

Prize
within reach

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for national award

A3



Freaky
fall fun

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promises fun and fright

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The Journal

Wednesday,
October 23, 2013

International Falls, Minnesota

www.ifallsjournal.com

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Ranier council opposes project site

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

RANIER- The Ranier City Council Monday took action opposing one of three proposed locations of a plasma gasification waste-to-energy facility.

The Renewable Energy Clean Air Project would take solid waste and bio-mass residue and convert them to syngas, biofuel, steam, or electricity. The proposed project location, on County Highway

155 south of Second Creek, is one of three potential sites being considered for the project. The other sites are near the county's transfer site on Highway 11-71 and a location on Highway 332.

The council listened to input from residents, hearing many concerns about the amount of garbage that would be brought to the site, the potential smell and possible adverse environmental effects the project might have on Second Creek. Preliminary

plans for the project include buffer zones between the project and the creek, Mayor Dennis Wagner said.

"Those concerns, even though I hear them, I don't think they deserve much merit because the buffer zone has been left there," Wagner said.

Two residents, David Stavseth and Jeff Oveson, spoke about concerns of runoff and erosion of Second Creek. They had a petition, they said, with signatures

of residents asking Koochiching County to find another location for the project. However, they did not produce the actual petition to the council, City Clerk Kim Nuthak said.

Oveson and Stavseth attended the Koochiching County Board meeting Tuesday, but did not present the petition. They are scheduled to present the petition opposing the location of the proposed project on County Highway 155 at the Nov. 5 county board meeting.

The concerns residents have about smells, erosion and the amount of garbage would be addressed during the construction process, Wagner said. The project would also have to address those issues during the permitting process as well, he added.

Councilor Brenda Bauer was absent from the meeting.

Resident Arden Barnes has attended informational meetings

Ranier to A7 ►



STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

Students in Brittany Bolstad's first-grade class select pumpkins Monday delivered by Harvey Kennedy. Kennedy, for many years, has been donating pumpkins for the students' annual pumpkin math activity.

The Pumpkin Man

Falls Elementary School first-grade students could hardly contain their excitement Monday as Harvey Kennedy delivered pumpkins to the classrooms for their annual pumpkin math activity. During pumpkin math, students will be joined by

family members to carve a pumpkin and count its seeds. The event is set for 1:30 p.m. Friday in the students' respective classrooms. Kennedy, who has donated pumpkins to the event for several years, said this year, his garden produced about 1,000 of the gourds.



Harvey Kennedy helps Reigny Reff find a perfect pumpkin.

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A7, A10 AND B10.

New grading system to be implemented at FHS

PSEOP students say being excluded from weighted grades is unfair

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Junior and senior students at Falls High School next semester will be "rewarded" for taking more difficult classes.

The Falls School Board Monday agreed to implement a weighted grading system to certain classes at the 11th and 12th grade levels beginning second semester.

"In a sense, students are rewarded for taking a more difficult class," FHS principal Tim Everson told the board of weighted grades.

A weighted grading system offers an equal credit for a lower grade in a more difficult class. The system would add 0.5 points to grades A-C. Everson said grade point averages are important to students and weighted grades give them more of an incentive to enroll in a more rigorous class.

"In the past, we've had students drop tougher classes second semester of their senior year so they don't hurt their GPA," he said. "If there is a weighted grade for that class, they might take the chance with that class."

The idea was suggested by students last spring and a committee was established to evaluate the issue and determine if it would be a good fit for the district.

Everson said many schools in the northern part of the state have adopted a weighted grading system.

Grades to A7 ►

Council discusses water rates; takes no action

Annexation petition topic of discussion

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

After lengthy discussion on two topics, the International Falls City Council took no action on either issue Monday.

Brian Horne, owner of North Country Water Service, asked the council to consider charging

him the same price for water as it does residents within the city limits. North Country Water Services hauls water to rural customers outside the city limits.

Interim City Administrator Betty Bergstrom told the council that two rates — based on location of where the water is being used — are charged for water. She said people living outside the city limits are charged \$9.64 per 1,000 gallons; people within the

city limits are charged \$7.81 per 1,000 gallons. She said the city of Ranier is charged the same price as people living outside the city limits.

But Horne told the council that he owns property within the city and fills his tanker truck at a spigot within the city limits.

Councilor Gail Rognerud said residents living within the city limits support repairs and maintenance of the city's water treatment plant through their taxes,

while residents outside the city do not.

Councilor Cynthia Jaksa said it's common for cities to charge customers living outside their city limits a higher charge for maintenance of the plant.

Horne said he's checked the prices of other water sources and said some cities provide discounts for the purchase of large quantities. Rognerud and Jaksa said water conservation principles call for just the opposite.

In addition, Horne said no other businesses that provide water to people who live outside the city limits are charged a higher price. But Bergstrom noted that a local gas and service station is charged a higher price for a spigot it uses to sell water to people who purchase and haul their own water to their residences.

City Attorney Steve Shermoen said it is legal for the city to

Council to A7 ►

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VOLUME 4
NUMBER 85