

PARADE

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The Mann family’s old-fashioned wagon rides will again be offered from 3:30-6:30 p.m.

All this precedes the 7 p.m. “’Twas the Lights Before Christmas” parade, which offers another chance to showcase dressed-up pets.

The parade will follow the route introduced three years ago, integrating three blocks of Fourth Street (going west) and a section of Third Street (main street). The rectangular course will again start on Fourth Street near Falls Lumber and will promenade west on Fourth as far as Sixth Avenue where it will turn north up to main street and then travel east to disperse

left and right on Second Avenue near the Chamber.

“The Chamber has received word from the ‘Queen of Frosty Frolics,’” Whitbeck said. She will make appearances on both sides of the river. Also in the spirit of a winter parade, float entries this year will include Border State Bank’s representation of the Disney movie “Frozen.”

Floats and entries of all types are still needed. Any theme may be used and will be judged primarily by the use of lights, music and craftsmanship. Float prizes this year have been increased to \$400, \$250 and \$125 for first, second and third place respectively, and are issued in Chamber Dollars, which may be used like cash at most local businesses.

“What’s most important

is to have fun and include children in the magic,” said Whitbeck.

“We’d love to have some musical groups from either side of the river sing or play in the parade. Music is part of the magic.”

Business, group or family floats; interesting vehicles; animals and walkers may be entered right up until the parade lines up at 6 p.m. along Second Avenue south of Falls Lumber.

Candy is best-distributed by persons on foot.

Parade registration forms must be completed and are available by calling the Chamber at 283-9400, or emailing to chamber@intlfalls.org.

**Small Business Saturday**

“Keeping shoppers in town on this particular weekend is economically critical,” Whitbeck noted.

To promote this, all participating retailers will each offer registrations to win \$25 gift certificates, she said. When shoppers register for those prizes, they are also automatically registering for the grand prize of \$300 in Chamber Dollars.

As weekend shopping continues, kids are invited Saturday to see free movies with Santa at Cine 5, sponsored by the Rotary Club. Watch for scheduling.

Added to Saturday’s specials and drawings at local stores is the Backus Holiday Shopping and Craft Festival.

The Hometown Holiday Weekend is coordinated by the Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the city of International Falls. The 2014 parade is sponsored by Boise Paper, City Drug

Store, Minnesota Power, TruStar Federal Credit Union, Rainy River Veterinary Hospital and Waschke Family GM Center.

**Schedule of Events**

**Friday, Nov. 28**

- 9 a.m.- 7 p.m. Special sales and \$25 gift certificate registrations in all participating businesses.
- 1:30 p.m. Cutest Holiday Pet Contest, Pet Promenade near Centennial Park (next to Border Boxes). Two \$25 Awards for Best Costume. Just show up! Promenade on Main Street, then into Shannon Square for judging & treats. Watch for details.
- 3:30 p.m. Warming fires & Mann’s old-fashioned wagon rides.
- 5-6:30 p.m. Visits with

Santa, Elks Lodge

- 5:30 p.m. Sloppy Joe Feed, Elks Lodge
- 6-6:30 p.m. Line-up for holiday parade (Second Ave., south of Falls Lumber)
- 7 p.m. ’Twas the Lights Before Christmas Parade
- 7:30 p.m. Celebration at Elks Lodge

**Small Business Saturday, Nov. 29**

- 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. Special Sales at participating Falls businesses with \$25 gift certificate registrations at each
- 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. Registration for \$300 Chamber Dollar Certificate at all participating businesses
- 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Backus Holiday Shopping & Craft Festival
- Free Movies with Santa, at Cine 5: Watch for Advertised Schedule

DNR

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community and help provide more opportunity for youth trap shooters, whose numbers have swollen since the inception of the Minnesota High School Clay Target League,” Maj. Roger Tietz, DNR Enforcement Division operations support manager said.

The state received 55 grant applications and 40 were approved totaling \$389,000. Grant applications were scored based on project location and need, financial contributions of funding partners and the applicant and the feasibility of the project. The program provides grants for projects ranging from \$2,500 to \$25,000. The grants must be matched in a ratio of one-to-one.

Groundwork for a new round of funding for larger and smaller grants will be announced later this year.

Norstad said the Falls Trap Club now has two traps houses with a thrower in each. While the throwers are usually reliable, troubles do occur requiring coaches to attempt to make repairs during shoots, he said.

“The last night we shot we worked on the one thrower for a half hour and the shooters had to wait,” he said. “So the last group shot their last round as it was getting dark.”

Norstad said one thrower is about 40 years old and holds just one round of clays, requiring school team shooters to wait until coaches can fill it with more clays after every round.

“That is very time-consuming and considering our number of shooters will be increasing, we need something that can help speed up the time the shooters are out there,” he said.

Norstad estimates about 50 students will complete in the spring season, so a new thrower will get shoot-

ers through rounds more quickly.

“In this sport they only shoot one night a week, that way they can participate in other sports, also,” he said. “So with this new thrower we can get them to shoot in a half hour and they then can make it to other practices.”

The new thrower will have a voice release system, he said. Now, he said the shooter yells “pull” and the scorer pushes a button on a cord that releases the clays.

It’s often difficult for the scorers to hear a shooter’s order to release the clays when two trap houses are going at once and the shooters facing away from the scorer, he said.

“With this new system, the shooter will have a microphone in front of them and as soon as they say ‘pull’ the system will automatically release a clay pigeon,” Norstad said. “This is what most facilities currently use and it will help the shooters with better scores.”

In addition, he said the new thrower has the ability to throw singles or doubles.

“None of the current throwers can throw doubles so that will be something different to try,” Norstad said.

Meanwhile, Norstad reported the fall trap shooting season ended well, with impressive scores by the end of the season.

An indoor shooting simulator, expected to arrive the first week of December, is intended to assist the shooters in improving their skills over the winter, he said.

The spring season starts the first week of April and will go for nine weeks.

Norstad credited state Rep. David Dill for authoring the legislation that provided the grants, and he said the trap club will also use the new thrower.

“Whenever the Trap Club has shoots they will have the opportunity to use this equipment also, so it benefits the whole community,” he said.

SCHOOL BOARD

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as the “yes” answer took 2,858 votes, and “no” had 1,079 votes. Grover said he didn’t have an idea about which way the vote was going to go, but was surprised at the final tally.

“I was surprised it was that decisive, especially coming off of a year when we didn’t have enough people running to fill the vacancies,” Grover said. “But obviously the public feels it’s important.”

The board agreed in June to have the question placed on the ballot on a 5-1 vote. In August, on a 3-2 vote the board agreed to ask voters if they favored increasing the board mem-

bership.

The seventh member will be elected during the general election in 2016, Grover said. With 14-15 different committees for board members, there will be plenty of assignments to go around with an extra board member, he said.


“There will still be plenty of boards to sit on,” Grover said. “We also create new boards from time to time as well.”

Last month, Grover said the cost of adding a board member isn’t much of a factor, as the members receive an annual salary of \$3,120. The cost is a tiny piece of the \$12 million budget, he said.

Korpi could not be reached for comment in time for this publication.

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