

**Lights,
camera, skate!**

Local club hosts
competition

A10



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A3



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STAFF PHOTO BY SPENSER BICKETT

One of the more popular Icebox Days events, the smooch races, featured five teams, including two from Duluth and one from Canada.

Fun in the sun and the snow

BY SPENSER BICKETT
AND EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writers

With the first day of spring still two months away, Borderland residents took their annual stand against Mother Nature by celebrating the 34th annual Icebox Days.

The festival stretched from Wednesday to Sunday, and featured the 5k and 10 Freeze Yer Gizzard Blizzard Run on Saturday, as well as numerous other activities.

Boot hockey enthusiasts took over the Eighth Street rink for most of Saturday, and even spilled over to the rink at Kerry Park to fit in all the games. Six teams took part in the tournament, with team "Merica" winning the event for the fourth year in a row, organizer Chad Korpi said.

The atmosphere at the rink was more festive than competitive, as some players donned their favorite hockey jerseys and enjoyed their favorite beverages when they were off the ice. Beverage cans were kept cold in the snow surrounding the rink, with even the referee taking a quick sip during a lull in the action.

As far as next year goes, Korpi said he'd like to see more teams and more fan involvement, and if more teams are added, they might have to look into making it a two-day tournament.

"It was fun," he said. "Didn't hear many complaints, a lot of people enjoyed it."

A crowd favorite, the smooch races, hosted by the Viking Bar, returned on Saturday. This year's adult races featured more teams that last year, while numbers for the children's smooch races were about the same, Viking Bar owner Joann Smith said.



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

Patty Jaeger (367) of Vergas grew a frosty mustache and beard during Saturday morning's 5-kilometer Freeze Yer Gizzard Blizzard Run before reaching the finish line at Rainy River Community College. Jaeger's time of 25 minutes, 43 seconds, was first among women 40-49. She also ran in the 10-kilometer race and finished first in the same age group in 51 minutes.

This year featured more spectators excitedly cheering the racers on, Smith said.

"It's just something fun to do that's different," Smith said. "People dress up and decorate their boards."

The weather cooperated for most of day, as skies stayed clear until the adult smooch



STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

A noticeably surprised AJ Edens takes a turn throwing a frozen turkey at bowling bins outside Backus Community Center Saturday. The event, according to Icebox Days organizers, is growing in popularity with the younger crowd.

FOR MORE ICEBOX DAYS PHOTOS, TURN TO PAGES **B1, B3** AND **B10**.

races, when the snow began to fall. Fourth Avenue turned into a snowglobe filled with coordinated competitors stepping and smooching their way to victory.

A team of Canadian smoochers came from north of the border complete with flags, red smooch boards, and their own cheering section. However, they were drowned out with cheers of "USA" when trying to start a rendition of "O, Canada."

A team of smoochers from

Duluth, dubbed "The Amazing Shanes," took home the top prize.

CHILLY VS. CHILI

Unique frozen events continued at Backus Community Center during the annual Turkey Bowling challenge. Bowlers of all ages took their turn to hurl a frozen turkey at bowling pins for a chance to win a prize.

Icebox to A7 >

COUNTY BOARD

Board approves quarry requests

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Despite concerns from property owners, the Koochiching County Board Tuesday approved two rock quarry operation requests — one in the Moonlight Rock area and the other in Margie.

On a 4-1 vote, the board approved a conditional use permit request by Wagner Construction for a rock quarry near the end of County Road 144, also known as Moonlight Rock Road. Commissioner Kevin Adee voted against the motion.

The permit was approved with the contingency that County Road 144 cannot be used to haul materials, unless a specific agreement is in place with the county.

The board on Jan. 14 took no action on the quarry request to allow two commissioners and county Engineer Joe Sutherland to meet with staff of Packaging Corporation of America, which now owns the Boise paper mill, to discuss allowing the operator to use a company road to access and haul materials from the proposed rock quarry.

The PCA road is being considered because of safety concerns and deterioration of County Road 144, should the operation use it to haul material.

County Board to A7 >

RRCC caters to the community

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

Thanks to a high-tech meeting room at Rainy River Community College, Borderland residents can connect with people a world apart while appearing to be in the same room together.

The Koochiching Economic Development Authority Friday met at RRCC's telepresence room, which is now referred to as high-definition interactive video, said Elena Favela, RRCC interim dean of students. The room helps RRCC deal with some of the issues of being a remote college campus by collaborating with other schools and pooling resources.

The equipment in the HDIV room is from the company Cisco, Favela said, and it also designed the whole room itself, down to the tables and paint color on the walls. Cisco designed all the HDIV rooms in the Northeast Higher Education District the same, she said, so the only difference between the rooms is the people inside them.

KEDA to A7 >