

**Birkie buddies**  
Husband and wife compete in event

A3



**Stretch it out**  
Yoga teacher hosts teaching course

A10



# International Falls Journal

ifallsjournal.com



Find us on  
**Twitter**



Find us on  
**Facebook**



Scan for  
*The Journal*  
online

**Wednesday,  
February 25, 2015**

International Falls, Minnesota

www.ifallsjournal.com

\$1

NKASD

## Settlement cuts \$325,000 from plant price tag

BY LAUREL BEAGER  
Editor

A mediated settlement with the contractor that renovated the local sewer treatment plant will subtract \$325,000 from the price tag. The settlement reached with Gridor Construction Inc. was unanimously accepted Feb. 19 by the North Koochiching Area Sanitary District, said Joe Boyle, attorney for the district, and Tim “Chopper” McBride, executive director of the district.

Boyle said the mediator recommended the settlement which provides two-thirds of the liquidated damages the district sought. The damages were sought because completion of the project was 227 days late, said Boyle. The project was planned for completion by Nov. 30, 2013. “It was a great result that we were able to get most of the liquidated damages because the facts in the law were with the district and its users,” said Boyle of the settlement.

“There were a lot of naysayers, but it turned out very well,” said McBride. “It took a lot of work and a lot of energy, but good people put their heads together being confident and being patient to overcome an obstacle that some people saw, and brought to the district and its users \$326,000 in a mediated settlement.” Greg Theisen, owner of Gridor Construction Inc., did not return a call for comment in time for this publication. Gridor is based in Buffalo, Minn.

Boyle said the settlement calls for about a one-third reduction of the nearly \$500,000 sought, but the agreement resolves the dispute. “You don’t get this type of mediated settlement without the director and the staff doing a very good job during the course of this whole project on their end to get it done,” said Boyle. He also credited the mediation committee, which he said did a good job of explaining the district’s position. The committee

was chaired by Brian McBride, who Boyle said provided a lot of leadership, and included district board members Doug Dault and Tom Worth, who he said articulated the district’s positions well. Board member David Farmer also served on the mediation committee. Boyle said Farmer was able to provide information that showed the justification provided by Gridor was not correct for why completion of the project was late.

**Settlement to A7 ►**



STAFF PHOTOS BY SPENSER BICKETT

These future preschoolers pass the time Monday by cleaning up scuff marks on the Falls Elementary School lobby floor.

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Area parents looked ahead to the 2015-2016 school year Monday, and turned out to Falls Elementary School for preschool registration. Future classmates played to pass the time as parents signed three- and four-year-olds up for preschool.



Future preschool classmates make each other's acquaintance Monday at Falls Elementary School.



While parents wait for preschool registration at Falls Elementary School Monday, these bubbly kids spin and play around.

KOOCHICHING  
COUNTY BOARD

## Board generates new power

BY SPENSER BICKETT  
Staff Writer

The Koochiching County Board Tuesday approved a motion to replace the county Law Enforcement Center’s backup generator. County Complex Supervisor Terry Glowack said the LEC’s current backup generator has become obsolete, and has too many mechanical issues to be repaired. He said the county’s management committee has reviewed the issue, and decided purchasing a replacement generator is the most feasible option.

**County to A7 ►**

## City Council seeks meeting with sewer district board

At issue is demand for return of \$10,000 by board

BY LAUREL BEAGER  
Editor

More information is being sought about a letter that “demands and requests” the International Falls City Council return \$10,000 it received from the local sanitary sewer district.

The council last week voted unanimously to invite the board of the North



Harley Droba

**Council to A7 ►**

**INSIDE  
TO REACH US**

OBITUARIES/A6

PHONE: (218) 285-7411

OPINION/A8

FAX: (218) 285-7206

BUSINESS/A10

SPORTS/B1

CLASSIFIEDS/B4

COMICS/B6

ONLINE: IFALLSJOURNAL.COM OR FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

VOLUME 6  
NUMBER 17