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For the love of schools



STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

Taylor Burns grabs a notebook out of a seat sack Thursday in Lisa Auran's first-grade classroom. The seat sacks were purchased from dollars given to Auran's class by the Falls Education Foundation.

BY EMILY GEDDE | Staff Writer

Thursday marked the 100th day of school, and with that came several celebrations from local elementary classrooms.

Lisa Auran, a first-grade teacher at Falls Elementary spent Tuesday night out shopping for supplies for her class' 100 days of school project. The cost of the supplies came out of her own paycheck.

"I am no different than most teachers," Auran said of spending her own money on items for students. "I spend a lot of my own money on my classroom."

Supplies vary from season to season.. She's constantly buying books, masking tape, folders, treats and stickers, all for her students, she said.

"If the kids need it, I buy it – within reason," she said. "At Christmastime, I'm at Ben Franklin every day buying stuff for projects."

The teacher of more than 20 years noticeably loves her job, but sometimes, the constant need to keep up to date on supplies can be tiring – and expensive. Which is why she said she is grateful for local organizations that donate money to the school.

One of those organizations is the Education Foundation.

Started in 1992 by a group of community members, the International Falls Education Fund Inc. was organized to provide a channel through which resources could be allocated to support academics and extra curricular activities in Independent School District. No. 361.

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Location, location, location

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

The Koochiching Development Authority spent most of its Tuesday meeting discussing a project that would convert solid waste into fuel, as well as jobs.

Members held a conference call with Coronal, LLC, the project developers of the Renewable Energy Clean Air Project, a proposed plasma gasification facility to be located in Koochiching County.

John Howard and Steve Korstad provided an update on the project's status, and attempted to alleviate concerns about the project's progress so far.

Project location

Much of the discussion Tuesday centered around a site for the project, which has yet to be

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Forum has special lake level focus

March forum expected to be bigger, better

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

This year's gathering of scientists and resource managers known as the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Forum is expected to be bigger this year and focus on the effects of artificial lake level management.

Scheduled for March 11-12 at Rainy River Community College, the event will include more presentations and has been lengthened to accommodate them, said Todd Sellers, executive director of the Lake of the Woods Water Sustainability Foundation, a leader among the organizers.

This year's special focus session is "Effects of Artificial Lake Level Management: Multidisciplinary Preparation for a Review of the IJC 2000 Rule Curves for Rainy Lake and Namakan Reservoir."

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STAFF PHOTO BY SPENSER BICKETT

Saxophone players hit their notes during the All School Music Festival Wednesday at Backus Community Center.

coming together for MUSIC

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Students from schools across Koochiching County came together Wednesday at Backus Community Center for one reason: music.

The seventh annual All School Music Festival featured more than 250 band students from International Falls, Littlefork-Big Falls and Indus. Band instructors John Faith, Michelle Boelk, Aron Bohnert and Stacey Otte-

mann led the supergroup.

Faith has organized this event since its beginning in 2009. The festival gives students an opportunity to play music with students from other schools and perform under additional music instructors.

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