

Play the hits
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The Journal



Saturday, February 15, 2014

International Falls, Minnesota www.ifallsjournal.com \$1



STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

Spencer Jessen paddles a boat he and five of his classmates designed. Speeds were recorded as teams attempted to paddle from one end of the Falls High School swimming pool to the other. Jessen's boat proved to be the best of four designs in the class and recorded a best time of just more than 23 seconds.

Paddling for a grade

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Andrew Larson announced he would never purchase a boat similar to the one he and a group of his classmates designed.

"This is not working too well," he hollered as paddled his way from one end of the Falls High School swimming pool to the other.

Larson's boat was one of four built and designed by students in the newly-created engineering class at the school. The project was intended to examine marine engineering and what it takes to design a boat, according to Dave Olson, one of the class instructors.

"We looked at flotation problems involved with the design and did the calculations to

Boat to A7 ►



While the boat designed by Nick Anderson and his group could potentially hold a significant amount of weight, it wasn't the easiest to paddle. Anderson ended up making it from end of the pool to the other in just over a minute.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

After 63 years of marriage, Bob and Dori Pullar continue to laugh together.

True Valentines

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

It wasn't love at first sight when Dori Anderson met Bob Pullar 64 years ago on Valentines Day, she said.

"There was a Valentine's Day party and my girlfriend invited him," Dori said. "He brought me home after the party."

Still, the boy who was five years older than she was didn't leave "a real good first impression."

Dori said she didn't know Bob personally, but had seen him and knew who he was. A few days after the party, he called to invite her out on a date. She accepted.

The rest is history. Fast forward to eight children, 32 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren later, the two are settling into their 63rd year of marital bliss.

"It wasn't always easy," Dori said with a laugh.

The first impression that Bob left on his wife is something they are able to laugh about more than 63 years later and plan reminisce it all as the holiday that started their one-of-a-kind love nears.

The relationship progressed quickly and the Pullars were married the same year they met.

"That (first date) was in February, we were engaged in September and married in November," Dori said. "I realized he wasn't as cocky as I thought he was."

The pair was united in marriage Nov. 25 at the Zion Lutheran Church. Dori recalls it was a very small ceremony with two attendants on each side pres-

ent. Afterward, the couple went to Dori's mother's home for a reception to celebrate.

At the time of their marriage, Bob worked in the paper mill and Dori was employed at the local Woolworth store. The newlyweds purchased a small home on 11th Street where they welcomed their first child, a boy born in October 1951.

The couple eventually relocated to a small two-bedroom house with a small farm along Highway 53. There, Dori said they were blessed with four more children.

"We quickly outgrew that house," she said.

With the help of family and friends, the couple built a bigger home to accommodate their growing family in 1959 and they still live there today.

Dori said she stayed home to raise their children until their youngest daughter was in kindergarten.

Making a marriage last almost 64 years hasn't been a bed of roses, Dori admits. While there are many good memories, there were also challenges.

"There were bad days, but more good," she said. "There were a lot of hard times, but we overcame them."

The Pullars were very close and did a lot of fishing and camping with their children, Dori said. "That is about all we could afford to do."

Still, the simple trips to the great outdoors helped make the Pullar family the close-knit bunch they are, she added.

Valentine to A7 ►

Public meeting on budget cuts lacks the public input

Superintendent surprised more input wasn't offered

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

With a little more than two months until the Falls School Board makes decisions on what positions and programs it must

cut to save the district money, few members of the public seized the opportunity Wednesday to provide input.

The meeting was an open forum format to allow for the public to discuss with the board proposals to offset the roughly \$500,000 the district is losing in state funding with the loss of about 70 students since last spring.

Only a few people, however, took the floor.

Jennifer Windels, president of International Falls Partners in Education and mother of two elementary students, said all the information presented by different groups at a Jan. 29 special meeting is valuable and important to the school.

"I don't think there are one or two places you should put your effort," she told board members. "I hope you will look at really thinking about what the school's

major priorities are."

Windels said keeping class sizes smaller, especially at the elementary level, is important.

"When my daughter was in first grade, her class had about 17 (students)," she said. "Then her second grade class went from four sections to three sections... with about 27 kids."

She said she volunteered a few hours a week both years and noticed a "significant" difference

in the chaos in the room and the difficult time teachers had dividing their time equally among students.

"They had to stick with kids with a little more behavior issues," she said.

Windels also stressed the need for the Falls to focus on its special education program. In fact, she said she believes the

Meeting to A7 ►

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