



WISHING YOU A SAFE AND  
*Merry Christmas*



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## New AIS rules require sticker, training

Rule could be changed because it impacts travelers

BY LAUREL BEAGER  
Editor

New rules aimed at protecting Minnesota's waters from aquatic invasive species don't take effect until July 1, but could be revised before then.

On July 1, anyone who trans-

ports a boat trailer, boat lift or other water equipment in Minnesota will be required to take a course and display a decal indicating they have completed the course, said April Rust, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources aquatic invasive species training coordinator. The course will take 20-30 minutes and be required every three years.

The law may be revised because it will impact people traveling from other states to destinations in Minnesota, said Rust. The DNR understands concerns raised by

representatives of the tourism industry and others about the law as it now stands, she said.

"The problem with the law the way it was written is it will include anyone traveling through the state," she said. "We recognize there is an issue with the law as written. And we will know more about that as the legislative process unfolds. Once the whole legislative process is underway, we will see what happens when we get direction from the governor's office."

The state Legislature convenes Jan. 6.

Some tourism organizations believe there will be changes to better deal with out-of-state visitors that probably won't be aware of the requirements, said Pete Schultz, executive director of the area's Visitor and Convention Bureau. He briefed members of the CVB Board in October about the law and its impact on travelers to help them prepare for its implementation, said Schultz.

Revision of the law would be helpful, he said. "Certainly we all want to stop the spread of invasive species and I believe out-of-state

visitors would want to do their part but they need to be educated before we can expect them to jump on the bandwagon," he said.

And even though the decal and training aren't required until July 1, Schultz said he's fielded some questions from people who want to know what they'll need to do to be legal.

The course is intended to make clear what people need to do to comply with the state's AIS laws, said Rust.

**AIS to A7 >**



Sixth-grade student Holden Sutherland concentrates on using a power drill while making a Christmas tree out of a recycled pallet.

STAFF PHOTOS  
BY EMILY GEDDE

## PALLET PROJECT

BY EMILY GEDDE  
Staff Writer

West End Elementary students transformed basic pallets into unique gifts this week.

About 40 pallets used during this summer's flood relief

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efforts were delivered to the sixth-grade students by Scott Thompson so the group could craft them into Christmas trees to take home as gifts.

Assisted by eighth-grade students in George McDonald's wood shop class, sixth graders had the opportunity to use power tools to construct their Christmas trees.

Sixth-grade teacher Kim McDonald said she came up

**Project to A7 >**



STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

Dick Bergh shared his secrets on preparation and cooking of lutefisk, which he eats year around. He shows this dehydrated fillet prior to preparation for cooking.

## Lutefisk aficionado shares his secrets

(Ssshhh, but it's the moisture and cooking)

BY LAUREL BEAGER  
Editor

Lutefisk — it's what's for dinner year around for Dick Bergh.

While most people of Scandinavian descent eat the fish as a holiday tradition, Bergh gives a nod to the tradition, but also eats lutefisk even in the summer months.

Lutefisk should be firm when eaten, he said. The gelatinous version (or aversion) some people eat is a result of improper preparation and cooking, he said.

Bergh, of International Falls, brought to The Journal a piece of the uncooked fish to show for

**Lutefisk to A7 >**

## IT'S SANTA!

Students at Falls Elementary were greeted by Santa Claus and one of his elves when they arrived to school Friday. The jolly Christmas icon waved to students — calling some of them out by name — and wished everyone a merry Christmas.

A group of students enthusiastically wave at Santa and his elf.



Dressed in his festive gear, preschool student Lars Lindquist waves to Santa as he arrives at school Friday.



STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

Santa Claus and one of his elves wave to Falls Elementary students as they arrive at school Friday.

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