

LOCALNEWS

August brings weather records

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

Borderland continues to experience a cooler-than-normal summer, with the first 10 days of August producing record-breaking low temperatures.

Between Aug. 1 and Aug. 10, International Falls tied four previous record lows, and broke two previous record low temperatures. The record-breaking days were Aug. 8 and 9, with low temperatures of 37 degrees both days.

The culprit of these cooler temperatures, according to Kevin Huyck, meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Duluth, is the wind.

“We’ve been seeing both

surface and aloft winds out of the northwest, which have been bringing cooler air from the northern portions of Canada,” Huyck said.

The cooler recent temperatures have thankfully accompanied clear skies and dry conditions, which should hold up through Sunday, which is the next chance we have for precipitation, according to Huyck.

As we transition into fall and all that comes with it; football, leaves changing colors, and hunting season, we’ll continue to see cooler temperatures in the mornings, and near or slightly below average temperatures in the afternoons, Huyck said.

The cooler summer also hasn’t come out of nowhere,

as there is historical precedent for a summer like this, he said.

“The temperature trend over the day is what we call ‘seasonably cool,’ but it’s in the window of normal values for temperatures,” Huyck said. “A few days have been colder, but it isn’t terribly abnormal.”

With school starting up again, we should continue to see more of the same when it comes to temperatures, he said.

“The temperatures will stay below average for the next three to four weeks, mostly during the morning hours,” he said. “Precipitation should be closer than average, and it’s generally drier in August.”

DISTRICT COURT

The following people have been sentenced for aggravated misdemeanor or felony crimes in Koochiching County District Court. This information is provided to The Journal by court staff.

■ Randall J. Grundmeier, 40, Northome, was sentenced July 22 for felony terroristic threats — reckless disregard of risk. He was given a stay of imposition of sentence and placed on five years supervised probation. He was

ordered to pay \$475 fine and fees and may not consume alcohol or controlled substances. He must submit to random testing and searches and may not use or possess firearms or dangerous weapons. He was ordered to have no contact with the victims and must follow the recommendations of a domestic abuse evaluation.

■ Mathew J. Olson, 40, International Falls, was sentenced July 8 for gross

misdemeanor driving after cancellation — posing a danger to public safety. He was sentenced to one year jail and \$1,150 fine and fees. The jail time and all but \$200 was stayed on court conditions and he was placed on supervised probation for three years. He was ordered to serve 40 hours with the Sentence to Serve program and must submit to random testing for controlled substance use.

Board expected to finalize FHS golf coach position

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Final action on Falls High School’s head boys and girls golf coach position is expected Monday when the Falls School Board meets at 5 p.m. in the FHS cafeteria.

In May, a resolution was adopted by the board that placed Bill Mason, who served as golf coach, on paid suspension for the remainder of the 2013 golf season following a school-administered investigation. The same resolution stated Mason’s coaching position would not be renewed for the 2014 season.

In June, a hearing requested by Mason revealed Superintendent Nordy Nelson conducted an investigation into Mason giving a stranger a ride in the school van while five of the boys on the golf team were in the van returning from an out-of-town golf meet.

“They stopped at an A&W (restaurant) and a stranger asked for a ride in the (school) van,” Nelson told The Journal in June. “After a few requests, Bill relented and allowed him to get in the van.”

Nelson said in June providing a ride to an unauthorized person in the school van was a violation of the school district’s safety policy.

“The kids possibly

could have really been in danger,” Nelson said in June.

The board took no action following the June hearing, and Nelson recommended any decision be deferred to the August meeting because “things were getting too emotional.”

Mason asked the hearing be closed to the public, and the board closed the meeting, but it was then opened to public just before it began.

Nelson told The Journal this week that on Monday, the board will have three options regarding the Mason’s coaching position:

The board can finalize the non-renewal of Mason serving as the golf coach; it can post the position and allow Mason and others to apply with a recommendation to the board coming from a five-person interview committee; or, Nelson said, the board can cancel the earlier non-renewal decision and reinstate Mason as the golf coach.

Regardless of the outcome, Nelson said a decision must be made.

“The board needs to finalize the decision and we need to move on from here,” he said.

Mason did not return messages from Journal staff in time for this edition.

In other business

Monday, the board is expected to consider hiring Tom Vollom as the coordinator for the 2013-2014 Indian education program for three hours per day.

Vollom has been employed as the Ojibwe language/culture teacher at FHS since 2003, and was placed on unrequested leave after the district was notified June 7 it wouldn’t be a recipient of the Minnesota Department of Education’s Success for the Future Grant, a grant the school has received in the past.

The \$76,000 grant, which the district can apply for every five years, covered the salaries of Vollom’s position and a paraprofessional, Nelson previously told The Journal.

In June, board members and others in the community formed a committee to explore ways to keep the language and culture program available to FHS students.

Also on Monday’s agenda, the board is expected to consider hiring Ryan Puncochar as a full-time secondary social studies teacher.

The board is also scheduled to consider a request from physical education teacher Bruce Elson to be placed on unpaid leave for up to five years, beginning this school year.



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