

**Hands-on learning**  
Indus students tour Falls homes  
**B8**



**Remember when?**  
History cafe returns Thursday  
**A3**



# The Journal



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International Falls, Minnesota

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STAFF PHOTOS BY SPENSER BICKETT  
Tammy Sjoblom, owner of Sjoblom's Landscape and Nursery, waters some smaller flowers Thursday morning in one of the greenhouses.

## Growing concerns

BY SPENSER BICKETT  
Staff Writer

After six months looking at a white-filled landscape, Borderland residents are itching to exercise their green thumbs and start planting their gardens.

Tammy Sjoblom, owner of Sjoblom's Landscape and Nursery, said the slow start to spring has affected her business a "good deal," and has set her business back about three weeks. She hasn't seen many customers so far, she said, but the one's she's had are fed up with the cold, wet weather.

"They're sick and tired of it, and they're starting to get frustrated," Sjoblom said. "They want to see some color."

Greg Nicholson, owner of

Nicholson's Garden Center, said business has been slow so far this spring, but has had some anxious customers looking at plants, and getting excited to start planting.

"Everybody's pretty disappointed with the cold and wet," Nicholson said. "I have had people out looking because they're excited about getting started when they can."

Mother's Day helped kickstart some of the business, Sjoblom said, as some customers give their mothers hanging plants, regardless of the weather on Mother's Day. There seemed to be more

Gardening to A7 ➤



Top: Hanging plants in a variety of colors are available at Sjoblom's Landscape and Nursery.

Bottom: Flowers of a wide range of colors are in bloom at Nicholson's Garden Center.

## Honoring 'Mr. Music'

Popular music teacher humbled by award

BY EMILY GEDDE  
Staff Writer

For more than 40 years, John Faith has been nicknamed "Mr. Music" by many in the International Falls community.

This year, he is being recognized for it.

Officials at the Arrowhead Region Arts Council in April announced Faith as the recipient of the 2014 Maddie Simons Advocate Award.

"I do wish to thank the ARAC for giving me the award and it is an honor to receive it," Faith told The Journal last week.

The Maddie Simons Advocate Award recognizes an arts administrator, arts educator, volunteer for a non-profit arts organization or artist whose involvement in a project or programs has substantially contributed to the arts in the Arrowhead region. The award honors an individual for their work on a single project or for long-time involvement with arts organizations in the region.

Honor to A7 ➤

## Filings for some offices open Tuesday

Other filings open July 29

BY LAUREL BEAGER  
Editor

Koochiching County Auditor/Treasurer Bob Peterson and his staff are preparing for the election season.

Filings for federal, state and county offices open Tuesday and close June 3.

This year, the primary election is Aug. 12 and the general election Nov. 4.

Peterson said he attended two days of election training in Brainerd last week, has published and posted all election filing notices and campaign affidavits for candidacy just arrived Wednesday.

Election to A7 ➤

## VNP: Lots of ice still on Rainy Lake

Kabetogama ice out Tuesday

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

A bird's eye view of area lakes shows about 75 percent of Rainy Lake to be still covered in ice.

Voyageurs National Park Chief Ranger Chuck Remus reports that park pilot Steve Mazur flew over the lakes Wednesday and reported Rainy Lake is open to Alder Bay; is impassable from Alder Bay to Brule Narrows with 75-percent ice coverage; Brule Narrows is free of ice; is impassable from

Brule Narrows to Kettle Falls with 75-percent ice coverage.

"A few more warm days and some rain and things may open up pretty quick, Mazur said in a report to Remus.

Remus urged area boaters to

Ice to A7 ➤



Park pilot Steve Mazur had this view of Rainy Lake's Anderson Bay Wednesday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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**MEMORIAL DAY** ★ **MAIN EVENT**  
SATURDAY, MAY 24 / Start Time: 7 p.m. **TOURNAMENT**

Stop by the Poker Room for details!



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