

LOCALNEWS

Rockin' for a Reason set for Thursday Oct. 10

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Breast cancer survivors and their supporters are getting ready to rock.

The eighth annual Rockin' for a Reason event, which raises funds for the local fight against breast cancer, is set for Oct. 10.

From 3-7 p.m. Oct. 10, survivors and supporters of the cause will rock in rocking chairs at Ballan Furniture in International Falls to raise pledges and spread awareness of the fight against breast cancer. Organizers say the event is a visualization of women rocking for the fight against breast cancer.

Each team or individual will take turns rocking for an hour at a time in front of the windows of the store, spreading awareness to those walking or driving by. All proceeds and pledges will stay local — they will go to Rainy Lake Medical Center for breast cancer services.

“One of the things that makes this event so important is that the money stays in our community,” said organizer Suzie Best.

Over the years, Best said more than \$42,000 has been generated by the event for the local fight against breast cancer.

The event is open to the public and organizers hope to also spread awareness about how to deal with breast cancer.

Raising funds is only part of the event. A large part is educating the community with brochures about self-exams, routine doctor visits and mammograms, preventative

care, and what kind of help is available when you or someone you know has been diagnosed.

Organizers said the atmosphere during the event results in a tight-knit group of people coming together for the cause.

Local businesses have donated merchandise and refreshments for the event. Back again this year is wine and cheese tasting.

New this year is a “rockin’ after party” from 7-10 p.m. at The Spot on 53. The after party will feature pink martinis, shrimp cocktails and other specials. Those in attendance can register for hourly prizes and try their luck at a cash box. Best said The Spot will donate a portion of funds raised at the after party to the Rockin’ for a Reason event.

“If people can’t make it to Ballan Furniture, they can still make a difference by coming to The Spot and supporting that way,” Best said.

Rockin’ for a Reason is created by Charter Media. More information about the event is available at www.charterwomenrock.com. Pledge forms can be downloaded online. Pledges are due by the day of the event.

To preregister as a rocker for individuals or groups, to make a pledge, or volunteer, contact Suzie Best at 218-240-0062 or suzie.best@chartercom.com.

“The support we have had is so amazing every year,” Best said. “We’re looking forward to this event and the amazing community and what it gives back.”

Erosion control project kicks off

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

In an effort to control erosion and stabilize two areas of shoreline along the Rat Root River, a project that partners three local organizations kicked off this week.

The Rainy Lake Sportsfishing Club, a local angler group, working cooperatively with the Koochiching County Soil and Water Conservation District, were awarded funding from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for a larger Rat Root River walleye project, which is intended to restore the traditional walleye spawning run through a variety of efforts. In this case, funding will go toward controlling shoreline erosion of two sites on the Rat Root River.

The two groups, along with the Koochiching County Land Commissioner Dennis Hummitzsch, have worked to develop a project that will correct erosion on the county’s Rat Root River picnic and fish camp sites as well as install docks and steps at the sites to make them more user friendly.

“It has turned out to be a nice partnership,” Hummitzsch told county commissioners Tuesday.



STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

At left, Tom Worth, Rainy Lake Sportsfishing Club; Dennis Hummitzsch, county land commissioner; and Pam Tomevi, district coordinator of the Koochiching Soil and Water Conservation District, discuss with the Koochiching County Board a Rat Root River project that kicked off this week.

missioners Tuesday.

The project stems from a 2010 grant that focused on log jam removal on the river. Pam Tomevi, district coordinator of the Soil and Water Conservation District, said she was approached by former Sen. Bob Lessard about “going for something a bit larger.”

Work continued and a grant totaling \$215,000 was awarded to the group, of which \$100,000 was earmarked for the erosion

correction.

“That money has been set aside specifically for erosion on those two county sites,” Tomevi said, adding the bid for the project came in at \$105,000 and the remaining balance was covered by the county.

Tomevi said it was Hummitzsch who suggested having natural vegetation on the sites.

“As luck would have it, a similar project was done up on Crane Lake,” she said.

The project will include bioengineering materials that provide enhanced site stabilization to help control erosion and stabilize streambanks, lake shores and steep slopes.

“We were able to benefit by looking at those designs,” Tomevi said of the Crane Lake project. “This has never been tried up on our part...but this is a great opportunity to try.”

Tom Worth, RLSFC, said the club will place docks at the two sites to “make it more handy for people to access.”

Hummitzsch said the grant is on a reimbursement basis so his department is assisting KSWCD with payment of the project costs. In addition, the local match for the grant is being done through cash and in-kind contributions from the county Land and Forestry Department, KCSWD and the club.

In addition, Tomevi said the local Department of Natural Resources has been very supportive and involved in the project.

“Bob (Lessard) has been doing a lot of bragging about this entire project,” Tomevi told commissioners. “It is looking good so far.”

Americans expect a gas price spike if U.S. attacks Syria

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

If the U.S. attacks Syria how high might gas prices go? It's the question we'd like to avoid but warrants consideration once again, after President Barack Obama said Monday that he's prepared to attack Syria, with or without a U.N. mandate. If Syrian President Bashar al-Assad

reneges on the U.S. -Russian deal to put Syria's chemical weapons under international control, an attack could occur.

When nearly 20,000 consumers were asked by Gas-Buddy how high they think local prices could go, 30 percent of respondents said they think a hike would push prices up between 16 and 30 cents per gallon and

22 percent said they thought prices would spike by 51 cents or more.

- 1-15 cents per gallon — 18 percent
- 16-30 cents per gallon — 30 percent
- 31-50 cents per gallon — 22 percent
- 51 cents per gallon or more — 17 percent
- No impact on fuel prices — 11 percent

When asked to identify the time frame in which they believe a U.S. military action would be over, those surveyed responded as follows:

- 1 to 30 days — 12 percent
- 31 to 60 days — 8 percent
- 61 to 90 days — 5 percent
- 91 days or more -31 percent
- No military action will occur — 41 percent

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