

LOCALNEWS

DISTRICT COURT

The following people have been sentenced for aggravated misdemeanor or felony crimes in Koochiching County District Court.

Jeffrey Doucette, 37, International Falls, was sentenced Feb. 24 for felony possession of burglary or theft tools. He was sentenced to 17 months at the Minnesota Correctional Facility, St. Cloud, and \$2,525 restitution. The prison time was stayed, and he was ordered to serve six months in the county jail and was placed on five years supervised probation.

Colton A. Tammi, 25, International Falls, was sentenced Feb. 24 for felony theft — take, use, transfer movable property without owner consent and gross misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

On the felony, he was sentenced to 18 months at the Minnesota Correctional Facility, St. Cloud, and \$100 fine and fees. The prison time was stayed, he was placed on three years supervised probation and ordered to serve 40 hours with the Sentence to Serve program. He must follow the recommendations of a chemical assessment and may not use alcohol or drugs or enter bars, liquor stores or social gatherings where it is being used. He must submit to random searches and testing and may not contact the victims.

On the gross misdemeanor, he was charged with one year jail and \$4,100 fine and fees. The jail time and \$2,000 of the fine was stayed and he was placed on three years supervised probation. He must serve 80 hours with the Sentence to Serve program. The sentence to be

served concurrently with the felony sentence.

Randall J. Grundmeier, 41, Northome, was sentenced Feb. 24 for felony fourth-degree assault, peace officer — demonstrable bodily harm or throws/transfers bodily fluids or feces. He was sentenced to 12 months and one day at the Minnesota Correctional Facility, St. Cloud, and \$6,150 fine and fees. The prison time was stayed and he was ordered to serve 60 days in the county jail. He was given credit for serving 60 days jail. All but \$200 of the fine and fees were stayed on court conditions. He was ordered to follow the recommendations of a chemical assessment and complete domestic abuse and nonviolent intervention programs. He was ordered to serve 40 hours with the Sentence to Serve program and may not possess firearms or dangerous weapons. He may not use alcohol or drugs and may not enter bars or liquor stores. He must submit to random testing and searches.

John D. Ray, 24, International Falls, was sentenced Feb. 24 for felony first-degree burglary — occupied dwelling. He was sentenced to 33 months at the Minnesota Correctional Facility, St. Cloud, and \$200 fine and fees. The prison time was stayed and he was ordered to serve 90 days in the county jail. He was placed on five years supervised probation and ordered to follow the recommendations of assessments and evaluations. He may not contact the victims and may not use alcohol or drugs or enter bars or liquor stores. He must submit to random

testing and searches and must serve 40 hours with the Sentence to Serve program.

Adam E. Ames, 20, International Falls, was sentenced Feb. 20 for gross misdemeanor emergency telephone calls — interrupt, interfere, impede 911 call. He was sentenced to one year jail and \$3,250 fine and fees. The jail time and all but \$300 were stayed on court conditions and he was placed on supervised probation for three years. He was ordered to serve 50 hours with the Sentence to Serve program, follow the recommendations of a chemical assessment and may not consume alcohol or drugs and may not enter bars or liquor stores. He must submit to random testing.

Andrew L. Stavish, 33, International Falls, was sentenced Feb. 24 to gross misdemeanor driving after cancellation of licensing — posing a threat to public safety. He was given a stay of adjudication and he was placed on one year probation. He was ordered to serve 40 hours with the Sentence to Serve program.

Steven J. Horne, 51, Littlefork, was sentenced Feb. 24 for gross misdemeanor game and fish — take/possess big game out of season. He was sentenced to one year jail and \$3,850 fine and fees. The jail time and all but \$1,100 of the fine and fees was stayed on court conditions. He was placed on three years supervised probation and ordered to forfeit the rifle used in commission of the offense. He must forfeit recreational licenses/privileges for three years.

House OKs emergency LIHEAP funds

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The 2014 Legislative Session began Tuesday with the House of Representatives passing a bill to make an emergency infusion of funds for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance.

The \$20 million supplemental funding for LIHEAP will help Minnesotans hardest hit by the extreme shortage of propane in the state.

More than 250,000 Minnesota households rely on propane for home heating, and other businesses, particularly agricultural businesses, also use propane for their processes.

The combination of the

unusually cold winter and a loss of 40 percent of state's pipeline capacity caused the demand for home heating fuels to spike. Suppliers began to ration deliveries, and prices skyrocketed; propane that normally sells for \$1.70 a gallon in the heating season was selling at over \$6 a gallon at the peak of the crisis in early February. Today, the average price of a gallon of propane is around \$3.25.

"This is much-needed



Rep. David Dill

help," said Rep. David Dill, DFL-Crane Lake. "People in my district have bore the brunt of this crisis, and this aid will alleviate the pressure it was causing on their finances. It will give all Minnesotans peace of mind moving forward toward warmer weather."

Dill also said that this issue deserves a longer conversation.

"This isn't the end of the discussion," said Dill. "We must do all we can to ensure that shortages such as this one don't happen again. Propane is too critical to Minnesota homeowners and industry."

The bill passed 133-0

KSWCD seeks summer apprentice

KSWCD REPORT

Conservation Corps Minnesota is accepting applications for young adults, ages 18-25, for summer apprentice positions in 37 Soil and Water Conservation Districts throughout Minnesota.

Apprentices will spend their summer working alongside natural resource professionals to learn hands-on skills in managing soil and water resources. Responsibilities

will vary by site and may include communicating with landowners, providing educational materials, monitoring, inspecting sites, preparing reports and other conservation-related activities.

The Koochiching SWCD apprentice will be based in International Falls.

Apprentices will serve as AmeriCorps members and receive a monthly living stipend of \$1,210 as well as an education award of \$1,468 to use towards quali-

fying education and student loan expenses. Educational credits may be arranged by the apprentice. The service term runs from May 19-Aug. 15.

Interested candidates should apply online at www.conservationcorps.org/apply by March 21.

The program is funded through the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund and Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources.

Gas official says 'worst is yet to come'

Prices could continue to increase

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Average retail gasoline prices in Minnesota have risen 4.5 cents in the past week, averaging \$3.41 per gallon Sunday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 2,856 gas outlets in Minnesota.

This compares with the national average that has increased 5 cents per gallon in the last week to \$3.40 per gallon, according to gasoline price website MinnesotaGasPrices.com.

Regular gas prices in International Falls, according to the site, ranged from \$3.36 to \$3.54 Monday. Lo-

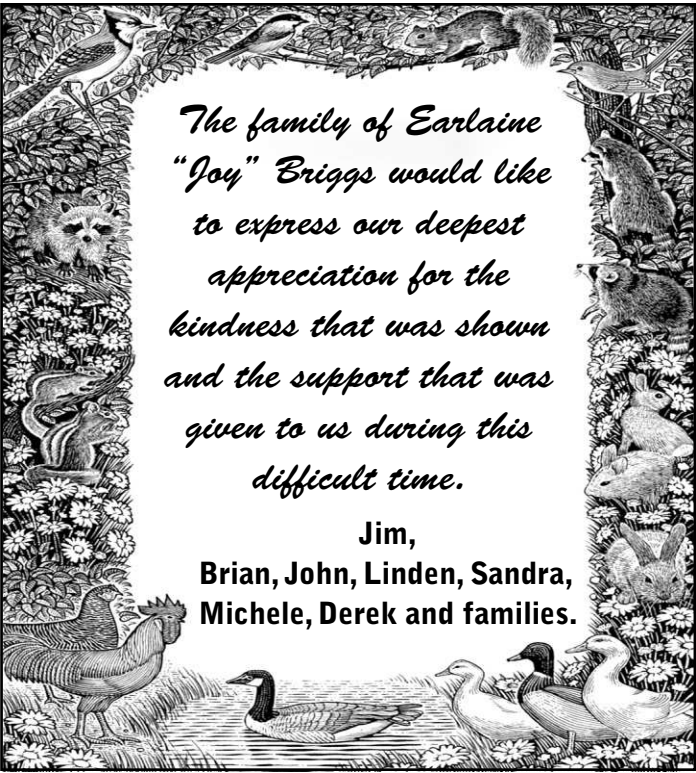
cal prices for premium fuel were listed at \$3.89 per gallon and diesel fuel ranged from \$4.29 to \$4.95. Prices for midgrade fuel were not listed on the site.

Including the change in gas prices in Minnesota during the past week, prices Sunday were 37.7 cents per gallon lower compared to the same day one year ago and are 17.5 cents per gallon higher than a month ago. The national average has increased 12.5 cents during the last month and stands 32.6 cents per gallon lower than this day one year ago.

"The rate of increase in the national average has accelerated over the last week, and the worst is likely yet to come," said GasBuddy.com Senior Petroleum Analyst Patrick DeHaan. "Oil prices


continue to move higher as refineries continue their maintenance season, leading to a double whammy at the gas station. In addition, in another month we'll also start seeing refineries producing more expensive, cleaner burning summer gasoline, and that will likely keep upward pressure on retail gasoline prices. Just a handful of stations across the nation are seeing a price under \$3 per gallon, and a few weeks from today, motorists along the West Coast with perhaps a few other states will be wishing for those current \$3 prices."

GasBuddy operates MinnesotaGasPrices.com and over 250 similar websites that track gasoline prices at more than 140,000 gasoline stations in the United States and Canada.




The family of Earlaine "Joy" Briggs would like to express our deepest appreciation for the kindness that was shown and the support that was given to us during this difficult time.

**Jim,
Brian, John, Linden, Sandra,
Michele, Derek and families.**



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