

Celebrating
leaders

Students attend
We Day event

B6



Oh
deer

Season reports
no surprises

B8



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COUNTY BOARD

County provides comment on regulation

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

The Koochiching County Board Tuesday approved a motion to submit a comment on an Arrowhead region tribe's decision to seek a Class I Air Quality designation.

The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, located near Cloquet, is seeking a Class I Air Quality designation from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Locally, Voyageurs National Park also has a Class I designation.

The Association of Minnesota



Rob
Ecklund



Wade
Pavleck



Wayne
Skoe

Counties sent a form letter to the county to be used for submitting a comment, which the board approved. The letter seeks more information on how the more stringent designation could im-

pact Koochiching County, as well as how it might affect potential business expansion in the county.

"Any expansion of any industry with their air permitting would be very costly for them to do," board

Chairman Rob Ecklund said. "Because they're basically wanting to do the same thing as what we have for over the national parks and boundary waters."

Along with the county, Ecklund

said many committees county board members serve on are also submitting comment, as the designation could have a ripple effect on industry in northern Minnesota.

Commissioner Wade Pavleck said there are very few tribes nationwide that have obtained Class I designation. According to the Forest County Potawatami tribe's website, six tribes in the U.S. have been granted the designation:

■ North Cheyenne Reservation in Montana. Designation was granted in 1977. Designation was sought to challenge the construction of an additional coal-fired

power plant 15 miles from the reservation.

■ Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes on Flathead Reservation, Montana. Designation was granted in 1982. Designation was sought in an effort to protect the ability to see sacred sites.

■ Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes in Fort Peck, Montana. Designation was granted in 1984. Designation was sought in an effort to protect against a Canadian coal-fired power plant and several proposed synthetic fuel plants.

■ Spokane Reservation in

County to A7 >



Crafty kids: L-BF STUDENTS PREPARE FOR SALE

STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

Jamie Cobenais, left, works on painting a candle luminary Wednesday as paraprofessional Natalia Artemenko looks on. Luminaries and other crafts created by students in the special education program at Littlefork-Big Falls School will be available during the group's holiday craft sale Dec. 16-18.

Proceeds will benefit special education program

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

LITTLEFORK – Peanut butter, mod podge, paint and more took over one Littlefork-Big Falls classroom this week as students transformed their learning area into a Santa-like workshop in preparation for an upcoming holiday craft sale.

Students in the special education program at L-BF will

If you go

The holiday craft sale will run from 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Dec. 16-18 near the elementary gym at Littlefork-Big Falls School.

host the sale, set for Dec. 16-18, which will feature a variety of crafts from tutus to bird feeders — all made by the program's students.

"Each of the wares the students make has a topic board," said Trudy Hunt, who teaches the class. "Depending on readabilities, everyone can succeed in making something for our sale."

Hunt said the program serves students in kindergarten through 12th grade who have educational classifications of developmental cognitive disorders and severe multiple impairments. The money raised from the event will help purchase food that will allow the students to learn the basics of cooking, reading recipes, measuring ingredients and safely using appliances.

"We cook every day," Hunt

said, as student Rose Cairns chimed in, "We need money to buy food."

This is Hunt's first year at L-BF, but she's been teaching in the special education field for 27 years. She said the idea for the craft fair stems from wanting to place students in a leadership position.

"They have picture sale bills that they'll have to disseminate

Crafty to A7 >

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High-speed Internet access to be expanded

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

The Koochiching Economic Development Authority Wednesday met with Frontier Communications representatives regarding high-speed Internet access for county residents.

Kirk Lehman and Terry Bosch from Frontier told the board a project focusing on increasing speeds for Ranier residents and other residents around Rainy Lake is the company's top priority in 2015.

"We have it on the books, we hope and anticipate to receive funding on that once the budget processes are released here sometime in January or February," Lehman said.

The project will focus on the Ranier office, Lehman said, and the four remote sites that are served by that office: Northern-naire remote, Bald Rock remote, Gold Shores remote, and Island View remote. It will cover the area on Rainy Lake up to the end of Highway 11 East.

To achieve faster speeds, Lehman said the project will take out the old equipment in the area and replace it with newer, state-of-the-art equipment. The project cost will be around \$450,000 and will take most of 2015 to complete, he said.

Internet to A7 >

INSIDE
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EDUCATION/A9

SPORTS/B1

CLASSIFIEDS/B3

COMICS/B7

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