

Above and beyond

Maria Lewis self publishes a book

A3



Santa Paws

Items are collected for area pets

B5



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Good days and better grades

Educators say new program is going over well at high school

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

When Falls High School officials rolled out the red carpet for a new program this year, they said they were uncertain how it would take off. Four months later, they said they are pleasantly surprised.

The Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports, or PBIS, program which started at Falls Elementary last year, had administration and staff there bragging about the positive outcomes. This year, it is the high school's turn to shine.

"It's already working better or differently than I thought it

would," said Superintendent Kevin Grover of the program.

PBIS, a nationwide program which comes at little cost to the district, aims to aid students in both the academic and behavioral sphere. It educates students on how to be respectful, responsible and safe from the time they arrive at school to the time they

are dismissed — and everything in between.

At the elementary level, students were rewarded for their positive behaviors with pieces of paper shaped like Bronco pride horseshoes which could be traded in for water bottles, pencils, stickers and other prizes. Those in charge at Falls High knew

rewarding upperclassmen would be a greater challenge.

"We give out Bronco power tickets which are like business cards to kids who we see are doing something good," Grover said. "Teachers have five tickets per week to give to students who demonstrate good behaviors. If we catch kids doing what we're trying to teach, we reward them."

Grades to A7 ➤

KOOCHICHING COUNTY BOARD

More delays in annexation

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Koochiching County Commissioner Wade Pavleck said Tuesday that because it was Christmas, he was going to be civil instead of his usual self.

Still, he voted against bringing back to the table discussion regarding annexing the multimodal district into International Falls. And even though it was brought back, it was eventually again tabled by commissioners on a 3-2 vote.

"I voted no (to) taking this off the table because we're not ready to act on this," Pavleck said.

The commissioner's comments echoed statements he made during a Nov. 25 board meeting when the action was first tabled. Pavleck said during that meeting he didn't feel it was right for the board to move forward with the annexation proposal because residents near the district were concerned some kind of industrial waste facility, such as the Renewable Energy Clean Air Project, or RECAP, would be located on the site. He added the agreement should include language to prohibit such a facility from locating in the district.

County to A7 ➤

History for sale

Book about front pages makes the front page

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

After a failed effort to share his love of history with others 38 years ago, former International Falls resident Bruce Robbins is giving it another try.

On July 4, 1976, Robbins set up a booth in Smokey Bear Park to sell The Bicentennial Journal, a special collector's edition of Daily Journal front pages and headlines. Hoping to break even for his efforts and allow others the opportunity to appreciate the area's history, Robbins went into the endeavor with high hopes. However, much to his disappointment, the hustle and

Book to A7 ➤



STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

The Bicentennial Journal, a special collector's edition of famous Daily Journal front pages is available from Bruce Robbins for \$10, plus \$6 for shipping. Robbins said he designed the front cover of the collections he attempted to sell 38 years ago.



STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

From left, Brandon Simister, Nate McLaws and Jake Wells don holiday sweaters and sets of antlers for the Christmas Eve Reindeer Run.

Reindeer running in the rain

Christmas spirit could be seen running around town Wednesday during the annual Reindeer Run sponsored by I Falls Partners in Education.

With a temperature of about 32 degrees and a slight drizzle, the event had one of the best turnouts to date, organizers said.

Runners dressed in their holiday best for the 5-kilometer and 1-kilometer runs that raises money for school supplies.



From left, International Falls City Councilor Pete Kalar, Burgess Eberhardt and Tony Oveson prepare for the Reindeer Run.

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