

Fantastic fun fair

County fair starts next weekend

A9



Leading the way

Local students attend Rotary camp

A10



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STAFF PHOTOS BY LAUREL BEAGER

Shoppers found bargains and more downtown Wednesday.

Crazy Daze offers variety

Citywide Crazy Daze Wednesday offered bargains, food, activities and music at several venues in International Falls. Businesses from the east to the west sides of the city participated with much of the activities offered downtown.

More information

For more photos, turn to Page B8.



Braydon Kurhais tested his strength at the striker bell Wednesday. Several activities and attractions were included in the downtown offerings.



Tom Schaaf offers an orange snow cone from the Knights of Columbus food booth. It was among several food booths servings as fundraisers for local organizations.

County added to disaster declaration

BY SPENSER BICKETT Staff Writer

Thanks to a recent request, flood relief may be coming for additional Minnesota counties, including Koochiching, affected by early summer flooding.

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is requesting 30 counties and two tribal governments be added to the federal disaster declaration received July 21.



Rob Ecklund

HSEM Director Kris Eide requested the Federal Emergency Management Agency add the following counties to the declaration: Beltrami, Blue Earth, Brown, Carver, Dakota, Dodge, Faribault, Hennepin, Koochiching, Lac Qui Parle, Lake of the Woods, Le Sueur, Lyon, Marshall, Martin, McLeod, Nicollet, Ramsey, Redwood, Rice, Roseau, Scott, Sibley, Steele, Todd, Wadena, Waseca, Watonwan, Wright and Yellow Medicine counties and the tribal governments of the Red

Flood relief to A7 >

Congress aligns to help veterans

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Congressional leaders on both sides of the aisle are coming together in support of a bill which would make it easier for veterans to access medical care at the country's Veterans Affairs clinics.



Rick Nolan

The House and Senate have reached an agreement on the Veterans Access to Care Act, which would provide \$17 billion to help fix problems in the Department of Veterans Affairs. The deal is headed by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Rep. Jeff Miller (R-Fla.), who chair the Senate and House committees overseeing the VA system. The House on Wednesday approved the bill by a vote of 420-5, with the Senate expected to vote on the bill this week, before taking a recess starting today.

One significant provision in the bill provides \$10 billion for veterans to seek government-subsidized care from private healthcare providers, if they live more than 40 miles from a VA

Veterans to A7 >

Officers: Human-tolerant wildlife should be reported

With recent sightings of wolf, people urged to make noise, be aware

BY LAUREL BEAGER Editor

Northern Minnesota communities surrounded by forests often play host to wildlife that may become accustom to living around people.

Local resource managers and law enforcement are asking the community to be aware of the possibility they may see or encounter wildlife within the International Falls limits.

One or two wolves, usually a secretive species, may have become used to the comings and going of people in and around

Keenan Drive, Eleventh Avenue and 20th Street.

Falls Police Capt. Tom Lynch said this week officers have received reports from area residents and have observed the animals themselves.

"We are asking the public not to take matters into their own hands," said Lynch. "Contact law enforcement when you see it and we will deal with it."

Police may be contacted at the Koochiching County Law Enforcement Center at 283-4416.

Minnesota Conservation Officer Darrin Kittelson, who has been working with police in monitoring the situation, said there may be one or two wolves in the area. Reports earlier this spring indicated a wolf may have had an injured leg or foot in the area of the former city of South

"If you make your presence known, they'll likely go the other way." CO Darrin Kittelson

Falls. And more recent reports may indicate a wolf with mange, a natural disease that causes hair loss.

While seeing or encountering a wolf or bear may be scary, most of the time the animal will flee a human, he said.

"We tell people that 99.99 percent of the time the animal is afraid of us; we are afraid of the animal and they go one way and we go another," he said. "There is a very small percentage of the time that things might go amok."

Just because someone sees a wolf doesn't mean it's a safety issue, Kittelson said. "We've had no reports of stealing puppies

off porches," he said. "There are rabbits and deer in town. I had (a wolf) in my yard and I live on Home Lane."

Kittelson urged people who may see wildlife to make noise by clapping their hands, talking loudly, or whistling. "If you make your presence known, they'll likely go the other way."

He recommended people call the police department if they see the wolves so they may stay abreast of where the wolves are and how they are behaving.

"But if they're not bothering anyone, not showing aggression,

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