

Let's Talk Food

Check out the insert in today's edition



Setting up shop

New business rents space in Littlefork city building

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STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

Young brides in basic two skate down the aisle in the “get married” portion of Sunday’s ice show performed by the International Falls Figure Skating Club. The theme of the 39th annual show was “The Game of Life.”

Ice showtime!

The International Falls Figure Skating Club performed its 39th annual ice show last weekend under the theme “The Game of Life.”

Like the game, skaters performed routines representing a person’s travels through his or her life, from college to retirement, with jobs, marriage, and possible children along the way.

The club prepares for the show during its six-month season and presents awards and trophies to skaters of different abilities at the end of the Sunday show. This year’s award winners were:

■ Kim Hams Sportsmanship

TO SEE MORE PHOTOS FROM THE ICE SHOW TURN TO **A8** AND **B10**.

trophy — Ava White
■ E.F. Krienke Memorial trophy — Pacey Rousseau
■ Krystall Memorial Artistic Award — Paige Wold
■ Most Dedicated Skater(s) trophy — Paige Wold, Paige Christianson and Pacey Rousseau
■ Most Congenial Skater — Paige Wold
■ Creative Star Award — Quinne Anderson



Senior skater Claire Herzig completes a sit spin during Sunday’s show.

Dill: New tax law provides relief

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

New tax law was signed by Gov. Mark Dayton into law Friday, just hours after it passed in the Minnesota House and Senate.

The law provides \$443 million in tax relief for middle class families and businesses.

Rep. David Dill, DFL-Crane Lake, said the tax relief was made possible “because of continuing good economic news that includes a state budget surplus, repayment of the state IOU to our schools, and a drop in the state unemployment rate to 4.7 percent in January — the ninth lowest unemployment rate in the country. After a decade of deficits, Minnesota’s budget has finally been balanced without gimmicks and stabilized for the future.”

Dill said in a statement the law includes conformity to federal tax law that will save middle class Minnesotans \$230 million in income taxes, including:

■ 650,000 middle-class married families will see \$111 million in tax cuts. An average married taxpayer earning less than \$75,000 will see a \$115 tax cut (this tax cut begins next year).

■ 330,000 moderate-income working families will see \$66 million in tax cuts. The average family earning less than \$49,000 will see a \$146 tax cut (a portion of this tax cut begins next year).

■ 125,000 taxpayers paying down student loans will see a \$50 tax cut on average.

Dill to A7 ➤

EDA adopts strategic plan

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

International Falls Economic Development Authority Monday adopted on a 3-1 vote a strategic plan for 2014-2015 developed by the EDA Advisory Board and presented to the EDA Commission in February.

The plan’s adoption was rejected in February to give members more time for review and brought back to the EDA Monday for action. The EDA is made up of the International Falls City Council. Mayor Bob Anderson voted against adoption of the plan; Councilor Pete Kalar was absent from Monday’s meeting.

Advisory board members Mike Katrin and Mike Ward were present at Monday’s meeting to answer questions about the plan. In February, they described the plan’s five goals, each of which include action steps and outcomes.

Anderson questioned a bullet item included under Goal B, which described installation of

County Board plans to approve DNR lease

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

The Koochiching County Board will consider a 20-year, \$1,200 lease with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for a parcel of land in the Island View sewer project area.

County survey technician Matt Gouin told commissioners Tuesday a detention tank for the project would need to be located on County Road 137, which is DNR administered school trust fund land.

“The DNR is proposing a lease for the 1.2 acre site,” Gouin said.

The detention tank would be used for underground sanitary

overflow storage of the rural Island View area, about two miles south of Rainy Lake.

“We were considering acquiring the land, but are now recommending we move forward with the lease,” Gouin said. “The DNR is recommending an upfront fee of \$1,200 for the 20-year lease.”

Gouin said he felt the \$1,200 was “a good deal,” and urged commissioners to move forward with the process. In addition, he said he has talked to the project’s attorney, Steve Shermoen, who was in favor of the lease’s recommendation.

“He felt we could always still move forward with acquiring the land if that was the right choice

at a later date,” Gouin added. “But \$1,200 for 20 years is a good deal...I commend (the DNR) for coming up with a fee like that. It is reasonable and helps the project.”

Commissioner Wade Pavleck said if the board entered the lease, it was likely it would be bound to it for the 20 years and said he doubted the DNR would be interested in selling the land.

“It’s certainly the least expensive and quickest way to go at this point,” he said, adding the joint powers board was also in favor of the lease.

Gouin said as the project progresses, there will be more DNR-related issues to deal with,

but was unsure of what exactly would or could be involved.

In other business Tuesday, Andy Hubley, planner with Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, and Walter Leu, assistant district engineer — state aid with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, gave commissioners updates on the Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership, or ATP.

“Essentially the ATP is the body that helps MnDOT decide where to spend federal transportation dollars,” Hubley said. “The current (two-year) bill

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