

CHALLENGES AROUND

WASHINGTON (AP) — The problems do not get any easier as President Bush attends his final summit with leaders of industrialized democracies. Disputes over global warming, worries about soaring oil prices and uncertainty about Iran and North Korea's nuclear ambitions pose daunting challenges for Bush when he sits down with presidents and prime ministers Monday. There are fewer than 200 days left in his term, and Bush's dwindling presidency is a major factor hanging over the meetings involving leaders from Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada at a Group of Eight summit in Tokyo, on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido.



ACTIVE FAITH

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Barack Obama celebrated "active faith" as an obligation of religious Americans and a chief agent of societal change while speaking Saturday to a nearly all-black roomful of churchgoers, but hoping to reach far beyond them. Making a less than two-hour stop in this battleground state, the Democratic presidential nominee implored the thousands attending a national meeting of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, one of the nation's largest and most politically and civically active black denominations, to help fix national and local ills.



He preached individual responsibility, saying he knew he risked criticism for "blaming the victim" by talking of the need for parents to help children with homework and turn off the TV, to pass on a healthy self-image to daughters, and teach boys both to respect women and "realize that responsibility does not end at conception."

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Union workers protest Wal-Mart

Al Franken visits to show support

by Jeff Warner
Staff Writer

HIBBING — Local trade union members gathered at highways 169 and 73 in Hibbing Thursday to protest Wal-Mart's failure to rely on local union labor for a remodeling project, and a candidate for U.S. Senate showed up to support them.

The union members accused the company of "shopping out bids" and said out-of-state, non-union labor will soon revamp Hibbing's Wal-Mart in a \$1.8 million project. They said the store was originally built with local union labor.

One union official said a few local union contractors would work on the \$1.8 million renovation, but their share added up to "a minute percentage" of the contract's worth.

Al Franken, the DFL nominee for the Senate seat now held by Republican Norm Coleman, came to the protest site Thursday and said "the least they (Wal-Mart) could do" would be to use union labor on construction projects.

"We have to get back in this

country to where we care about quality, and we care about paying people enough, so these people can buy things and have a good quality of life," Franken said in an interview.

Gordon Smith, an organizer with the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, said local trade unions learned of the project — slated to start July 21 — a few weeks ago. He said they approached Wal-Mart's local and corporate offices to submit bids but learned later the project had been awarded to a general contractor in South Dakota, who then picked out-of-state subcontractors.

"It's very frustrating," Smith said. "You can't allow these companies and businesses to keep undermining the standards of everybody. If you do, pretty soon, they'll have everybody working for nothing." Smith said union workers will

protest at Wal-Mart until construction starts or Wal-Mart changes its decision to farm out the work.

"I'm not overly optimistic this is going to happen because



Jeff Warner

Al Franken, the DFL candidate for U.S. Senate in this year's race, visited the protest to show his support of union labor.

a lot of these people we talked to from corporate Wal-Mart basically have the attitude like 'We can do what we want. Who cares?'"

He said there is 15 to 20 percent unemployment among the thousands of trades union workers on the Range, yet "they feel they have to import all of these people from all

over the country to do this." Management at Hibbing's Wal-Mart declined to comment on the union claims. Daphne Moore of Wal-Mart's corporate offices in Bentonville, Ark., said the company always seeks "to get the best contracting team that we can" for its projects.

"Sometimes this includes

union labor; sometimes it doesn't," Moore said. The choice, she said, depends on "who we feel is best qualified to get the job done."

She said construction jobs on Wal-Mart projects "ultimately do have an impact on the local economy." Expansion

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Construction begins

Assisted living project expected to be complete in a year

by Melissa Cox
Staff Writer

NASHWAUK — A recent groundbreaking ceremony kicked off construction for an assisted living facility in Nashwauk.

The \$4.8 million project, located at the edge of Nashwauk's industrial park, is expected to be done in about a year, according to Randy Schroetter, of RDC Investments, LLC, which will own and operate the facility. The 42-unit facility is expected to employ at least 42 people, which Schroetter said will have a positive impact on the schools and the community.

The facility will focus on assisted living care based on individual needs, with a plan tailored for each person. The idea is for the residents to remain as independent as possible, said Schroetter.

The suites will consist of a living room, a bedroom and a kitchen area. The facility will host a common area, library, sitting room, family room and hair salon.

During the groundbreaking ceremony, Nashwauk Mayor William Hendricks expressed gratitude to all those who helped make the project a reality. He called it a great day and said it would be a big boost to the economy.

"On behalf of the City of Nashwauk and all the residents, it has been a welcoming day to see this come," Hen-



Melissa Cox

A groundbreaking ceremony was held recently to kick off construction of the assisted living facility in Nashwauk, a project of RDC Investments, LLC. In attendance were representatives of the American Bank, Max Gray Construction and RDC Investments. Also attending were city and state officials, including Nashwauk Mayor William Hendricks, Sen. Tom Saxhaug and Rep. Tom Anzelc.

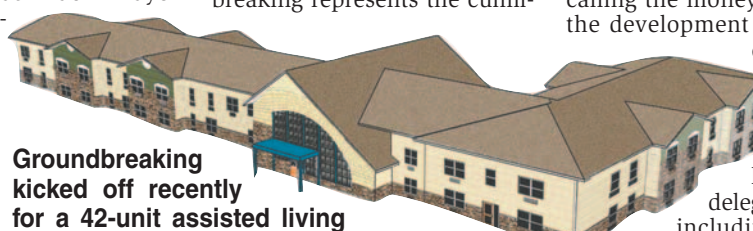
dricks said. "This is something we have been waiting for and working hard at..."

Schroetter said the groundbreaking represents the culmination of a little more than a year of work by a large group of people, including Iron Range Resources (IRR), the City of Nashwauk, Itasca County, pub-

lic health and social services. A total of \$450,000 in grants was received from the IRR for the project, Schroetter said, calling the money "critical for the development of this project."

Schroetter said the Iron Range legislative delegation, including Sen. Tom Saxhaug, Rep. Tom Anzelc, Rep. Tony Sertich and Sen. David Tomassoni, had "worked hard to see the satisfactory conclusion to this grant

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Groundbreaking kicked off recently for a 42-unit assisted living facility in Nashwauk. The facility is expected to employ a minimum of 42 people.

Should the red Iron Range go green?

The facts of hybrid cars and northern Minnesota

by Matt Nelson
Staff Intern

HIBBING — For the last few years, the pressure to "Go Green" has escalated along with the rising cost of fuel and Al Gore's warnings of global cataclysm. Many Northern Minnesotans have replaced their "Edison" light-bulbs with fluorescent ones, or even installed a "smart" power strip that senses when appliances are off and cuts down on "vampire" or "phantom" energy use. But is the typical Iron Ranger ready to take the next step in "Going Green" — buying a hybrid car? Are there advantages or disadvantages to owning one?

Don Carlson, sales manager at Northwoods Ford Lin-

coln-Mercury in Hibbing, says about the Ford Escape hybrid, "It's a nice hybrid, and if you're very pro-environment, it isn't a bad option." The hybrid, currently the only one offered by Ford, uses the battery and the motor in combination to reduce fuel emissions and increase miles per gallon. A Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) shifts the power between battery and motor automatically, leading to more miles per gallon and a smoother driving experience. The driver of a hybrid using a CVT rarely notices when power switches from the battery to the motor and vice versa. A CVT also regu-

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Matt Nelson

Diane McGlaughlin's Toyota Prius is just one of many currently traversing streets on the Iron Range.

Union: Not good for communities

From Page A1

or remodeling at a Wal-Mart store "will certainly generate tax revenue as well," she said.

Hibbing's Wal-Mart is in a tax-free zone.

Franken said he had done research on Wal-Mart while preparing to write a screenplay about a small town that was fighting the company. The company makes towns "a lot of promises," and gets towns to "pay for stuff," but often doesn't deliver, he said.

Franken said Wal-Mart stores send their money to Arkansas rather than investing it locally.

"It's not a good thing for communities," he said. "The least they could do is build the place union."

Franken said he recently visited a union laborers' training center and "was amazed" at how well the workers were trained. "Anyone would be crazy not to buy a place" built with union labor, he said.

"We have to get back in this country to where we care about quality, and we care about paying people enough, so these people can buy things and have a good quality of life," Franken said.

"We're in a downward spiral," he added. "We need to stop it, and start going back up, and this is the way to do it (while pointing at the protesters)."

Carey Young, a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), said that when he helped wire the Wal-Mart in Grand Rapids he saw store employees declare, in what he called the "Wal-Mart cheer," that the customer is always number one.

On the Iron Range, union workers and their family mem-



Jeff Warner

Protesters, largely local trade union members, gathered near Wal-Mart in Hibbing on Thursday to protest the company's decision to outsource a \$1.8 million remodeling project slated to start July 21.

bers account for a large part of Wal-Mart's customer base, Young said.

Wal-Mart's decision to farm out the renovation work in Hibbing is "like a big lie, a slap in the face," he said. "I was a customer. Not any more, because they lied to me."

An IBEW official, Dan Hendrickson, spoke of the risks of letting the renovation proceed with out-of-state labor.

"When you start bringing people in from different states, where their pay isn't the same, it starts lowering our standards (of living), so we are doing this protest to show Wal-Mart that (the unions) are not very appreciative," Hendrickson said.

"And, if possible, maybe they will change their minds before July 21, and start using more local and community-oriented contractors."

He said if Wal-Mart in Hibbing proceeds with outsourcing the renovation work and the community allows it, then

when the region's expected economic boom begins, other companies might "start cut-throating everybody else right out of the projects."

Hendrickson said a few local union contractors will work on Wal-Mart's renovation project — including Mesabi Glass, Range Cornice and Roofing and "tin bangers" who will perform duct work — "but it's such a minute percentage of the \$1.8 million."

He said about a dozen electrical workers would have worked 12-hour shifts for about two months, had the union been granted the contract.

"Everything got yanked from us," he said. "It's almost like they took everybody's bids from here, and then went and shopped them out completely."

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Should: Pros and cons of a hybrid

From Page A1

lates engine speed in relation to car speed to improve engine efficiency. This may result in an engine seeming to rev faster than usual. The interior of the car is virtually identical to a regular Ford Escape, although there is a small loss of space due to the battery pack.

Along with the perks of the Ford Escape Hybrid come a few unsettling factors. Carlson points out, "A [Ford Escape] Hybrid costs \$5,760 more than a four cylinder Escape. The average Iron Ranger probably drives about 12,500 miles a year, which would be a [fuel] savings of about \$600 a year. That would mean it would take nine and a half years to pay for itself." The hybrid battery in each Ford Escape Hybrid would cost \$9,300 to replace, although Ford does cover them with a ten-year or 150,000 mile warranty.

An important factor in deciding whether to buy a hybrid car is a typical Iron Range lifestyle. Most Rangers are very active in the outdoors, the seasons of fall, winter, spring, and summer usually taking a lesser precedence to those of fishing and deer. To catch the walleyes, a fisherman might want a boat, and to bag the bucks, a hunter might want an all-terrain vehicle. As yet, Toyota and Honda say absolutely no towing behind their vehicles, although General Motors offers Two-Mode hybrids, such as the Chevy Tahoe, that can tow about 1,000 pounds, which implies that the trip out to the lake might not get further than the dock.

Several other hybrid cars have appeared on the market (and Iron Range streets) in recent years, most prominently the Toyota Prius. Why do Rangers buy them if they cannot drag along their jet skis or various water craft?

Prius owner Diane McLaughlin jokingly said when asked why she chose a Prius, "When the dealer showed it to me, I felt just like George Jetson!" The futuristic look of the car propelled her to inquire further, and eventually make a deal. McLaughlin lives in Side Lake but works in Virginia, making a commute of about 75 miles per day. "My Prius usually gets about 50 miles to the gallon on a nice day, and on nasty days in the winter, maybe 37 or 38 miles to the gallon." The Prius is usually advertised as getting 60 miles to the gallon; the reason for the discrepancy results from the fact that 10 percent of Minnesota's gasoline is laced with corn ethanol to help lower oil dependence; corn ethanol is less efficient than pure unleaded gasoline and thus decreases miles to the gallon in the Prius.

The Prius has also taken flak for having an uncomfortable interior and small amounts of cargo space. McLaughlin offers her perspective as a mother of kids heavily involved in extracurricular activities, pointing out that at times she has had three full hockey bags in the back of the car with plenty of room for passengers. "I would buy another one," she says.

What other options in hybrid cars are available? Don Carlson lists a few, such as the Ford Focus, a small SUV that gets a surprisingly high 30 miles to the gallon and does not compromise on towing needs. Another is the Ford Expedition, Carlson's automobile of choice. Carlson cites the old maxim, "The slower you drive, the more miles to the gallon you get." Driving the Expedition at 55 miles per hour gets 21 miles to the gallon as opposed to 17 miles to the gallon at 70 miles per hour. "Driving slower DOES help," Carlson says, "but the car must be properly maintained — tires properly inflated and that sort of thing."

Hybrid cars are also holding their value better than non-hybrid cars; a Prius bought new might cost \$23,384, and three years later be resold for \$18,135, a \$5,249 decrease. A Honda Civic Hybrid bought new costs \$17,751, and can be resold after three years for \$12,290, a \$5,461 decrease. The reason for the held values involves the huge demand for hybrids, which is projected to remain high or increase as long as fuel prices remain high or increase. The federal government offers tax credits of up to \$3,400 for hybrids, but only for the first 60,000 vehicles sold, meaning that the Prius and the Civic models are no longer eligible. Some insurance agencies may offer discounted premiums for hybrid cars.

In the end, the choice of whether to make that big step in "Going Green" depends on the person buying the car. The best decisions are made with research — Ford, Toyota and Honda all have excellent online web pages dedicated to their hybrid and non-hybrid models. A person should first figure out how many miles he drives — is he an average Iron Ranger, driving about 12,500 miles a year? If he drives significantly more miles, he may want to seriously look into the hybrid option.

The way the world views energy is changing rapidly. That does not mean everybody needs to get on board with hybrid cars, but for some, the choice is as clear as smog-free skies. Diane McLaughlin notes with a laugh, "I saw a Prius on the road, and the driver and I looked at each other, and he gave me the peace sign."

Construction: Facilities would allow elderly to stay in the community

From Page A1

application." He said IRR Commissioner Sandy Layman and the entire IRR board clearly saw the need for this type of facility to serve the aging population of the Iron Range.

According to a study by the Minnesota Health and Housing Alliance, the number of people ages 85 and over in Itasca County is expected to double by 2030. The study addresses needs for assisted living facilities and nursing homes for all counties through 2030.

The study projects Itasca County will need 100 assisted living units by 2015 and 300 by 2030.

Schroetter said there appears to be no assisted

living providers in the Eastern Itasca area. He said the majority of current providers were located within a 10-mile radius of Grand Rapids.

"If given the chance to stay in their community or live elsewhere, people expressed that they wanted to stay in their community," he said. "This facility addresses a need that is certainly there. It's going to allow people to remain in their community or the area where they spent most of their lives."

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Hugo tornado survivor continues long recovery

ST. PAUL (AP) — A young survivor of the tornado that ripped through Hugo in May suffered a severe brain injury, but she continues making progress toward recovery, her family said.

Annika Prindle, 5, lost oxygen for a time when the tornado hit her family's home. Neighbors worked to resuscitate her, and now she remains at Gillette Children's Hospital in St. Paul.

"Her brain didn't have oxygen for a long period of time," her mother, Christina Prindle, said. "That's put her in a condition where she's not quite with us all of the time."

"Her brain's going to have to rewire," her father, Jerry Prindle, added.

Yet the Prindles find hope in Annika's recovery, especially when coping with the loss of their 2-year-old son, Nate, who was found behind the family's house after the tornado.

Annika can now open her eyes and is fed with a tube into her stomach instead of through her nose. Doctors say it might take a year for her to regain vision, but she already recognizes her parents' voices.

But Annika still doesn't know that her little brother died in the tornado and was buried eight days later near railroad tracks where trains pass at least once a day.

It isn't clear when Annika will be well enough to be discharged from the hospital. Her parents

hope to enroll her in kindergarten this fall in Hugo.

"As a mom I want her to wake up in the morning and open her eyes and say, 'I love you Mommy, I love you Daddy,'" Christina said.

It took only five seconds for the Prindles' lives to be changed forever. On the afternoon of May 25, Christina was getting ready to go to a friend's wedding while her husband played downstairs with the children.

They heard the tornado sirens, but then they stopped. That's when the wind came up.

The trees were whipped in one direction and then another, Jerry recalled. Christina saw debris swirl in the street. Using all her strength, she forced the inside door shut.

"I don't know that I got even two steps from the door when everything hit me from behind," she said. "I started screaming, 'Let me live! Let me live!' over and over again as it pushed me over and the house moved."

Jerry remembers the roar of cracking wood just after he yelled at his daughter and wife to go to the basement. And then it was over, with Jerry pinned under debris, and Annika under Christine, who was also pinned under debris. Christine and Jerry called for their son.

"It was just so surreal looking around," Christina said. "It happened in seconds from having this family to having the house totally gone."

Public tipsters help foil fugitive murder suspect

GRANITE CITY, ILL. (AP) — The television image of fugitive murder suspect Nicholas Sheley's mug shot was fresh in Samantha Butler's mind as she ventured out to get dinner for the family, warning her relatives to lock the door behind her.

The real-estate agent discovered police swarming a Subway sandwich shop in the St. Louis suburb of Granite City, Ill., and overheard an officer say the man suspected of eight killings in two states had just been there and couldn't be far. That's when Butler decided Tuesday's dinner would come from nearby Bindy's bar, a police hangout with a grill.

At Bindy's, Butler gave a description of the suspect and told the bartender that police were everywhere hunting for the 28-year-old fugitive. Then, she grew quiet and fearful as she got her first clear look across the bar and saw the wanted man sitting on a stool, staring back.

Butler quietly slipped out to flag down police, as did a Bindy's regular who realized the stranger in a dirty T-shirt was the suspect he'd seen minutes earlier on the news.

Police arrested Sheley moments later, after he stepped outside for a cigarette.

The capture is the latest example of how quickly fugitives get flushed out when their names and faces are broadcast to the public.

"I can't stress enough how important it was" to make Sheley's mug shot and description public, said Tim Lewis, the police chief in Festus, Mo., where investigators suspect an Arkansas couple found slain were part of Sheley's alleged rampage covering more than 250 miles.

"The pictures we put out helped us," the chief said, smiling. With them, "you go from 100 sets of eyes to thousands."

Authorities have recruited the public's help at least since the days of the Old West, when bad

guys' faces graced "Wanted" posters. More recently, authorities point to Fox's nationally televised "America's Most Wanted," which credits viewers with helping capture 1,000 fugitives the program has targeted since 1988.

Certainly, public appeals have prompted bogus or mistaken phoned-in tips. But Lewis considers Sheley's capture testament to when things go right, hastening the arrest of a man he worried had more bloodshed in mind.

A person close to the investigation told The Associated Press, on the condition of anonymity because the investigation continues, that Sheley virtually ensured his capture by using the Subway shop's phone to call his lawyer, who was under the direction of the FBI.

Lewis disputes suggestions Sheley had grown weary and was intent on giving up.

"I don't think he had a plan to surrender to anybody," the police chief said of the suspect, who had once been convicted of aggravated robbery and who was alleged to have held a knife to the throat of a drug dealer and shot at a man during another home invasion.

"He was cornered," the chief said of Sheley. "He was running, he was desperate and he didn't have anywhere to go. That's what made him so dangerous."

Authorities believe Sheley killed eight people in the final days of June. The dead, including six in northwestern Illinois, ranged in age from a 93-year-old man from Sheley's hometown of Sterling to a 2-year-old child found with three other bodies in a Rock Falls apartment.

Sheley is jailed on \$1 million bond in Knox County, where he faces first-degree murder and other charges in the beating death of 65-year-old Ronald Randall, whose body was found Monday behind a grocery store in Galesburg.

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