

DULUTH, Minn. (AP) — Motorists in northeastern Minnesota will encounter slow-moving traffic on Highway 61 near Split Rock River. Heavy rains have caused a two-mile long, gravel, temporary road surface in a MnDOT construction zone to become muddy and rough. Traffic is moving at about 5 mph in that area. MnDOT suggests using an alternate route until the temporary road surface is repaired. Crews tried to repair the road surface Wednesday but decided it's best to wait until conditions improve.

Moving forward

■ Cameron Clapp inspires residents

by Matt Nelson
HDT Intern

HIBBING — Cameron Clapp pops off his arm first. Next, the longhaired Californian depresses green buttons on both of his legs.

There's a brief hiss as the suction fades, and then he pulls them off and sets them on the floor in front of staff inside the Fairview University Medical Center-Mesabi's Rehabilitation Center.

In attendance is Mike Hnatko, an Aurora native who lost the lower half of his leg in November.

"I think putting a lot of weight on the end of your limb, Mike, that's going to help to create a limb so it's not as sensitive," Clapp tells him as he lifts his stump and slaps it for emphasis. "Really mobilize and massage that tissue."

Clapp, now 25, lost both legs and an arm at age 15 when he was hit by a freight train after a night of underage drinking. Ten years later, he's an athlete, motivational speaker and a mentor for other amputees.

He spoke in Hibbing and Virginia Tuesday, delivering a presentation meant to inspire recent amputees as well as the medical professionals



Matt Nelson
Jeff Thompson, of Pike, Minn., talks with Cameron Clapp, a triple amputee, outside of Hanger Prosthetics and Orthotics in Hibbing Tuesday. Clapp was in town to give an inspiring presentation to recent amputees and medical professionals.

who work with them.

"The doctors are always going to tell you things," Clapp tells Hnatko. "Do you think I listened to the doctor that told me I wasn't going to

walk?"
"No, I know you didn't,"

See Moving, Page A5

Fire damages Hibbing garage

■ Cause under investigation

by Kathryn Kohlhase
Staff Writer

HIBBING — Joseph Petron fought the chill of Tuesday's cold rainy evening by warming up in the sauna in his garage.

Later that evening, the Hibbing Fire Department was fighting a fire in Petron's garage.

HFD responded to a report of a structure fire at Petron's residence at 424 43rd St. E. at 11:36 p.m., according to Battalion Chief Alan Bexell.

Petron made the call after spotting flames coming from his garage. He had left the electric sauna stove on after his 7 p.m. sauna for his girlfriend's daughter who planned to stop by later that evening.

While the group played cards in the house, Petron said he noticed a "funny smell" and went to check on the sauna stove. It was then he saw the flames.

It took HFD crews around an hour or so to extinguish the fire, which was contained to the garage. Paid-on-call firefighters also assisted.

There were no reported injuries to fire crews or residents.

Petron moved into his home six years ago. The garage sauna was included and never caused problems before.

"I thought it was a nice thing to have," Petron said. "... It had an electric stove, a good stove. It wasn't homemade or anything."

Bexell said the sauna may be connected to the fire, though the official cause is still under investigation. The extent of damage also has yet to be determined.

"It looks pretty much toasted," Petron said.

The garage contained Petron's Harley Davidson motorcycle.

"That's the bad part — one of the bad parts," he said.

In the fire's aftermath, Petron said he feels lucky.

"Someone could have been hurt," he said, noting the fire didn't catch his home, which stands close to the garage. "You can always rebuild. We're just lucky no one's hurt."

Kathryn Kohlhase can be reached at kkohlhase@hibbingdailytribune.net. To read this story and comment on it online go to www.hibbingmn.com.

MAN WHO LOCKED GIRLFRIEND IN DOG KENNEL SENTENCED

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — A judge has sentenced a St. Paul man to more than 17 years in prison for assaulting his girlfriend and locking her in a dog kennel. Thirty-year-old Luke Brandon Scott was sentenced Wednesday for first-degree assault and false imprisonment. Prosecutors called for a sentence longer than that under state sentencing guidelines. They cited Scott's lack of remorse and his attempt to offer a bribe to the victim to keep her from testifying against him. A Ramsey County jury convicted Scott in April.

NUMBER OF TRAFFIC DEATHS DROPS IN MINNESOTA

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — The number of people who lost their lives on Minnesota roadways declined for the third year in a row. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety says there were 411 traffic deaths in 2010, approaching an all-time low of 356 recorded in 1944. Of the 411 people who died last year, 305 were motorists, 45 were motorcyclists and 36 were pedestrians. Other deaths involved mopeds, all-terrain vehicles and snowmobilers.

DEATHS

Marble
Leo Louis Kusi

Brainerd
James E. Macy

Juvenile certified as an adult

■ Charged in connection with Chisholm Spur robbery

by Kelly Grinsteiner
Assistant Editor

HIBBING — The local teenager accused of robbing the Spur gas station in St. Louis County in March will not face the four charges against him, including three felonies, as a juvenile.

Codie R. Kottom-Olson, 17, was certified as an adult by Judge David E. Ackerson in St. Louis County Court in Hibbing on Tuesday. He was remanded to the St. Louis County jail.

A formal complaint was expected to be filed by the county attorney's office Wednesday with Kottom-Olson anticipated to be arraigned today, according to court administration.

He's charged with felony aggravated robbery in the first degree, felony assault with a dangerous weapon in the second degree and felony terroristic threats. He also faces one gross misdemeanor count of obstructing legal process.

Court records indicate that Kottom-Olson pleaded not guilty to the charges in late March. He's being represented by Public Defender Lara Whiteside.

According to the juvenile petition, the Chisholm Police Department responded to a 911 call of an armed robbery around 5:40 a.m. March 9 at the Chisholm Spur station, located in the 400 block of West Lake Street.

Officers viewed the store's surveillance video which showed a young male wearing a bandana entering the

store, brandishing a handgun and demanding money from the clerk.

The suspect then fled the store with an undisclosed amount of money. No injuries were reported.

Chisholm Police Chief Vern Manner was able to identify the male suspect through video surveillance and believed it was Kottom-Olson.

The store clerk provided a description of the suspect and what he was wearing. The clerk stated the suspect had a gun and demanded money. The suspect made off with a tray containing \$298 in cash and change, according to court records.

Law enforcement tracked down Kottom-Olson in Chisholm later that day through relatives and friends and questioned him with the assistance of Arrowhead Regional Corrections probation officers.

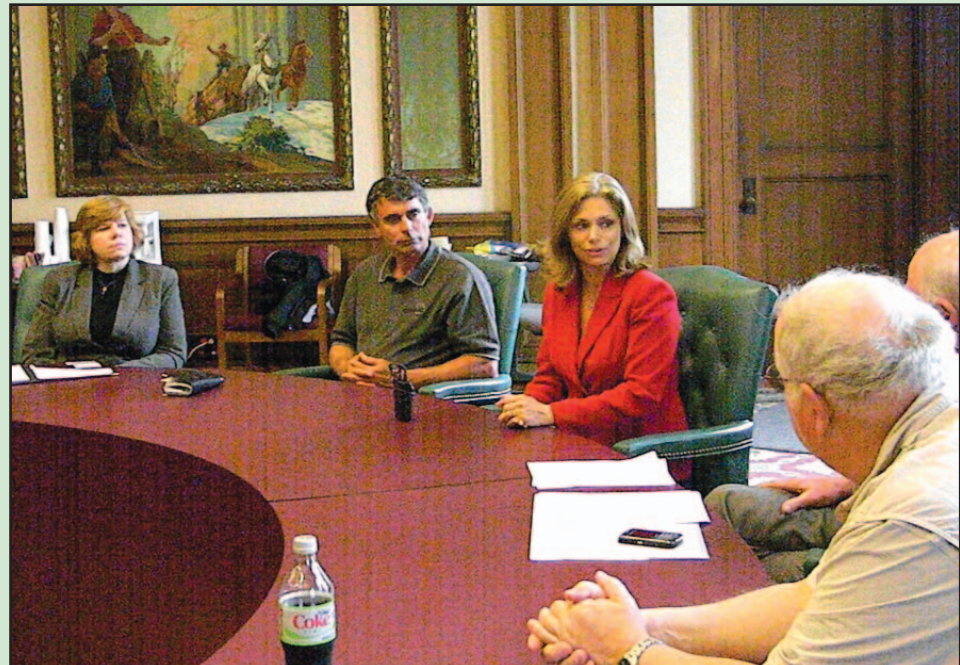
Kottom-Olson provided more than one alibi for his whereabouts the hours and night prior to the robbery.

When asked if it was him in the surveillance video photos, he said it couldn't be as he never wears the "colors" worn by the suspect due to his affiliation with a different gang, according to court records. He also stated that "he uses shotguns and hates handguns" and that the suspect didn't have his tattoo on his forearm.

Kottom-Olson told law enforcement that he'd go to a

See Juvenile, Page A5

Meeting on Social Security



Anna Kurth
Tarryl Clark leads a roundtable discussion with Mayor Rick Cannata and area residents on Social Security and Medicare. Joining Clark was Max Richtman, executive vice president of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, which announced its endorsement of Clark Wednesday. She also held a roundtable in Brainerd and a press conference in Duluth. She is a former state senator from St. Cloud who is planning to take on U.S. Rep. Chip Cravaack next year.

Preparing Bluejacket PRIDE

■ HHS will implement positive behavior program

by Anna Kurth
Staff Writer

HIBBING — Hibbing High School's youngest students should be prepared to exhibit Bluejacket PRIDE in the coming school year.

This PRIDE isn't just in the school's sports teams — it will touch every aspect of their education.

Hibbing High School is preparing to implement Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS), a state-initiated program designed to build a positive school climate, at the seventh and eighth grade level.

The school was accepted as a PBIS site in May 2010 by the Minnesota Department of Education. Other sites include Chisholm,

Nashwauk-Keewatin and Greenway school districts.

This past school year, a PBIS team began work on the program by attending training sessions. Students came up with the program slogan Bluejacket PRIDE — Positive, Respectful, Independent, Determined, Educated.

When students return in September, laminated Bluejacket PRIDE posters designed by student Emily Lange will be in place in seventh and eighth grade classrooms, and the logo will grace the cover of the Hibbing High School Student Planner.

The school is starting with seventh and eighth grade because students in these grades are at an awkward age, said Bryan Ridgeway,

See Preparing, Page A5

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Moving: Positive choices encouraged

From Page A1

Hnatko replies.
Nancy Hukka, an occupational therapist at Fairview, helped Hnatko work through the problems with his old and new leg and invited him to the presentation.
"You know what, it's so good to see that," Hukka said as she gestured toward Clapp and Hnatko. "It's so good to hear that, because Cameron can say that to him, but I can't."
Clapp also encourages young people to make positive choices in their lives, specifically regarding drugs and alcohol. In 2008, he lost his identical twin brother, Jesse, to a drug overdose.
"My mission (when I speak to students) is to try to prevent them from making tragic mistakes like myself," he said. "I always tell everyone I meet, if it's an amputee or a young person, that it's all about your decisions."
Clapp is a busy guy. He recently finished competing in the Endeavor Games in Oklahoma City, where he said he returned with "a couple golds, and a huge battle wound," from when he dove across the finish line in an attempt to win the race. He said his competitor "beat him by a hair."
During his presentation, he showed videos of him running, swimming and skiing.
David Brown, senior business development manager for Hanger Prosthetics, said non-amputees can learn a lot from Clapp.
"Almost every person has something that they're dealing with," Brown said. "Maybe it's an addiction. Maybe it's some poor health choices. ... Once they see him, I think a lot of them get inspired to do something for their own selves."
Hukka agreed.

"I'm watching him skiing, and I'm like, 'I won't try to jump over whatever those things are,'" she said. "But then it also says to me, 'Well, if he can do it, maybe I should try something I was afraid of doing.'"
Clapp spoke one-on-one with amputees at the events, discussing their struggles, victories and offering encouragement. He said a cornerstone of his presentation is showing the possibilities that are available.
Clapp uses two C-leg prosthetics, which have microprocessors and hydraulics in them. They have a tight but comfortable fit with the help of two nylon socks.
The advanced limbs help him to climb and descend stairs without using a handrail, jump and even drive a car safely.
Jim Christie, a technician at Hanger, has been with the company for 19 years. He said the advances in prosthetics in that time have been incredible considering that as late as 1993, some prosthetic makers were still hand sculpting legs out of wood.
After the presentation, Fairview Manager of Rehabilitation Services Gerry Wyland agreed that medical practitioners, must be careful to never judge their patients too soon as to what they can and cannot do.
"Be determined," Clapp advises Hnatko. "Have the commitment so whatever goal you set, you got it. And then you're going to be able to do all those things you want to do — fishing, hiking and go hunting. I know you guys love hunting around here."
Hnatko said he found the presentation to be "very inspiring."
"What you have to do is look forward," he said. "That's what Cameron is looking at with his life, and I have to do the same type of thing with my type of thing."

Juvenile: Several parties questioned in investigation

From Page A1

different town instead of robbing another store in the same town that he did before. He added that "his homies in jail told him if he ever does a robbery that he should burn all his clothes and get rid of all the evidence," and asked officers whether they thought he was stupid.
During the investigation, a party confirmed for officers that he was asked by Kottom-Olson to hold and hide his boots and wallet in a bag, according to court records. Both items were recovered by law enforcement.
The wallet contained Kottom-Olson's ID among other items, including cash, and the boots matched what the suspect was wearing as well as the tracks in the snow outside the station. When asked about the boots, Kottom-Olson said they are common.
Kottom-Olson told officers that his fingerprints would likely be on the door to the Spur station, adding he goes there often to buy cigarettes because they have "the cheapest" in town. Calls by law enforcement to the other local stations determined that was not accurate.
He also stated that if he had done something wrong that he'd admit it. To prove it, Kottom-Olson admitted to probation officers that he had smoked marijuana, which is a vio-

lation of his current probation. He did so following a urine test, according to court records.
While being interviewed, Kottom-Olson became agitated, threw a chair and flipped over the interview table then squared off toward officers. He was subdued by a taser, restrained and escorted out of the police station.
Court records note that he made verbal threats against officers as well as his grandfather while at the station.
Several parties were questioned about Kottom-Olson's whereabouts hours before the robbery, what they last saw him wearing including his footwear and whether they could identify the suspect in the photo from the surveillance video.
Officers received various answers, with many agreeing the suspect in the photo could be Kottom-Olson.
One party told officers that Kottom-Olson had been complaining around 8 a.m. that day that "his cell phone was blowing up with people asking him if he had robbed the Spur," according to court records. He denied stating that.
Kelly Grinsteiner can be reached at kgrinsteiner@hibbingdailytribune.net. To read this story and comment on it online go to www.hibbingmn.com.

Small river could bring historic floods to ND

MINOT, N.D. (AP) — Plastic sheeting hung over the apartment building like a shroud, stretching from the levees to the ground. Across it, someone had spray-painted the word "pray" and drawn a line labeled "1969" — the level where floodwaters had risen the last time the Souris River climbed out of its banks in Minot.
That line stood just 2 feet above the ground. But the water is expected to climb far higher in parts of this Air Force town over the coming days as the little-known waterway swells from rain and snowmelt. It could bring the region's worst flooding in four decades.
As many as 10,000 people raced to evacuate Wednesday as water began spilling over Minot's levees. The river, which begins in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan and flows for a short distance through North Dakota, was all but certain to inundate thousands of homes and businesses during the next week.
A quarter of the city's 41,000 residents had been facing a 6 p.m. evacuation order, but emergency sirens blared at 1 p.m., warning people that the deadline had been moved up by five full hours. Before making their escape, city crews sand-bagged critical structures such as the water-treatment plant, city hall and school buildings.
"I feel so bad for everybody," said Robyn Whitlow, who lives outside the evacuation zone but was helping people load their belongings. She burst into tears when the siren went off.
The deluge along the Souris was expected to easily

exceed a 1969 flood, possibly reaching 13.5 feet above flood stage by Monday. The river is expected to top the historical record set in 1881 by more than 5 feet.
Nearby, Steve and Michelle Benjamin were hard at work hauling an entertainment center, desk chairs and bicycles over an emergency levee to a trailered pickup truck. It was the last of nearly a dozen loads.
Michelle Benjamin, 46, stood on the deck along the river, watching water trickle over the dike.
"Oh my God," she said as she fought back tears. "It's not easy starting over at this age."
The couple, who have lived in a landscaped five-bedroom modular home for 16 years, had moved their belongings out of the river's path twice in less than a month. Some 10,000 residents evacuated before the river hit 5 feet above flood stage. They were allowed to return but were warned to be ready to leave again quickly.
The repeated moves were particularly taxing for Steve Benjamin, 51, who broke his back in 1984 and has had several surgeries, evidenced by a 20-inch scar spanning much of his bare back. The last item waiting to be loaded — other than their dogs Buster and Bear — was a water bed.
Benjamin said the couple was likely heading to his son's house, which was in Minot but on higher ground outside the evacuation zone.
"I don't think the reality will set in until tomorrow, when we see the water in the house," he said.
Minot Mayor Curt Zimbel-

man warned that the river would top the levees earlier than expected and urged residents still moving their belongings to "be prepared to move quickly."
The National Weather Service in Bismarck also issued a flash-flood warning along the river from Burlington through Minot and Logan to Sawyer.
Before the sirens sounded, Laura Nessler, a nurse, watched the water lap against a bridge on Broadway, the main north-south thoroughfare through Minot. The road was bumper-to-bumper with pickup trucks carrying furniture and cars pulling trailers.
Nessler pointed to a side street that had flooded in the hour since she arrived.
"That didn't have any water when I got here, and now it's filling up," Nessler said.
Further north near the Canadian border, the river rose nearly 4 feet in the Sherwood area, where water released from Canadian dams arrives in North Dakota.
Minot, the fourth-largest city in North Dakota, is less than 60 miles south of the Canadian border.

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Preparing: Good time to intervene

From Page A1

school psychologist and PBIS coordinator.
"We feel it's a good time to intervene," he said, adding that the seventh and eighth grade populations are also where many of the behavior issues occur.
Many of the incidents that occur involve basic teenage issues such as goofing around in the hall, not paying attention in class and not exhibiting proper respect for teachers and other students, Ridgeway said.
If staff can better prepare these students for high school through PBIS, many behavior issues can be avoided, he said.
The PBIS team is working with seventh and eighth grade teachers to integrate the program and the Bluejacket PRIDE concepts into the classroom.
It won't mean more work for the teachers because they'll integrate the program into what they're already teaching, he said.
As the school year progresses, the PBIS team plans to expand the program to Lincoln Elementary School and develop a matrix for how the PRIDE expectations should be applied in classrooms and throughout the building.
The school also will track referrals to the high school office by student, reason for referral, location of incident, time of incident and the number of referrals each day, Ridgeway said.
In addition to referrals, the program also encourages staff to compliment students who are doing a good job and point out when they're being respectful.
PBIS constantly reinforces good manners and etiquette. If a teacher is supervising properly, he or she will give out four compliments

for every student they discipline, Ridgeway said.
"I'm really fired up about this," he said. "We're being proactive rather than waiting for a student to get into trouble and dealing with it."
"We're going to them and teaching them what the expectations are, and we're also being more positive."
Other schools in the state that have implemented the program have found success.
The Minnesota Department of Education began the program with a trial in nine schools in the 2005-2006 school year.
One school saw a 45 percent decrease in failing grades, a 25 percent decrease in office referrals, a 30 percent decrease in bus referrals and a 50 percent decrease in out-of-school suspensions following implementation of the program, said Nathan Lutzka, special programs director.
In other business directors:
• Recognized Hibbing alumnus Rodney Scofield for a model he constructed of Hibbing High School using Legos. A photograph of the model will be on display in a display case in the high school.
• Heard an update on construction at Hibbing High School.
• Heard a first reading of policy 522, which covers the use of peace officers, police liaison officers, and crisis teams to remove students with an individualized education program from school grounds.
Anna Kurth can be reached at akurth@hibbingdailytribune.net. To read this story and comment on it online go to www.hibbingmn.com.

California lawmakers feel financial loss for late budget

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Few tears are being shed for California lawmakers.
The man who cuts the state's paychecks decided to enforce a law this week that all 120 members of the Legislature will not be paid their salaries until they balance the state's annual spending plan by closing its \$9.6 billion budget deficit.
Democratic lawmakers say they followed the law by passing a budget last week and should not be penalized because Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed it.
They criticized the decision, saying the first use of a law some of them pushed for violated the separation of power between the executive branch and legislators. One lawmaker fretted about having to tell his family that they can't pay their bills.
At a time when the state is borrowing heavily, cutting programs and suffering from the lowest credit rating in the U.S., there was little sympathy for a legislature that most Californians don't think highly of, anyway.
"Their job is to get the budget passed so that the people who depend on them aren't screwed," said Dan Dougherty, 57, a Vietnam veteran in San Francisco. "These guys are making money and are representatives of the people."
"They need to do their jobs and get together," he said. "Republicans and Democrats need to come to a middle ground."
State controller John Chiang's decision holds at least the potential to end budget shenanigans and return a measure of fiscal respect to a state that is the world's eighth-largest economy.
Chiang determined that lawmakers failed to meet Proposition 25, an initiative approved by voters last year that is aimed at getting the Legislature to approve balanced budgets by their constitutional deadline of June 15.
The measure lowered the budget vote threshold from two-thirds to a simple majority. As an incentive for voters, Prop 25's authors added a provision that halts pay and expenses for lawmakers should they fail to meet the budget deadline.
When Democratic lawmakers passed a budget this month, Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed it. Chiang reviewed the package, finding that it did not meet the requirements for a balanced budget. He said portions were "miscalculated, miscounted or unfinished."
Chiang said it committed the state to \$89.8 billion in spending but provided \$87.9 billion in revenues, leaving a hole of \$1.85 billion.
"Part of the reason the budget didn't balance is that they were engaged in some of the past practices that worked in earlier years but that do not work today under the new reality," he said.
Brown said he reluctantly vetoed the package because it perpetuated the state's history for budget gimmickry by borrowing billions and making questionable legal maneuvers.
In years past, deadlines meant little to lawmakers.

The budget for the current fiscal year was signed last October, a record 100 days after the start of the fiscal year. Just five budgets since 1991 have been passed by the Legislature and signed by the governor before July 1.
The reality of going without a paycheck hit some lawmakers hard.
"I halted a fulfilling private sector career path to enter public service," lamented Assemblyman Mike Gatto, D-Los Angeles. "I now have to explain to my wife and daughter that we won't be able to pay the bills because a politician chose to grandstand at our expense."
Gatto is one of many who rely on the job as a primary source of income.
According to the National Conference of State Legislatures based in Denver, the full-time California Legislature is the highest paid in the nation. Many legislatures serve part-time.
With lawmakers forfeiting their salary and daily expense pay, taxpayers are saving \$48,603.50 a day.
For legislators earning \$95,291 a year, the loss of salary works out to \$261 each day. For leaders of the Senate and Assembly who make \$109,584, that works out to \$300 each day. Most lawmakers also lose out on a \$142 per diem for travel and living expenses.
State lawmakers also won't get retroactive pay.
In the past, their pay would stop once the new fiscal year began without a new budget, but they were able to recover their salaries when one ultimately passed. Although budget delays happen nearly every year, only nine times in the past 30 years has the budget stalemate dragged on so long that lawmakers missed at least a month's worth of pay.
Now under Prop 25, they never get the money back.
The leader of the state Senate warned that Chiang's decision could violate the state's separation of power between the legislative and executive branches of government. Lawmakers could sue.
"The controller's decision today sets a dangerous precedent," said Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg.
Assembly Speaker John Perez, a Democrat and a former union political director, joined forces last year with labor groups to pass Prop 25. After the election, he said the measure would positively affect the budget process.
Perez struck a critical tone Tuesday.
"While I respect the controller's efforts to render a decision within the guidelines of our Constitution, I believe he was wrong," Perez said in a prepared statement. "I continue to maintain that the Legislature met our constitutional duties in passing the budget."
California's new fiscal year begins July 1 and that means the governor and lawmakers have just days to work out a compromise.

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