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DAILY GLOBE

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IRONWOOD, MICHIGAN — VOLUME 93, EDITION 101

75 CENTS



Daily Globe File Photo

Richard Schmidt, of Mercer, Wis., is celebrating 53 years of being a fireman, having served as a fireman since 1959. Schmidt began as a fireman for the Mercer volunteer department in 1970. He also has performed as a clown since the 1960s at local parades and various events.

Mercer firefighter logs more than 50 years of service

By CORTNEY OFSTAD
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MERCER, Wis. — For more than 50 years, Richard Schmidt has pursued his passion, something he has called “rewarding.”

Since 1959, Schmidt has been a volunteer firefighter, because he liked “playing with fire.”

“As the old head doctors would say, there is a thin line between arsonist and firefighter,” Schmidt said.

Schmidt began as a fireman in his hometown of Hillside, Ill., in 1959. His family vacationed frequently in Mercer and he decided to move there.

“I just thought that people were nuts if they wanted to live anywhere else than Mercer,” Schmidt said.

Bwginning in 1970, Schmidt became involved with the Mercer Volunteer Fire Department. He also served on the Presque Isle, Wis., volunteer department, as well as the Winchester, Wis., department.

According to Schmidt, over time he began taking his knowl-

edge of firefighting and spreading it around, including introducing dry hydrants to local departments and the idea of water fights.

He also was a fire training instructor for the Winchester Volunteer Fire Department, and taught at Nicolet College for 10 years, part-time. He is a certified arson investigator, and teaches hunter safety for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on the side.

As for the rest of his free time, Schmidt has a hobby that he has done nearly as long as firefighting, performing as a clown in local parades and events. However, he soon may be handing over his big shoes and big red nose to his son.



Richard Schmidt

(See SCHMIDT — Page 2)

Lawsuit filed to halt Wildcat Falls swap

By RALPH ANSAMI
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WATERSMEET — A lawsuit has been filed in federal court an attempt to halt the Ottawa National Forest land swap that would turn Wildcat Falls near Watersmeet into private property.

Two weeks ago, the U.S. Forest Service denied an appeal of the exchange, involving 240 acres of national forest parcels, including Wildcat Falls, in the Watersmeet area. It's being traded for 420 acres of mostly cut-over acreage owned by Robert Delich, of Wakefield, near the

Porcupine Mountains.

Regional Forester Charles L. Myers, of Milwaukee, the deciding officer, denied the appeal from the Partners in Forestry.

Joe Hovel, of Conover, Wis., representing Partners in Forestry, said Friday, “This project demonstrates a tragic loss to the public and is a disgrace to the Ottawa National Forest. The loss of the intrinsic values of these unique features, as well as the lands, for less than the economic timber value represents an ill-conceived decision... It is very disappointing that the Regional Forester affirmed the decision

and ignored the public outcry.”

PIF had previously successfully appealed the swap, but Ottawa supervisor Anthony Scardina signed a legal notice in the Daily Globe on Jan. 12, finding no significant impact with the exchange.

Hovel said the citizen plaintiffs in the lawsuit filed against the U.S. Forest Service are represented by Marianne Dugan, of Eugene, Ore., an attorney specializing in the National Environmental Policy Act.

Hovel claims the appraised value of the Delich parcel to be acquired in the trade is \$316,000,

and the value of the public land to be traded is \$290,000, with the Forest Service to make up the \$26,000 difference in a cash payment to Delich.

PIF board member Rod Shar-ka said public involvement was ignored in the process.

There were 36 comments against the land swap, while only one person favored the deal, Hovel said.

An April 1 vigil at the waterfalls, northwest of Watersmeet, was attended by more than 100 people.

(See SWAP — Page 2)

May 5 scheduled for start of Ontonagon County cancer drive

By JAN TUCKER
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ONTONAGON — Hundreds of volunteers will visit door-to-door in Ontonagon County beginning May 5 for the annual Cancer Association Fund drive.

Volunteers will provide information about cancer, and the organization which uses its funds to assist patients in the county with cancer-related bills.

“Ninety-five percent of all the funds collected in the drive are used directly for county patients

and 5 percent go for a research facility which benefits the Upper Peninsula,” Bev Meagher, Cancer Association president, said.

She said the most important thing the fund drive volunteers do is bring a brochure which outlines where patients can get the financial help, other services offered by the cancer support group and a life-saving message about a particular cancer. “This year our brochure highlights childhood cancer,” Meagher

explained.

The information notes 98 percent of cancers develop in adults, especially in the middle age group. About one in every six adults will develop cancer in a lifetime, while one in 300 boys and one in 333 girls will develop cancer before the age of 20.

Signs and symptoms are discussed, as well.

Meagher said with tough economic times and high unemployment, there may be people in the area unable to donate to the

drive, but the more important thing is to accept the brochure, read it and keep it handy. “You can also pass the information on to family members,” she said.

The brochure also lists the Cancer Association’s financial information. “We are completely open with our finances,” she added.

Money received from memorials is used for preventative services, such as mammograms and

(See DRIVE — Page 2)

Ironwood Township commission hears ideas for master plan

By CORTNEY OFSTAD
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IRONWOOD TOWNSHIP — Ideas for Ironwood Township’s master plan were exchanged during a public hearing hosted by the planning commission Thursday.

According to Patrick J. Coleman, urban and town planner for U.P. Engineers and Architects, Inc., the company hired to create the master plan, not a lot of people attended the event, but he said some “great ideas were shared.”

“We had great input,” Coleman said. “We had a decent response overall, and I think that the event went very well. People were excited to have the ability to speak to the planning commission on different things that they would like to see.”

Some issues facing the township include roads, pedestrian connectivity, public trails and the potential loss of open space and land traditionally used for outdoor recreation to rural residential development.

UPEA and the planning commission used data from a survey taken by local residents to use in making changes to the master plan.

Jason Hofstede, planning commission chairman, said, “The presentation was extremely complete and comprehensive from my point of view, and hopefully we’ll get more community input in the future.”

The public will have 60 days to review the master plan once the current draft is completed. Hofstede said people can also express input during planning commission meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for May 17 at the township hall.

“The public can come in and review it and have input on things that they would like to



Cortney Ofstad/Daily Globe

Jason Hofstede, left, chairman of the Ironwood Township Planning Commission, reviews a map of the township with Matt Bergeon, center, planner, and Patrick J. Coleman, urban and town planner, both from U.P. Engineers and Architects, Inc., before the public hearing on the township’s master plan Thursday. The hearing was conducted to receive input from residents on different aspects of the master plan, including roads, recreation and other aspects.

see, during that review period,” Hofstede said. “Otherwise, people can always express input during one of the planning commission meetings. The more public involvement we have the better, because then we, as a planning commission, can better satisfy the needs of the public.”

“This project is to better serve the future of the township, and we hope to get more involvement from the public.”

For more information on the master plan, or to contribute ideas, call the Ironwood Township office at 906-932-5800.

INSIDE



USA WEEKEND

Seven secrets to sweet, lasting romance

— Today in the Daily Globe

YOUR TURN / HISTORY



Bessemer Area Historical Society member Jim Gheller teaches third graders from Washington School about Bessemer’s past at the Bessemer Area Heritage Center. Students are, from left, Andrea Herandez, Angelo Harville and Brenden Aspinwall. Sherri Nyquist’s third grade class visited the museum to learn about local mining history.

Submitted photo

INSIDE

Tigers’ Delmon Young arrested after argument, scuffle outside team’s NY hotel

—Details, page 9

INDEX

- Church 6
- Classifieds . . 13-15
- Comics 16
- Community 5
- Obituaries 7
- Opinion 4
- Outdoors 8
- Sports 9-10,15

WEATHER

Friday
 High 45
 Low 23

Year ago today
 High 39
 Low 31

Records
 High 86 (1952)
 Low 17 (1909)

Precipitation
 To 7 a.m. Friday: .03 in.
Total Snowfall
 This season: 114 inches
 Year ago: 167.5 inches

—DETAILS, PAGE 2



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