

Gone fishin'

Ranier resident inducted into fishing hall of fame

B4



Learning culture

St. Thomas students sing Spanish songs

A4



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The St. Paul Lutheran Church building located on Ninth Street may only be 61 years old, but the International Falls congregation next week is celebrating 100 years of existence in the community with a special worship service at 4 p.m. Oct. 26, followed by a dinner.

Local church celebrates 100th anniversary

BY EMILY GEDDE Staff Writer

St. Paul Lutheran Church is joining the churches in Borderland that have had a presence in the community for at least a century. It will celebrate its 100th anniversary next week. "It's an exciting time," said member Jean Houska. "We've been planing for this for quite some time." To recognize the milestone, the congregation is inviting the community to attend a special worship service at 4 p.m. Oct. 26 at the church, 1324 Ninth Street, with a dinner to follow. The church has about 300 confirmed members and is led by the Rev. Jacob Quast, who has filled a vacancy position as pastor since 2012.

BIRTH OF THE CHURCH

The idea behind establishing a Missouri Synod Lutheran Church in the International Falls area had been on the radar of early organizers since 1906. It took six years before the Rev. M.C.A. Mueller accepted a call in 1912 to establish a congregation in town and become the first of many pastors the church would have during its first 100 years of existence. At the time, the synod had property on Seventh Street and 10th Avenue. Not wanting to be too far from the central part of town, developers decided to construct a small building on Sixth Street and Sixth Avenue. "It was built very fast," said member Stephanie Morrison. Construction began in March 1913, was completed two months later and on June 1, the site was dedicated. The chapel consisted of an auditorium and three rooms which were to serve as a home for the pastor at the time. In 1914, the Rev. Ad. Trost



The original building of the St. Paul Lutheran Church was demolished in 2012. The structure's stained glass windows are expected to be installed in the current building next spring.

began to serve as the pastor for the International Falls church. Upon his arrival, the fresh seminary graduate was asked to preach at eight other locations - Ray, Gemmel, Cedar Spur, Hay Creek, Warroad, and Sleeman, Ontario. "He traveled by horse," Houska said. The International Falls chapel was unique because every other Sunday, it offered two services - one in German and the other in English. The church's name started as the St. Paul German Lutheran Church and was later changed to St. Paul English Lutheran

Church and eventually settled with the name it has today. The church's archives show from 1914-1917, there was only one burial, three marriages performed, and 22 children baptized. The pastor was paid an annual salary of \$600 by the mission board.

NEW LOCATION

The church continued to operate at the Sixth Street location for 40 years until the decision was made to relocate to its current spot of Ninth Street and 14th Avenue in 1953. The

Church to A7 ➤

VNP staff get back to work

Federal officials now look to January

BY LAUREL BEAGER Editor

About 35 National Park Service employees were called back to their work sites at Voyageurs National Park Thursday, hours after the United States Congress reached a temporary budget agreement. VNP Superintendent Mike Ward answered his phone at VNP headquarters Thursday morning and said Wednesday night was difficult as he listened to news reports about the votes to be taken by the U.S. House and U.S. Senate that would raise the U.S. deficit ceiling avoiding default and return federal workers to their jobs. The agreement includes a provision for back-pay for the furloughed workers. "Everything is getting set this morning," he said Thursday. "Today and tomorrow everyone will be back to their jobs." The VNP workers were furloughed without pay as a result of a federal government shutdown. They were among about 18,000 federal government employees living and working in Minnesota. About half that number are considered essential employees and continued to work. Among those essential employees are those that work for U.S. Customs and Border Protection Services and five enforcement rangers at Voyageurs National Park. Ward said barricades that were placed in front of entrances to park facilities were removed Thursday morning and boat ramps were opened. He said the Visitor centers were expected to reopen Friday, after waste water issues were handled prior to opening. "They were sitting dormant for a while and should be fine, but we want to make sure everything is working property," he said. "We should be running like normal (Friday)." And while VNP is not usually flush with visitors at this time of year, he said park boat ramps will be available for duck hunters. And while Ward joked that the time away from the job allowed him to nearly complete his "to do

VNP to A7 ➤

Counties seek bonding money for NERCC

Unique facility houses nonviolent offenders for longer sentences

BY LAUREL BEAGER Editor

There are no fences around the facility that houses Borderland residents who serve longer criminal sentences than allowed at the local jail.

And that facility, known as the Northeast Regional Corrections Center, has the lowest repeat offender rate in the state, and is often used as a model for other states, according to Koochiching County Commissioner Wade Pavleck, who serves as chairman

of the Arrowhead Regional Corrections Board, which oversees NERCC. Pavleck told Gov. Mark Dayton last week that the facility located 11 miles northwest of Duluth deserves \$4 million in state bonding money. Dayton has proposed \$2 million. The facility houses offenders from Koochiching, Carlton, Cook, Lake and St. Louis counties, which have banded together in

a joint agreement that requires each county to provide funding for its operation. Together the five counties encompass 13,738 square miles. The 150-bed, 600 acre NERCC is what Pavleck describes as a work farm. The facility is a minimum-level security institution that provides services to adult males. It provides education, vocational training and treatment services. "It has no fences and that makes

it unique," he said. " (NERCC) is an efficient way to house and rehab these people." Pavleck told the governor that he can count on one hand the number of times someone has walked off the facility during the 20 years he has served as a board member. The bonding money is needed to bring the aging facility up to

NERCC to A7 ➤