

Tell us a story

Walkin' Shoes Tour stops in I. Falls

A9



Beach bummin'

City beach seeking summer hosts

A3



The Journal



Wednesday,
April 16, 2014

International Falls, Minnesota

www.ifallsjournal.com

\$1

County board to hold public hearing

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

The Koochiching County Board Tuesday approved a resolution to hold a public hearing on May 6 in Littlefork to take input on creation of a proposed subordinate service taxing district.

The district would be created by the county to finance a \$1 million loan to the city of Littlefork to pay for critical capital improvements at the Littlefork Medical Center. The proposed district encompasses Independent School District 362.

The LMC had been operating under a management agreement with Bigfork Valley, as the LMC didn't have a chief executive officer. Bigfork Valley was working with the LMC to find a CEO, and the LMC recently hired Mike Anderson to be its new CEO.

The loan would fund the most critical improvements the LMC needs to remain viable, county Administration Director Teresa Briggs said. Those improvement include a new roof, new boiler,

and an overhauled information technology system. Other necessary improvements would bring the total to more than \$3 million, she said, but the roof, boiler, and IT system are top priority.

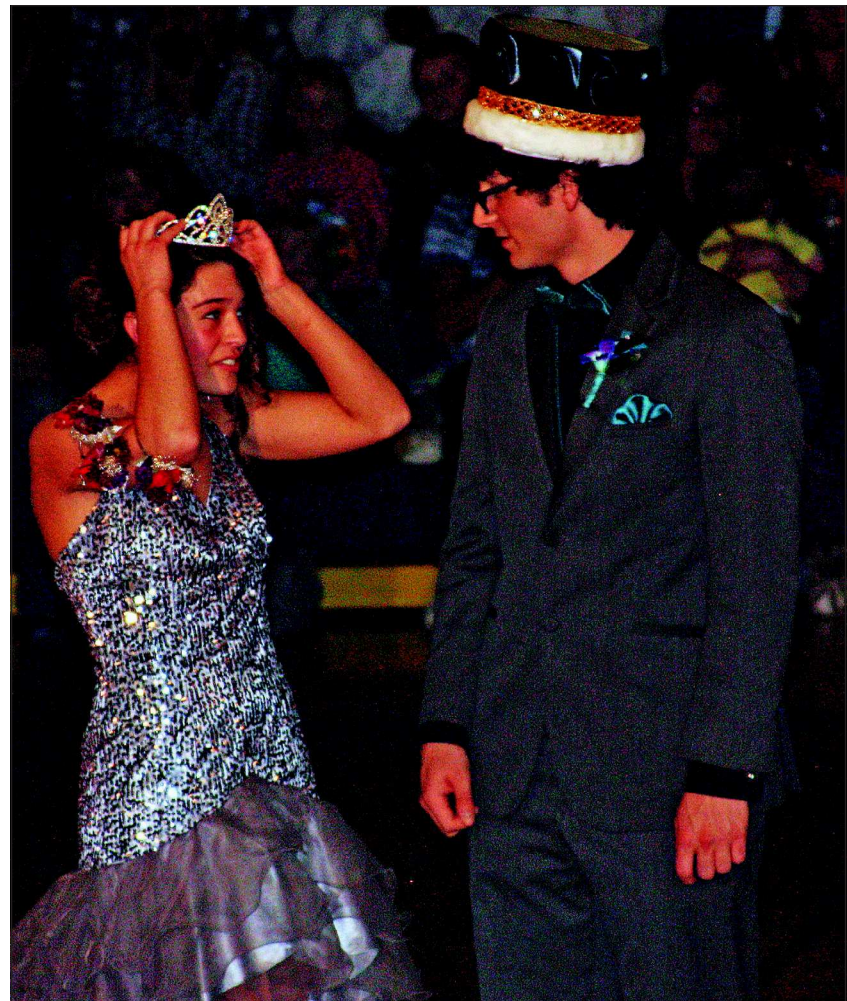
The newest portion of the roof is from an upgrade in 1993, Littlefork Mayor Mike Fort said, and the rest is from the initial construction in the late 1970s.

"It's in very, very critical shape," Fort said.

The boiler is becoming obsolete, he said, and replacement machine parts are no longer available. It should be used as a primary energy source, but isn't reliable enough and is currently used as a backup, he said.

The whole building's IT network is nearly obsolete, Anderson said. Servers are located in three different areas of the building, with no central server, he said. There's also no fire suppression or redundancy in the back-up systems, and would be susceptible to losing records if there were an accident.

County to A7 ➤

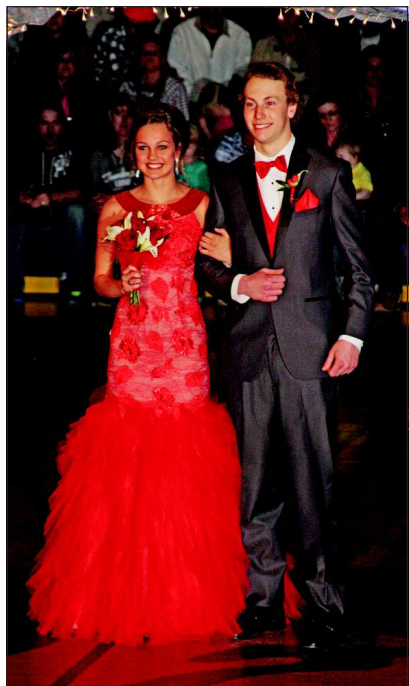


STAFF PHOTOS BY MICKIE OLSON

Prom royalty Kariann Arnold adjusts her crown as newly crowned king Cory Netland waits.

'THE GREAT GATSBY'

With the glitz and glamour that was The Roaring '20s, more than 140 people experienced International Falls High School's "The Great Gatsby" grand march Saturday. Set in the 1920s, FHS gymnasium sparkled and shined as about 70 couples promenaded through a silver arch during Saturday's grand march, when Kariann Arnold and Cory Netland were crowned prom royalty.



Jaci Scholler and Luke Spilde pose for a photo during grand march Saturday.

TO SEE MORE PROM PHOTOS
TURN TO B10.



Barb Albert adds color to a painting while Joyce Rasmussen works on a fused-glass work. The two women represent a wide range of art being created by Northland Art Society members in the Backus Community Center art room.

NAS BUILDING ON A HISTORY

Society marks 50 years, plans for future

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

TO SEE MORE PHOTOS TURN
TO A10.

Shirley Kocinski kneaded clay on a recent Tuesday at one end of the Northland Art Society's art room in Backus Community Center.

At the other end, Barb Albert added detail to a delicate watercolor, while in the center of the room, Joyce Grover and Micheal Pomeroy cut glass to be fired in a new glass kiln.

Diana Kangas and Denise Kulig were inside the supply room carefully placing fused-glass projects into the kiln for firing.

The mission of the society is to promote interest and creation of the arts, with a focus on visual art. On this day and many others, members working there appear to be carrying out the mission of this organization which this year marks its

50th anniversary.

In an effort to share their joy of art and the society, NAS invites people to stop into its art room to learn more about art, the society and their works. Members work in the Backus art room on most Mondays — Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Memberships for student and adults are available.

NAS will conduct a fundraiser dinner at 6 p.m. April 26, with drawings for art and prize baskets, at the local Moose Club. Cost is \$10 for a roast pork dinner.

Fused glass

Glass work is fairly new to the society, with the addition to the supply room of a glass kiln late last year. Kangas and Kulig explained the process: The first step involves cutting glass and stacking it in layers. "You

pick whatever color you want, design whatever you want," Kangas said.

It is fired, causing the stacked pieces to sink into one, and then the work is "slumped," allowing it to take the shape of and adhere to another form, creating a bowl or a plate.

Helen O'Brien stepped into the room with a glass plate containing shapes of strawberries that will eventually become a bowl for her granddaughter. Several glass works were laid onto a table waiting to be placed into the kiln.

Kangas, who served as spokesperson for the society, said opening the fused-glass kiln is exciting.

"It often feels like Christmastime," Kangas said of when the kiln is opened and the works revealed.

The supply room features shelves for members to keep

Art to A7 ➤

STAFF PHOTOS BY LAUREL BEAGER



Above: Glass works are placed in the glass kiln and await firing. The glass kiln is fairly new to NAS.

Left: Works of art created by members of NAS are displayed on a shelf in the art room at Backus Community Center.

INSIDE
TO REACH US

OBITUARIES/A6
PHONE: (218) 285-7411

OPINION/A8
FAX: (218) 285-7206

LEISURE/A9

SPORTS/B1
ONLINE: IFALLSJOURNAL.COM OR FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

CLASSIFIEDS/B4

COMICS/B9

VOLUME 5
NUMBER 31