

Giving and learning

L-BF students raise money for charity

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Let it snow
Snow predicted Saturday for Icebox Days



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New clinic to be housed at hospital

RLMC’s hospital campus will be home to Rural Health Clinic in February

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

The goal of a clinic to be opened in February at the International Falls hospital is to ensure the community has adequate and efficient access to medical care at all times.

The Rainy Lake Medical Center’s hospital campus will be the home of the Rainy Lake Rural Health Clinic starting Feb. 3, RLMC interim CEO Bob Haley said.

The clinic will now be located within the hospital, but by next summer will also use the former Good Samaritan building con-

nected to the hospital for offices.

Haley said the intention behind opening a new clinic is to provide better access to physicians. Now, he said, it sometimes takes two months for a patient to see their provider or their physician at the existing clinic.

“We want to alleviate some of the backlog,” he said. “Essentia is not able to recruit family practitioners.”

A release about the opening of the Rural Health Clinic states “The Rainy Lake RHC will offer another quality health care

Clinic to A7 ➤

Two out of three ain’t bad

Governor includes local airport, sewer project in bonding proposal

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

Two of three local projects seeking money by local officials have been included in Gov. Mark Dayton’s bonding proposal introduced Wednesday.

Dayton proposed a \$986 bonding bill he said will create more than 27,000 jobs and bring needed infrastructure improvements across the state. He said more than \$3 billion in requests for bonding money were considered.

Included in Dayton’s bill is \$2 million of a \$3 million request for the Falls International Airport. Dayton said the \$2 million would be used as a local match to federal funds to construct a new airline terminal facility. The total cost of the project is \$11.3 million.

Dayton also included \$8.5 million for the Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Project to construct sewer collection infrastructure in communities adjacent to Minnesota’s only national park. The total project

Bonding to A7 ➤



Mark Dayton

Kickoff to Icebox Days

Fourth-grade students spent Tuesday afternoon in Smokey Bear Park sculpting piles of snow into a polar bear, a snowman and the Olympic logo. The Falls Elementary students created the larger-than-life snow sculptures to kick off this week’s Icebox Days events.

FOR MORE SCULPTURE PHOTOS, TURN TO PAGE B10.



STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

From left, Kylee Sweeney, Kaili Graves and Emma Walls shovel away a pile of snow at Smokey Bear Park Tuesday. The Falls Elementary fourth-grade students were shaping the heaping pile of white stuff to create a sculpture to kick off this week’s Icebox Days events.



Matthew Kotnik takes a break from shoveling to slide down the pile of snow his group was shaping into a polar bear.

Winter workout: skiing is for everyone

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

With more than two feet of snow on the ground and very few days that temperatures have climbed above zero, it could be easy for Borderlanders to complain about winter — which may just be getting started.

There are others, however, who warmly embrace Old Man Winter’s blow by strapping poles to their hands and stepping into their skis.

Burgess Eberhardt is one of these people.

As gusty winds whisked spirals of snow off Rainy Lake Wednesday, Eberhardt and three others set off down the Tilson Creek Ski Trail for an afternoon of exercise and companionship.

“You can ski in absolutely any weather — if you dress right,” Eberhardt said as he sipped from a cup of steaming coffee earlier in the day. “If it’s 20 below zero outside, you can definitely still get out and ski.”

Hot Dog Roast

The Polar Polers will host a hot dog roast in conjunction with Icebox Days at 1 p.m. Sunday at the Tilson Creek Ski Trail.

As president of the local Polar Polers Ski Club, Eberhardt said he knows cross-country skiing is a beautiful, graceful sport — but not always for beginners. Although he has been skiing for several years, the outdoor enthusiast said he doesn’t always radiate elegance.

“I am the least graceful person you will ever see,” he said. “Some people are gifted athletically, but most skiers, when they start out, are not.”

The Polar Polers currently has about 35 members, all who have different levels of ability, he said.

“The club has really good skiers and a lot of people who are not necessarily beginners, but just

enjoy being outdoors on skis,” he said.

For people who are hesitant to give skiing a try, club members can come in handy.

According to Eberhardt, the Polar Polers are always willing to teach people who are new to the sport some techniques to make the idea of propelling themselves across snow-covered terrain more appealing.

Ski to A7 ➤

Burgess Eberhardt, president of the local Polar Polers Ski Club, skate skis down the Tilson Creek Ski Trail Wednesday afternoon. Eberhardt encourages everyone to try skiing at least once and says it’s a great way to enjoy the outdoors in the winter while getting a good workout.

STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE



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