

New year, new baby

New Years' baby born at RLMC

A3



Girl of the Year

Casanova teams up with American Girl

A9



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STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

FIRE CLAIMS ASH-KA-NAM

A thick cloud of smoke replaces the area where the Ash-Ka-Nam Restaurant and Bar once stood. The Kabetogama Fire Department, International Falls Ambulance and St. Louis County Sheriff's Office were on the scene of the fire at the business Tuesday.

Restaurant, decks a total loss

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

ASH RIVER – The restaurant at Ash-Ka-Nam Restaurant and Bar was deemed a total loss Tuesday from a fire that broke out earlier that morning.

At 9:30 a.m., a thick cloud of black smoke still filled the air at the end of the Ash River Trail.

No injuries were reported. Mindy Hraban, who owns the business along with her parents Mark and Ly-

nette, said it was a little after 6:30 a.m. Tuesday when her father told her to call 911.

"My dad yelled that the resort was on fire," she said. "I ran outside and it was already engulfed."

The family lives at the resort property.

The fire was so big by the time Hraban saw it that she said there was nothing to do but watch the flames destroy the resort the family has owned for nine years.

"I just sat and sobbed and watched all my memories go

Fire to A7 ►



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ash-Ka-Nam Restaurant and Bar owner Mindy Hraban took this photo of the fire shortly after calling 911 Tuesday morning. Hraban said by the time she saw the fire, there was nothing to do but recall all the memories made in the nine years she and her parents have owned it.

Council debates 2015 positions

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor



Bob Anderson

In the first International Falls City Council meeting of 2015, two appointments recommended by Mayor Bob Anderson were met with concern by some councilors.

Prior to the regular meeting, the council conducted its organizational meeting which included Administrator Ken Anderson giving the oath of office to election winners West Ward Councilor Cynthia Jaksa and Center Ward Councilor Harley Droba. Newly-elected East Ward Councilor Brian Briggs was absent from the meeting as a result of schedules made prior to the November election.

Most recommendations made by Mayor Anderson were unanimously approved by the council. However, recommendations to represent the city on the International Falls-Koochiching County Airport Commission and the North Koochiching Area Sanitary Sewer District Board were met with concern and discussion by some councilors.

Reappointment of Tom Worth and appointment of Robert Thompson to the sewer district board were considered separately after Councilor Pete Kalar asked why they were being recommended together, when

Council to A7 ►

New year brings new snow

Temperatures plunge to -47 degrees with wind chill

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Old Man Winter certainly made his appearance known in Borderland this weekend.

In a 48-hour period, the region experienced both blows of winter's force: snow then bitterly-cold temperatures.

Winter's wake started Saturday when residents woke up to find several inches of new snow on the ground. According to the National Weather Service



Jerry Levene works to clear snow near his property Saturday morning. To see more photos, turn to page A10.

in Duluth, about 6-8 inches of snow fell as of 7 a.m. Saturday. More than 4 inches of that, according to a meteorologist, fell since midnight.

NWS meteorologist Melody Lovin said total snowfall for the weekend amount to 9.2 inches.

Snow to A7 ►



STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

International Falls Mayor Bob Anderson removes snow from his son's Shorewood Drive home Saturday morning. According to the National Weather Service in Duluth, as of 7 a.m. this morning, there was already 6-8 inches of new snow on the ground from International Falls and Kabetogama.

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