

PALIN: ALASKA TOUR IS THANKS, NOT GOODBYE

UNALAKLEET, Alaska (AP)

— She was greeted like a rock star in Unalakleet, a fishing village on the Bering Sea. She danced with Eskimos in Kotzebue.



And she Alaska Gov. watched Sarah Palin grizzlies

at a wildlife sanctuary on the Kenai Peninsula. In all, Sarah Palin has been on eight trips outside her Anchorage base since announcing her resignation two weeks ago. Is this a farewell tour, the start of a possible presidential campaign for 2012? Palin insists it isn't, although she still won't say what plans she has after she steps down as Alaska governor on July 26, with 18 months left to her first term. "I am Alaskan. I've grown up here and I'm going to remain in Alaska," she told The Associated Press in an interview. "It's not farewell, it's more like thanks for letting me be here and I'll see you soon." Palin said she is eager to begin life as a private citizen. "Once I am 'Sarah Palin, Alaskan,' I can really call it like I see it," she said.

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Waste not the wood ash



Matt Nelson

Extension Educator Kendall Dykhuis stands in Hibbing farmer Larry Manner's knee-high field of alfalfa. The field was fertilized with wood ash from the Laurentian Energy Authority's Biomass operation in 2008 as part of the Beneficial Wood Ash Program. Wood ash provides natural nutrients to the soil and has been used as a liming agent.

Local program helps farmers fertilize frugally

by Matt Nelson
HDT Intern

HIBBING — The University of Minnesota (UofM) St. Louis County Extension Service, partnering with Laurentian Energy Authority (LEA), has devised an innovative way to dispose of wood ash and save local farmers a considerable chunk of change.

In the program, wood ash from the biomass power plants in Hibbing and Virginia is trucked to local farmers and used as fertilizer.

Kendall Dykhuis, an educator with the Extension Service, began the program about two years ago.

"Because native soils in northeastern Minnesota were formed under forest conditions, the results are that native soil fertility tends to be low and the soils acidic," he said.

A higher soil pH (the measure of acidity or basicity of a solution) is needed to reduce acidity and increase fertility. Typically, lime is used to increase soil pH; however, high lime prices have made fertilizing a financial obstacle, said Dykhuis.

"The ash is used as a liming product," he explained. "The wood ash is



Matt Nelson

A wood ash pile is ready for use to help save local farmers save a considerable chunk of change.

the same as that comes out of a fireplace. ...The old timers used it in their gardens."

The biomass plants burn from 380 to 390 tons of wood a day, when operating. Of that, 2 to 3 percent is left as wood ash, said Gary Myers director of power production for LEA and Hibbing Public Utilities.

LEA foots the bill for transporting the wood ash.

"If we didn't have the program, we would have to bring it to a landfill," said Myers. The landfill is located about 40 miles away, in comparison to local farmers, located about two miles away, he added.

In addition to the money saved in

transport costs, LEA is also waived of the tipping fee of \$28 per ton of wood ash.

Myers said that the wood burned in the biomass power plants comes from area loggers that LEA contracts with. The wood burned creates energy toward LEA's energy contract with Excel.

"Being able to haul it to local farmers — economically, it's a very good thing for us," said Myers.

Farmers are charged \$2 a ton for wood ash. The money goes toward the St. Louis County Extension Service. Because of the low cost and effectiveness of the wood ash, many local farmers have expressed interest.

"I could use 20,000 to 30,000 tons a year and not have enough," said Dykhuis. "I have a big demand for this. Every farmer that would qualify would want the wood ash for lime."

Qualifying for the program is an extensive process. A soil sample is inspected by the Soil Testing Laboratory at the UofM, who determine how effective wood ash would be as a liming product on that particular field. Based

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Submitted photo

Hibbing native Mike Rutter teaches a seminar on Jeet Kune Do Xiaoxiang Vocational School in Loudi, Hunan, China this spring.

Hibbing native teaches martial arts in China

Inspired by Bruce Lee movie, man now teaches star's methods

by Anna Kurth
Staff Writer

HIBBING — Hibbing native Mike Rutter was working as a car parts delivery man in Sauk Rapids when he was called this winter and invited to teach Jeet Kune Do in China.

Rutter is a certified instructor in the martial art form developed by Bruce Lee. He was invited to

teach the method this spring at the Bruce Lee Center at Xiaoxiang Vocational School in Loudi, Hunan, China.

He shared his stories and photos from his trip with friends in Hibbing while visiting his mother in Silica recently.

Rutter said he began training in martial arts —

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Terminal confusion

Passengers frustrated in Minneapolis' airports

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — It's a dilemma faced by every traveler who flies into or out of the Minneapolis area: Lindbergh or Humphrey?

The two terminals of Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport are three miles apart, on separate highway exits, marked by signs that give nothing more than the terminal name. Make the wrong choice — as thousands of people do every year — and the lost time can mean a missed flight.

"Dude, to be honest with you, I still find it confusing," said one frequent traveler, Jeff Daprizio, as he waited for a flight to Las Vegas. "Lindbergh and Humphrey don't mean anything."

With respect to famed aviator Charles Lindbergh and Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, two of Minnesota's most historic figures, the commission that runs the airport agrees. It's considering spending \$2.2 million for new signs to guide visitors and even some locals who aren't always sure which airline flies out of which terminal.

No road directly connects the two terminals, which means that drivers who take the

wrong exit must first discover their mistake, then hustle back on the highway to get to the other terminal.

The Metropolitan Airport Commission estimates as many as 25,000 people go to the wrong terminal each year. In one recent eight-day stretch, measured by traveler questions at airport information booths, some 600 people did exactly that, said Pat Hogan, a spokesman for the airport commission.

It hasn't always been this way.

For decades, Humphrey was a little-used charter terminal, the place where pale Minnesotans passed through if they were hopping a small carrier to warm-weather vacations in winter. Back then, Lindbergh was listed on signs as "Main" and Humphrey was listed as "HHH."

The signs were changed in 2000 after Humphrey added more scheduled air service. Charter carriers like Champion Air and Omni cut or ended

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DEATHS

Hibbing
Dolores Mae Casagrande
D'Aquila
Lloyd O. Quitberg
Leitha Mae Lee

Virginia
Jessica Marie Fontaine

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hdt
Area obituaries

Pawlenty visits soldiers in Iraq

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Gov. Tim Pawlenty personally delivered his condolences to a Minnesota National Guard unit that lost three members in an attack in Iraq last week.

Pawlenty spoke to reporters Sunday from Kuwait after making his fourth unannounced trip to Iraq. He said the loss and pain that the families of the slain soldiers are feeling is “unimaginable,” but he wanted to share the state’s gratitude for the soldiers’ “incredible courage.” “Of course no words can describe the sense of loss that their families are experiencing, but we do want to convey to those families that we’re

thankful for their sons and what they represented, the values that they represented and the service to our country,” Pawlenty said. All three — Spc. Daniel P. Drevnick, 22, of Woodbury; Spc. James D. Wertsch, 20, of Olivia; and Spc. Carlos E. Wilcox IV, 27, of Cottage Grove — were assigned to the Stillwater-based 34th Military Police Company, part of the 34th “Red Bull” Infantry Division. They were killed Thursday in a rocket attack in Basra. More than 1,000 Red Bulls are overseeing coalition efforts in half of Iraq’s 18 provinces.

Waste: Ash is environmentally friendly

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mentally friendly.

“This has no mercury, no heavy metal,” Dykhuis said. “The nutrients within the wood ash and the liming ability is really advantageous. It’s just a really good product.”

He noted that, technically, wood ash should be returned to the forests, simulating the ash left over from a forest fire. This process would be nearly impossible because of stumps, trees and rocks that would ruin equipment.

Local dairy farmers have had success using wood ash on alfalfa. Alfalfa fed to cows helps them produce more milk.

“If farmers have to feed alfalfa, they still have to feed mineral, but they don’t have to feed grain, which is a huge savings,” said Dykhuis.

He added, “(The program) is basically smart people doing smart things.”

Larry Manner, a dairy farmer in Hibbing, was pretty clear about using wood ash as a fertilizer on his knee-high alfalfa, which was on its second cutting by mid-July.

“I put it on and it makes the stuff grow,” Manner said.

On the study, the extension service can determine how many tons per acre are needed.

Once the extension service determines that amount, they test the wood ash for its ability to lime through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA).

The program produces about 4,000 tons of ash per year.

“There’s a two year wait (for farmers),” Dykhuis said, adding that waiting list would be longer if not for restrictions by the UofM which require soil testing to be done every three years.

Prior to dumping into fields, Dykhuis makes sure farmers have the proper distributing tools. Wood ash needs no special equipment to distribute — an on-farm manure spreader will do the trick, he said.

Wood ash itself is environ-

Lloyd O. Quitberg

February 14, 1932 — July 18, 2009

Lloyd O. Quitberg, 77, Hibbing, died Saturday, July 18, 2009, in St. Mary’s Medical Center, Duluth.

He was born at home on Feb. 14, 1932, in Clearwater County, Minn., to Alfred and Christine (Lee) Quitberg. He spent his early years in the Clearbrook area, and then moved to Hibbing, graduating from Hibbing High School in 1952. Lloyd was united in marriage to Barbara Kemp on August 16, 1952. He was employed by the City of Hibbing for many years, retiring as Superintendent of Parks. He previously worked for the Pacific Isle Mining Company, various construction jobs, and the Great Northern Railroad. Lloyd had also owned and operated the Kelly Lake Texaco from 1956—1962. He was a member of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Hibbing Elks Lodge # 1022, the Minnesota Turf Association, and the Sons of Norway.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara, of Hibbing; six children: Linda (Roger) Benard of

Grand Rapids, James (Patty) Quitberg of Hibbing, David (Sue) Quitberg of Nashwauk, Steven Quitberg, Kenneth Quitberg, and Christine (David) Danielson, all of Hibbing; a brother, Leo Quitberg, of Carlsbad, N.M.; 11 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, 3 great-great-grandchildren, an aunt, Adeline Lee, of Hibbing; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Nancy Quitberg, in 1982; a sister, Grace Busha, a brother, Melvin Quitberg, and his parents.

Visitation: Will be Wednesday July 22, in Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church from 10-11 a.m.

Funeral: Mass of Christian Burial will be 11 a.m., Wednesday in Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church.

Burial: Interment will be in Maple Hill Cemetery at a later date.

Arrangements are with Dougherty Funeral Home, Hibbing.

Jessica Marie Fontaine

September 6, 1977 — July 18, 2009

Jessica M. Fontaine, 31, Virginia, died unexpectedly at home on Saturday, July 18, 2009.

She was born in Hibbing on Sept. 6, 1977, to Myles and Georganne “Gigi” Fontaine. She grew up in Hibbing and graduated from Hibbing High School. Jessica loved training horses and horseback competition, deer hunting, and most of all her children.

She is survived by two children, DeLainie M. Fontaine and Dominick J. Fontaine; her father, Myles (and Kim) Fontaine of Hibbing; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Gigi, in 2007; her grandmother, Mary Ann Fontaine, and an aunt, Maureen Fontaine.

Funeral: A private funeral service for Jessica will be held Tuesday, July 21, at Dougherty Funeral Home, Hibbing.

hdt Funeral Notice

Leitha Mae Lee

Leitha Mae Lee, 86, Hibbing, died Sunday, July 19, 2009, in Cornerstone Villa, Buhl.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Dougherty Funeral Home, Hibbing.

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Wednesday, July 22
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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pleasure in entertaining, most of all for her family. Dolores was quietly generous, giving anonymously to those less fortunate.

She will be intensely missed but her unparalleled kindness, keen wisdom, remarkable love of life, indomitable spirit, and deep and abiding faith in God and family will live on for generations.

Dolores is survived by her children and their families: Patricia D'Aquila Merickel, M.D. (John and children, Jonathon and wife Carrie, and Andrew and wife Jimena), Mary Kay Phillips (Scott and children, Christina, and Thomas and wife Michelle, and grandchildren, Marshall and William), Barbara D'Aquila, Margaret Mader (Doug and children, Nicholas and fiancé Ashley, Meaghan and Charles), James D'Aquila (Bonnie and children, Isabella and Gabriella) and Tom's wife, Donna (and children, Carl and Dante); by her sister, Sally (Richard) Spearman; and by many wonderful relatives and friends.

Dolores was preceded in death by her husband, Carl; her son, Thomas; and her parents, Helen and Mario Casagrande.

Funeral: Mass of the Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 21, at the Blessed Sacrament Church in Hibbing.

Visitation: Will be for one hour prior to the Mass on Tuesday at the church.

Burial: Interment will be at Maple Hill Cemetery in Hibbing following Mass.

Memorials: May be made to the Carl and Dolores D'Aquila Family Foundation in lieu of flowers, please.

Funeral arrangements are with the Dougherty Funeral Home in Hibbing.

losophy of the East and West. Lee combined Chinese martial arts with techniques from the Western cultural martial art forms of fencing, boxing and grappling to develop his martial arts strategy, Rutter said.

Rutter worked seven days a week with his 16 students at the school. He taught six hours a day, five days a week, and three hours a day on the weekends — only taking a few days off to tour in China, he said.

At the end of the two-month

seminar, three of his students reached the level of full instructors and the rest became apprentice instructors, he said.

The experience has inspired Rutter to pursue a career in teaching martial arts.

“I figure if they’re calling me all the way from China ...,” he said.

He said he plans to return to China this fall and next spring to teach additional Jeet Kune Do and other fighting technique seminars.

Hibbing: Inspired a teaching career

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starting with judo in Hibbing when he was 12.

He became interested in Bruce Lee’s style of fighting after watching “Enter the Dragon” in the theater as a kid, he said.

In 1993 he studied with Jeet Kune Do instructor Ted Wong in the martial arts style and became a certified instructor in 2001.

Jeet Kune Do combines martial arts fighting styles and phi-

Terminal: Descriptive signs needed

From Page 1A

flights. The confusion has grown as more carriers have moved in and out of Humphrey — Southwest Airlines began service from the terminal in March, while Midwest Airlines switched to Lindbergh in June.

Complaints about the terminal signage have streamed in from around the country. Samples provided by Hogan ranged from mild disappointment to outrage. One traveler called it “terrible.” Another called it “visitor hostile.” A Pennsylvania man complained of missing an AirTran flight because he went to Lindbergh instead of Humphrey, and demanded an apology and compensation for time wasted waiting for another flight.

But spending \$2.2 million to fix the sign problem has also

caused some heartburn for locals, who wonder why the commission can’t just add the airline names to the existing signs.

The commission says that would run afoul of state and federal guidelines for how much information can safely be packed onto a single sign that drivers are reading at highway speeds.

The commission’s proposal to fix the problem would install new signs that list the airlines that depart from each terminal. The signs would drop the Lindbergh and Humphrey names entirely in favor of “Terminal 1” and “Terminal 2,” although commission officials say the terminals would still retain

their historic names.

The nine airlines flying into Lindbergh would be split over two signs, a measure that allays concerns about overcrowding the signs.

Many of the signs will be large, requiring strong supports to withstand wind loads and driving up the cost of the project. But Hogan pointed out that existing parking and concession fees will cover the cost.

“The people who will benefit from the new signs — airport users — are the people who will pay for them,” Hogan said in an e-mail.

Travelers at the airport agree more descriptive signs could help, even if their cost seems too high.