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STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

**Lt. Gov. Tina Smith sits behind Mike Heibel, vice president of the International Voyageurs Snowmobile Club, as she heads out to experience her first snowmobile ride during the MnUSA Winter Rendezvous Friday.**

## Visit features snow and scents

**BY LAUREL BEAGER AND SPENSER BICKETT**  
Staff Writers

**W**ith just six weeks on the job, Minnesota Lt. Gov. Tina Smith is racking up the miles and the experiences.

On Friday, she had her first visit to the Icebox of the Nation and Minnesota's only national park, first snowmobile ride, and her first experience driving

FOR MORE PHOTOS, TURN TO PAGE A10.



STAFF PHOTO BY SPENSER BICKETT

**Lt. Gov. Tina Smith, right, examines a cupcake-scented bath mix while Rae Anne Conat explains how she makes them in her store, Swanky Sweet Pea.**

## Bakk: Miscommunication causes rift

**Progress of Legislature won't be affected**

**BY LAUREL BEAGER**  
Editor

Borderland's state senator has been pretty busy these days.

Not only is Senate Majority Leader Tom Bakk guiding the Minnesota Senate, but he's answering questions about a public rift in Minnesota's DFL family.

Bakk told The Journal Tuesday he didn't believe progress

of the Legislature would be hindered or delayed after a disagreement went public about how salary raises initiated by Gov. Mark Dayton for his cabinet were handled by Bakk.

Instead, Bakk said he believes "it was a bit of miscommunication" by both he and the governor.

"We both made decisions without informing each other in advance," Bakk said.

Dayton accused Bakk of "stabbing me in the back" just hours after the DFL-led Senate voted overwhelmingly Thursday on a Bakk-authored amendment that put on hold until July 1 the salary hikes totaling \$800,000.

The Legislature in 2013 gave the governor the authority to raise the salaries of commissioners higher than the governor's salary.

"He was within his authority to do what he did — no question about that," Bakk said.

However, Bakk said the governor didn't inform him of his plans to raise the salaries.

"He didn't tell me what he was going to do and I am on the Senate that gave him that authority in 2013," Bakk said. "I had to read about it in the newspaper. That's the miscommunication on his part."

Bakk said the governor determined the amount of the salary raises by the results of a study

**Rift to A7 ►**

## Two for two

**Ryan Anderson takes first in U.P. 200**

**BY EMILY GEDDE**  
Staff Writer

No musher in the 26-year history of the U.P. Sled Dog Race has ever won the event five times.

Until now.

Ryan Anderson of Ray was the first of 14 teams to cross the finish line Sunday in Marquette, Mich., to become the first five-time champion.

"It feels good," Anderson said of the win.

The musher took second in the event last year and won the U.P. 200 four consecutive times before that.

Just two weeks earlier, Anderson won the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon.

While this year's accomplishment is an exciting one for Anderson, it isn't the reason for competing in the event.

"I come to this race because I like to run dogs," he told The Journal Monday. "If I can do that and get a win, it's just a bonus."

The victory didn't come easy. Fierce winds gusting up to 45 miles per hour and fresh snow tested the musher and his team, but the dogs handled it well, he said.

"The weather typically sucks," he said with a laugh. "I've come to this race 12 times, and I think there was only one time we ran on a hard trail. The rest, it's been covered in snow."

That held true this year as several inches of new snow blanketed the race route. In fact, Anderson said there was question if the event would even be held as scheduled because of road closures in the area.

"Handlers couldn't get from checkpoint to checkpoint because the road was closed," he said. "They ended up opening it, but there were blizzard conditions."

Even in less-than-desired weather, the U.P. 200 is one of his favorite races, Anderson said.

"I really enjoy the course," he said. "We run through a real mature hardwood forest and you can see forever. It's a beautiful area."

**Strong finish**  
Anderson crossed Sunday's finish line with 10 of the 12 dogs with which he started the race. One of the dogs he dropped from the team during the race was young and started to show signs of mental fatigue, he said.

"He was doing phenomenal," Anderson noted. "But he's young and I didn't see any need to take him if I didn't have to."

The other dog dropped was developing a minor injury and even though the dog likely would have worked out the injury, Anderson said he didn't want to take any



**Ryan Anderson**

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