

# LOCALNEWS

## Cool, wet, windy. Must be walleye opener

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

For many, Saturday was the typical northern Minnesota walleye season opener — a little cool, a little damp and a little windy.

But that didn't stop anglers who just couldn't wait for a warmer day to wet and hopefully set a line.

It was an awesome fishing opener for 10-year old Matthew Fuller, of International Falls, reports his mom, Melissa Fuller.

"All four Fullers — Tom, Melissa, Thomas, and Matthew — caught about a dozen nice northern pikes, a 14-inch crappie and a 13-inch perch during the afternoon of Saturday's opener," Melissa said.

The grand finale occurred around 7 p.m. right before they were going to quit for the day, she reported.

"Matthew made a cast and had an immediate reaction which resulted in a long, hard tow in of this mighty and meaty northern. After his dad, Tom, carefully and quickly net the prize and scooped it in, a quick measurement showed that it used the whole 40 inches of the fish measurer permanently affixed in the boat."

Melissa took a photo and official measurement after they were back on land "with no concerns of the precious pike heaving itself back overboard and it did indeed exceed the 40-inch mark on the measuring tape. Fish fry for Mother's Day."

The walleye opener brought many people out on Saturday and the wind and cooler temperatures kept most people closer to shore on Sunday, reported Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Conserva-



Fishing guide Buck Lescarbeau, left, gets a fist bump from Dayton after a successful fishing expedition. At right are Majority Leader Tom Bakk and Speaker Kurt Daudt. Dayton, Bakk and Daudt caught a total 35 fish on the first day of the walleye season.

tion Officer Darrin Kittelson, International Falls.

CO Jim Van Asch, International Falls, reports Monday that anglers were seen having some success despite sub par weather conditions and very low water levels on Kabetogama Lake.

"Overall, anglers were happy to be on the water partaking in the weekend activities even though the number of fish per boat was lower than expected," he reported.

Gov. Mark Dayton and Lt. Governor Tina Smith kicked off the 2015 fishing season at Fortune Bay Casino on Lake Vermilion in Tower.

Dayton was joined by local fishing guide Buck Lescarbeau, Majority Leader Tom Bakk, and Speaker Kurt Daudt.

Dayton caught his first fish of the day at about 9 a.m. Saturday, with a total of nine fish caught throughout the morning, reports his office. Bakk caught 14 fish, and Daudt caught 12 fish, for a



Dayton holds up the first fish he caught on Saturday, with help from guide Buck Lescarbeau.

total of 35 fish caught by the trio.

Smith was joined by local fishing guide Casey Sundahl, her husband, Archie Smith, Rep. Dave Baker, for-

merly of International Falls, and Dan Pierce, United Steelworkers.

With the walleye season in fullswing, Van Asch reminds boaters traveling to the Inter-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Matthew Fuller, 10, knew what was biting Saturday.

national Falls area lakes to use extra caution with lakes at extremely low levels. He also urged boaters to use caution when boating in unfamiliar waters.

Kittelson noted sturgeon harvest season is coming to a close and he reminded people that harassing sturgeon during spawning is illegal — watch, but do not touch.

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3<sup>93</sup>

Fetzer Crimson & Quartz

750 ml

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Minus \$3.00

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3<sup>96</sup>

Deschutes Brewery

6 Pack Bottles

8<sup>98</sup>

Castle Danger

6 Pack Cans

8<sup>98</sup>

Bent Paddle

6 Pack Cans

8<sup>98</sup>

Irish Manor Irish Cream

750 ml

8<sup>98</sup>

E&J VSOP & XO Brandy

1.75 Liter

17<sup>97</sup>