

**'A Night in Paris'**

FHS celebrates prom

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**Cold, wet and successful**

Anglers take advantage of opener

A4



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## HATS OFF TO THE MEYERS

After 35 years, Friday marked the final Farm Day

BY EMILY GEDDE  
Staff Writer

As Tony Pearson drove home from Wayne Meyers' farm Friday afternoon, a wave of sadness washed over him.

The day capped the end of an era for him and many others. For more than 30 years, Meyers and his wife, Sharon, have opened the gates of their County Road 79 farm for area children and their families. And this year was the last.

"It is just time for them to be done," Pearson said. "Hopefully someone else will step up and create a new, similar tradition."

Pearson, who was in first grade when Farm Day originated, has for the last 11 years spearheaded the effort to ease the preparation and stress welcoming about 500 children brings. He admitted while hanging up his straw hat on the event was hard for him, he knew it was more difficult for the Meyers.

"They love doing this," he said. "They love sharing a farm experience with people of all ages."

Meyers had a permanent smile on his face Friday morning as the first few bus loads of children arrived. Running in all directions, the youngsters quickly filled their arms with baby rabbits, kittens, and fresh eggs from the chicken coop. Thursday's rain created muddy puddles, which only added to the excitement.

"The kids sure love this," Meyers said, rustling the hair of a young boy as he ran by. "I like doing this for them."

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Wayne Meyers lures "Charlotte," a Scottish highlander, toward eager children on the other side of a gate Friday. This is the final farm day for Meyers, who has hosted the event at his farm on County Road 79 since 1980.



Elise Pavleck, 5, cuddles one of the many baby kittens at Farm Day.

STAFF PHOTOS  
BY EMILY GEDDE

## City gets state housing rehab funds

BY LAUREL BEAGER  
Editor

Rehabilitation of rental and downtown commercial property will get a boost with a state funding award.

International Falls will receive \$628,677 for single-family rental housing rehabilitation, duplex rental housing rehabilitation and commercial building rehabilitation from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development Small Cities Development Program.

The money will be distributed in the Falls to eligible applicants in the form of forgivable loans, provided the property owner meets certain criteria.

A total of \$17.6 million in DEED awards will go to 37 Minnesota communities to help pay

Funds to A7 >

## New options

BY EMILY GEDDE  
Staff Writer

High school seniors who graduate in 2017 will be able to earn a degree from Rainy River Community College without ever stepping foot on campus.

Falls High School administrators this week announced the implementation of a new measure in the fall that will allow students to earn an associate in arts, or AA, degree at the high school.

"We're very excited," said Principal Tim Everson. "This is something we've wanted to do for awhile."

Courses will be taught at the high school by high school teachers with the exception of a few online courses. FHS is partnering with RRCC, Vermilion Community College, Mesabi Range College, Lake Superior College and Bemidji State University to make the program happen.

Instead of students traveling across the field to RRCC to enroll in its Post Secondary Enrollment Option, or PSEO, program, they can earn dual college and high school credits in a familiar setting.

Action plan

High school administrators realize earning college credits

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