, so that there's no material there to burn," she said. "Our focus will remain on the downtown area."

Looking ahead

Mastin said he is in full support of protesters being able to exercise their First Amendment rights to peacefully assemble. "I'm a staunch believer

in the First Amendment," he said. "You should be able to demonstrate, you should be able to air your grievances, that's our

riding, hiking, sightseeing



ly all skill levels. Bria Barton is a Travel and Tourism reporter for Forum Communications Co. She can be reached at (218) 333-9798.

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Constitution." Mastin addressed questions regarding a preparedness plan for the upcoming weekend, as another demonstration is scheduled for Saturday.

"The host group for Saturday's event, I personally don't have any concerns for them," he said. "I think they are going to have a good event, I think they are going to stay where they say they're going to stay – in the park."

"I'm just afraid a bit about instigators that want to interject themselves that aren't really part of this group," he added.

Mastin recommended that business owners take steps to protect their property regardless. He suggested boarding up windows and removing tools that could be used to destroy property, such as bricks or flower pots.

"I think we should be planning for something bigger," he said. "Everyone should take steps to protect their property."

Mastin said that this is why the Law Enforcement Center was boarded up, as a precautionary measure, because the city cannot afford to lose essential functions like the 911 dispatch center.

He reminded business owners that Minnesota is not a 'Stand Your Ground' state, and therefore they cannot use deadly force to protect their property.

After addressing citizens' concerns, both Beitel and Mastin said they hoped to continue an open dialogue with the public.

Hannah Olson is a multimedia reporter with the Pioneer. She can be reached at (218) 333-9790.

ing boardwalk through miles north of Bemidji,

the Movil Maze Recreation Area has a 1.6 mile loop trail that is great for most skill levels. The trail offers a number of activity options, from horseback

Three Island Park North Trail: Located approxi-



really bad place." He said he did not

constraints, but that he

er plants. **Rocky Point Trail:** This

maple/basswood forest.

legitimate. "It is part of an Mastin said Waste

Her celebration of life will be held later this summer in Florida at Grace Baptist Church in Deltona, Florida. with interment at Florida National Cemetery with Lloyd.

Garrett Larson

Garrett Otto Larson, 15, of Blackduck, MN died Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at Sanford Bemidji Medical Center, from injuries sustained when struck by a vehicle while getting the mail.

A Celebration of Life will be 2:00 p.m., Saturday, June 6, 2020 at Garrett's home, 30656 Hwy 72 NE, Blackduck, MN with Pastor Peter

Rosenkvist and Pastor Amanda Kossow officiating. Family will greet friends beginning at noon prior to the service.

Due to the current COVID-19 situation, family is understanding to those that are unable to attend. It is an option to wear a mask, but not required. Please bring a lawn chair to sit in.

Guestbook at www.OlsonSchwartzFuneralHome.com

MORE OBITUARIES: Pages A9, A10

Lake Bemidji State Park

The result of the last stage of glaciation in Minnesota, Lake Bemidji State Park offers two miles of wheelchair accessible trails, one mile of self-guided trail and 11 miles of easy to moderate trails that take you through areas of maturing pine, aspen and hardwoods.

Bog Walk Trail: This trail is 1.25 miles one-way and takes hikers along a wind-

Old Logging Trail: This 2.75-mile loop is considered the challenging trail of the bunch. Longer than the rest, the trail carries hikers to the far reaches of the park, taking them up and down various hills along the way.

Other trails around Bemidii

Movil Maze Loop: Located approximately 5



Happy Anniversary, Kristi!

Congratulations to Kristi Larson on her 25th anniversary at First National Bank Bemidji.

Kristi is our Information Technology Administrator. Thank you, Kristi, for guiding us through the complex tools we use every day and helping us offer outstanding products and services to our customers. We're so glad to have you on the team!



