

**Hard-working
higher learners**
RRCC students
work to pay for tuition

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**Safe,
snowy ride**
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Jackie Glowack offers this photo as an example of how the club members set up tripods and share their skills to capture the best photos.

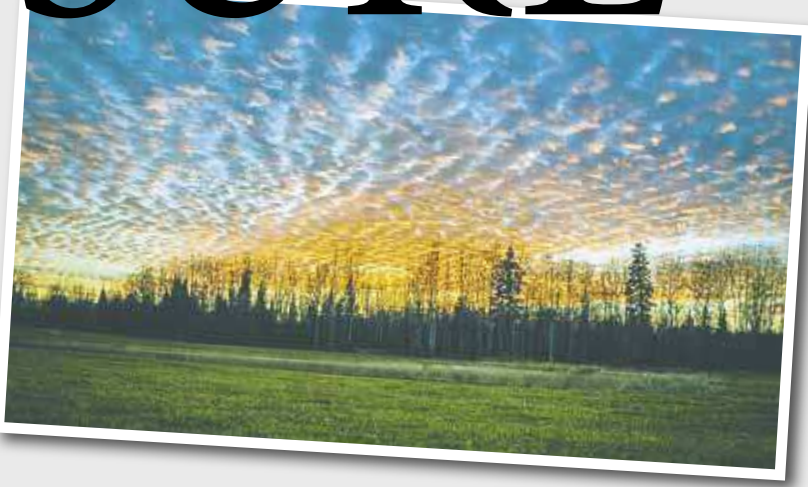
TWILIGHT EXPOSURE

Local photo club teaches and bonds members

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

With a recent focus on “chasing the light,” members of the local Northwoods Shutterbugs photo club sometimes leave the warmth

of their homes at all hours of darkness when alerted that Mother Nature is putting on a light show of her own. Member Marsha Shuff said members are sometimes drawn to the outdoors regardless of the temperatures when they are alerted via their call list that the sky is rippling with the aurora borealis, or that the Milky Way is particularly bright. The group uses these nights to capture Mother



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Exposure to A7 > This photograph shows contrast, color and landscape.

New sheriff meets with county board

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

The first 2015 meeting of the Koochiching County Board Tuesday featured an informal meeting with the new sheriff, who informed the board he already needs to fill a critical county position.

Before the board got to its official agenda, Koochiching County Sheriff Perryn Hedlund sat down with the board to “come say hi to everyone, and to formally introduce myself.”

Hedlund won election as county sheriff over incumbent Brian Jespersen in November, and took the position Jan. 1.

“I look forward to working with the county board over the next few years, and hopefully longer than that,” Hedlund said. “Just let you guys know that my office is always open, if you ever want to come down and chat.”

Hedlund informed the board Luke Waller, county emergency management coordinator, has stepped down from the position so that position will need to be filled quickly. As this is his first hire, Hedlund said he’s seeking the board’s input on following the correct hiring process in finding a replacement.

The coordinator position is a contracted position, Hedlund said, and is renewed annually. The county is required by state law to have an emergency management coordinator, and there’s a lot of work involved with the position, he said.

His concern with filling the

Board to A7 >

School is in session: Cold temps not enough to cancel classes

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Living in the Icebox of the Nation during the winter months carries a likely guarantee of experiencing extremely cold temperatures and several feet of snow.

Earlier this week, about 10 inches of snow was dumped on the area only to be followed by a sweep of arctic air that sent temperatures plummeting into the single digits and wind chills pushing them even lower.

When winter rears its ugly head, school administrators have a decision to make: to cancel school or not to cancel school.

Many districts across the state

Monday and Wednesday delayed the beginning of the school day or canceled classes all together.

In International Falls, however, routine carried on as normal. “We kept an eye on the weather and felt closing school wasn’t necessary,” said Falls Superintendent Kevin Grover.

An automated call was made Tuesday night to parents informing them administration was watching the weather and if a temperature and wind chill combination equaled minus 50 degrees or colder, school would be delayed. But because Wednesday’s morning temperature and wind chill factor reached about minus 40 degrees, school re-

mained in session.

“We felt we could get students here safely,” Grover said. “And we did. Our buses are housed indoors and for the most part, they all run effectively.”

Keeping school open spurred backlash by some angry parents on social media sites expressing frustration over the superintendent’s decision. One person commented sending kids to school in such cold weather was dangerous and school should be called off. Another parent said she was keeping her children home because of the cold.

And, Grover said, parents have

Cold to A7 >



First-grade student Chelsea Fernandez Sultan covers her ears to keep them warm while waiting for the bus Thursday. Falls Superintendent Kevin Grover reminds parents to dress their children appropriately when sending them to school especially during the cold snap International Falls has experienced this week.

STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

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JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

WARROAD: SELECT SATURDAYS, 6 – 10 p.m.

Toss your shovel in the nearest snowbank and come on in for a chance to win some cold, hard cash!

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SEVEN CLANS**

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