

Charged with financially exploiting vulnerable adult -

# Attorney says Mayor is innocent

An attorney representing Gaylord Mayor Don Boeder says his client is innocent of allegations that he financially exploited a vulnerable adult.

News broke last week that Boeder is facing a felony financial exploitation charge in a case that has been investigated by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA). According to court documents, Boeder is accused of taking approxi-

mately \$15,000 from his step-father who is wheelchair bound and has suffered two strokes.

According to the criminal complaint, the victim's wife (Boeder's mother) was named as Power of Attorney (POA) on Dec. 7, 2001. Upon her death, Boeder was appointed POA (July, 2016).

The victim was beneficiary of two life insurance policies totaling \$29,962 that Boeder deposited into the victim's checking account in the fall of 2016. According to the report, Boeder withdrew \$30,000 from the victim's checking account made out to cash that were endorsed by Boeder and placed into a safety deposit box. Boeder also cashed a \$547 refund check and kept it in cash, according to the report.

In April 2018, the victim complained to his pastor that Boeder was taking money from him without permission. The pastor then contacted a person who later

became the victim's POA on May 2, 2018. When the new POA demanded Boeder return the \$30,000, he only returned \$11,000. A review of the victim's finances determined an additional \$4,300 from the \$30,000 was used to make payments at the victim's assisted living facility, and only \$15,200 in cash was unaccounted for.

The complaint alleges Boeder took \$8,747.30 from his step-father while serving as his POA. Boeder also admitted using another \$6,500 of his step-father's funds to pay for a roof on his cabin.

According to court documents, Boeder told investigators that his step-father said he would provide the \$6,500 to him as a gift. The victim initially denied that he gave him permission to use this money for the roof, but later stated he "might have" agreed to it but wasn't sure.

Boeder claimed he used the \$8,747.30 for the victim's living expenses but he did

not have receipts. This past October, Boeder sent a check payable to the victim for \$8,747.30.

Ryan Garry, Boeder's attorney, provided a statement to the media last week. It read: *Mayor Boeder is 100% innocent of the allegations in this case, and those who know him best know he would never engage in this behavior. We hope the Gaylord community recognizes that in this country he is presumed innocent, and that people who make false accusations sometimes have a motive behind them.*

Boeder is charged with a felony. If found guilty, the maximum sentence is 10 years imprisonment and/or a \$20,000 fine. He is scheduled to appear in Sibley County District Court on Tuesday, April 2.

Sibley County Sheriff Pat Niensaber stated the case was referred to the BCA due to a conflict of interest. A Sibley

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## Medical school CFO tells council things are "proceeding well"

"Things are proceeding very well and according to plan."

That was the sentiment from Paul Keithahn last week as he updated Gaylord's City Council on the progress of the proposed Minnesota College of Osteopathic Medicine (MNCOM).

For the past couple of years, developers have been working on transforming the former Sibley East school building into a medical school. Sibley East built a new elementary school and recently expanded its campus in Arlington.

A MNCOM update has been a standing agenda item for the City Council for the past six months or so. Keithahn said last week that workers, late last month, used a crane to remove more than 10-feet of snow off the building's roof. There is no sign of roof damage or leaking, he explained.

Workers also continue to make room for construction by establishing temporary power. And, all lockers, cabinets, book shelves and apparatus have been moved into the large gymnasium. According to Keithahn, these items will be made available to the public sometime this spring.

Keithahn also told council members he will provide a "more extensive" medical school update at the April 2nd City Council meeting.

# SE busses get better

Sibley East's school bus inspection results were much improved from 2018.

Thirteen of 14 route buses and vans passed inspections, and four of the five spare buses and van that were inspected also passed.

"Overall, we're very pleased with the improvement," Superintendent Jim Amsden said.

The one route bus that failed, Bus 2, failed because the brake rotors had outer edge rust, graffiti, fire extinguisher wasn't latched, and there was the wrong cover on the right rear brake. This bus was repaired the day of inspection and back in service the same day.

A spare bus, Bus 17, failed because the turn signal had more than 25% of the LED diodes inoperative. This bus was also repaired and passed.

Transportation Director Lanny Woods plans to have three more spare vehicles inspected as soon as possible. They are waiting to get repaired. A fourth spare is not insured and not in use. The school district will need to decide what to do with this bus this summer.

Three vehicles will need to be sold or traded, Woods reported. Two are deemed not worth repairing and a van has run out of eligible service years (12).

