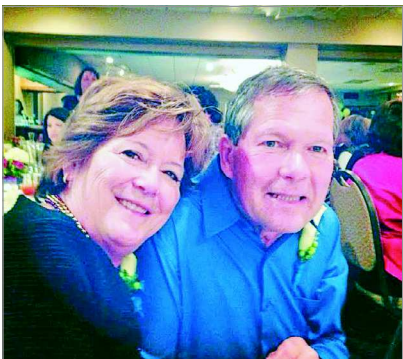


Mr. Pete celebrated

Fundraiser sees successful turnout

A9



Quack, quack

Geese nuisance discussed

A4



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Local candidates featured at forum

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

One week before the Nov. 4 general election, voters have a chance to hear and see candidates in races for local positions.

A forum Tuesday at Backus Community Center will feature 16 candidates seeking local office.

The forum begins at 6 p.m. It is organized and presented by the International Falls Area Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber President Faye Whitbeck said 19 candidates featured in races for local positions were invited, with 16 accepting the invitation to answer questions about themselves and local issues.

Candidates in races for the following positions will attend: Koochiching County commissioner District 1 and District 4; county sheriff, International Falls councilor East Ward, West Ward, and Center Ward; Ranier city councilor, and Minnesota House of Representatives District 3A. Whitbeck said she has been notified that the following candidates will not participate in the forum: Ron Wilcox and Naomi Woods who are seeking positions on the Ranier City Council, and Barry "Woody" Woods, who is seeking the Koochiching County commissioner District 1 seat.

"All the candidates will be on stage throughout the forum, but will be featured at the center table when questions are delivered," said Whitbeck of the format.

Candidates will be asked questions formulated by a special confidential committee, members



Faye Whitbeck

Forum to A7 >



STAFF PHOTOS BY SPENSER BICKETT

Musical entertainment preceded the Oktoberfest meal Thursday.

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Koochiching County Senior Center held an Oktoberfest celebration and meal Thursday, with musical entertainment followed by a meal.

Area seniors packed the dining area for the event, and swapped stories over a meal.



Seniors got the chance to visit before the Oktoberfest meal Thursday.



Seniors packed the Koochiching County Senior Center Thursday for an Oktoberfest meal.

Officials call for safety on Halloween

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

Halloween is less than a week away, and soon, Falls youngsters will be taking to their neighborhoods for their long-awaited candy smorgasbord: trick or treat.

While the kids are busy putting the finishing touches on their costumes, local law enforcement officials encourage parents to make sure they stay safe on their excursion.

Koochiching County Sheriff Brian Jespersen said parents should make sure to carry a flashlight, and to wear reflective vests or clothing if possible.

"Think about wearing light clothing as opposed to dark clothing," Jespersen said. "If you're walking with kids, put a reflective vest on so people can see them with their car's headlights."

Jespersen said trick or treaters should also stick to the sidewalks and yards, and stay off the streets. Parents should also make sure if their child's costume has a mask, they're able to see out of it, so they don't trip and fall.

International Falls Police Chief Mike Musich said parents with younger children should go trick or treating earlier, and be aware of when the sun is supposed to set.



Brian Jespersen



Mike Musich

Safety to A7 >

District 361 voters will decide number of board members

Question asks whether to add a member to the board

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

Among names of candidates on the Nov. 4 ballot will be a question for voters in Independent School District 361 that will determine the number of members of the Falls School Board.

District Superintendent Kevin Grover said the question is pretty straightforward: Shall the school board of Independent School District No. 361 consist of seven members?

The ballot question, offered in a special election, provides voters with an oval circle to darken to vote yes or no.



Kevin Grover

Currently, the school board consists of six members.

The ballot question will be brought to voters as a result of several split votes, 3-3, over the past year on some important issues, Grover said.

While a split vote provides the board with a decision — a motion that receives a 3-3 vote fails — Grover said some board members feel having an odd number of members would make decisions more clear to the public.

"It's not really more decisive,

but it might not look like a fight," he said. "There is a decision either way."

Grover said bringing the question about the number of board members to the voters was not unanimous. The board agreed in June to have the question placed on the ballot on a 5-1 vote. In August, on a 3-2 vote the board agreed to ask voters if they favored increasing the board membership.

Should the majority of voters answer yes to adding a member

to the board, an election to decide who will fill the new seat would be held in the 2016 general election, Grover said.

The cost of adding a member isn't much of a factor, Grover said. School Board members receive an annual salary of \$3,120.

"Is it an added cost to the district? Yes," he said. "It's \$3,000, but in a \$12 million budget, it's not a huge piece if it would go forward."

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