

Scout's honor

Cub scouts win derby races

A6



Road raging

Local woman's hairy roadway encounter

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STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

From left, Greg Bannwarth, Shaun Johnson and Jared Dove of Tonic Sol-fa perform for area students at Falls Elementary School Thursday. The group's fourth member, Mark McGowan was sick and unable to attend the performance.

Members of the a cappella group Tonic Sol-fa performed for area students Thursday at Falls Elementary School. The group, which held a community performance at Backus Community Center Thursday night, visited students around Koochiching County giving them tips on how to use their voices. The group was in town as part of the Backus Concert Series.



Elementary students throw their hands toward members of Tonic Sol-fa Thursday.



The Falls High School choir performs and receives tips from members of Tonic Sol-fa.

Need a ride?

New program may be the answer

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

When temperatures dip to 20 degrees below zero with snow whipping all around you, and you don't have a car or a job, it can be hard to make it to an interview.

To help Borderland residents get back to work by getting to work, an Arrowhead region program is making its debut in Koochiching County.

The Rural Rides program from the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency made its debut in Koochiching County last month, and has already started providing rides for people who don't have their own transportation to work.

The program's coordinator, Marcia Mehle, said there have

Ride to A7 ➤

The Journal receives two more awards

Local newspaper recognized at recent convention

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Journal has two more plaques to hang on its wall after winning Better Newspaper Contest awards at the Minnesota Newspaper Association's convention in Minneapolis last month.

Simply North, The Journal's quarterly magazine, took second place in the best magazine category and a photo taken by Spenser Bickett took third place in the news photo category. The Journal competes with other newspapers that have a weekly circulation of 2,501 to 5,000.

"Simply North has offered a unique venue for presenting content that is more entertaining and our writers and contributors have excelled at it," said Journal Editor Laurel Beager.

Contest judges agreed.

Awards to A7 ➤

FALLS CITY COUNCIL

City may use other annexation option

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

International Falls city officials may add land to a plan calling for a joint agreement with Koochiching County to annex into the city limits a portion of the property east of the city known as the multimodal district.

Or, it may consider an option foregoing county participation.

City Attorney Steve Shermoen told the Falls City Council this week an attempt to work through a joint annexation agreement with county officials has fallen short when county officials asked for a "change or nuance that pre-

vents agreement."

As the agreement has been considered, Shermoen said he's been notified of 40 acres adjacent to the city limits owned by the city that could be included in the agreement. The council could add another nearby property, owned by Wagner Construction, for which the council has approved water connection. City officials have said city services may only be provided to property within its limits, but the Wagner property



Steve Shermoen

has not been annexed.

Shermoen said the city could add the the two additional properties to the original annexation agreement he is attempting to complete with the county.

Or he said the city could pursue another option on the two city-owned properties that would not require participation by the county. Under that option, he said the city could petition the state to add the properties to the city limits.

"It's a simple process, absent strong objections that would prompt the state to have a public hearing," Shermoen told the council.

Some councilors, including Pete Kalar, voiced frustration with the county's input into the agreement. County officials have been concerned about the Renewable Energy Clean Air Project, or RECAP gasification proposed facility, or other waste facilities being located there. City officials have said under county zoning of the area, county officials would have say in the location of the county's RECAP or other garbage facilities.

In addition, county officials have voiced a need to include into the agreement protections for Second Creek.

Council to A7 ➤

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