

# LOCALNEWS



Brandon Gentry glances at T-shirts that are part of The Clothesline Project Monday at The Coffee Landing Cafe.

## In remembrance

The Clothesline Project, a traveling memorial exhibit to remember victims of domestic violence, hung in The Coffee Landing Cafe Monday and will make its way around the community this week. Among the 30 T-shirts hanging in remembrance of Minnesotans murdered in 2010, is a shirt for Linda Muggli.

Muggli, of Ray, died Nov. 26, 2010, after a totem pole she was carving fell on her. In January, more than two years after her death, Linda Muggli's husband, Carl Muggli, pleaded guilty under an agreement with prosecutors to second-degree unintentional murder of his wife.



At left, a T-shirt is decorated in memory of Linda Muggli with showy lady slippers. The shirt hangs among 30 others remembering Minnesotans murdered in 2010 by domestic violence.

Each T-shirt displayed is usually decorated by friends and families of domestic violence happens everywhere.

### BUSINESS NEWS

## New faces at RLMC

BY SPENSER BICKETT  
Staff Writer

Rainy Lake Medical Center has added two new members to its medical staff.

Psychiatrist Donald Wiger joins the staff at the clinic and will provide mental health services.

Wiger is an avid outdoorsman who's always wanted to practice in northern Minnesota, according to a news release. The large demand for mental health services in rural areas makes it rewarding to fill a need in the community, he said.

Wiger joins Jeffrey Hardwig, the other psychiatrist on staff at RLMC, who will be retiring in a few years, Mike Motley, vice president of regional operations said. Finding a psychiatrist is "very difficult," Motley said, but Wiger wants to live and practice in northern Minnesota.

"We're going to use him locally to treat patients," Motley said. "He's also going to work with other regional physicians to develop treatment plans and help with medication management."

"Depression, anxiety and other mental health issues are such a common concern, there's a



Emily Nicholson



Donald Wiger

large need for services," Wiger said. "The stigma with mental health is decreasing over the years, and that leads to more people seeking help when they need it."

Few rural communities have access to a psychiatrist like International Falls does, Motley said. To help treat a larger area, RLMC has developed a "more effective model to provide access to a rural community," he said.

"Instead of sending patients to a psychiatrist, he'll work with nurses and clinicians as a consultant," Motley said. "I'd estimate half of his time will be spent consulting about patients."

Wiger earned his medical degree from the University of Minnesota Medical School in Minneapolis. He completed a residency in psychiatry at the Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis as well.

Physician Assistant Emily Nicholson has

joined the Family Medicine Department at the clinic as well. Nicholson earned a master's degree in physician assistant studies from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wis. She is certified as a physician assistant by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

Continuing to add PAs like Nicholson helps improve access for patients, Motley said. They can do most of the work a physician can do, and are always reviewed by a family physician.

"The isolated nature of International Falls makes it tough to find physicians who want to live that far north," he said. "Almost everything a family physician does, (Emily) can do."

RLMC is also trying to increase the personalization of their service, Motley said. They're creating teams, where one or two physicians will work with one or two PAs, he said, so there's a group of people familiar with a patient's issues.

"This way patients can work with people who are familiar with their issues," he said. "We're going to see more and more of this as the number of primary care physicians continues to shrink."

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