

**Sharing
dad's story**
Peggy Vigoren authors
book about her father



A9

**State
competitors**
Local robotics team
shows off skills



B8



The Journal



Wednesday,
February 19, 2014

International Falls, Minnesota

www.ifallsjournal.com

\$1



STAFF PHOTOS BY SPENSER BICKETT

The Falls International Speed Run Against Cancer featured single speed runs, as well as heads-up racing. Eric Johnson, left, signals the start of a race to two riders. Turn to A10 to see more photos from this year's Radar Run.

Snow dampens Radar Run attendance

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

No matter the means they use to propel themselves, certain human beings have a desire to go as fast as they possibly can. The International Voyageurs Snowmobile Club lets riders scratch that itch, and scratch it for a good cause.

The club's sixth annual Falls International Speed Run Against Cancer Saturday on Rainy Lake in front of Thunderbird Lodge let snowmobilers race their sleds down a track as fast as they can go, with their speed clocked by a radar machine. At \$10 for three passes down the track, the proceeds go to support a local charity, club president Jim Bigler said.

The funds go to the Community Cancer Walk organization, which donates gas cards to community members with cancer who have to travel for



Riders at the Radar Run got three passes down the track for \$10, with the money going to support a local cancer charity, the Community Cancer Walk.

their treatment. Riders came out for a good cause Saturday, completing 177 total passes and 24 side-by-side races, Bi-

gler said.

With snow falling most of the day, Bigler said it didn't affect the speeds riders could

reach, but had more of an effect on attendance.

Radar Run to A7 ►

Klobuchar discusses port program

Area officials provide info on ongoing needs

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar met Tuesday with local leaders to propose International Falls be a pilot project for a program recently approved in an omnibus bill that would allow new ports of entry to be constructed through private-public partnerships.

International Falls Mayor Bob Anderson and Koochiching County Board Chairman Rob Ecklund hosted the meeting that brought Mary Delaquis, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Pembina, N.D., area port director, and Tony Jackson, CBP port director at International Falls, among others.

Klobuchar discussed a provision allowing private donations to upgrade land ports of entry in towns like International Falls. The provision was included in the final version of the omnibus spending bill and is similar to legislation Klobuchar cosponsored that would help move construction and rehabilitation of ports of entry forward by allowing donations of property or funds to be put towards the projects. Earlier this week, Klobuchar sent a letter to the chair and ranking members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committee urging them to include the provision in the final bill.

The Cross Border Trade Enhancement Act has also been co-authored by Congressman Rick Nolan.

Delaquis described issues at the local port of entry that range from congestion and confusion by the public in crossing and a lack of staff room.

Klobuchar to A7 ►

Something to be proud of Zach Wood doesn't let his disability hinder his artwork

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

His movement and speech may be limited, but Zach Wood doesn't let his disability come between him and his artwork.

The 21-year-old Rainy River Community College student is currently featuring his work in a one-man art show at the college, which is the first of its kind, according to Mark Rooney, RRCC's art instructor.

"For the past two semesters, Zach has been an art student in both ceramics and drawing," Rooney said. "Zach spends most of his days in a motorized wheelchair and it is very difficult for him to make the finger and arm movements required for art which most of us take entirely for

granted. Despite this, he never failed to attend class and turned out some surprisingly good work in both ceramics and drawing."

Before Wood was born, he was diagnosed with spina bifida, a neural tube defect. The disease has left Wood with complete paralysis below the waist and limited use of his arms and hands. His vocal cords are also paralyzed, limiting his voice to a slight whisper.

Wood said he wasn't interested in art before enrolling in classes at Rainy River and his main area of expertise is anything and everything to do with sports.

"He has always been so into sports and has rarely left time for anything else," said his mother, Tammy Wood.

Tammy said throughout the

course of his life, her son has come a long way in his movement and what he is capable of, however, as he gets older, he is losing some of his arm and hand function.

"Things are happening with his nerves that are actually making him lose some movement," Tammy explained. "He may have to have a surgery to replace a shunt in his head - hopefully that will help."

Tammy said it was her idea to have Zach take an art class. Her hope was it would be good therapy for his hand movement. She added she had no idea it would turn into the passion it has.

"I'm amazed at what he can do," she said, smiling at her son.

Proud to A7 ►



STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

Zach Wood works on a drawing in the art lab at Rainy River Community College. The artist's work is on display outside the theater at the college through the end of the month.

INSIDE
TO REACH US

OBITUARIES/A6
PHONE: (218) 285-7411

OPINION/A8
FAX: (218) 285-7206

LEISURE/A9

SPORTS/B1
ONLINE: IFALLSJOURNAL.COM OR FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

CLASSIFIEDS/B3

COMICS/B7

VOLUME 5
NUMBER 15