

**Familiar face,  
new place**  
Falls native named  
Essentia Health CEO



**Hard act  
to follow**  
One-act plays  
come to Backus



A4

A9

# International Falls Journal

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## Walk draws supporters of gas card program



Groups including the FHS volleyball team and several businesses took part in the Community Cancer Walk.

### Gas cards available to all Borderland cancer patients, regardless of income

BY LAUREL BEAGER  
Editor

The sound of enthusiastic walkers snapping photos and greeting one another was loud in the Bronco Arena foyer Saturday morning prior to the sixth annual Community Cancer Walk.

Walkers donned scarves with blue scarves designating participants, and yellow scarves survivors.

The walkers quickly hushed as Wendy Mayer, one of the event's organizers,

asked them to help get the word out that gas cards are available to any Borderland resident diagnosed with cancer.

"The numbers have declined in how many gas cards went out and we still have the same number of people who have cancer in our community," she said.

Some people may be reluctant to ask for the cards because they believe they will be asked to complete an application or provide income or other personal information, she said.

There is no application or form to fill out, she said.

"They just need to call, you can call or anybody can call and say this person has cancer and can you send them a gas card," she told the group. "It's easy."

To get a gas card, or have one sent to someone with cancer, Mayer said a call should be made to the Rainy Lake Medical Center Chemotherapy Department at 283-5484.

Only 65 cards were given out this year, as compared to about 100 cards in previous years, Mayer said. "Maybe people don't know how to get them," she said of the lower numbers of requests for cards. "We're not sure what we're missing or what the link is."

And she said some people may

Walk to A7 ➤



STAFF PHOTOS BY LAUREL BEAGER

FHS cheerleaders led cheers at the pep fest, where purple and gold were the colors of the day.

## FHS HOMECOMING

Bronco pride was on display Friday at the Falls High School homecoming pep fest and parade.



Senior homecoming queen Stephanie Christianson and king Austin Ruport rode in style in the parade Friday.



Braving a cool rain, elementary students marched in the homecoming parade downtown Friday.

## City sets in motion plan to raze houses

Five abandoned structures just the start, says housing inspector

BY LAUREL BEAGER  
Editor

Five structures deemed hazardous in International Falls are slated for demolition with action Monday by the Falls City Council.

City Attorney Steve Shermoen said the order approved by the council sets in motion a schedule of actions with the first involving serving the property owners notice they have 45 days to correct the issues to the satisfaction of city Building Inspector Kelly Meyers.

Shermoen said two property owners are deceased and their next of kin will be sought, and all properties have been considered by city staff a number of times prior to taking Monday's action.

Should the property owners consent to demolition, city crews could raze the structures yet this fall. If the orders are contested though court and the court sides with the city, Shermoen said demolition would likely occur in the spring.

Councilors said they were pleased with the order, adding neighbors of the five properties will also be happy the structures are planned for demolition.

Meyers told the council all five



Steve Shermoen

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