

# LOCALNEWS

## March on: Spring is on the way

BY EMILY GEDDE  
Staff Writer

The first day of spring is only two weeks away and Mother Nature has some serious catching up to do.

The season of rain showers and flowers seemed pretty far off Wednesday afternoon when wind chills sent temperatures to 22 degrees below zero. But a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Duluth had promising news that spring is on its way.

“The climate predication center is showing above-average temperatures for Minnesota for the next two weeks,” said meteorologist Melody Lovin.

The transition from hard-to-breathe cold air to temperatures nearing 40 degrees happened Friday when a high-pressure system began building over the southwestern U.S.

“When that happens, it enables a southerly flow of air to reach all the way to Minnesota,” Lovin said.

However, in typical International Falls weather fashion, the trend likely won’t stick just yet. By March 20 – the first day of spring – thermometers could return to single-digit readings.

“But we’re not seeing any negative temperatures in



STAFF PHOTO

**This thermometer shows a daytime temperature of 20 below zero — a reading with which Borderland has become familiar during February.**

the extended forecast,” the meteorologist said.

Typically, the average temperatures for March in International Falls are 35 degrees for a high and 12.5 degrees for a low. And the rest of the month could be colder than normal, according to the National Weather Service website. Below-normal temperatures and near normal precipitation are forecast for the month.

It might take Minnesota awhile to catch up to the rest of the country, but “Spring will come,” Lovin said.

**February stats**

Borderland is coming off a colder- and wetter-than-normal February.

The average temperature was -2, which was about 12 degrees colder than the 10-degree average for the month. Those numbers ranked February 2015 the fourth coldest in station history.

On the wetter-than-normal scale, the month’s total of 0.69 inches of precipitation was 0.12 inches above the normal, ranking it the 40th wettest February in station history.

For snow, the National

### February weather facts:

- The highest temperature for the month was 26 degrees on the 28th.
- The lowest temperature was 36 degrees below zero on the 19th.
- Two temperature records were tied for the month: a temperature of 29 degrees below zero on the 22nd tied the record set in 1914; a temperature of 32 degrees below zero on the 26th tied the record set in 2011.
- The greatest amount of precipitation in a 24-hour period occurred on the 10th, when 0.27 inches was recorded.
- At least a trace of precipitation was reported on 26 days.
- The average wind speed for the month was 7.8 miles per hour.
- The windiest day was on the 11th, with an average speed of 15 mph.
- A peak gust of 37 mph from the northwest was recorded on the 24th.

Weather Service website reports the month was the 12th snowiest in history with the 15.9 inches of snow that fell. The amount was 5.1 inches above the average 10.8 inches.

## DISTRICT COURT

### JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The following people have been recently convicted of felony or aggravated misdemeanor crimes in Koochiching County District Court. The information is provided to The Journal by court staff.

**Billy D. Hell**, 24, International Falls, was sentenced Feb. 20 for felony domestic assault by strangulation.

He was sentenced to 18 months at the Minnesota Correctional Facility, St. Cloud, which was stayed on court conditions, and he was ordered to pay \$1,175 fine and fees. He was ordered to serve 60 days in the local jail, with credit given for four days served. He was ordered to serve 80 hours with the Sentence to Serve program and

to follow the recommendations of evaluations. He may not use alcohol, controlled substances, mood-altering chemicals or enter bars or liquor stores. He must attend support meetings and submit to random tests and searches. He may have no contact with the victim.

**Tara M. Smith**, 32, Shevlin, was sentenced Feb. 23 for felony fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance.

She was given a stay of adjudication and placed on supervised probation for five years. She was ordered to pay \$200 court fees, follow the recommendations of an evaluation, and attend meetings. She was ordered not to take mood-altering chemicals or consume alcohol, and must submit to random tests and

searches.

**Andrew L. Stavish**, 34, International Falls, was sentenced Feb. 23 for gross misdemeanor driving after cancellation of license — posing a risk to public safety.

He was given a stay of adjudication and the case was continued. He was placed on one year supervised probation and ordered to pay \$575 court fees.

**Jacob D. Bannert**, 28, International Falls, was sentenced Feb. 23 for gross misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

He was ordered to serve one year jail, which was stayed on court conditions. He was placed on three years supervised probation and ordered to complete a DWI program.

**Andrew P. Kochaniuk**,

51, International Falls, was sentenced Feb. 23 for gross misdemeanor driving after cancellation posing a risk to public safety.

He was given a stay of adjudication and ordered to serve one year in jail. The jail time was stayed on court conditions and he was placed on one year supervised probation. He was ordered to pay \$575 court fees.

## Spring forward with safety list

### JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

There is more to springing forward than turning the clocks ahead one hour before heading to bed Saturday night, according to Minnesota Department of Public Safety officials.

Department officials encourage people to add eight tasks to their spring forward to-do list intended to keep families safer and possibly save lives.

‘Spring forward’ to-do list:

1. Change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms. Those alarms save lives — but only if they work.
2. Make sure flashlights and weather radios also have fresh batteries.
3. Sign up online today for a motorcycle training class. Riding season is just around the corner.
4. Don’t wait until severe weather season is here. Go over your emergency plan with your family.
5. Get enough sleep tonight. Drowsy driving is a factor in one out of five fatal crashes.
6. Prepare your car for spring and summer trips. The Minnesota State Patrol recommends checking tires, fluids, seat belts and car seats.
7. Talk with your teen driver about seat belt use, distracted driving and

Spring to A4 ►

## NOTICE OF BID

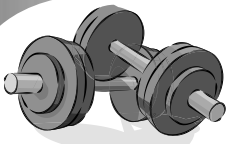
**International Falls Public Schools  
1515 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
International Falls, MN 56649**

The Board of Education for Independent School District #361 in International Falls, Minnesota is requesting sealed bids for insurance coverage as set forth in the Insurance Bid Specifications.

All bids are to be received in the office of the Business Manager, 1515 11<sup>th</sup> St, International Falls, MN 56649 no later than 3:00 pm on June 3, 2015. Bid specifications may be requested by contacting the Business Manager at 218/283-2571 x 194 or on the Districts website [www.isd361.k12.mn.us](http://www.isd361.k12.mn.us).

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

**Independent School District #361  
International Falls MN  
Gordon Dault, Clerk**



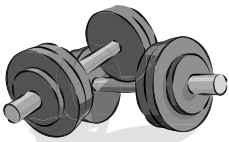
### In Loving Memory of Shane Piekarski

who passed away 9 years ago  
March 13<sup>th</sup> 1978 – March 5<sup>th</sup> 2006



*Shane it's lonely here without you. We miss you more each day, for life is not the same to us since you were taken away to the resting place we visit, place flowers and trinkets there with care, but no one knows our heartache when we turn and walk away.*

*Love & Miss You  
Mom, Dad, Koda  
Chris, Cherie & Lexi*



## This year's must have

**A digital mammogram now available at  
Essentia Health-International Falls Clinic**

**Mammograms save lives.** Get one this year and encourage every woman you know over 40 to get one, too.

When you schedule a screening mammogram at Essentia Health-International Falls Clinic, you'll be cared for in an atmosphere of comfort and privacy. Our registered radiology technologist, Rachel Mannausau, will address any questions or concerns you have.

Your mammogram will be read by the radiologists at the Breast Health Center, in Duluth, who have special training in breast care. Our radiologists review more than 26,000 mammograms every year. In fact, that is all they do.

**Call to schedule your mammogram today!**

Essentia Health-International Falls Clinic  
2501 Keenan Drive | International Falls  
**218.283.9431**

EssentiaHealth.org

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**Essentia Health**  
Here with you

Rotary Club of International Falls

19th Annual

Rose Sale

Bring Home a Dozen Long-Stemmed

Roses for only \$15 per dozen

Here is your once-a-year opportunity to purchase fresh-cut roses from Rotary. All proceeds are used by the International Falls Rotary Club for student scholarships and Community Projects.

Mail in you order now! Or purchase a ticket from a Rotarian. (No orders taken after March 30th, 2015)  
Satisfaction guaranteed by Int'l Falls Rotary Club

Mail to: ROTARY ROSE SALE  
Rotary Club of international Falls  
P.O. Box 47  
International Falls, MN 56649

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Red ☐ Lollipop  
Number of dozen: \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

You can pick up your roses at one of these civic-minded businesses on  
**Thursday, April 9th from Noon - 5 p.m. or  
Friday, April 10th from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Pick Up At:**  
☐ Streiff's Floral ☐ Gearhart's Floral  
☐ J&D Foods, Littlefork ☐ Gorden's Hardware Hank, Big Falls

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This year's must have

A digital mammogram now available at  
Essentia Health-International Falls Clinic

Mammograms save lives. Get one this year and encourage every woman you know over 40 to get one, too.

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Your mammogram will be read by the radiologists at the Breast Health Center, in Duluth, who have special training in breast care. Our radiologists review more than 26,000 mammograms every year. In fact, that is all they do.

Call to schedule your mammogram today!

Essentia Health-International Falls Clinic  
2501 Keenan Drive | International Falls  
218.283.9431

EssentiaHealth.org  
Find us on Facebook

Essentia Health works with the SAGE Program in Minnesota in an effort to provide care for those that qualify for financial assistance. For your convenience, the contact number for the SAGE Program is 1.888.649.2584.