

# LOCALNEWS

## PLAY THE HITS!



STAFF PHOTO BY SPENSER BICKETT

Nursing home residents gather for a party at the VFW last Thursday. The Second Wind Harmonica Band entertained the crowd with classic favorites.

## Lawmakers comment on Syria

### JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

With tensions in Syria escalating and President Obama seeking Congressional approval for military action, two Minnesota lawmakers are letting their opinions on the matter be heard.

In a statement, Sen. Al Franken said there aren't any good options when it comes to Syria. He stressed the importance of a limited action that "definitely should not lead to American boots on the ground," he said.

Rep. Rick Nolan stressed the importance of Congressional leaders convening and coming to a timely decision on the matter of Syria, he said in a statement.

"We were not elected to sit as bystanders in critical matters of war and peace," he said. "Consulting with a handful of leaders does not constitute approval by the Congress."

Historically, military strikes and their inevitable responses lead to "boots on the ground," Rep. Nolan said. This type of involvement must be avoided, he said.

In response to Secretary of State John Kerry's previous comments on Syria, Rep. Nolan said they were "confusing and disturbing."

"On one hand, he admitted that there is 'no ultimate military solution' to the conflict in Syria, and that the conflict must ulti-

mately be settled through diplomacy," Nolan said. "On the other hand, he all but stated that the United States would soon launch a military strike against the government of Syria that, in my judgment and in the judgment of many others in Congress, would be a clear act of war."

Secretary Kerry seemed to ignore the potential consequences of a military strike against Syria, Rep. Nolan said. He didn't address the consequences a strike would have for the Syrian people or Israel, as well as Syrian involvement by Russia, Iran, or an extremist group in the region.

The United States seems to be alone when it comes to taking action in Syria, Rep. Nolan said. Leaders in France, Turkey, and elsewhere condemned the use of chemical weapons in Syria, but gave no indications that allies like the United Nations, NATO, or the Arab League would join the U.S. in military action, he said.

Rep. Nolan criticized President Obama for waiting until the last minute to call Congress into session to have the debate over a Syrian military strike.

"It is imperative that we all be privy to that information in the name of all the Americans who elected us and who expect us to fulfill our Constitutional responsibilities to advise and consent to military action," Rep. Nolan said.

## 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.

■ Kristy M. Holmestead, 28, International Falls, was sentenced Aug. 23 for two counts of felony fifth-degree possession of drugs. On one count, she was given a stay of imposition of sentence

and placed on supervised probation for five years. She was ordered to complete the Borderland Substance Abuse Court program. On the second count, we was given a stay of adjudication and placed on five years supervised probation. The sentence is to run concurrently with the previous sentence. She was ordered not to use alcohol or drugs and must submit to random testing.

■ Gary E. Carr, 33, International Falls, was sentenced April 8 for felony criminal vehicular homicide or operation — operate vehicle with alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more. He was given a stay of imposition of sentenced and placed on five years probation. He was given credit for time served concurrent with probation in another county and must provide reports to the court

to appraise chemical use and status. He may not use alcohol or drugs and must follow the recommendations of an evaluation. He must submit to random testing and searches.

■ Daniel L. E. Patch, 29, International Falls, was sentenced Aug. 23 for gross misdemeanor fifth-degree criminal sexual conduct — nonconsensual sexual contact. He was sentenced to 324 days jail.

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