

New general in town

Dollar General store grand opening Saturday

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Season's end

Six Appeal ends concert series

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CONGRESSMAN VISITS BORDERLAND MONDAY

U.S. Rep. Rick Nolan takes aim at a trap clay at the Falls Trap Club Monday.

BY SPENSER BICKETT AND EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writers

U.S. Rep. Rick Nolan took aim and fired at some fast-moving targets in Borderland Monday.

Before air and rail transportation took his attention, the congressman stared down the barrel of a 12-gauge shotgun, aiming at clay targets with members of International Falls School Trap Team.

On the first go-round of shooting, Nolan sheepishly apologized after taking one more than the allotted one shot at the flying target. He

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STAFF PHOTO BY SPENSER BICKETT

FOR MORE PHOTOS OF U.S. REP. RICK NOLAN'S VISIT, TURN TO PAGE B10.



STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

At left, Thor Einarson, Falls International Airport manager; Lori Lyman, public affairs manager of Boise Paper; and Congressman Rick Nolan sit on a panel Monday to discuss transportation issues in Borderland.

KOOCHICHING COUNTY BOARD

Board OKs two cell towers

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

Permits for erection of two towers intended to improve cell phone coverage in Borderland were unanimously approved Tuesday by the Koochiching County Board.

The conditional use permits needed for the towers were recommended by the county's Planning Commission. Each tower, planned for use by Verizon, will be 134-feet tall monopoles. Neither tower will require lights or guide wires, county officials said.

A permit for the site off Highway 11 East on property owned by Michael and Dorothy O'Leary brought little board discussion. County Environmental Services Director Dale Olson said the project was discussed at a March 12 commission meeting, where a number of residents voiced support for the tower. No one spoke in opposition, he said.

However, consideration of the commission's recommendation to grant a conditional use permit for a tower off County Road 106 south of Menards brought to the county board a petition from area resident Brian Arch with signatures from area residents opposing the planned site for tower. The proposed site is on property owned by John and Patricia Bradburn and was discussed at the same March commission meeting.

Arch said there are a number of other sites nearby that would work better for residents.

"We're not against it, but we don't want it in our backyard," Arch said.

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FALLS CITY COUNCIL

Council debates supporting or opposing bills

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

The International Falls City Council Monday engaged in spirited debate over whether to approve resolutions supporting or opposing bills currently in the state Legislature.

The council approved a motion to support H.F. 1062, a House bill modifying health plan requirements to add mental health crises services to emergency services, requiring recommendations on funding children's mental health crises residential services and appropriating money.

Councilor Pete Kalar, who works as the Koochiching County

jail administrator, said there's a "dire crisis" when it comes to mental health services, and it's not limited to Koochiching County.

"If there's no place for these people to get treatment, they end up in jail for a while," Kalar said. "It's a crisis in all jails, in the country and in Minnesota."

Councilor Cynthia Jaksa, who proposed the resolution, said if the bill was passed, Koochiching County would be eligible for a grant of up to \$500,000 to help create services which would alleviate gaps in mental health services.

Councilor Brian Briggs said he's had discussions about the

mental health crisis as a member of the local hospital board, and agrees with Kalar's assessment of the situation.

"It's a complicated issue, for sure," Briggs said.

H.F. 1782

A motion to approve a resolution opposing another House bill failed on a 4-1 vote, with Jaksa the sole voter for the motion.

The resolution would have opposed H.F. 1782 and its Senate counterpart, which is currently included in an omnibus funding bill. The bill provides for a competitive rate for energy-intensive trade-exposed electric utility

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STAFF PHOTO BY SPENSER BICKETT

International Falls Mayor Bob Anderson, right, presents a certificate to Falls Fire Chief Adam Mannausau, left, and fire engineers Jacob Harris and Clayton Bahr during Monday's city council meeting.

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