

LOCALNEWS

County to address L-BF safety concerns

Committee is requesting guard rails bridge on County Road 8

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Concerns regarding a lack of guard rails along a county road bridge by the Littlefork-Big Falls School transportation committee are expected to be addressed by the Koochiching County Highway Department.

L-BF Superintendent Fred Seybert reported to The Journal that at Wednesday's board meeting, the committee told members its desire to establish guard rails along a Nett River bridge on County Road 8.

"The approach to the bridge from both directions doesn't have guard rails," Seybert said. "It poses as a safety concern for our students (riding the bus)."

The superintendent continued that he spoke with county Engineer Joe Sutherland who is expected to address the concern this week.

"The board said they really appreciated the interest and timeliness of the county," Seybert said.

In addition to the bridge, Seybert said Sutherland is expected to look at another location along the same road that may also be in need of guard rails.

Also Wednesday, Seybert reported L-BF school nurse Christine Hagen told board members a state-funded grant received by the school allowed 87 L-BF elementary

and high school students to get a flu shot free of cost.

"It was great to have that available to our students," Seybert said.

Hagen also told the board that beginning next school year, seventh-grade students will be required to be vaccinated for meningitis, Seybert said.

Board members were updated by member Monte Nelson, who serves as the board's negotiation spokesperson, that negotiations with the teachers union Local 2033 have begun.

Seybert said the teachers are currently operating under a contract that expired June 30, 2013.

The board accepted a resignation from John Larson as the assistant baseball coach. The board agreed to advertise for Larson's replacement.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Cloverbud helpers

With temperatures reaching 44 degrees Wednesday before taking a dive towards zero, Cloverbuds of the State Top Stars 4-H Club volunteered to get the community garden in International Falls ready for the winter. Cloverbuds are members in kindergarten through second grade, reports Stacy Hall, Koochiching County 4-H program coordinator.



Holiday toy drive supports community

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Falls Fire and Police departments join forces this holiday season for a unique toy drive beginning Black Friday.

The "Fill the Ambulance" toy drive is set to run 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 29 at County Market. The drive, sponsored by the International Falls Fire and Police departments, challenges residents to fill an ambulance with new, unwrapped toys, clothes, and non-perishable food items. A second donation day is Dec. 14 at Super One.

Nathan Myers, a paramedic with the fire de-

partment, said he saw the Virginia Fire Department host a "fill the ambulance" toy drive in 2012, and wanted to do something similar here. They talked to the police department, which said it would be on board, and then the Salvation Army officials, who said they'd be willing to take any donated gifts, he said.

The Black Friday location at County Market was chosen to pull shopping traffic from Menards' and Kmart, Myers said, and the Super One location was picked to give back to a helpful partner of the fire department.

"We wanted to do two different days," he said. "Super One is good to the fire department, with donating or selling us things at cost for different projects, so we didn't want them to feel left out."

Those in the giving mood can donate any unwrapped toys, children's clothes, teen clothing, or non-perishable food items, Myers said. There's no suggested age range for toys, and all donations will stay local.

"It's just a good way to help people in the community, with the layoffs and everything else that's happened in the past year," he said.

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There are some Borderland Children, who like any other children, are dreaming of a special Christmas ~ a toy, supplies or nice clothing under the tree. But because of crisis, burden or illness, this is very difficult for their families to fulfill. You can make it a wonderful Christmas for our community's less fortunate and show them that some dreams really can come true.

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1. Visit K-Mart or Menards and select a name tag (or tags) from our Angel Tree of community children.
2. In the book of Angels, fill in your name & phone number next to the number from the tag (or tags) you have chosen.
3. Select your gift(s) at any business of your choosing.*
4. Highlight or check off the item(s) you have purchased. Attach the numbered tag(s) to your wrapped gift(s) and return them by December 16th to the Salvation Army Center, 1301 3rd Avenue W, located across from Dairy Queen on Hwy 53. If you have multiple packages for one tag please be sure to bag or tie them together. Affix your tag(s) securely, as this is the only way to match children to their gifts.



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*Monetary donations are gratefully accepted, payable to: The Salvation Army, P.O. Box 592, Int'l Falls, MN 56649.

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