

## Dinner is served

Theater group to host event

A10



## Old-school skis

Live on Skis features classic snowmobiles

A4



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## FALLS CITY COUNCIL

# Cable fee put on hold

Council expected to ask others to implement fee at the same time

BY LAUREL BEAGER  
Editor

A 50-cent fee to be charged starting this month on the cable bills of International Falls residents was put on hold with action by the International Falls City Council Monday.

On a 4-1 vote, a resolution was approved to put the fee that would support the city's public education government channel on hold until the governments representing other cable subscribers in the area are asked to also implement the fee.

Councilor Cynthia Jaksa voted no and reiterated her support for the public education government channel, known as PEG, and the need for the money to support it. She said a grant being sought now may be in jeopardy because of the action.

Fee to A7 ➤

## KOOCHICHING COUNTY BOARD

# Board hires emergency coordinator

Discusses and fills committee vacancies

BY SPENSER BICKETT

If a flood, earthquake, monsoon, hurricane or other act of God strikes Koochiching County, staff will be prepared, as the county board has welcomed a new emergency management coordinator.

Tuesday, the Koochiching County Board approved hiring Willie Kostiuk as the county's emergency management coordinator. Kostiuk takes over after Luke Waller, the previous coordinator, informed Koochiching County Sheriff Perryn Hedlund he was stepping down from the role.

Hedlund said the county advertised for the open position, and while he received inquiries about the position, Kostiuk's

County to A7 ➤



Bruce Budris of International Falls takes a turn testing his snowmobile's speed during Saturday's Speed Run Against Cancer hosted by the International Voyageurs Snowmobile Club at Thunderbird Lodge.

# RACING AND RAISING

Annual event collects money for local cancer program

BY EMILY GEDDE  
Staff Writer

The sound of helping in the fight against cancer could be heard echoing down Rainy Lake Saturday.

The seventh annual Speed Run Against Cancer attracted about 60 snowmobile riders and other spectators from all over northern Minnesota and Fort Frances, Ontario, to Thunderbird Lodge over the weekend.

According to Jim Bigler, president of the International Voyageurs Snowmobile Club, which co-hosts the event, about \$700 was raised for the local Community Cancer Walk program.

"We certainly appreciate all people who run their machines and the people who just come



STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

A rider takes a turn testing his snowmobile's speed down a 1,000-foot race track on Rainy Lake Saturday.

Racing to A7 ➤

# McBride seeks court action on reappointment

City attorney confident council acted appropriately in sewer board appointment

BY LAUREL BEAGER  
Editor

This month's meeting of the local sewer board may feel a little like musical chairs.

International Falls City Attorney Steve Shermoen told the Falls City Council Monday Brian McBride continues to object to the lack of reappointment to the North Koochiching Area Sanitary District Board as a city representative.

On Jan. 21, the council on a 3-2 vote approved Mayor Bob Anderson's appointment of Robert Thompson to the board. Councilors Pete Kalar and Cynthia Jaksa voted no. The appointment was first brought to the council Jan. 5 at its organizational



Steve Shermoen

meeting, which is held each year prior to the first regular meeting of a new year. At that time, the appointment failed on a 2-2 vote, with Anderson and newly sworn-in Councilor Harley Droba voting in favor. Councilor Brian Briggs was absent from that meeting.

McBride has petitioned Ninth Judicial District Judge Kurt Marben to reappoint him to the board, claiming the council did not act on the appointment in time to

meet requirements set out in the legislation that created the board, Shermoen said.

The next step is a scheduling conference, Shermoen said. He said he expects the judge to ask all sides to submit their information and will hear arguments via interactive television.

"My belief is the mayor and council acted appropriately,"

Sewer to A7 ➤

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