

Fresh start

Students kick off new school year

A3



Season set

BCA starts Oct. 23

A9



Find us on Twitter



Find us on Facebook



Scan for The Journal online

The Journal

Wednesday, September 3, 2014

International Falls, Minnesota

www.ifallsjournal.com

\$1



STAFF PHOTOS BY SPENSER BICKETT

Attendees to Monday's Labor Day picnic at Smokey Bear Park line up for a free meal, courtesy of the Koochiching Labor Assembly and the city of International Falls. Organizers said about 2,000 people attended the fourth annual event.

A HOT DOG AND A DAY OFF

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

Cloudy skies cleared out Monday just in time for the fourth annual Labor Day picnic at Smokey Bear Park, hosted by the city of International Falls and the Koochiching Labor Assembly. In addition to the free meal, there was music and activities for children, featuring a bouncy house and a bean-bag toss game. The Rainer barrel train also made an appearance and gave rides to daring youngsters. Joe Schwartz, president of the Koochiching Labor Assembly, said it's hard to determine an exact figure, but attendance was similar to last year when they served 2,000 people.

"It was a great success again this year," Schwartz said. Schwartz said the highlight of the event for him was seeing people have a good time, talking and socializing with each other. He also said all the feedback he received from people was positive, and that it was an overall good time. "They loved the food, loved the entertainment," he said. "It's something that'll continue on, we already had people saying they can't wait until next year." There was no cost to attend the picnic, but organizers did request attendees bring canned good donations for the Falls Hunger Coalition. Brittany Rognerud from the FHC said the event brought in \$39 in cash donations and 335 pounds of food for the food shelf.



Games were available at the Labor Day picnic, including beanbag toss.

KEDA unveils business project

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

The Koochiching Economic Development Authority Friday approved three motions that will help the organization move forward on a project to improve multiple local businesses. The project, a rail spur running from the Minnesota Dakota and Western Railway line across Highway 332 to Rainy Lake Oil and Bergstrom Wood Products, will improve efficiency at the businesses and allow them to lower costs and grow, KEDA Director Paul Nevanen said. "They can streamline their operations, helping them be more efficient," Nevanen said. "This would allow them much more streamlined capabilities." The spur is a joint effort between multiple organizations,

KEDA to A7 ➤

MnDOT fights invasive plants with spraying

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

They may add a colorful touch to area ditches, but purple loosestrife and wild parsnip are taking over the native species in much of Koochiching County. In an effort to combat the spread of these aggressive invasive species, Minnesota Department of Transportation trucks have been target spraying an herbicide along ditches in Borderland. Chris Cheney, MnDOT supervisor of the Border subarea, said MnDOT is target spraying for plants on the eradication list, which also includes meadow knapweed. Last week is likely the last of the spraying season, as he said the herbicide used ceases to be efficient in frost. "Once we see frost everyday,

Spraying to A7 ➤



STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

Educational support professional Rhonda Johnson helps students off the bus Tuesday as they returned to Falls Elementary.

FIRST DAY FRENZY

Fresh smiles, shiny backpacks and a new academic year returned to area schools Tuesday for the first day of classes. A sense of excitement filled the air as students made their way to their respective classrooms to meet teachers and reunite with friends.



Students make their way to their respective Falls Elementary classrooms Tuesday.

INSIDE
TO REACH US

OBITUARIES/A6
PHONE: (218) 285-7411

OPINION/A8
FAX: (218) 285-7206

ENTERTAINMENT/A9
ONLINE: IFALLSJOURNAL.COM OR FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

SPORTS/B1
CLASSIFIEDS/B3
COMICS/B6

VOLUME 5
NUMBER 71