

Creative minds

Local artist works with students

A4



Helping the hungry

Month-long food drive helps community

A3



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FALLS CITY COUNCIL



STAFF PHOTO BY SPENSER BICKETT

From left to right, Dave Farmer, Doug Dault and Steve Blair, members of the North Koochiching Area Sanitary District Board, meet with the International Falls City Council Monday.

Council discusses, tables old item

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

An International Falls City Council discussion on an old business item Monday veered into confusing territory, with the council tabling the item indefinitely.

The council met with three representatives of the North Koochiching Area Sanitary District to discuss the district's donation of \$10,000 toward building a new animal shelter for the Borderland Humane Society.

The NKASD Board representatives present, Steve Blair, Doug Dault, and Dave Farmer, said at a January NKASD meeting, the board approved a motion to rescind the \$10,000 payment, because some members weren't sure if the initial payment authorization was legal. The district

then requested the city of International Falls reimburse the district for the \$10,000 donation it had already made.

In an October 2013 letter NKASD Executive Director Tim "Chopper" McBride sent to the NKASD Board of Directors, he outlined the decision to make the \$10,000 expenditure as an "overstepping" of the executive director's decision-making powers.

In the letter, McBride wrote "the director did not request formal action by the board to expend funds for the relocation of the animal shelter." The letter continues "so the issue is not shall or shouldn't this be part of our 2014 expenditures, it is that the director has without permission involved the district in this endeavor."

Council to A7 ➤

Former county employee charged with felony theft

Itasca County investigates case

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

A former Koochiching County jail administrator has been charged with two counts of felony theft alleging he took money from a jail cash fund.

Tim W. Milette, 38, is scheduled to appear Monday in Koochiching County District Court for an initial hearing on two counts of theft of public funds.

Court documents filed Thursday said an investigation by the Itasca County Sheriff's Office allege a cash draw maintained by the county jail administra-

tor was more than \$270 short of its \$300 required balance when audited Jan. 13 by county staff.

A call to a telephone number listed for Milette was not in operation.

The report stated the investigator was informed by county staff the drawer that day was not in the dispatch office, where it had typically been kept. After contacting Milette, he told county staff it was kept in his office and it did not contain \$300, but instead had about \$180, according to the report.

Felony to A7 ➤



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After his camping chair broke, Randy Gieser of Northome improvises by sitting on a bucket during the Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club's Family Ice Fishing Derby and Raffle Saturday on Rainy Lake.

Derby turnout one of the largest ever

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

A temporary settlement sprung up on Rainy Lake Saturday, as anglers flocked to the ice to try to hook the big one.

The Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club's 30th annual Family Ice Fishing Derby and Raffle Saturday featured plenty of anglers setting up on Sand Bay, drilling holes and erecting houses.

Dave Peterson, chairman of the club's derby committee, said the Saturday turnout was one of the largest of the last 20 years. The club sold 2,500 tickets, he said, and the Lion's Club Food Wagon went through 312 sandwiches.

"I never heard one negative comment during the day, it was all positive," Peterson said. "People appreciated having the extra prizes, it kind of made things more fun."

The extra prizes were awarded to winners of the scavenger hunts held during the derby, Peterson said.

This year's fish prizes were awarded by a random draw of the fish entered. In past years,

Derby to A7 ➤



Kids play all over the snow piles on Sand Bay Saturday during the ice fishing derby.



Karl Zirups, foreground, scoops out Zack Zirups' fishing hole during the ice fishing derby Saturday.

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