

LOCALNEWS

Council to consider vacant position

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

International Falls may soon have a new administrator. The Falls City Council has narrowed the field from six candidates interviewed Jan. 6 to three candidates who were again interviewed Jan. 21, said Falls Mayor Bob Anderson. The council is expected to discuss the position at its Monday meeting. The city administrator position has been vacant since March when former administrator Rod Otterness, who served as administrator since 2004, resigned to take a position in Union Gap, Wash. Deputy Administrator Betty Bergstrom has served as interim administrator since April. Bergstrom told The Journal Monday that city officials were waiting on a response from a candidate that had been offered the position. Upon hiring of a new ad-

ministrator, Bergstrom said she would return to her position as deputy administrator. A start date and other details of the offer were included in a tentative agreement drafted by the city's consultants, Springsted Incorporated, a public sector adviser. Pay for the position ranges from \$61,000 to \$85,000 depending on experience and qualifications. This is the second search for a new administrator. The first search drew applicants who were not working as city administrators, councilors noted. In August the council agreed to discontinue an earlier search for a new city administrator and relaunched the effort with



Rod Otterness

Springsted taking the lead. Councilor Paul Eklund, chairman of the city's human resources committee, recommended the council hire Springsted after the first search process did not yield the results expected. He said applications for the position were reviewed at a July 8 committee meeting and members found it difficult to decide who to interview. The council agreed to pay up to \$14,000 for Springsted's services. In May, Anderson and Councilor Pete Kalar voted against advertising the city administrator position, with Anderson recommending the council delay the process to fill the job until the full impact of the termination of 265 jobs at the local paper mill in the city is understood. At that time, other councilors said they felt filling the position could take time and believed it was important to begin right away.

KCCTV keeps on keeping on

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

With one year under its belt, KCCTV public access channel gained \$40,000 in revenue. Cynthia Jaksa, president of the board of directors of Koochiching County Community Television, known as KCCTV, reported the status of the channel to the International Falls City Council last week. Jaksa, who also serves as a Falls city councilor and chair of the local Cable Commission, said the nonprofit KCCTV received \$28,000 in grants and \$2,500 in memberships. The city of International Falls provided \$10,000 to KCCTV last year. "It is money well spent," she said. "It is being used to leverage other resources." Jaksa told the council last week that KCCTV had tripled the city's donation in grants. KCCTV may now only be accessed by cable TV customers, but Jaksa said volunteers continue to work on web-streaming the programming. The Koochiching Development Authority Board provided \$2,850 to allow KCCTV to purchase a camera and one year of Internet service to allow residents countywide to view the programming of the public access channel. "It's coming along," she said of programming. "At some point we will have a PEG channel that is embraced and enjoyed by people throughout Koochiching County." Jaksa said scheduling software has been purchased which will allow programming to air continually without someone manning the op-



STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

Cynthia Jaksa made an appearance dressed as a TV at a November meeting of the Koochiching Development Authority Board. She met with the board to seek funding for KCCTV public access channel.

Gas prices see slight increase this past week

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Average retail gasoline prices in Minnesota have risen 3.4 cents in the past week, averaging \$3.23 per gallon Sunday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 2,856 gas outlets in Minnesota. This compares with the national average that has not moved in the last week to \$3.27 per gal-

lon, according to gasoline price website MinnesotaGasPrices.com. No local gas prices were listed on the site. Including the change in gas prices in Minnesota during the past week, prices Sunday were 3.5 cents per gallon lower compared to the same day one year ago and are 7.1 cents per gallon higher than a month

ago. The national average has decreased 1.6 cents during the last month and stands 4.4 cents per gallon lower than this day one year ago. 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.

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Football Savings



At The Jug Liquors

4 DAY SALE

Wednesday, Jan. 29 – Saturday, Feb. 1



RonDiaz
Spiced Rum
1.75
\$14⁹⁹



Bacardi
Limon
1.75
\$22⁹⁹



Phillips
Vodka
1.75
\$10⁹⁹



Windsor
Canadian Whisky
1.75
\$14⁹⁹



E & J
Brandy
VSOP liter
\$10⁹⁹



Samuel Adams
12 pk. bottles
\$15⁹⁹



BUD LIGHT **Budweiser**

24 pk. cans
\$16⁹⁹



Redd's
Apple Ale
12 pk. bottles,
12 pk. cans
\$12⁹⁹

Don't Forget The Bar Supplies!



The Jug Liquors
Borderland's Local Liquor Store
Hwy 53 & 11th St. - M.-Sat. 8am-10pm
Limited to stock on hand.



St. Thomas Aquinas School
27th Annual Live & Silent Auction

Martedi Grasso
Saturday, March 1, 2014
6:00 p.m.
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Hall

Please join us for an Italian-themed fundraising event for St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School.

Tickets are \$20.00 in advance or \$25.00 at the door
Limited number of tickets available

Tickets may be purchased at: The Hideaway, St. Thomas Aquinas School and Parish Office

Ticket includes:
Dinner Buffet by the Knights of Columbus #1540
Tuscan Salad, Italian Pork Roast or ½ Chicken, Italian Green Beans, Penne Pasta, Garlic Bread
Dessert by Mary Tomczak and Christy Early
Cannoli, Tiramisu, Tuxedo Cake, or Italian Almond Cake
Music by Mark G/King of the Road Entertainment
Children's Carnival by St. Thomas Youth Ministry & Parents

Cash bar

Auctioneer: Dean Tviet
Host/Hostesses for the Evening: Catholic Daughters of America, School Parents, Staff, Students, and Alumni
Children are invited to join the Carnival in the Church basement. The celebration includes Italian dinner, snacks, games, and prizes.
Please pre-register with the School at 283-3430.



Auction Items Include: Rainy Lake Houseboat trip, Falls Country Club golf package, Prints by local artists, WaterPark of America passes, MN Zoo tickets, football tickets, baseball tickets, event tickets, St. Francis statue, centerpieces, wooden turtle, oil changes, scrapbooking, coffee baskets, purses, jewelry, clothing, many gorgeous baskets, Gift Certificates from local businesses, and so much more!
Raise the Roof Raffle Drawing at 9 p.m. 2 - \$1000.00 prizes