



Bemidji State tops Northern 94-82 / 7

108TH YEAR - NUMBER 989

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Serving North Central Minnesota Since 1896

Pioneer

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2005

Today's forecast
 High **18°**
 Low **3°**
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50¢ / HOME DELIVERY 41¢

NEWS BRIEFS

Schools will be closed for Presidents Day

Bemidji District Schools will be closed on Monday to observe Presidents Day.

The North High School will be closed, but the Parent Advisory Council, Graduation Meeting and Parent Forum will still be held Monday night.

Schoolcraft Learning Community also will be closed.

VEHS will hold

Classes on Monday

Voyagers Expeditionary High School will be meeting on Presidents Day at Bemidji State University's Gillett Fitness Recreation Center. No busing will be provided.

Evans to conduct

Honors Lecture

Deanna Evans will discuss an early account of the funeral of Queen Elizabeth I during a Honors Lecture at 7 p.m. on Tuesday in room 112 of Hagg-Sauer Hall on the Bemidji State University campus.

Evans conducted research last year at Yale's Beinecke Library, where she reviewed the handwritten manuscript "Famous Funerals." It contained an account of the funeral of Elizabeth I, queen of England, who died

Register for Finlandia



Pioneer Photo by Monte Draper

Stuart Burke of Superior, Wis., and Ed Eroo of Overland Park, Kan., were the first to register and pick up their ski bibs for the 24th annual Minnesota Finlandia on Friday evening. This is the first race for both racers.

Energy model

Sen. Coleman praises coal

gasification project on Iron Range

BY BRAD SWENSON

Pioneer Political Editor

Environmentalist efforts to block energy development and forest management "frustrate" U.S. Sen. Norm Coleman, the Minnesota Republican said Friday.

Environmentalist

Groups made ▶ State to their opposi- spend tion clear to a renewable state plan to energy funds on target \$10 mil- coal gasification ear- plant / Page 13 marked for solar, wind and other renewable energy projects for a coal gasification plant on the Iron Range. The decision was made by the state Public Utilities Commission, sending the money over five

years to the Mesaba Energy Project planned by Excelsior Energy Inc. of Minnetonka. Also last week, environmentalists sued the Bush administration over new rules for managing the 192 million acres of national forests, which include the Chippewa and Superior national forests in Minnesota. "The opportunity we have for coal gasification up in the Range... is the cutting edge of a new technology that is going to be very important to the future of this country," Coleman said in a telephone interview with a half dozen northern Minnesota reporters. "If's clean coal technology, it cuts down or cuts off the mercury emissions," he said. "This