

» DOWNHILL

FROM PAGE A1

Rasmussen was a member of the team that qualified for state competition last year and again this year. He said a lot of the credit goes to the encouragement and coaching Radtke gave team members.

Radtke said her team has a ski hill essentially in their back yard and a community that supports their efforts, which has helped her send kids to state every year.

"We try to keep it affordable for kids," she said, noting that the team had frequent donations of cash and equipment.

The investment in the kids, in both time and equipment, often pays off unexpectedly, as in the case of a young skier who was good technically, but a careful skier.

"That meant he wasn't getting up there in the scoring," she said.

One day, out of nowhere, he seemed to toss caution to the wind and attack the course.

"He took off like a bullet and all of us were shocked," Radtke said. "When he came back to the top of the hill, he said 'I just got sick of going slow.' From that point he launched himself into the top five and never quit."

Radtke said moments like that still drive her coaching, and she plans to keep at it.

"At least until I can find someone to keep the program going," she said.



Several of the skiers Radtke now coaches are children of former students she trained. Radtke continues to field competitive teams, and she says she will do so until she can find a coach capable of continuing the program she and her father Ed Olson established. (Contributed photo by Pete Rasmussen)

Radtke said having Mt. Ashwabay so close by and the community support that fills the parking lot during every competition have helped her teams in their continued success. (Contributed photo by Sarah Wroblewski)



Contestants Janine Johnson, left, and Anna Johnson work on their sculpture last year. The contest is open to anyone of any age, with all proceeds going to the park reconstruction fund. (Contributed photo by Annalisa Bermel)

» CONTEST

FROM PAGE A1

and Recreation Committee, which has also organized fundraising efforts to reconstruct Cooper Hill Park, is organizing the event.

So far the group has raised about \$50,000 for Cooper Hill Park, where old playground has been removed and new equipment is due for installation in the spring.

The Howl contest will be the group's second snow-sculpture event, following year's effort that raised about \$10,000. This year, a donation will get you a hot bowl of soup, with Adventure Brewing offering part of the proceeds from beer sales to the playground rebuilding project.

Howl will also be offering prizes.

Subcommittee spokeswoman Grace Hogan said the new East Dock Park still needs a lot of help from volunteers and fundraisers.

"Initially, we thought we were just going to replace the playground equipment, which is rotting and has some broken pieces, but in looking at the bigger picture, just the whole park, it would be amazing to update it instead of just replacing the equipment," she said.

The plan now is to make the park more accessible, with an

If You Go

- The snow-sculpture contest will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 5 at Howl Adventure Center, 35265 Highway J, Bayfield. For more information, see howlin-bayfield.com/

additional path to picnic shelters, and to make it less prone to flooding during heavy rain.

"The park is meant to be accessible to everyone, not just children," she said. "It's a prime spot, kind of tucked away, not right downtown, but a nice sort of quiet area."

Hogan said the park has views of the marina, the lake, commercial fishing boats, and the maritime museum, making it a unique local gathering place.

"There is a lot going on in that little corner," she said. "It is a beautiful place and a lot of people come there just to look at the lake, and they discover there is a playground here, too."

Hogan said the project still has a long way to go.

"We are still in the planning stages, but we are applying for grants, raising money and getting feedback from the community," she said.

So far, \$10,000 has been donated by Memorial Medical Center and \$5,000 each from Bayfield County and the Apostle Islands Community Fund of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation.



Hogan

» LAVASSEUR

FROM PAGE A1

atmosphere in which inmates are perceived to have control over whether rules are followed and jail staff routinely fail to insist on compliance with those rules, the statement from the county said.

Lavasseur's management of jail operations reportedly culminated in an incident involving allegation of sexual assault between two inmates. One inmate submitted a written statement to correctional officers regarding the alleged sexual assault. Lavasseur failed to take immediate and appropriate steps to investigate, the statement said.

The sheriff's department also identified several instances when jail staff reportedly failed to follow policies and in which inmates likewise violated jail

rules without consequence.

"When confronted with questions into these inmate allegations, Lavasseur did not take responsibility for any lack of compliance with jail policies. Instead, Lavasseur deferred responsibility to the individual jail staff working under her administration," the statement said. "The lack of acceptance of accountability and deferral of blame to other jail staff is unacceptable from a jail administrator and was the ultimate reason for the decision to remove Lavasseur from the position."

When Lavasseur said Zupke wasn't telling the truth about her performance, Zupke recommended Lavasseur be demoted from her lieutenant's position and back to line correctional officer on Jan. 19, the statement read.

Zupke asked whether Lavasseur wanted to continue as a correctional officer or resign. Lavasseur left the meeting with Zupke without providing a response, the statement said.

"After the meeting, it was concluded that the trust between Lavasseur and the sheriff's office could not be regained. As a result, Lavasseur's employment with the county was terminated since she didn't accept continued employment as a correctional officer," the statement read.

Lavasseur's lawyer, Ben Hitchcock Cross told the Daily Press on Friday that they can contest the coun-

ty's version of events.

"It's fair to say that our understanding of events is different. My client succeeded in the jail administration position without any notice of training of any kind. Now it's clear that she is being held to secret rules, secret expectations and infractions that have never been adequately divulged with her," Cross said.

He feels communication with Lavasseur leading up

her to termination wasn't adequate and that Lavasseur should have been told of perceived performance problems before she was disciplined, not several days later, so she could have addressed the problems.

"Let's say all this is true, but she never got a chance to argue about it," Cross said. "She didn't get the chance to fight back. She's supposed to be able to

affect the decision, even it's just saying, 'Pretty please,'" Cross said.

Cross maintains that firing Lavasseur without immediately providing an explanation violated Lavasseur's rights as a government employee. Lavasseur on Friday had not responded to the county's decision to uphold her termination, but can fight it at a grievance hearing, Grady said.

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