

Rail, continued from front page

"We currently mine a 530-acre site with a wet and dry processing, also located in Curran Township. We ship 1.2 million tons of sand per year from that mine and are currently hauling the sand with trucks 19 miles to a rail loadout in Humbird."

Mitchell explained WP has road agreements in place with municipalities affected by the truck traffic. WP has redone some sections of town roads making them compatible for four-season heavy truck traffic.

"The benefit of this project is it will reduce the number of trucks traveling through the municipalities of Hixton, Alma Center and Merrillan," said Mitchell.

WP's proposal involves conveying sand from the mine site across STH 95, across Curran Coulee Creek into silos before being loaded into rail cars along a rail line 2,300 feet from Curran Coulee Creek.

"There's some significant earth work that will need to be done," said zoning administrator Terry Schmidt.

"The DNR is restricted in a lot of what it can do, I've read," said zoning committee chairman John Chrest. "Do they have the authority to oversee this?"

"The whole area in the spring is a flood plain," noted committee member Hoyt Strandberg, "almost all the way up to 95."

"There's definitely an impact with the floodplain in this area," said Schmidt.

All those who spoke at the public hearing, approximately 11, opposed the CUP. "This preferred project alternative includes a 79-foot by 137-foot bridge being built and 4.7 acres of wetland areas affected with offsite discharge, but there are no plans for runoff treatment," said Curran Township resident Ruth Swenson. "There will be creosote runoff from all the railroad ties; creosote is a known carcinogen. There will be four rail lines across the proposed bridge."

"We were not given the opportunity to speak at the town of Curran meeting. The decision vote was after the discussion with the public unaware a vote would be taken at the Aug. 8 meeting."

According to Sheila Danielson, also speaking in opposition of the CUP request, an open meetings violation complaint was being filed against the town

of Curran Board. "The board didn't properly notify the public of what was to be discussed on its agenda," said Danielson, who also attended the Curran board's Aug. 8 meeting. "When we asked what was being discussed at the meeting we were told there would be a discussion on sand mining and then regular business items. They said no vote would be taken. The meeting wasn't done and a vote was taken - 2 to 1. The CUP petition passed without citizens' knowledge a vote would be taken at the Aug. 8 meeting. Again, the citizens' voices were not heard."

"The town board hadn't seen the plan," said Curran resident Dwight Swenson. "There will be 416 cars placed at this site. The town had two days notice of the CUP petition. The district attorney is being asked to nullify Curran's vote, leaving this a no-vote issue. I urge the committee to consult with corporate counsel and compare with the Hall's Creek petition."

Chrest said he has concerns with the proposal. "But, what they're doing is to protect the creek," said Chrest. "It's just a building of a bridge. We build bridges all time." "I think we don't have enough information," said zoning committee member Michelle Greendeer-Rave. "We did do a site visit. I'd like to see the area after this recent rain."

"We had short notice from the county on behalf of the CUP notice," said zoning committee member and Curran Town Board member Alton Staff. "When the meeting notice went out, they didn't have the CUP application. As far as tabling it, I don't know if that's necessary."

"I never heard of a vote," said Mitchell. "I was there for the whole meeting. I had asked if the meeting was done and they said it was, so I left."

"You weren't there and we did vote after we approved the bills; that's our normal process," "I don't know if anything's been filed or not," Staff explained.

"We could ask more information be brought forward," said Chrest.

The committee unanimously agreed to table the request until additional information was provided.

'They saved my life that day'

By JoDee Brooke

It was back in July when Harald Morken of Black River Falls headed out to his property about 18 miles from his home. He was going out to pick up some mail and also to pick raspberries.

Harald is a Family & Children's Center's (FCC) community support program (CSP) participant. The CSP helps people to live independently in the community they call home. "He can go when and where he wants to," shared Kathy Rohr, FCC Adult Program for Wisconsin director. "We help him make safe choices."

FCC staff member Carol Jarrett has worked with Harald for nearly 10 years. Every morning, Carol stops by and checks on Harald. "I stopped about 7:30 that morning," she remembered. "He's almost always here, but he wasn't there that day. We know he often goes out to his farm, so I left a note on his door, told him I had been here and told him to call me when he got home."

It got to be around noon and Carol hadn't heard from Harald and she was becoming more concerned.

"So we decided we'd try to find out if he was out at his other property," she explained. "I drove out there, and Kayleigh Marten went with me. It was one of those really hot, humid days. It was so hot. We couldn't see the buildings because they're farther back. I think Harald heard my car door slam. I heard him hollering for help. This was about 12:30, a little

after noon. I told him, 'We can't find you unless you keep telling me where you are so I can hear you.'"

Carol and Kayleigh found Harald in some tall grass in amongst his raspberry bushes up against an old shed.

"I was very thirsty," Harald remembered. "I had fallen down and I just couldn't get up."

Harald had fallen in a difficult spot to maneuver him out of. "It was just the two of us so we used a blanket to pull him out," said Carol. "We gave him little sips of our water. I had a first aid kit in my car with an ice pack in it, so we held that on him, trying to cool him down. He was very warm. There was poor phone reception but we called 9-1-1. There was a certain spot in the driveway where we could get service. We had to call the office to get the exact address. Melrose First Responders were the first to get there and that was a relief, just having the wait be done and having someone else there with us."

With only two first responders, Carol and Kayleigh helped get a backboard under Harald.

"We were out there in flip flops and capris. Kayleigh was worried about snakes and I was worried about that wild parsnip, that weed that makes you swell up," shared Carol. "It seemed like forever before anyone got there. It wasn't, but it was such a relief once the first responders got there."

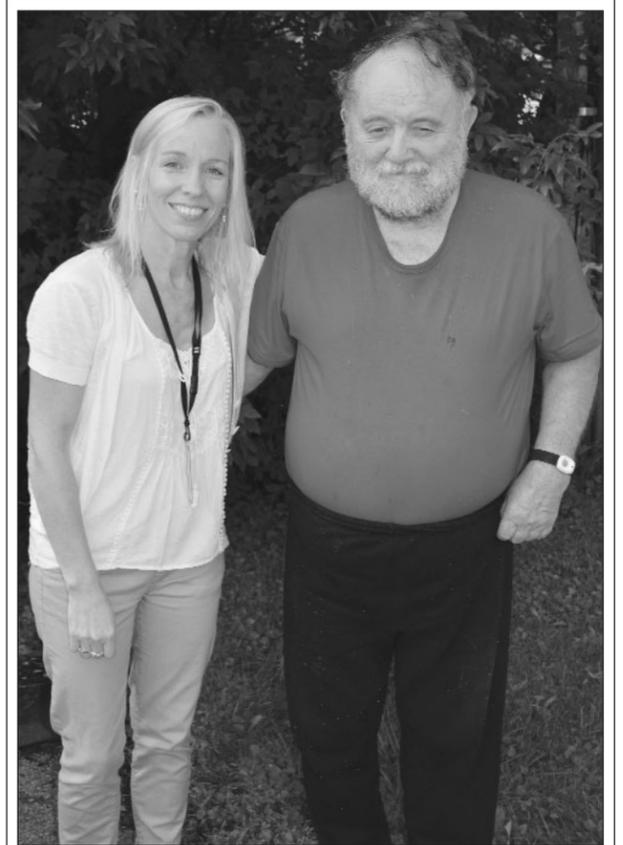
Harald spent two days

in the hospital, but he is doing fine now and Carol still stops in every morning to check on him.

"I just kept thinking, how long had he been there and what would have happened if we hadn't found him when we did."

"They saved my life that day," he said quietly. "I was having trouble getting up. And, it was hot out."

When asked what he did with all the raspberries he'd picked that morning, Harald patted his belly and said, "I canned 'em."



JoDee Brooke/Banner Journal

Harald Morken, 72, is a pretty lucky man. While picking raspberries on his farm outside of Black River Falls about 18 miles, Harald fell and was unable to get up. It was one of those very hot, humid days in July. When Carol Jarrett, Family & Children's Center staff member made her morning stop to check on Harald and still hadn't heard from him at noon, her concern prompted her to drive out to look for him. "They saved my life," Harald shared.

32nd annual Highground Bicycle Tour raises over \$42,000

Riders from across Wisconsin joined together at The Highground Aug. 7 to celebrate the completion of the 32nd annual Bicycle Tour.

Each of the four routes began its journey to The Highground Veterans Memorial Park days earlier. The bicycle riders obtained pledges and donations for their trip from individual and corporate sponsors.

The Western Route, originating from New Richmond, was led by Randy Meyer and Jerry Simon. The Eastern Route, from Appleton/Norman area, was led by Richard and Becky Schleis. The Southern Route from Madison was led by Andrew and Nicole Smith. The Northern Route, starting in Hayward (with some rid-

ers pedaling from Neillsville to Hayward to begin their tour), was led by Mike and Kathy Gleisner.

Over \$42,000 was raised, which will help The Highground continue its mission of education and healing.

Sponsors of The Highground Bicycle Tour were WCCN 107.5, Citizens State Bank of Loyal, Scheels of

Eau Claire, Menzner Lumber & Supply, Stones Throw Supper Club, Apple Valley Bar 'N Grill, Urban Sales & Service, Neillsville Lions Club, Prince Corporation, H & S Manufacturing, A & B Process Systems, Anderson Heating, The Sports Den, ARC, Inc., United FCS Bank, Premium Waters, JBC Printing and

Thibaudeau-Drossert American Legion #319 of Casco. Pizza Hut, a new sponsor for the Bicycle Tour, provided and served the "Journey's End" lunch for the 115 riders.

The 33rd Annual Highground Bike Tour will be held in August of 2017 (tentatively scheduled Aug. 4-6, 2017).

For Goodness' Sakes

The following are some of the needs in the area this week:

A family is in need of a coffee table. To donate, contact Valerie at 715.284.2622, ext. 5162.

A family is in need of a queen-size mattress and box spring. To donate, contact Amanda at 715.284.4301, ext. 388.

A family is in need of a couch and a full/queen-size

bed. To donate, contact Cherish at 715.284.4301, ext. 355.

A family is in need of a bed (single or full size), refrigerator and dresser. To donate, contact Jessica at 715.284.4301, ext. 308.

A family is in need of two twin beds or bunk beds. To donate, contact Jen at 715.284.4301, ext. 309.

A family is in need of two twin beds and a dresser.

To donate, contact Bethany at 715.284.4301, ext. 389.

Referrals are accepted from helping professionals. Anyone wanting to request assistance from professionals (teacher, church staff, doctor/nurse) and doesn't know how to make a referral should call Jackson County Health and Human Services and ask for Lyn. The phone number is 715.284.4301, or email lynette.gates@co.jackson.wi.us.

Be sure to put "for goodness sakes" in the subject line of the email.



ADRC
Aging & Disability Resource Center
of Western Wisconsin

**Walk-In/
Office
Availability
Changes
Sept. 1, 2016**

The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Western Wisconsin will be changing the walk-in/office availability in some locations beginning on Sept 1, 2016. The ADRC will continue to be available by phone from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday by calling 1-800-500-3910. The reason for this change in walk-in availability is to improve staff's availability to provide timely follow-up to clients needing quick response. The ADRC office in Black River Falls located at 420 Highway 54 West, Black River Falls will be open the following times beginning September 1:

- Mondays: 8:00am to 4:30pm
- Tuesdays: 8:00am to 4:30pm
- Thursdays: 8:00am to 4:30pm

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