

**Ready,  
aim, fire!**  
Falls Trap Team  
gets new simulator

B7



**Started from  
the bottom**  
Indus students learn  
about starting businesses

B8



# International Falls Journal

ifallsjournal.com



**Saturday,  
December 6, 2014**

International Falls, Minnesota

www.ifallsjournal.com

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## Memories of Pearl Harbor

Local woman recalls  
events of the tragic  
day that occurred 73  
years ago Sunday

BY EMILY GEDDE  
Staff Writer

At 85 years old, Barb Albert admits she struggles to remember exact dates, but Dec. 7, 1941, is one she will never forget.

Sitting at her dining room table holding a piece of scratch paper with notes she jotted down, Albert recalls events of the day that still holds a clear spot in her memory. "I can still picture everything," she said. "It's one of my earliest memories."

Albert was 11 years old when the Imperial Japanese Navy conducted a military strike against the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. She said she can still remember seeing the first few planes fly in, shooting at a communication tower on top of a hill near her Kaneohe, Hawaii, home.

"The planes just kept coming," she said. "They were shooting and diving at the tower."

It was terrifying, Albert said. "It was completely unexpected."

**Like any other day**

The day began like any other. Albert's father, Kenneth Rickard, had just come home from working at the nearby naval base and the family was getting ready to attend Sunday Mass. It was just before 8 a.m. when the shooting and dive-bombing of the tower began.

**Pearl Harbor to A7 >**

SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Making voices heard

Surveys, meetings  
aim to build better  
school district

BY EMILY GEDDE  
Staff Writer

Members of the community now have the opportunity to make their voices heard about International Falls schools.

Surveys asking the public to provide their views of three strengths and three concerns about Independent School District 361 are expected to be available next week.

The surveys, which will be handled by the Minnesota School Board Association, will hopefully help move the district a step in the right direction, said Superintendent Kevin Grover.

"I'm excited about this," Grover told The Journal Wednesday. "I hope there is participation. I think

**School to A7 >**



# ONE CHOP AT A TIME

BY SPENSER BICKETT  
Staff Writer

Falls fourth graders channeled their inner loggers Tuesday when they headed out to an area tree farm to chop down Christmas trees for their classrooms.

At Gary Saunders' tree farm on the Littlefork River near Pelland Junction, students got a chance to learn about different area trees, as well as have a hands-on experience chopping down their own trees.

Saunders addressed the students before they trekked off to select their trees, and helped them identify the different types of coniferous trees he grows. Saunders has been growing the trees since the 1970s, he said, and initially undertook the endeavor as a way to break the wind on his property.

He grows four to five different types of trees on his farm, Saunders said, but his favorite is balsam, because he enjoys the smell. He grows about 200-300 trees per season, he said, and has more than 6,500 trees at his farm.

Katie Winkel's fourth grade class got an assist in cutting down their tree from Jeff Herberg, who held one side of the bow saw while students took turns holding the

**Tree to A7 >**



**Top:** Fourth-grader Phoenix Lessard helps cut down a Christmas tree for his class Tuesday at Gary Saunders' tree farm.

**Above:** Falls fourth graders band together to carry their Christmas tree back to the pickup truck that will take it back to the school.

**Right:** Will Gilbert gets an assist from Jeff Herberg in cutting down his class' Christmas tree Tuesday.



STAFF PHOTOS BY SPENSER BICKETT

**INSIDE  
TO REACH US**

OPINION/A8  
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SPORTS/B1

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COMICS/B9  
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OUTDOORS/B7

EDUCATION/B8

VOLUME 5  
NUMBER 98