

## County board elects new chair for 2014

**BY SPENSER BICKETT**  
Staff Writer

The Koochiching County Board Tuesday elected a new board chair and vice-chair for 2014.

By unanimous vote, county Commissioner Rob Ecklund was elected chair, and county Commissioner Wade Pavleck was elected vice-chair.

In other business, the board heard concerns from citizens regarding the route alternatives of the Great Northern Transmission Line. Minnesota Power has not started the permitting application process for the powerline yet, but expects to submit the application in March.

Charity Oveson, Joann Cockrum, and Dan Tuchek detailed their concerns about the powerline, as all of them own homes near the potential routes. Their two big issues with the project are health concerns and the unsightliness of the project, Oveson said.

“What we would like to have happen is the powerline be moved, like, five miles further, probably south,” she said.

While they oppose the proposed route for the powerline, Oveson said they don't oppose the project itself.

"We know what it can mean monetarily for the county, and for people that live here and are trying to survive here," she said.

Oveson, who lives in Flagstaff, Ariz., said the group has been in contact with Jim Atkinson, Minnesota Power environmental siting and permitting manager, about their concerns. Atkinson has been open to working with them on a possible alternative route, she said.

Hearing these concerns and working with affected persons through informational meetings and open houses has been part of the planning process, Ecklund said.

"It's an ongoing process, and they've got several more

community meetings for input on it," he said.

Oveson, Cockrum, and Tuchek cited the Big Fork River Development Plan, developed in 1992, which outlined plans for the area. Cockrum said the plan was in place when she purchased her property, and "we thought this plan kind of protected us from these types of developments, because it says that the scenery of the river will not be compromised."

The winters in Borderland can be bitter cold, and Cockrum said this powerline impacts the reason people like her choose to live in the rural area.

"We don't live up in this area for the 50-below temps, the wilderness and the scenery is pretty much what we have out there," she said.

The county board approved a motion to send a letter to Atkinson requesting his attendance at an upcoming county board meeting to hear these community concerns.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT



STAFF PHOTO BY SPENSER BICKETT

**Mike Fritz takes a break from loading his truck with donations dropped off at The Journal for the Borderland Humane Society. Community members donated 835 pounds of pet food, other pet supplies, and money during the December annual fundraiser at the Christmas tree in the lobby of The Journal, Highway 71. All donations go to the Falls Hunger Coalition.**

LET THE  
*Games*  
BEGIN!

## January Slot Tournament

**\$1400 CASH AND PRIZES**

**\$1400 CASH AND PRIZES**  
Thursday, January 9.

Thursday, January 9.

- \$14 buy-in.
- Registration starts at 4 p.m.

- Play begins at 6 p.m.

*\*\$49 room rates for all tournament players.*

# SLOT TOURNAMENT

## Bring In The New Year Bingo

**OVER \$18,000 IN PRIZES,  
\$2,014 AND \$5,000 SPECIAL GAMES.  
Friday, January 17.**

Friday, January 17.

● \$100 Buy-in.

- Doors open at 5 p.m.

- Doors open at 5 p.m.
- Play begins at 7 p.m.

\*\$49 room rates for all bingo players.



*\* Must be used on night of event. Based on availability. Must be Wild Edge Member.*



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# County Market LIQUOR

## Welcome The New Year

**Michelob Golden Draft Light**  
24 Pack Cans

**\$16<sup>97</sup>**

**Busch & Busch Light**  
24 Pack Cans

**\$14<sup>97</sup>**

**Miller, Miller Lite & MGD**  
24 Pack Cans

**\$16<sup>97</sup>**

**Angry Orchard Hard Cider**  
12 Pack Bottles

**\$13<sup>97</sup>**

**Molson Canadian**  
12 Pack Bottles

**\$10<sup>97</sup>**

**Corona & Corona Light**  
12 Pack

**\$13<sup>97</sup>**

**Leinenkugel's**  
6 Pack Bottles  
All Flavors

**\$6<sup>96</sup>**

**New Castle**  
6 Pack Bottles

**\$7<sup>47</sup>**

**Gray's Beer**  
6 Pack Bottles

**\$6<sup>96</sup>**

**Tito's Vodka**  
1.75 Liter

**\$19<sup>97</sup>**

**E&J VSOP Brandy**  
1.75 Liter

**\$15<sup>97</sup>**

**Wiser's Canadian Whisky**  
1.75 Liter

**\$17<sup>97</sup>**

**RonDiaz Rum**  
All Types  
1.75 Liter

**\$12<sup>97</sup>**

**Tanqueray Gin**  
1 Liter

**\$19<sup>97</sup>**

**Phillips Vodka**  
1 Liter

**\$6<sup>96</sup>**

**Punto Final Malbec**  
750 ml

**\$7<sup>97</sup>**

**Ruta 22 Malbec**  
750 ml

**\$8<sup>98</sup>**

**Kendall Jackson**  
750 ml

**\$10<sup>97</sup>**

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**Fetzer Chardonnay**  
750 ml

**\$4<sup>94</sup>**

**Tisdale All Flavors**  
750 ml

**\$3<sup>43</sup>**

**Naked Grape Wines**  
750 ml

**\$4<sup>94</sup>**

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