



STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

Soren Olesen grabs a bowl of one of the many different kinds of chili available for the chili cook off.

OKTOBERFEST

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While Oktoberfesters were busy carving pumpkins, Olesen took others on a haunted hay ride through his field near the community building. Bundled up hay riders laughed as “zombies” crept out of the woods toward the tractor-towed wagon.

Meanwhile, the pumpkin carving contest, which Olesen said gets more competitive every year, generated about 40 of the glowing Jack-o-lanterns. Five-year-old Hoyt Nelson of International Falls took first place for his flame-themed carving.

The evening also featured the popular chili cook off. Crock pots full of different versions of the stew were available during the event’s potluck for taste testing. Cheryl Dobbs of Littlefork earned the top spot in the cook off for her chili recipe.

The event is organized as a quarterly fundraiser for the community building, Olesen said. Other yearly events include Pio-



Judith Nelson is dressed up as an angry bird for Halloween.

neer Days in July and the North American Sturgeon Championship in August.

“We just like to hold events that promote family fun where people of any generation can come and enjoy themselves,” he said.

FORM

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bullying prevention or intervention. It also doesn’t address what should be done to help students who engage in bullying to examine their attitudes and change their behavior.

Last year, Shermoen said a task force was appointed by Gov. Mark Dayton to review the law and assess anti-bullying policies in Minnesota schools. A bill, the Safe and Support Minnesota Schools Act, was passed by the state House of Representatives, but failed to make it to the Senate because of the controversy surrounding language in the bill.

“In January, the same bullying task force will come together and it appears they’re going to hash out the language,” Shermoen said. “Once it gets passed within the Senate, the new law would go into effect in May of the following school year.”

In the meantime, she suggested the district look at and apply modifications to its bullying policy where it can, while keeping in mind the new legislative session could bring changes.

“I foresee ISD 361 being a leader in how new policies will be aligned to recommendations and how they actively pursue preventative measures, education, interventions and supports,” Shermoen said.

She said she believes the bullying referral form is a step in the right direction and administrators said they agree.

“I know in previous districts where I’ve been, a referral form was used,” Nelson said. “It helps us determine what is actually bullying and what is conflict.”

While some districts accept anonymous reports, Nelson made it clear that wouldn’t be the case locally.

“All forms will need to have names on it,” he said, adding the identity of the person filling out the form needs to be included. “If there is no name on a form, it won’t be addressed.”

The superintendent and Everson both said they predict the form will be used more at the secondary level.

“It will most likely be used more at the high school since all our students are mature enough to be able to complete the form,” Everson said. “It is a reporting option that will allow us to track reports and give us contact information for those reporting incidents.”

The forms will be available in the main offices of Falls Elementary, West End Elementary and Falls High School. They can also be accessed in classrooms and on the district’s website. Once filled out, forms can be returned to teachers, the main offices or a site located in the counselor’s office for more privacy.

**ON A POSITIVE NOTE**

Shermoen said while the district continues to stay proactive against bullying, it is implementing changes that are producing positive results.

“PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports) has been very successful among staff, students and the community,” she said. “I’ve been noticing positive changes not only in the classroom, but in the hallways as well.”

The program, intended to address behavior issues in a positive way, is now only offered at the elementary level, but Everson said the high school is gearing up to implement it next fall.

In addition to PBIS, Shermoen said Friends Against Abuse received grants funded by the local Marshall N. Knudson Family Fund to begin individual and group support programs in both Falls Elementary and Falls High schools.

Shermoen said the programs began last spring for students selected by the district social worker and school administrators.

“(The support groups) are facilitated by a local national certified counselor, (and) the focus is on social problem-solving and emotional support toward improving students’ life skills, self confidence, and self esteem,” she said. “Funding will continue through 2013-2014.”

EDA

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much on the government escrow and will save money because we have less negative arbitrage,” he wrote.

That, he said, could save the EDA another \$100,000 if interest rates do not rise over the next three months.

He said Moody’s, a company that provides credit ratings and other investment services, would only charge the EDA a “nominal fee” for a fresh rating.

Commissioner Bob Anderson asked for a definition of nominal, and Shawn Mason, he city’s economic and community development director, provided an email early Tuesday morning from Mattson, stating that the nominal fee will depend on how far past 90 days the action is delayed, but said from one to 45 days past 90 days and the fee may be in the \$4,000 to \$5,000 range above the initial rating fee ranging from \$12,000 to \$14,000.

“Again, within 90 days we are free and if we go past 90 days and trigger a nominal fee it would only be if we intended to save hundreds of thousands of dollars,” wrote Mattson. “We will test the market on the credit problems we found today before we enter the market again.”

**OTHER ACTION**

Meanwhile, a motion at the Sept. 23 meeting raised concern with Anderson. He said he believed the motion to cease providing ledgers in the monthly packets provided to the commissioners and members of the public should have been ruled out of order. The motion said ledgers would be provided as requested at least on a quarterly basis to commissioners who request them.

Anderson Monday voted against acceptance of the minutes, with Commissioners Cynthia Jaksa and Pete Kalar voting for approval, saying they were an accurate reflection of the action. Commissioners Gail Rognrud and Paul Eklund were absent from the meeting. The commission is made up of members of the Falls City Council.

A later motion calling for the ledgers to be provided at each meeting as a part of the financial report was approved unanimously.

But Mason, in emails sent Tuesday morning to the commission, said she needed to ask Anderson, who serves as Falls mayor, why he does not require public presentation and disclosure of financial reports from any other department or organization of which the city is the fiscal agent. She said the only time such

detail is presented is during budget time.

“Is fiduciary responsibility defined differently depending upon which department or organization we are speaking of?” she asked in the email.

“It is my belief that the administrator’s position needs to follow the city charter and I have continually discussed with the members of the council that financial reporting needs to occur at the city council meeting,” replied Anderson in an email. “The administration office is presently working shorthanded and is providing a monthly report on fund balances and most, if not all expenditures of the departments through the regular claims. The airport, library and recreation boards have citizens serving on them that have the same fiduciary responsibility to expend the citizens tax dollars with the same care. Should the city council get their financial reports? My belief is yes. Not to second guess them, rather to look for trends and understand the needs of these operations.”

Anderson said he’s been pleased with the reports Mason is providing and only became concerned after the last meeting when action to limit the financial information was approved.

CONGRATULATIONS!



**Front Row (L to R)** Assistant Coach Nathan Nelson, Jenna Anderson, Sydney Raboin, Amy Auran, Lexi Owen, Lexi Erickson

**Back Row (L to R)** Head Coach Paul Hjelle, Grace Gilbert, Faith Black, Lex Edwards, Valerie Withers, Lexi Graves, Lauren Withers, and Assistant Coach Sheryl Hendrickson

Bronco Girls Cross Country Team State Bound

Good Luck at the State A Meet  
Saturday, November 2, 2013 at 1 pm.  
St. Olaf College

THIS MESSAGE WISHING YOU GOOD LUCK IS FROM  
YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES! GO BRNCOS!

<b>Almost Lindy's</b> 3003 Co Rd. 20, Int'l Falls, MN www.almostlindys.com 286-3364	<b>Fletcher Heating and Air-HVAC</b> 4110 Hwy. 11, Int'l Falls 283-2892	<b>Rainy Lake Houseboats</b> 2031 Town Rd. 488, Int'l Falls 286-5391	<b>SuperOne</b> Hwy. 71, Int'l Falls 283-8440
<b>Dr. Benjamin Stone Optometrist</b> 340 3rd Street., Int'l Falls, MN 283-4788	<b>Good Samaritan Society Care Center, Home Care &amp; River's Edge Villa - International Falls</b> 1402 Hwy. 71, Int'l Falls 283-8313	<b>Rainy Lake Medical Center Clinic Campus &amp; Pharmacy</b> <b>Hospital Campus ServiceMaster</b> International Falls 283-4775	<b>TruStar Federal Credit Union</b> 601 4th St., Int'l Falls 283-2000
<b>Boise Paper</b> International Falls	<b>The Jug</b> Highway 53 & 11th St., Int'l Falls 283-2883	<b>Shannon's Plumbing &amp; Heating</b> 1919 Main Ave., Int'l Falls 283-9372	<b>UnitedHealth Group</b> International Falls 285-7550
<b>Border State Bank</b> 1414 Highway 71, Int'l Falls 283-5556	<b>The Int'l Falls Journal</b> 1602 Hwy 71 285-7411	<b>Shorewood Dental</b> Thomas Herzig, DDS 1570 Hwy. 71, Int'l Falls 285-7078	<b>Voyageur Charter Coach</b> County Road 97, Ericsburg 377-4343
<b>Borderland Jewelry/ The Finery Gift House</b> 324 Third Street, Int'l Falls 283-4701/285-9556	<b>K&amp;K Meyers Inc. dba &amp; Meyers Glass</b> 1201 3rd St., Int'l Falls 283-8446	<b>The Sports Shop</b> Main Street District, Int'l Falls • 283-6121	<b>Waschke Family GM Center</b> 2300 Hwy 53, Int'l Falls, MN www.waschkegm.com 283-3471
<b>Bremer Bank, National Association</b> 345 4th Ave., Int'l Falls 283-9411	<b>Northern Lumber Yard Inc.</b> Highway 53 & 7th St., Int'l Falls, 283-2595	<b>State Farm Insurance - Charles Casanova</b> 420 3rd St., Int'l Falls 283-2545	<b>Wells Fargo Bank</b> 419-421 3rd St., Int'l Falls 283-9871
<b>City Drug</b> Downtown, Int'l Falls 283-3061	<b>The Outdoorsman Headquarters</b> Highway 53 & 11th St., Int'l Falls • 283-9337	<b>Streiff's Floral &amp; Gifts</b> 200 4th Ave., Int'l Falls 283-4095	<b>Wenberg Transfer</b> Hwy. 53, Int'l Falls 283-8011
<b>Farmers Insurance Group Carol Schumacher</b> 211 3rd St., Int'l Falls 283-3814			<b>Wherley Motors</b> 309 5th St., Int'l Falls 283-8486a