

She let nothing slide



Mom takes boys' bedroom playground to the next level.

in Lifestyle, Page D1

Voter guide

Learn about U.S. Senate and 8th Congressional District candidates.



in News, Pages A8-A9

DULUTH News Tribune

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County proceeds with filmmaking incentive

By Brady Slater

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The St. Louis County Board, offering up the region's history, landscapes and locations, moved ahead with the idea of a filmmaking incentive when it met at Solway Town Hall on Tuesday.

The board voted unanimously to support the concept and direct county administration to further investigate the establishment of a filmmaking rebate. The working concept is taken from other practices around the country and would reimburse productions up to 25% of filmmaking costs spent locally by using a to-be-established \$1 million fund.

"We have to have administration put something together that has clarity," Commissioner Frank Jewell said before the meeting. "It needs to be clear it is spending money in St. Louis County and not spending it anywhere else. It's spending for jobs and businesses here."

The \$1 million framework remained a tough pill for some. "I can't support \$1 million," Board Chair Mike Jugovich told the News Tribune. "We haven't discussed what that even means. If we put \$1 million into it, do we just keep backfilling that money? ... We can't afford to do that."

The resolution adopted by the

board "encourages the state to expand support for the (proposed) Film Production Tax Credit Program." Some commissioners believe the county should let the state take the lead. State legislators are considering incentives up to \$30 million statewide.

The board this week also approved spending \$150,000 from its \$500,000 economic development fund to support the creation of an independent Upper Minnesota Film Office. The office serves as the single point of contact for film productions in the Northland and is currently under the

COUNTY: Page A9



File / News Tribune

Francesca Eastwood gazes down toward Tischer Creek from the bridge at Glensheen during the filming of the movie "Forgotten" in March 2015.

Retirement detoured



Steve Kuchera / skuchera@duluthnews.com

Duluth's finance director Wayne Parson sits on his Can-Am Spyder outside City Hall earlier this month. Parson postponed his retirement when the COVID-19 pandemic struck, but he's now making arrangements to step down by year's end after more than 15 years on the job.

After cancer bout, Duluth finance director stays to help city navigate pandemic

By Peter Passi

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Duluth City Finance Director Wayne Parson returned from a vacation trip to Mexico in February of his year fully prepared to announce his intentions to retire come May, but the COVID-19 pandemic put a kink in those plans.

"I didn't feel comfortable leaving the city without having a solid financial plan moving forward. And hence, I'm still here today," he said.

Of course, his retirement plans were considerably less exciting in the midst of a pandemic, too.

"It's not like I was going to get on a cruise ship any time soon," Parson said. "I had high plans of going to Alaska for the month of August this year, but that clearly got put on the back burner."

Mayor Emily Larson said she knew full well Parson had been laying plans to retire when he asked to meet with her and Chief Administrative Officer Noah Schuchman this spring.

"Wayne was ready. He was ready to retire. He hadn't tendered a resignation, but he came to me and Noah and said, 'I'm willing to stay on a few

more months to help us get through,' and that was actually the ask we were about to make. But, as is often the case with Wayne, he knew what was in the best interests of the organization, and we didn't have to ask," Larson recalled.

Larson described calling together the city's leadership team, including Parson, in March just before Gov. Tim Walz was about to deliver his stay-at-home order.

"I think often, when people consider emergency response, they're thinking about something like an emergency manager, which is really important, and they're thinking about public safety and all those things. But really, one of the very, very first people you should call is your finance person," Larson said.

Battle tested

Parson recalls that when he came aboard at the city finance department in 2005, figuring out how Duluth was going to handle the ballooning costs of retiree benefits was "the first real big crisis" he encountered. Without a change of course, those costs were anticipated to swell to more than \$200 million

— a crushing debt that could have pushed the city to the brink of insolvency.

"That's one of our huge success stories: that we've been able to address and actually fund that liability to the point where it's truly no longer a budget issue for us," Parson said.

But it was just the first in a lengthy string of financial challenges that lay ahead for Parson. A recession ensued during Mayor Don Ness' first term, resulting in a sharp reduction in local government aid. Then, the courts handed down several unfavorable rulings that stopped the flow of millions of dollars in casino revenues the city once collected annually from the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, not to mention a series of intense storms that have caused the city to seek millions of dollars in disaster aid.

The COVID-19 outbreak now has topped off the daunting list of problems Parson has faced down in his career.

"Who in their right mind would take that job?" Larson asked with a droll chuckle.

RETIRE: Page A9

One more time, up the Brule River for dinner

WISCONSIN'S BRULE RIVER

The river slides by silently as we load the canoes for the upstream trip. Food. Cooking gear in the smoke-smudged

canvas bag. A couple small coolers full of food. One dog.

Up we go in the waning daylight of an

October afternoon on this placid river rich in tradition — river families, trout anglers, the fabled Hexagenia mayfly hatch, the spawning grounds of Lake Superior rainbow trout.

Something happens to you when you slip a canoe into the Brule. You become attuned to every subtle change in the movement of your craft. You ease it past the weed beds of late summer and fall. You paddle a bit harder on the swift current of outside bends, slide beneath an overhanging willow.

We will see nobody else on the water. Fishing season is closed now on this part of the river. Gone are the long skeins of summer kayakers bobbing downstream.

It is just our little group — and the immature bald eagle that swoops overhead at Lucius Lake. And the two mature eagles — perhaps mom and dad — sitting in spruce snags along shore, looking as if they're posing for an engraving on a coin.

We are fortunate to know a river family, from whose cabin we have departed. Our

friends are, in a real sense, grandfathered into this river and its traditions. One of those traditions is going upriver to share food with family and friends.

We push upriver and find a hidden shelter beneath a grove of cedars. We tie up the canoes, unload coolers and packs. The two river guides among us kindle a fire in the fire pit and pull blackened pans from the duffel. Now everything is getting right.

We have been coming upriver for these October getaways for a long time. With the change of season come occasional surprises.

One evening, my river friend and I were cooking at this same spot when suddenly the forest floor came alive with movement. Hundreds of chipping sparrows moved through, feeding on the ground as they went. For five minutes, at least, the wave of sparrows kept coming. We watched, spellbound, as they fluttered and rustled in the leaves. Then they were gone, and we could hear the crackling of the fire again. We just looked at each other in amazement.

The river guides wield their tongs now, turning chunks of chicken and steak, moving a big pan of potatoes aside, sauteeing the garden veggies. In their full-time guiding days, they did this on literally hundreds of evenings for fly-fishers who had come to catch a Brule River trout.

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WEATHER, PAGE C6

Today
Rain likely
High: 51 Low: 41

Tomorrow
Partly cloudy
High: 43 Low: 29



Kara Goucher leads charge to remember grandfather

Duluth family patriarch dies of COVID-19

Editor's note: This story was also published in the News Tribune's Monday e-edition.

By Andee Erickson
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Calvin "Cal" Haworth of Duluth knew how to treat all life with dignity.

His granddaughters watched him act that out every day, whether he was rehabilitating injured or orphaned wildlife back into nature or sticking around to cheer on the last runner in a cross-country race long after his own grandchildren had passed.

"He wasn't afraid of anything," Duluth resident Patty Wheeler, one of his three children, said. "I think we all learned that you fight for what you believe in, you speak out and you never give up."

Now his family is speaking up to honor his life and elevate those same values.

Two days after his 96th birthday, on Oct. 6, Haworth died from COVID-19, following the most recent outbreak at Benedictine Living Community-Duluth.

The day before, Haworth's family watched his health rapidly decline as the president said in a tweet



Photo courtesy of Kelly Grgas Wheeler
Calvin Haworth (right) poses with (from left) his wife, Ola Jean Haworth, daughter Patty Wheeler and granddaughters Kelly Grgas Wheeler, Kendall Schoolmeister and Kara Goucher.

to the American people: "Don't be afraid of Covid. Don't let it dominate your life."

"It's truly inconsiderate to tell someone not to be afraid when they're watching someone die," said granddaughter Kelly Grgas Wheeler of Duluth, adding that so many families who lost their loved ones to COVID-19 earlier in the year weren't allowed to be in the same room.

Wheeler's youngest daughter and another one of Haworth's nine grandchildren, Kendall Schoolmeister of Oregon, formerly of Duluth, said it's hurtful to have somebody downplay COVID-19 after it dominated their life.

"Our life will be forever changed from it," Schoolmeister said.

"Some people, their family members are in the hospital for three months. How does that not dominate your life? I'm just mad. I'm dev-

astated, but I'm angry because there's so much other stuff tied to it that normally wouldn't be tied to a 96-year-old dying. His life mattered."

Long-distance runner Kara Goucher, who grew up in Duluth and now lives in Colorado, is the sister of Schoolmeister and Grgas Wheeler. Along with their mother, Goucher's sisters encouraged her to utilize her platform to give a voice to people whose lives have become consumed by COVID-19. Goucher, a Duluth East graduate and U.S. Olympic athlete, has 128,000 followers on Twitter.

"I want people to know who are so dismissive of this that it was a suffering death. It was not peaceful. It was horrible. To write it off as 'they're old' or 'they had underlying health conditions,'" Goucher said. "It was nothing like you hope for your

loved one. ... I actually want people to know."

The day her grandfather would die, Goucher was interviewed by CNN reporter Anderson Cooper and also CBS to discuss her family's experience with COVID-19. Before the interviews, she said, she wanted to back out and stay by her "papa's" side. But both sisters as well as her mother were steadfast: They wanted her to do the interviews.

"I'm glad I did it because now I feel like people are talking," Goucher said. "And I feel like it was a way for us to express our love for him."

'He filled a huge void'

Wheeler's husband was killed by a drunk driver when her three children were younger than 6. So she moved back to Duluth so her parents could help her raise her three girls.

"He filled a huge void in their lives," Wheeler said. "They really grew up with them."

People gravitated toward him. He would fill the role of a grandfather to any of his granddaughters' friends who needed it.

Since his death, the three sisters have heard from countless people, from old teammates and people from his church to the staff at his long-term care facility, about the impact he had on people.

Together he and Wheeler started the Mothers Against Drunk Driving chapter in St. Louis County. When a woman lost her husband, as well as her daughter, to a drunk driver, Haworth was there to hold her hand through the court process.

His family said Haworth, born in 1924, was ahead of his time in that he fully saw women as equal. He held his family to a high standard and is remembered for sticking up for the underdog and the people he cared about. Goucher recalled a high school track race in which boys and girls ran together.

"Every time I tried to pass this boy, he would spit on me, and after the race, he had to suffer the wrath of Calvin Haworth," she said. "He just let him have it."

The progression

On Sept. 24, while on a walk with Goucher, Wheeler got a call saying her father had been diagnosed with COVID-19.

"Our lives changed in a moment because we all immediately got worried," Goucher said.

The next day, they visited Haworth through a window. At the time, he still looked healthy. In the following days, they were told he started showing some signs of illness.

Then on Oct. 1, the

family heard he was doing well, eating and socializing again. But his health took another turn the day after the family had another window visit on his birthday. It was Oct. 4 when a nurse called to say he wasn't going to survive. Two days later, he died with Wheeler and her two oldest daughters in the room, decked out in personal protective equipment.

Until then, Goucher and Grgas Wheeler hadn't sat in a room with their grandfather since before the pandemic.

Despite grieving the loss of her father, Wheeler pivoted the conversation to praise the health care worker who took care of her father while he battled the virus.

Goucher added: "They were so gentle and kind and compassionate with him and so selfless because they can't even be with their families."

Although more than 200,000 Americans have died from the illness and more than 7 million have been infected, Schoolmeister said many in her life did not know anyone who had been personally affected by COVID-19 before they shared their grandfather's story.

"Everybody that we know who knows us personally, now they know someone," she said. "You didn't know anybody? Now you do."

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 709

In compliance with the Law of the State of Minnesota, notice is hereby given that there will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, an Independent School District #709 Special Election.

The Independent School District #709 Special Election is conducted for the purpose of selecting candidates for the following offices:

One Member of the School Board: At-Large (Precincts 1-30, 32-34 and Townships of Gnesen, Lakewood, Normanna, North Star and, Unorg. 2 & 23, and City of Rice Lake).

On Tuesday, November 3, 2020, polling places will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., with the exception of townships having a population of less than five hundred residents that have adopted a resolution establishing a later poll opening, but in all cases no later than 10:00 a.m. (M.S. 204C.05) and/or those townships that have elected to hold the election by mail instead of voting at polling places.

The polls will be open at the following locations:

CITY OF DULUTH POLLING PLACE ADDRESSES:

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2. Lakeside Presbyterian Church (lower level), 4430 McCulloch St.
3. Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 1325 N. 45th Ave. E.
4. Faith Lutheran Church, 1814 N. 51st Ave. E.
5. Lakeview Covenant Church (lower level), 1001 Jean Duluth Rd.
6. Woodland Community Recreation Center, 3211 Allendale Ave.
7. Glen Avon Presbyterian Church (Fellowship Hall) 2105 Woodland Ave.
8. Duluth Congregational Church (lower level), 3833 E. Superior St.
9. Pilgrim Congregational Church (lower level), 2310 E. 4th St.
10. U.M.D. - Kirby, Marshall Performing Arts, 1120 Kirby Dr.
11. Vineyard Christian Fellowship, 1533 W. Arrowhead Rd.
12. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Duluth, 835 W. College St.
13. Mt. Olive Lutheran Church (lower level), 2012 E. Superior St.
14. First Lutheran Church (London Road Entr.), 1100 E. Superior St.
15. Peace United Church (10th Ave. Entr.), 1111 N. 11th Ave. E.
16. First United Methodist Church (Lakeview Social Hall), 230 E. Skyline Pkwy
17. Washington Community Center, 310 N. 1st Ave. W.
18. Lafayette Square (upper level), 3026 Minnesota Ave.
19. Duluth Public Library (Green Room), 520 W. Superior St.
20. Duluth Gospel Tabernacle, 1515 W. Superior St.
21. Lincoln Park Senior Center (lower level), 2014 W. 3rd St.
22. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 410 North Arlington Ave.
23. Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 802 Maple Grove Rd.
24. Christ Lutheran Church (lower level), 2415 Ensign St.
25. St. Lawrence Church, 2410 Morris Thomas Rd.
26. Holy Family Catholic Church, 2430 West 3rd St.
27. Harrison Community Club, 3002 W. 3rd St.
28. City Center West, 5830 Grand Ave.
29. St. James Catholic Church, 721 N. 57th Ave. W.
30. Elim Lutheran Church (Social Hall), 6101 Cody St.
31. Zenith Terrace Community Room, 2 Foxtail Ave.
32. Asbury United Methodist Church, 6822 Grand Ave.
33. Goodfellowship Community Center, 1242 - 88th Ave. W.
34. Gary New Duluth Community Rec Center, 801 - 101st Ave. W.

The following polling places have been designated as part of Independent School District #709 lying outside the corporate limits of the City of Duluth for School Board elections only:

Town of Gnesen (Including Unorganized Precinct 2), Gnesen Community Center, 6356 Howard Gnesen Rd.

Town of Lakewood, Lakewood Town Hall, 3110 Strand Rd.

Town of Normanna, Normanna Town Hall, 6472 French River Rd.

Town of North Star (and Unorganized Precinct 23), Auditor, St. Louis County Courthouse, 100 N. 5th Ave. W, Rm 214, Duluth

City of Rice Lake, Rice Lake City Hall, 4107 West Beyer Rd.

John Magas, Superintendent, Independent School District #709
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