

Additional bus
Arrowhead Transit shows off new wheels

A4



Don't touch
Wild parsnip in bloom

A10



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THE COLORS OF SUMMER



A sunset is captured Saturday on the Spruce Street dock in Ranier during the Ranier Rainy Lake Sunset initiative established by a local resident. The effort aims to promote opportunity for locals and tourists to visit Ranier and enjoy the sunset. Since its kickoff at the end of June, at least two vendors have been secured to sell handcrafted items at the dock. Friday, Bryan Thuney, a musician from Minneapolis, will perform at 7 p.m. on the deck of Woody's Pub in Ranier.

STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

Alumni of drug court plan prescription abuse event

Court staff discuss funding issues; successes

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

The increase of prescription drug abuse will be highlighted in an event planned for Sept. 13 by an alumni group of Borderland Substance Abuse Court. The International Falls City Council Monday agreed to serve as a cosponsor of the event and agreed to allow the event to occur at Smokey Bear Park. Lisa Santee, problem solving court coordinator, and Debbie Briggs, recovery specialist, met with the council to discuss the event and give an update on the court, commonly referred to as drug court. Santee noted that people participating in the court are split between alcohol and substance abuse offenses. The event is part of the alumni group's effort to give back to the community. She told The Journal that since its beginning in Koochiching County in February 2005, more than 100 people have taken part in the program. "Ninety-seven percent of graduates remained free of new drug-related offenses since the beginning of the program," she said. A part of the event will be an unused and expired prescription drug drop-off, organized in coordination with the Rainy Lake Medical Center hospital campus. The drop-off will take place from 1-6 p.m. at the hospital pharmacy and will include local law enforcement staff.

In addition, Santee said that while the event is still being organized, she and the alumni group are working to secure speakers who can provide the community with information about the prevalence and dangers of prescription drug abuse, as well as other entertaining features. District Court Judge Charles LeDuc said the event should serve as a rallying cry for the community. The Ninth District judge said the drugs of choice have changed locally, as well as nationally. "Prescription drugs is the No. 1 deal now," he told The Journal. "Meth has come and gone, crack never made it here much, and heroine is not a big player here, and marijuana will always be big. But we've got prescription drug abuse here." And he said obtaining prescription drugs can be as easy as asking to use the bathroom in the home of family and friends. "The guy dealing drugs isn't the creep on the streets," he said. "Instead, the dealer is your grandma and the kid down the street. If you're worried about drugs, take a look in your own medicine cabinet. Everybody's got drugs — if you've ever been to a doctor, you probably have or had it in your medicine cabinet." Local police reports often include thefts of prescription drugs from homes, which can be a real

Drug court to A7 ►

Mayor submits 2014 bonding request

Money secured could improve terminal at Falls International Airport

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

If all goes as hoped by officials, the Falls International Airport could see terminal upgrades and improvements as early as next year. Bob Anderson, Falls mayor and chairman of the local airport commission, announced

Wednesday during a Koochiching Economic Development Authority Board meeting, that he submitted a letter to Gov. Mark Dayton requesting to be included in next year's bonding legislation for \$3 million towards terminal and administration improvements at the airport. "We get Airport Improvement Project, or AIP, grants every year for \$1 million," Anderson said. "We can accumulate those for three years and going into the fourth year, we could have as much as \$4 million available to us." Anderson said the terminal project is expected to cost about \$9.6 million. "The local share would be

very significant because there is a portion of that project that would not be eligible for AIP, or state money," he said. Even with AIP and bonding money, Anderson said, the project would also require discretionary money from the Federal Aviation Administration. "Every year, (the FAA) has a small pot of discretionary money that they put out," he said. "In 1978, we were fortunate enough to secure some of those monies and expanded the runway and put in the terminal building that we have out there now." The airport, Anderson said, is one of the nine key airports

Airport to A7 ►

KEDA focuses on marketing Borderland

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Officials of the Koochiching Economic Development Authority Wednesday reviewed its plan for marketing the Borderland area and making it more attractive to people who may want to live and work here. According to KEDA Director Paul Nevanen, the organization came in just under its \$12,000 budget for marketing expenses this year. "Marketing can be kind of a cloudy area," Nevanen said.

A marketing summary by Nevanen showed that the bulk of the money — about \$6,000 — went to magazines for advertisements which aim to show off the community, its "ideal" location and other features that could benefit future businesses and projects. "There is six solid site selector magazines out there," he said. "We have gone back and forth with some of them... they're all fairly close and the content is similar...we focus on infrastructure and logistics...our messaging is basically about our location,

the foreign trade zone and the gateway to Canada." Nevanen noted that though the market is very competitive, Family Dollar was an example of a business that came across the KEDA website and decided to establish a local location. In addition, Nevanen said social media sites like Facebook and Twitter have reached "an extensive audience." "I think on our Facebook page we have about 300

KEDA to A7 ►