

OUTDOORS

CALL OF THE WILD

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IFBC, Trustar offer angler scholarships

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

In an effort to encourage more local anglers to participate and compete in the sport of bass fishing, the International Falls Bass Championship has teamed with Trustar Federal Credit Union to offer two “scholarships” to anglers who have

never fished the local tournament, which kicks off with an Elks’ spaghetti dinner Aug. 20 and finishes with angler weigh-ins Aug. 23. Gary Potter, president of the IFBC, said he hopes local anglers take advantage of the offer of two \$500 scholarships. “The scholarship will give

an angler an opportunity to experience the championship first hand and hopefully we can get them hooked,” he said. “It may also help some who have wanted to try it in the past, but have felt they would be just wasting their money,” added Trustar President Dale Johnson.

Anglers interested in seeking the scholarship should submit a short paragraph about why they would like to fish the IFBC and send it to: IFBC, P.O. Box 906, International Falls, MN by Aug. 15. Trustar got involved because its staff views the IFBC not only as a fishing

contest, but a great community event, said Johnson. “In my mind, it has grown from a fishing contest with some activities to a community festival which incorporates a great bass tournament,” Johnson said. “As a community-focused business, we want to help this talented group

of volunteers be successful with this event. Especially now, our community needs something to celebrate and take their minds off the flooding and our economic struggles.” Potter said the applications will be reviewed by a committee, which will select to recipients.

Structural damage changes VNP boat tour schedule

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Due to structural damage to the park’s 22-passenger vessel, the Borealis, all boat tours departing from the Kabetogama Lake Visitor Center have been canceled for the remainder of the 2014 season. To assist those affected by this closure and in order for visitors to experience the park and the Kettle Falls Hotel, additional trips aboard the park’s 49-passenger vessel, the Voyageur, have been scheduled. The Kettle Falls trips will depart

from the Rainy Lake Visitor Center at 10 a.m., spend two hours at the hotel, and return to the dock at 4:30 p.m. A park news release apologizes for any inconvenience caused by the change and adds that staff hope the added tours on Rainy Lake will serve the public well. Kettle Falls Cruises on Rainy Lake: ■ Friday, Aug. 8 ■ Sunday, Aug. 10 ■ Thursday, Aug. 14 ■ Sunday, Aug. 17 ■ Thursday, Aug. 21 ■ Sunday, Aug. 24

■ Thursday, Aug. 28 ■ Saturday, Aug. 30 (regularly scheduled) ■ Wednesday, Sept. 3 ■ Saturday, Sept. 6 (regularly scheduled) ■ Wednesday, Sept. 10 ■ Sunday, Sept. 14 ■ Wednesday, Sept. 17 ■ Wednesday, Sept. 24 For an updated tour boat schedule, visit the park’s website at www.nps.gov/voya, or contact a park visitor center. Visitors can purchase tour boat tickets by going online at www.recreation.gov or by calling the National Call Center at (877) 444-6777.

Park neighbor donates land to Voyageurs National Park

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Nine acres of lakeshore on Kabetogama Lake has been donated to Voyageurs National Park by a local citizen and his family. The property, in Echo Bay on the west end of Kabetogama Lake, has been donated by the families of Gary Whipple and Herb Lindberg in the memory of Dewey and Millie Whipple and Janet Whipple Lindberg, longtime residents of the Kabetogama community.

Gary Whipple told Voyageurs National Park Association his father, Dewey, began in 1945 visiting Kabetogama to hunt and fish. He purchased a resort in 1955 and he and his wife enjoyed the wilderness feel of the area and hoped the property would never be developed. With the donation to the park, the land will remain untouched by development. VNPA will help facilitate the land transfer to the

park and hold the property until it is included in the park. Chief Ranger Chuck Remus told VNPA there is very little park-owned property on that part of Kabetogama Lake. “This property will not only preserve a great piece of lake shore, but also be a great addition to the park,” he said. Remus also recognized the families that donated the property and VNPA’s assistance in acquiring the property.

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The Journal

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RL Conservancy sets annual meeting for Aug. 17

The public is invited to attend the meeting

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The annual general meeting of the Rainy Lake Conservancy is scheduled from 2-4 p.m. Aug. 17 at La Place Rendez-Vous in Fort Frances. The public is invited to attend the meeting, which will feature Kyle Stanfield, director of Environment and Sustainability of New Gold mining project located north of Emo, Ontario. Beginning at 2 p.m., Stanfield will present an overview of New Gold’s plans for the mine and answer ques-

tions concerning the mine’s possible threats to the environment and economic benefits to the community. The business meeting of the Conservancy will follow at 3 p.m. An added feature this year is Joanna Loney, a local educator, who will offer special activities for the children of attendees. She will teach youngsters how to identify wild animals using furs and skulls and engage them in a variety of nature related games. Although the Rainy Lake Conservancy is based in Fort Frances and has been a Canadian charitable organization since 2001, it has members from both sides of the border. The conservancy pro-

vides a venue for Canadians and Americans to work together to preserve the natural beauty, clean water, abundant plant and wildlife, and the rich history of the Rainy Lake watershed. RLC supports traditional uses of the watershed such as mining, hunting, fishing and forestry when these activities are conducted in a sustainable and responsible way. Members collect water quality data, promote good shoreline stewardship, support environmental research projects and keep abreast of developments that could affect the health of the watershed. There will be time to mingle and have light hors d’oeuvres after the meeting.

HIGH AND DRY



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dawn Aasen shot this photo at the end of July of a frog peaking out of a bird house. “Even the frogs are going to higher grounds,” she noted.

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KOOCHICHING SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Summer Meeting
August 13th, 2014

Sportsmen's Dock Gazebo
6:00pm Meeting
Potluck Social to follow

Club will supply Beverages & Hotdogs

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