

She blinded me
with science

Interactive science program
comes to Indus School

B3



Knit one,
purl two

National group helps out
Friends Against Abuse

A3



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STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

Third-grade student Kallie Henrickson shows how to use one of her favorite apps on her iPad. The third grader said while she still likes to use pen and paper, she finds the iPad to be a fun way to learn in Jamie Wendt's classroom.

L-BF 2.0

Littlefork-Big Falls
School will offer
an iPad for every
student next year

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

LITTLEFORK – It's time for afternoon lessons at Littlefork-Big Falls Elementary School Wednesday, and students are swiping their fingers across iPad touch screens and scrolling through math assignments, spelling tests, classroom discussion boards and checking out library books.

Accessing their favorite



From left, Charles Knaak, Emily Shoquist, Owen Peterson and Katerina Simutkin spend time working on their favorite iPad app.

app, or software that runs on mobile devices, is an assignment in Jamie Wendt's third-grade classroom. While pulling out a personal computer and given little instruction on

what to do could have likely caused quite a commotion from the 8- and 9-year-old students, the group stays silent and entertained.

"The iPads have virtually

eliminated any downtime in my classroom," Wendt said. "(Students) are always busy, always learning."

L-BF to A7 ►

Month's end means winter records

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

It's not over yet. Borderland's severely cold winter has set more records than the U.S. Winter Olympic team, and the below average temperatures should persist into March, according Kevin Huyck, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Duluth.

Early forecasts for March predict below average temperatures, though whether those cold temperatures will persist is hard to pinpoint, Huyck said. There's not a strong signal towards above or below average precipitation for March, he said.

"From a climatological aspect you'd expect to see a warming trend later in the month, but even warmer than right now is just closer to average," Huyck said.

Thursday morning saw International Falls set a daily record low temperature of -33 degrees, breaking the old record of -30 degrees, set in 1962. This was also the 69th day with a below-zero temperature for International Falls — one day short of the record 70 days, set in 1977-78.

The climatological winter ends at midnight on Friday, Huyck said. Thursday, he said International Falls would "absolutely" tie the record of 70 days below zero in one winter.

"Barring some freak event like a meteor or something like that, I'm certain they'll tie it," Huyck said.

While the seasonal snowfall has been high, it won't break any all-time records, Huyck said. From Dec. 1 to Feb. 27, International Falls had 64.6 inches of snow, good for number five all-time. The record for seasonal snowfall is 81.8 inches, set in 2009.

The pattern of bitter cold temperatures followed by a few days of snow, then seeing the cold temperatures returning is a common pattern for winter, Huyck said.

Winter to A7 ►

EDA's strategic plan is intended to support mission

Commission to reconsider adoption March 24

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

A strategic plan developed for the International Falls Economic Development Authority will be reconsidered for adoption on March 24 by the EDA Commission.

The plan for 2014-2015 was developed by the EDA Advisory Board and presented to the EDA Commission this week.

The commission, made up of members of the Falls City Council, voted against its adoption Monday to give members more time to consider the plan. Members of the board that developed it are expected to attend the March meeting to answer questions.

EDA Director Shawn Mason described the plan as a guiding document. The EDA's mission is to be a catalyst for economic development resulting in new investment, job creation, diversification of the local economy and expansion of the tax base of International Falls.

Board members Mike Katrin

and Mike Ward presented the plan and described the plan's five goals, each of which include action steps and outcomes.

Included in the plan is the criteria used to develop and prioritize goals and action items:

■ Community impact — if the goal is achieved, will the impact be substantial in the community?

■ Chance of success — is the goal reasonably attained?

■ Resource availability — does the IFEDA/city of International Falls possess adequate resources to achieve the goal?

■ IFEDA ownership — But for the IFEDA, will any other en-

tity, commission or department achieve this goal.

It includes as "operating norms: The IFEDA will partner with, and/or support affiliated development organizations, and perform outreach and advocacy."

Commissioner Paul Eklund said the criteria used to develop the goals are realistic.

Meanwhile Monday, Katrin said the first goal of the plan is the most important: Assist and encourage new and existing business development.

He told the commission he's excited about a number of plans in the works that would bring

development and opportunity to the community. Some of the proposals, including those noted in other areas of the strategic plan, are not yet able to be discussed publicly, he added.

Ward, who serves as Voyageurs National Park superintendent, said an action step to increase tourism in the area has led to an effort by the park and gateway communities around the park to develop drive-in camp sites near bodies of water — something studies have shown is lacking and desired in the area.

EDA to A7 ►

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