

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Three Wisconsin lawmakers are introducing legislation to allow larger models of all-terrain vehicles on state trails. Current state law says ATVs on Wisconsin trails can be up to 48 inches wide. But many 2009 models are 2 inches wider, an adjustment believed to make them more stable. Rep. Ann Hraychuck is a Democrat representing Balsam Lake in northern Wisconsin. She says people who own the bigger machines have complained after they found out the machines are only allowed on private land, not state trails. She says expanding the state limits would help bring recreational income into Wisconsin. The measure is co-sponsored by Democratic state Sen. Jim Holperin and Republican state Rep. Scott Suder.

**RAPE COLD
CASE SOLVED**

PASCAGOULA, Miss. (AP) — Investigators say a woman who was raped as a young teen "cried tears of joy" when police arrested a Pascagoula man 19 years after the crime. Lester Jerome Selmon is accused of breaking into an apartment on May 30, 1990, and raping a then-15-year-old girl who had been asleep in her bed. The 47-year-old suspect was booked last week with one count each of rape and burglary and is being held on \$2 million bail at the Pascagoula Municipal Jail. Police plan to reopen at least two other unsolved cases for a possible connection to Selmon.

DELAY GRANTED

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Michael Jackson's mother and ex-wife will have time to reach an agreement over who will take care of the singer's three children. For the second time, Katherine Jackson and Deborah Rowe joined to seek a delay in a hearing that could decide who gets custody of the pop superstar's children. A guardianship hearing scheduled for Monday has been delayed for a week, an attorney said Friday. Katherine Jackson will remain the temporary guardian of her son's three children, who range in ages from 7 to 12.

DEATHS

Hibbing
Charles Miller

Keewatin
George Rajkovich Sr.

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A job well done

■ Muhich to leave Hibbing after 11 years

by Matt Nelson
HDT Intern

HIBBING — Peter Muhich and Francis Kabiru began their priesthoods in Hibbing nine years apart. During their first year, both had one thing in common; neither was certain what to expect. Kabiru, originally from Kenya, had been ordained a priest in 2007. Hibbing was his first assignment, and like any person new to a job, had some nerves about presiding at his first mass. "I grew up attending mass, but it's so different when you do it," said Kabiru. "It's very weird... Of course, you're self-conscious of doing it right." Muhich, who came to Hibbing in 1998, had the benefit of more experience. He had worked with several other parishes, including Proctor, where he learned how to run a school. Muhich, said that he had been enthusiastic about his assignment. "I was happy to come back to the Iron Range," said Muhich, originally from Eveleth. Muhich, however, was aware of the difficult job ahead of him. Then-Bishop Roger Schwietz had sought a solution for shifting populations as well as declining numbers of priests, and had decided to cluster some cities, said Muhich. At the time, Hibbing had three distinct

parishes and two Catholic schools. "In Hibbing, (the bishop) decided that they should become one parish with one school," said Muhich. "That was the extent of his decision." How Muhich would actually accomplish that task was unclear. While parishioners knew they would be combined, they did not know how. Muhich was sent to assess the situation on the ground and work with the community to determine the best way to move forward. Muhich spent the first year as the pastor of three parishes — Blessed Sacrament, Immaculate Conception, and St. Leo's. He said that year was very difficult because each organization had their own way of doing things. At the end of the first year, the three churches consolidated on a structural level, which Muhich said "made it a lot easier to run the place." Kabiru dealt with his own adjustments his first year, most notably, with the fierce Minnesota winters. "My toughest winter was two winters ago — I got very sick," said Kabiru. "I think the worst is when the roads are icy."

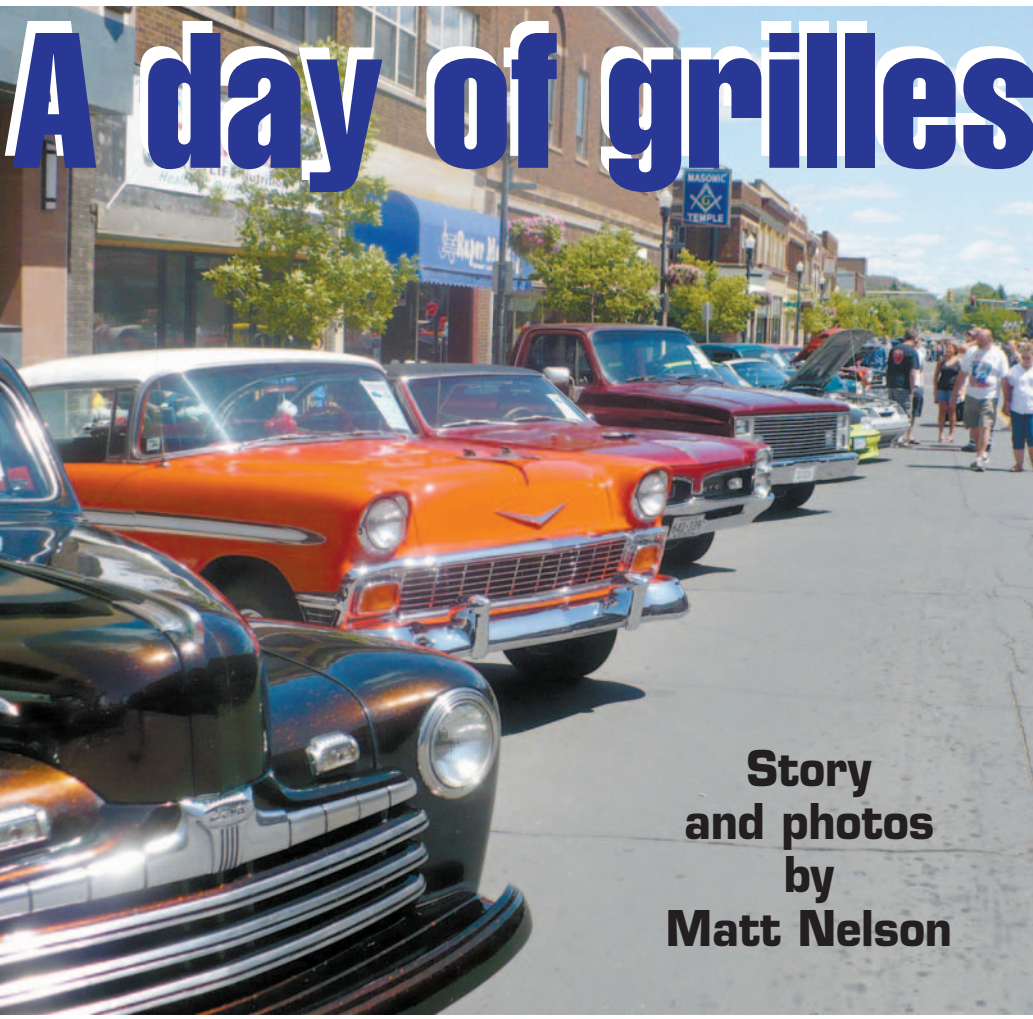
Kabiru said that the first time he visited Minnesota had been in the summer of 2004, when the bishop asked him if he

See Job, Page A5



Matt Nelson
The Rev. Francis Kabiru (left) and the Rev. Peter Muhich (right) will be leaving Blessed Sacrament parish in Hibbing. Muhich has worked in Hibbing for 11 years and helped transition the Catholic community from three parishes to one.

A day of grilles and grills



Story and photos by Matt Nelson

Howard Street was transformed Saturday into an automobile avenue of vivid paint jobs, glaring fenders and proud owners of classic cars. The second annual Brick Yard Car Cruise and Grill took place on Howard Street on Saturday. The event was held in conjunction with the local ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) Foundation, and a portion of the proceeds from the Brick Yard's burger baskets and silent auction went directly toward patient care. Bill Starcevic brought his 1929 red Ford out onto the street. He said he purchased the vehicle 40 years ago, spending a total of three years in restoring it. The Ford is one of three classic cars that Starcevic has restored. "I like working on them," he said. "It's a hobby." Starcevic said he likes the car shows because it is a way to get ideas for restoring cars as well as a good chance to

meet people. Elton Port, director of the Iron Range walk for ALS, and his son, Alan, helped coordinate the event with the Minnesota ALS Association. "It's a lot of work," said Alan. He said that money raised goes toward patient services, equipment, wheelchairs, as well as research. Elton became involved with the Minnesota ALS Association when his sister, Doris, was diagnosed with ALS. Elton said about the event, "I love it. It's nice to see these antique cars — I love 'em, and it's great to see people supporting our cause." The show had more than 70 entries, most of which came from the Shifter's Car Club or Squires. The silent auction also contained several items unique to the show, including socket wrenches, car polish, wheel cleaner, and more pricey items

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A particularly classy addition to the car show was a 1940 Chevrolet Cabriolet, which had been outfitted with a Corvette motor.



Above, onlookers gaze at dozens of classic cars displayed on Howard Street Saturday as part of the second annual Brick Yard Car Cruise and Grill. At right, Brandon Lightly, 9, said he liked this mustang because it looked like a character from the Transformers movies.



Talks intensify over closing Calif.'s \$26B deficit

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Against a backdrop of IOUs and expanding government furloughs, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and legislative leaders expressed optimism Saturday that they were moving toward a compromise that could end California's fiscal calamity.

Negotiations to close the state's \$26.3 billion deficit restarted after two weeks of inaction and partisan bickering. Top lawmakers from both parties said a budget-balancing deal was possible in the coming week.

"I would say we're getting very close to a general framework, but there are still outlying questions," said Assembly Minority Leader Sam Blakeslee, a San Luis Obispo Republican, after emerging from a closed-door meeting between lawmakers and Schwarzenegger.

They negotiated about 2 1/2 hours Saturday before ending talks for the day. They were expected to return to the Capitol on Sunday.

Negotiations centered on the extent of budget cuts — which are expected to range from \$14 billion to \$15 billion — and what other steps might be taken to close the deficit.

The shortfall, which is the difference between the amount of tax money coming into the state and its previously approved spending obligations, amounts to more than a quarter of California's general fund, its main account for paying operating expenses.

Schwarzenegger and Republican lawmakers also want reforms to welfare, pension, health care and in-home supportive service programs. They say preventing waste and abuse will save the state money, which in turn can be used to prevent cuts elsewhere in the budget. The governor's office has estimated its reform proposals will save \$1.7 billion this fiscal year alone.

Democrats have criticized the reform proposals as peripheral issues that do not have a direct effect on the immediate budget deficit. They also say Schwarzenegger has overstated the savings.

"There's a general appreciation that many of these reforms will produce savings, but we want to make sure we approach them in a thoughtful



Associated Press
Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, D-Los Angeles, talks with reporters as she and Assembly Minority Leader Sam Blakeslee, R-San Luis Obispo leave Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's Capitol office during a break in a budget negotiations in Sacramento, Calif., Friday.

manner," Blakeslee said. Despite the differences, both Democratic leaders appeared upbeat as they left Schwarzenegger's office after a second round of talks that began Friday night.

Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, who walked out of negotiations earlier in the week, said there did not appear to be any insurmountable obstacles to reaching a deal. She described the talks as complicated.

"I think what has happened over the last 48 hours has been the most productive in the last several weeks," the Los Angeles Democrat said. "We are just not finished."

Besides the welfare and social service reforms, education funding is one of the key negotiating points. Lawmakers are trying to decide whether it can be cut and, if so, by how much. Funding for K-12 schools and community colleges accounts for roughly half of annual state spending.

The possibility of a breakthrough in resolving California's mammoth budget short-

fall comes a week after the state began issuing IOUs to thousands of vendors as a cash-saving move. State workers also have begun taking three days off a month without pay, cutting the salaries of more than 200,000 government employees by 14 percent.

The state's fiscal picture has become progressively worse since Schwarzenegger and lawmakers passed the budget for the current fiscal year last February during an unusual midyear session.

Personal income taxes declined 34 percent during the first five months of the year, a slide that has accelerated as the recession continues to strangle California's economy.

On Friday, the state controller's office reported the state had spent \$10.4 billion more than it collected in the fiscal year that ended June 30. It is now without sufficient cash to cover all of its payment obligations.

If the budget isn't balanced by late August, the state will have to defer payments to its pension funds and may issue

IOUs instead of paychecks to state employees.

The unprecedented drop in tax revenue is forcing Schwarzenegger and lawmakers to make difficult choices, with deep cuts proposed to education, health and social service programs.

At the same time, Schwarzenegger and Republican lawmakers are standing fast against additional tax increases, limiting lawmakers' options for closing the deficit.

The two-year budget package approved in February increased sales, personal income and vehicle license taxes, and Republicans say the state's economy cannot absorb additional tax hikes.

While the governor and lawmakers try to reach a compromise, some of the state contractors who are being issued IOUs will have to start scrambling to find banks that will cash the warrants. Bank of America Corp. and other major banks said Friday was the last day they would honor the IOUs, which cannot be redeemed until Oct. 2.

Job: Farewell reception for priests planned today

From Page A1

would be interested in serving there.

"If I had known how winter would be, maybe I would have changed my mind," Kabiru joked. "Sometimes I say that God duped me."

In Muhich's ensuing years in Hibbing, the Assumption and St. Leo's schools also began to be run as one organization.

An architectural engineering study was conducted to find out the cost of maintaining the three churches; it amounted to 9 million dollars.

"We couldn't afford to have three different buildings with two schools," said Muhich. "The only thing that made sense was to put everyone into Assumption school."

The decision to close St. Leo's was not easy.

"The challenge was to explain it to the people... who were about to lose their church and school and explain why that decision was necessary, even though it was painful," said Muhich. "We also had to explain to the people of the other two parishes that we had to make room, to be together now... that we were one parish. We were that legally, but to be that way in everyday life is a whole different proposition."

Ultimately, Muhich felt that people really came together with the building project, which constructed a new Assumption School, connected Blessed Sacrament Church to the school, and renovated the old school into parish offices. The project was funded largely by parishioners in Hibbing, or former Hibbing parishioners, he said.

"The building project gave us a chance to address a whole range of needs, from handicap accessibility, to traffic flow," said Muhich. "There's all kinds of things that happened because we took our time."

The history of the Catholic community in Hibbing was heavily incorporated into the renovations; Assumption's old gym became St. Leo's Hall, a

social gathering place for church members. Statues from the Blessed Sacrament Church in North Hibbing were restored and put on display in the school after sitting in storage for decades. The foundation of the school's entrance was built on the foundation of the convent, which was demolished in 2003.

"The nuns are still supporting us," Muhich joked.

He thinks the building project has turned out well.

"It worked great. People seem to really like being in the space," he said. "I can see people socializing with each other more and using the places we have for social events."

Kabiru is being sent to Grand Rapids, while Muhich is being assigned to the cathedral parish in Duluth.

"This was my first assignment as a priest," said Kabiru. "I feel I have learned a lot, grown a lot. There are wonderful people in this parish... I'm moving to Grand Rapids with even more confidence of my ministry as a priest."

"I will be sad to leave," said Muhich, who had not been expecting the change for another couple years. "I will miss Hibbing, it's a good place. We've had to do some really challenging things, but we've been able to do a lot together... I can leave with a sense that we used our time and resources well and that the church is healthy here. A lot of the credit goes to the people."

Gabriel Waweru, of Kenya, and Ryan Moravitz, originally of Ely, will be replacing the pair.

"The parish is saying goodbye to a Ranger and a Kenyan, and they're getting a Kenyan and a Ranger," joked Muhich.

The last construction of the building project will be completed by the end of the summer.

A farewell reception will be held for Muhich and Kabiru Sunday (today), July 12, from noon to 2 p.m. in St. Leo's Social Hall.

Day: Classic car show held

From Page A1

such as two sets of four tickets of reserve seating for a Twins game, and a National Football League Football signed by Adrian Peterson.

"We hope it helps find a cure," said Sherri Murawski, daughter of Doris Port.

The Walk to Defeat ALS will be held in September.

The cars served as pleasant reminders of the past for some spectators; Gordon Jacobson remembered the first new car he had bought, a '65 Chevy.

"They're all kind of interesting to look at," Jacobson said. Melissa Lighty, 9, walked up and down the street.

"I think they're pretty cool," she said.

Disease-carrying mosquitoes turn up in Twin Cities area

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — The Metropolitan Mosquito Control District says a new disease-carrying mosquito has arrived in the Twin Cities area.

The Japanese rock pool mosquito can carry the West Nile virus and LaCrosse encephalitis.

It was recently discovered in Burnsville, Cottage Grove, Eagan, Eureka Township, Lake

Elmo, Lakeville and Savage.

The mosquito was accidentally imported into the U.S. several years ago and has been spreading ever since. It was already established in five southeastern Minnesota counties.

Experts say the best ways to prevent being bitten are to cover open skin and wear bug repellent outside.

Kids recant abuse claims after dad jailed 20 years

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP) — Former Vancouver police officer Clyde Ray Spencer spent nearly 20 years in prison after he was convicted of sexually molesting his son and daughter. Now, the children say it never happened.

Matthew Spencer and Kathryn Tetz, who live in Sacramento, Calif., each took the stand Friday in Clark County Superior Court to clear their father's name, The Columbian newspaper reported.

Matthew, now 33, was 9 years old at the time. He told a judge he made the allegation after months of insistent questioning by now-retired Clark County sheriff's detective Sharon Krause just so she would leave him alone.

Tetz, 30, said she doesn't remember what she told Krause back in 1985, but she remembers Krause buying her ice cream. She said that when she finally read the police reports she was "absolutely sure" the abuse never happened.

"I would have remembered something that graphic, that violent," Tetz said.

Spencer's sentence was commuted by then-Gov. Gary

Locke in 2004 after questions arose about his conviction. Among other problems, prosecutors withheld medical exams that showed no evidence of abuse, even though Krause claimed the abuse was repeated and violent.

Despite the commutation, Spencer remains a convicted sex offender. He is hoping to have the convictions overturned.

Krause declined an interview request from The Columbian in 2005 and could not be reached Friday, the newspaper reported.

Both children said that while growing up in California they were told by their mother, who divorced Spencer before he was charged, that they were blocking out the memory of the abuse.

They said they realized as adults the abuse never happened, and they came forward because it was the right thing to do.

Prosecutors aren't yet conceding that Spencer was wrongly convicted. Senior deputy prosecutor Kim Farr grilled the children about why they are so certain they weren't abused, and chief criminal

deputy prosecutor Dennis Hunter said that if the convictions are tossed, his office might appeal to the state Supreme Court.

Matthew Spencer said his father had ruined the relationship with his mother and he had faults, "but none of them were molesting children."

Friday's hearing paved the way for the state Court of Appeals to allow Spencer to withdraw the no-contest pleas he entered in 1985 and have his convictions vacated. Both children had previously filed statements with the appeals court, but the judges required the hearing to ensure their new

testimony held up under cross-examination.

Spencer, 61, hugged his son and daughter afterward while a dozen supporters cheered.

"For so many years, nothing went right," he said. "When things keep going right, I keep waiting for the other shoe to drop."

The hardest thing about his ordeal was missing his children, he said.

"They were my life, and they were taken away from me," he said. "I could serve in prison. ..."

His voice trailed off, and his son came up for one more hug.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended the benefit for Wesley or helped in anyway.

Special thanks to Jim and to our son, Jeremy and his wife, Stacia, for all the trips to Duluth. Thank you so much and God bless you all!

Wesley and Debbie Fosso

09092004HDT

POLICE OFFICER

The City of Hibbing, MN, pop. 17,071 is establishing an employment eligibility list for the position of Patrol Officer. Starting salary is approximately \$41,149 per year (1/1/2009).

Applicants must have successfully completed a certified two-year or four-year post-secondary law enforcement academic program and skills training course required by the Minnesota Peace Officers Standards and Training Board, and passed the licensing examination required by M.S. 626.845; or possess a valid Minnesota Peace Officer License. Applicants must be a U.S. citizen, must have or be able to obtain a valid driver's license, must not have been convicted of a felony and must be in good physical condition.

Qualified candidates may request an application from the City of Hibbing Police Department at 1810 12th Ave. E, Hibbing, MN 55746, or by e-mail at police@ci.hibbing.mn.us or by calling 218-262-0263 Monday-Friday between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm. The application can also be obtained on the City of Hibbing web site at www.hibbing.mn.us Submit application/resume by 5:00 pm, July 17, 2009.

Barbara A Mitchell **Mike Raich** Secretary
 Chief of Police Hibbing Police Commission

09092009HDT

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Hibbing City Council Summer Meeting Schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, July 15, 2009 at 6:00 PM
Wednesday, August 19, 2009 at 6:00 PM

Meetings are held in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,
 Sharon Ross
 Administrative/Council Assistant

09090034HDT

PUBLIC NOTICE OF HIBBING PUBLIC UTILITIES SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

The Hibbing Public Utilities Commission is hereby giving public notice that there will be a special meeting held on Tuesday, July 14, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. for purposes of a public forum regarding Hibbing Public Utilities Dust/Noise Issues.

The above-mentioned meeting will be at the administrative building in the Commission meeting room.

BY ORDER OF
HIBBING PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
 KEVIN M. GARGANO,
 Commission Secretary & Director of Finance

09091813HDT