

# LOOKING BACK

**25 YEARS AGO**  
Sam and Kari Evanoff announce the birth of a son, Sam David Evanoff, 7 pounds, 2 ounces, 20 inches long, born today at Soldotna, Alaska.  
There will be a 40th wedding anniversary celebration for Dean and Joyce Wheelock Oct. 29, 1 to 4 p.m., at the Bethany Church in Baudette and 7 p.m. at the Moose Club in Baudette.

**40 YEARS AGO**  
Den Mothers of Boy Scout Den 5 of Pack 151 are Zelma Golnick and Barbara Keeney. Tony Cole is the den chief.  
The engagement and forthcoming marriage of Miss Lori Turenne and Chris Raboin is announced by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Art Turenne Jr.  
A girl was born today at Falls Memorial Hospital

to Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Wilken, Island View Route.

**50 YEARS AGO**  
The first class from Falls High School (1910) had a dinner reunion Saturday at Parkway Café. Mr. and Mrs. B.A. Schulz entertained Mrs. Hugh Logan of Grand Rapids and Miss Patricia Lynch of the Falls. Mr. Schulz and Mrs. Logan (Gertrude Sullivan) were the graduates.  
Mr. and Mrs. B.W. Metcalf, Sandstone, are in the Falls visiting friends and renewing acquaintances. Mr. Metcalf is a former Falls barber.  
Rodney D. Olson of South International Falls has been promoted to airman third class in the United States Air Force.  
Army PFC. Stanley F. Thompson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Thompson,

936 Third St., was named soldier of the month for the 9th Chemical Company in Germany.

**60 YEARS AGO**  
A daughter was born today at Falls Memorial Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Cleve Costley, South International Falls; weight, 5 pounds, 14 ounces.  
Twins, a son and a daughter, were born to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Gartzke, daughter, born at 7:05 p.m., weighed 6 pounds, 10 ounces; son born at 7:10 p.m., weighed, 5 pounds, 7 ounces.  
Robert Taylor and Virgil Christensen helped Stanley Christensen paint his house Saturday.  
Eugene L. Gray, believed to be Koochiching County's oldest male resident, will observe his 97th birthday tomorrow at the Falls Nursing Home, Airport Road.

**70 YEARS AGO**  
Pvt. and Mrs. H.W. Loken (Ann Ihrig) announce the birth of a daughter today in Northern Minnesota Hospital.  
Mrs. Kirk Bolton entertained the Holler Whist Club at her home in Holler. Members honored the birthday of Mrs. George Hardy with a cake and birthday gift.  
Bob McKibbage, seaman, 2/c, who has been spending a 15-day leave at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth McKibbage, left for Farragut, Idaho, where he is stationed.  
James Franz Porter, twin brother of Joel Alvin Porter and 1-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Porter, 117 11th Ave., died Saturday evening after an illness of two weeks.  
*Compiled by the Falls Public Library.*

## REACHING FOR READING



STAFF PHOTO BY SPENSER BICKETT  
**Diane Adams, a librarian at the International Falls Public Library, talks with students in Kayla Gilbert's class at Falls High School Wednesday. Adams brought along young adult books that would interest the students, like “Zombies vs. Unicorns.” The presentation, Gilbert said, attempts to get students reading anything: books, magazines, newspapers, or articles online.**

## JENSEN

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award at Monday's council meeting, where he received many congratulations, was more emotional for him than with his peers at the Rochester conference, he said.  
“You know them and, I don't know how to say it, but they are the ones who made me who I am,” he said, crediting city councilors, staff and firefighters for their support.  
He credits his wife, Mary Lou, who despite leaving home for the numerous fire and ambulance calls, training sessions, school presentations, conferences and meetings, “not once said ‘do you have to go again?’ And my boys never ever said that.”  
Jensen said his family understood the needs of his job. “I never, not once, didn't respond when my pager went off, it means somebody out there needs help,” he said. As chief, he said he now goes out on calls about smoke smell, carbon monoxide concerns and others, and he responds to fires.  
Jensen, 59, came to fire-fighting on Nov. 26, 1982 — the day his son was born. He began under former Fire Chief Buzz Hultman.

But working in emergency services came earlier for Jensen. “I love the ambulance side of it,” he said. He joined the crew as a first responder in 1979. “You're dealing with people, people's lives, hands-on. And I have always had this charge to be able to help people,” he said.  
Jensen didn't start out wanting to be a fireman or on an ambulance crew, but a moment in the U.S. Marine Corps changed that when he felt helpless while watching someone have a seizure.  
“It scared the living hell out of me,” he said. “I didn't want to get close. I didn't know what to do and I was afraid of that,” he said.  
He got his chance to learn what do do after he was laid off as a millwright from Boise Cascade in 1979. “I was fortunate to be one of the people that first got cut back,” he said of further reductions that ended with the closure of Insulite in 1984.  
In 1980 he passed the first responder course, which he said he “really loved.”  
Working in emergency services “has to be in your blood,” he said. He said he sees that in the people training and serving as emergency medical technicians and paramedics. Jensen said he gets great joy

watching younger members of the fire and ambulance crews doing their jobs. He now serves as incident commander at fires, no longer donning the self-contained breathing apparatus and rushing into homes. It's not an easy adjustment for most people, he said.  
“When you switch from being a firefighter, to an engineer, to a chief, the worst thing that happens is that you stop putting that tank on and attacking fires and that was extremely hard,” he said. “You want to be in there fighting fires.”  
But he said he is serving as he should be at this point, noting fire fighting is very physical work and best done by people younger than he. “We have some great firefighters,” he said. “It's fun to watch.”  
As chief, Jensen said he's worked to make the Falls Ambulance Service a part of the city's emergency services department — fire, rescue and emergency medical services as one. “People may look at this differently from the outside, but we're a family inside,” he said.  
Jensen said he's often asked about when he will retire, but he said he'll be around for a few more years. “I still am very passionate about my job,” he

said. “I have never gone to work when I didn't want to go to work. I love what I do.”  
He said when he retires, he'll take satisfaction in knowing the people he leaves behind have been trained so well no one will notice much change.  
In reflecting on his tenure as chief, there have been ups and downs. Some issues have caused him to lose sleep and he admits he changed his mind on a few things.  
“The best thing for our community is the vision to succeed with the paramedics,” he said. He credited Koochiching County Commissioner Wade Pavleck “for making the right decision not to have a taxing district” to fund the ambulance service. “But I didn't see it at that time.”  
After crunching the numbers again and again, he said he felt confident, but admits now took a gamble, telling the International Falls City Council that it would work without taxing district.  
“Not only is it great for the community for service, we're doing great for paying salaries and supplies,” he said.  
Asked if that is his ‘great accomplishment,’ he sat silent, then finally said he is very proud of adding what is now a successful

paramedic component to the ambulance service, of adding a chaplain and of making the department one, but said he's never really considered what would be considered his great accomplishment.  
“I am super proud of our fire prevention program,” he said explaining the number of fires in the community have dropped from about 100 per year to about 30 now.  
October's designation as fire prevention month makes for a very busy time for Jensen and his department. School children are given presentations by Jensen and firefighters. Jensen continues to visit the homes of residents who ask to have smoke detectors installed, which began in the 1980s after more than one dozen fire fatalities in a year.  
This October also brought Jensen's award, which he called humbling. “I am not out there trying to get this pat on the back,” he said. “I am just honored to be nominated and recognized.”  
Jensen notes almost every firefighter now serving was once a youngster in his fire prevention presentations.  
“That means you're getting close to the end,” he said laughing. “That's kind of neat.”

## DONAHUE

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higher spending priorities now, but the property could remain a city asset until greater opportunities for development arise.  
But some in opposition to the deal said Matt Donahue made money and received a tax break on what has been called a “gift” to the city. And, they said Donahue attempted to sell the property for years.  
“He's a multimillionaire real estate tycoon and couldn't sell the land,” one woman said. “They say don't look a gift horse in the mouth. Well, it's time to look in the horses mouth.”  
Meanwhile, the meeting's facilitator, Andy Hubley of the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, said a number of potential uses have been identified in the sessions. He recommended next steps on several of the potential uses.  
He said he would develop a summary of the process, enhance his recommendations and provide the materials to the EDA Advisory Board for review.  
He noted people who would like to provide input can access forms at the city's website which would be provided to him for inclusion in the report.



# TRICK OR TREAT STREET

4-6 pm  
Thursday, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>

Bring your little ghosts & goblins to Backus this Halloween for a fun, safe & warm trick or treating experience!



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# OMG! LOOK WHO IS 40!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOE BEST



*Thank you to all my family and friends and especially my children for the wonderful retirement party. Thank you so much for the cards, gifts and most of all your love and friendship. I have been truly blessed.*

*Marilyn Rousseau*



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