

Sprechen sie
a capella?

German a capella
group comes to Backus

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Come one,
come all

Salvation Army holds community
Thanksgiving dinner

A3



The Journal

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Another route proposed for transmission line

Area residents react to two alternatives near Littlefork

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

LITTLEFORK — A newly proposed route for Phase 1 of the Great Northern Transmission Line drew area residents to another open house conducted by Minnesota Power.

Called the “Littlefork cutoff,” the route was revealed to area residents Wednesday. The new proposal calls for the 500 kV transmission line to be built in 2017 within the sight of a least two residences, but

is proposed to be further south and west of another of the route alternatives located about six miles from Littlefork and along an existing power line.

The Littlefork area could be selected for the location of line which will be constructed between Manitoba to about 20 miles east of Grand Rapids. After that, Phase II would propose a 345kv double circuit transmission line be built from where Phase 1 ends to near Duluth.

The project drew area residents

to another open house meeting voluntarily held by the company Wednesday. Several Minnesota Power staff involved in the project walked attendees through a series of placards describing the project. Staff used printed aerial photos and global information system maps on computers to assist area residents in determining just where the alternative route would run.

The Littlefork cutoff alternative route drew the concern of Bruce and Robin Trask and Bob

Oveson, who said they would be able to see the transmission line from their homes. They said they chose the area for their homes because of the isolation and wilderness feel.

Jim Atkinson, environmental siting and permitting manager for Minnesota Power, said the Littlefork cutoff would travel across mostly state and private industrial land, shorten the route by about 12 miles and avoid private land and residences located near the alternative route closer to the city of Littlefork. He said the newly proposed alternative also eliminates turns in the line,

which he said adds costs. The downside is that no existing infrastructure exists there, and he said it may be challenge to convince the Public Utilities Commission it’s the best alternative, he said.

The Trasks and Oveson suggested to Atkinson the Littlefork cutoff route be straightened and pushed further south, where they said they could not see it and it would avoid historic, undocumented grave sites.

Atkinson agreed the alternative they suggested could be modified to meet their concerns,

Powerline to A7 >



STAFF PHOTOS

Emily Saari and other Bronco girls swimming and diving team qualifiers for the State Class A Meet give high-fives to Falls Elementary students Wednesday.

Super sendoff

Cheering students and encouraging posters took over hallways at all three of the Falls’ schools Wednesday to congratulate and send off members of the Bronco girls swimming and diving team who will participate in the State Class A Meet at the University of Minnesota’s Aquatic Center in Minneapolis next week.

Participating in the state tournament are: Emily Saari,

Abby Kostiuk, Breanna Shofner, and Blair Johnson, along with alternates: Tayler Heber, Emma Misner, Claire Herzig and Courtney Klow.

In Saturday’s Section 7A finals at the Lincoln Park pool in Duluth, the Broncos finished in the top two in a relay and two individual events to earn a trip to the state meet for the first time since 2005.

Sendoff to A7 >



Students hold up posters wishing luck to the Bronco swimmers.

Board
to post
position

Nordy Nelson’s
contract expires
June 30, 2014

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer



Nordy
Nelson

Once again, Independent School District No. 361 will be in search of a superintendent for the next school year.

The Falls School Board is expected to take steps toward seeking applicants for the superintendent position for the 2014-2015 school year when it meets next week. The posting is recommended to run from Nov. 18 through Feb. 15, 2014.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. Monday in the cafeteria at Falls High School.

The superintendent position is currently held by Nordy Nelson, whose contract expires June 30, 2014.

Nelson, who has more than 30 years of education experience under his belt, has been with the district since 2012.

In February, after just about seven months on the job, Nelson shocked and disappointed most school board members by announcing his resignation effective June

Board to A7 >

County-funded grant program seeks more funding

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

A county-funded grant program has filed a request for increased funding for 2014.

The Koochiching Community Development Association, a partnership between Koochiching County and the cities within it,

has requested \$40,000 in funding for 2014. The group is funded by the Koochiching Development Authority, and this compares to the program’s funding from 2013, which was \$25,000. The request is driven by an increase in the number of grant applications the program received, chair Brian Steinhurst said.

“We expended all our monies by our October meeting,” he said. “We’re simply anticipating a continued increase in the number of applications. We weren’t really expecting they’d grant our full request.”

The group, started in 2009, is made up of representatives from the cities in Koochiching County:

Steinhurst is the mayor of Mizpah. Dennis Wagner, mayor of Ranier; Bob Anderson, mayor of International Falls; Kevin Sather from Littlefork; Chelsy Elhard from Northome; and Donna Dauphinais from Big Falls. Wayne Skoe, county commissioner, is the county’s representative on the board. Kyra Briggs, from

Koochiching Economic Development Association, is the board’s secretary/treasurer.

The group meets every other month, Steinhurst said, on the last Thursday of the month. It has two types of grant applications. The first is a business application, in

KCDA to A7 >

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