

# Rainy Lake Medical Center answers your questions.



### What happened to the affiliation between RLMC and Essentia Health?

The hospital and Essentia joined forces and entered into a “legal affiliation” in 2009 with the goal of growing healthcare services in International Falls and mutually benefiting both organizations. After four years of effort, both parties were dissatisfied with the progress and decided to go back to the relationship that was in place prior to the affiliation. Essentia will retain ownership of the clinic. The hospital will retain ownership of the hospital.

### Will a new hospital be built? Do we need a new hospital?

The hospital board has given great consideration to building a new hospital, and have obtained architect’s renderings and plans. The change in the hospital’s financial position during recent years has caused the board to reconsider those plans. Fortunately, the current hospital facility is sound and no immediate changes are necessary. A survey conducted last year by The Joint Commission, a nonprofit organization established to evaluate the quality and performance standards of hospitals nationwide, found no unresolved deficiencies. The current hospital building was erected in 1970. For perspective, the three Duluth hospitals, St. Mary’s, Miller Dwan, and St. Luke’s, were built in the 1950s and 1960s. Our hospital building has been very well cared for over the years. The board, foundation, and community have made consistent investments to maintain it. We recently replaced our facility’s emergency generator and next year we will install a complete fire sprinkler system throughout the building. The hospital and clinic have continually invested in and upgraded their technology and equipment. RLMC will continue to weigh our options to renovate or consider a new facility, but for now, we are well served in our current home.

### Will the name of the hospital change?

International Falls Memorial Hospital Association was incorporated in 1945. Since that time, the hospital has conducted business under the name, “Falls Memorial Hospital” and most recently “Rainy Lake Medical Center.” The decision under which name to conduct business in the future has not been made.

### Are you looking to merge with other healthcare partners?

No. At this time, RLMC will remain an independent, not for profit hospital, similar to the hospitals in Cook, Ely, Cloquet, and Moose Lake. What the hospital will pursue is additional specialty services our community needs as outreach clinics.

### What will happen with OB services?

The hospital will continue to be responsive to the need for full obstetrics services, and are prepared to provide full support to the continuation of this service.

### What will happen to the hospital now?

The hospital will continue to operate as a separate, independent healthcare facility, just as it did prior to the 2009 agreement. As mentioned above, the hospital will move forward with capital improvements to its building, equipment, and technology.

### Where can I pay the bills I receive from the hospital or clinic?

As always, RLMC bills can be paid at the hospital campus, online through our website ([www.rainylakemedical.com](http://www.rainylakemedical.com)), or mailed to 1400 Highway 71 International Falls, MN 56649

### Will the same physicians work at both the clinic and hospital?

Yes. RLMC will continue its relationship with the physicians who work in our ER and inpatient areas. The physicians at the clinic are employed by Essentia, and will continue to have admitting privileges at the hospital. Other properly licensed and credentialed providers will also have admitting privileges. Patients will likely see no change in the caregivers they trust with their healthcare.

### Do I have to leave the area to receive healthcare services?

No. RLMC will continue to provide a robust offering of healthcare services. In fact, as we move forward as an independent hospital, we will be able to resume specialty physician recruitment efforts and hope to expand our current specialty service offerings.

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| • Inpatient and Outpatient Care   | • 24/7 Emergency Services   |
| • Nonemergency Convenience Care (Evenings and Weekends)   | • Maternity (Labor and Delivery), Cesarean births, and Newborn Care   |
| • Cardiac Rehab/Diagnostics   | • Certified Laboratory with Blood Bank Services   |
| • Chemotherapy & Infusion Therapy   | • Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy, Prosthetics and Orthotics, Sleep Studies, and Sports Medicine |
| • Digital Mammography, Dexascan, Ultrasound, Nuclear Medicine, Pain Injection Services, MRI, X-Ray, CT, and Fluoroscopy | • Various Outreach Clinics  |
| • General Surgery, Laparoscopy, GI Endoscopy, Orthopedics   | • Patient Education   |
|   | • Behavioral Health   |

**Our mission is  
“to serve patients and promote wellness.”**

**We are dedicated to providing this wonderful  
community with quality healthcare for  
many years to come.**



# Rainy Lake MEDICAL CENTER

*In association with* Essentia Health

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# LOCALNEWS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Damien Reed, left, and Gosha (Georgii) Kolesnikov, compete in the scooter/plunger race.

## Indus School celebrates homecoming

### JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Last week’s Indus School’s homecoming festivities featured three fall season sports, bringing new excitement and activity to the annual event.

The cross country team ran in the Hial Pike Invitational Meet in International Falls Oct. 10 and a nine-man football team played at Lake of the Woods against Hill City Oct. 11. Both teams are in a co-op this year with Lake of the Woods schools.

Indus senior Damien Reed plays in the starting lineup on the varsity football team, while Charles Wurzburger and Jacy Gerthofer play on the junior high team.

The cross country team, coached by Tom Van Damme, has 10 participants from Indus including: Ted Nelson, Nathan Lewis, Gosha (Georgii) Kolesnikov, Holger Olesen, Haley Grover, Chris Barry, Jonah Mathis, Kyle Schiro, Tryston Hasbargen and Noah Mathis.

Although the Indus girls volleyball team did not have a game during the week of homecoming, the varsity team has been playing a full schedule. The team, coached by Lorraine



Senior Anson Payne discovers candy in his whipped cream pie.

Vollmer, includes: Sofia Olesen, Heather Krall, Alex Knoff, Patricia Handorgan, Abby Barrios, Alyssya Mathis, RogAnne Wolden, Hayley Gaetzke, Haley Grover, Bianca Scott, Corinne Dahl and Mariah Leahy.

Sports teams participated in a pepfest Oct. 8 with activities, crowning of royalty during coronation, competitive games and a competition between the volleyball players and the football team.

Crowned as royalty during coronation were: senior queen Sofia Olesen and king William Hawkins; junior princess Alexandra Knoff

and prince Georgii Kolesnikov; and sophomore attendants Chanaya Wheelock and Jonah Fuller.

An all-school door decorating contest was conducted during the week, and the second grade class along with the special education room won “best representation of school spirit” awards. The sixth and eighth grade classes won “most creative” awards.

Students also participated in National Walk to School Day Oct. 10 by going on a nature walk on and around school grounds at the end of the school day.



The sixth grade class celebrates receiving a door decorating award for their “Put Your Trojan Face On” door decoration.



Students plot how to beat the teacher team in a tug-of-war game.