The Journal

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Rainy Lake ice out second latest recorded

Rooney wins bragging rights

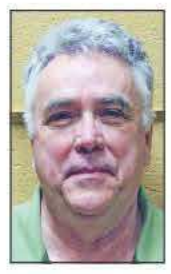
BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

A hot topic of discussion locally and around state, ice out on Rainy Lake was declared Tuesday — representing the second-latest date since records have been kept.

Veteran Rainy Lake guide and contractor Carl Brown called The Journal at about 8:30 a.m. Tuesday from Kettle Falls and said, through intermittent cell phone static, he had traveled the lake without ice impeding his way, declaring Rainy Lake ice out day.

His declaration was confirmed by local pilot Rick Bolstad who at 1:30 p.m Tuesday posted on Facebook photos showing little ice left on the main route to Kettle Falls.

Kevin Peterson, Department of Natural Resources International Falls fisheries supervisor, forwarded to The Journal Tuesday information about late ice outs across Minnesota from Pete Boulay, State Climatology Office, DNR — Division of Ecological and Water Resources


Mark Rooney

"Pete says we still have a shot at beating the latest ice-out ever recorded in MN (Greenwood Lake in the Arrowhead) if we can hold out past May 27th," Peterson wrote in an email.

The ice is considered out on the first day a boat can travel from Rainy Lake's Island View to Kettle Falls without being impeded by ice. The earliest ice out day on record is April 6, which was in 2012. May 22 is the latest recorded ice out day, which occurred in 1950.

Meanwhile, Mark Rooney predicted Rainy Lake ice out on May 22, making him the winner in The Journal's annual ice out prediction, published April 12. This year, The Journal surveyed Rainy River Community College instructors on their Rainy Lake ice-out predictions. While no prizes are awarded, the winner has bragging rights for about one year.

Rooney told The Journal in April he had consulted with his wife, Pam, for his guess. She looked through past records, and found historically cold winters had ice out days similar to May 22, he said, so that's the date he went with.

He also said he got a new used boat last fall, two days before it snowed. Because he's waiting to use his new boat for the first time, he'll now have to wait even longer.

However, the overall reason for why he chose May 22 has nothing to do with him, he said.

Ice to A7 ➤

STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

Falls Elementary preschool graduates perform for family, friends and community members Thursday before receiving their diplomas.

Isabella Domitrovich and Ryar Pelland celebrate Thursday after becoming preschool alumni.

NEXT STOP: KINDERGARTEN

The International Falls school district's youngest graduates took center stage Thursday in front of family, friends and community members to celebrate their accomplishments.

Falls Elementary preschool students donned paper caps — many of which didn't make it through the entire ceremony — and sang several songs for their audience.

Like any graduation event, the ceremony wasn't complete without diplomas, which most of the youngsters excitedly accepted and turned into telescopes.

More Online Photos

To view more photos or purchase photos, find The Journal on Facebook or visit www.ifallsjournal.smugmug.com.

Split again: Future of Q-Comp program unclear

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Nordy Nelson

It was another split vote from the Falls School Board Monday.

On a 3-3 vote, the Quality Compensation for Teachers, or Q-Comp, program may not return to the Falls district for the 2014-2015 school year.

"My concern with the Q-Comp program is I've heard several presentations here tonight about data and I've seen no data here to say whether that program is a success," said board Chairman Gordy Dault, who voted against the district participating in the program for another year.

Q-Comp to A7 ➤

Rep. Nolan optimistic of rail solution

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

Congressman Rick Nolan said he truly gets it.

He experienced first hand last weekend the rail crossing concerns of area residents when he and Ranier Mayor Dennis Wagner waited more than one hour for the rail bridge to lift.

It spurred a meeting Tuesday at Nolan's Washington D.C. office with officials from U.S. Customs

Nolan to A7 ➤

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