

On the road again
Sand bay ice road opens for the season

A3



Blazing a trail
Some area snowmobile trails open for riding

B6



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STAFF PHOTOS BY SPENSER BICKETT

Journal staff writer Emily Gedde performs a cold-day science experiment by throwing boiling water into the air Thursday morning when temperatures in International Falls read 42 degrees below zero. On a day with very cold, dry air, throwing boiling water into the air will cause the water to break into liquid water droplets, most of which will, like in this case, evaporate before they hit the ground.

Cold snap continues

Thursday breaks temp records with -42 degrees

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Baby, it's cold outside. Very cold. The Icebox of the Nation is living up to its name again this week as arctic air continues to blast Borderland and the rest of the state. The second day of the new year greeted International Falls residents Thursday with a bitter, record-breaking temperature of 42 degrees below zero. Officials of area schools canceled classes for the day giving students and staff a bonus day of winter vacation. Kevin Huyck, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Duluth, said while a brief break from subzero temperatures is predicted to move through the area this weekend, the freeze will be back on Sunday – and temps could get colder. “The end of January and early part of February is typically the coldest part of the year,” he said. The weather service tweeted Thursday: “One of the coldest days since 1996 is expected on Monday.” That’s coming after the second coldest December on record in the Falls. The NWS reported December 2013’s average temperature of -4.1 degrees locked it in as the second coldest on record behind the coldest in 1983 with an average temperature of -4.3 degrees. In addition, a record of eight days with a

Cold to A6 ►



Council OKs loan waiver

Purchase of Shannon’s Square discussed

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

The International Falls City Council Monday agreed to waive “due on sale” clauses and transfer two commercial loans to the new owner of Shannon’s Square. Alton Shannon and his wife Linda in 2006 received loans through the Small Cities Development Program for Shannon’s Square in downtown International Falls.

The Shannons have sold the property to Lyle Larsen, who will accept the loan agreement and the remainder of the loans. However, a “due on sale” clause would have required the loan to be paid off prior to sale. The city waived the clause Monday and wished Alton Shannon well. Falls Mayor Bob Anderson thanked Alton Shannon for his entrepreneurship and the

City to A6 ►

Frozen festival returns Jan. 16-19

New events added to this year’s lineup

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

In just less than two weeks, frozen turkeys will be flying, gizzards will be freezing and Icebox Days will be underway. The 34th annual event, highlighted by the internationally recognized Freeze Yer Gizzard Blizzard Run — which could

live up to its name with the recent record-breaking cold, is scheduled for Jan 15-20. The popular winter festival will return longtime favorites as well as new events, said Faye Whitbeck, president of the International Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. Icebox Days aims to bolster Borderland’s winter economy long after the hustle and bustle of the most popular

Icebox to A6 ►

NEW BABY FOR THE NEW YEAR



STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

Laura and Jesse Besch pose with their son, Brooks Steven Besch, at Rainy Lake Medical Center Thursday. Brooks was the first baby born in International Falls on New Year’s Day. He weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces and was 20-3/4 inches. In addition to his parents, Brooks is welcomed by his paternal grandparents Randell and Jane Besch and maternal grandparents Steven Lindberg and Laurie Witherspoon and the late Lanora Lindberg.