

LOCALNEWS

Sturgeon contest set for Aug. 16

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Anglers itching to net a Rainy River monster can prepare to set the hook Aug. 16 during Birchdale’s North American Sturgeon Championship.

The 22nd annual, catch-and-release event kicks off at 3 p.m. Aug. 16 at Nelson Park in Birchdale. The contest, which serves as the one of the community’s biggest fundraisers, runs until 7 p.m.

“What started out as a reason to share a campfire and fellowship with neighbors has become a premium fundraiser for the River Valley Development Association,” said Mike Hanson, one of the event’s organizers. “The sturgeon championships have evolved from just a few area folks to 300 or more participants. The event often sees the same folks return year after year because of the family theme and it attracts new participants because the emphasis



FILE PHOTO

Tina Boham, center, holds up a 58-inch sturgeon caught by Joe Theis of Baudette during last year’s North American Sturgeon Championship on Rainy River in Birchdale. The fish tied for second place during the event.

on youth participation as they all get prizes.”

Last year, the grand prize of \$2,085 for a 59-1/2 inch sturgeon was the biggest payback the contest has seen in the last several years.

“The support of catch and release and that fish are judged by length only bring out the contestants,” Hanson said. “The fact that last year’s winner pocketed over \$2,000 aspires all par-

ticipants to dream that they will be wrestling the next winner.”

And, the organizer said, the event taps into the thrill anglers of all species are seeking – no matter what their level of experience is.

“People with little to no sturgeon fishing experience all have the same opportunity as the veteran angler and it is always fun to see them hook a 5-or 6-footer for the first time,” he said. “The smile on their face is as big as the fish. Experiencing the raw power and strength of a monster sturgeon is never forgotten and makes for permanent etched memories.”

Hanson said Rainy River has experienced a new set of challenges this year with the flood in June, but he assured anglers the water is now down to its traditional banks and is receding every day.

“Nelson Park is healing after being water logged and we would caution everyone to be safe and obey

all Minnesota boat and water regulations,” he said. “While the ferocity of the current has fallen, it may be wise to make sure that your anchor system is fully capable of holding your boat in place and it is probably a good idea to come a little early to avoid any delays in launching.”

Fish caught in the contest will be judged by verification officials in flagged boats circulating among angler boats on the river. When an entrant hooks a fish, they are asked to immediately wave a red flat to notify and draw the attention of the verification officials who will come to the contestant’s boat.

Fishing for the championships is only allowed between the green buoys placed in Rainy River to the east and west of the Nelson Park boat landing. Organizers ask boat pilots to respect other boats by restricting wakes.

Prizes will be awarded for length only. Only entrants

who have paid the \$20 fee (\$10 for anglers age 17 and less) may hook, fight and land fish during the contest.

The longest fish measured will bring the person who catches it half of the entry fees paid for the event. Second and third place fish win their angler \$50 gift certificates for use at Nelson’s Store in Birchdale. Ben Burgess Enterprises will provide youth prizes at the contest.

Refreshments and food will be available for those who work up an appetite on the water – and for others as well.

“It is surprising how many folks drive over for fresh corn or a rural summer snack and keep a finger on who and what length is on the leader board,” Hanson said. “All are welcome.”

Organizers remind anglers that Ontario has closed its sturgeon harvest season.

Failure to release fish caught will result in disqualification from the tournament.

Filings period for councils, school boards open

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The filing period for positions on city councils and school districts opened July 29. The filing period closes Aug. 12.

So far, Preston Hoy, Littlefork, incumbent Brian Lindvall, and incumbent Kevin Sather have filed for a councilor position on the Littlefork City Council and incumbent Mike Fort has filed for the mayor position.

Incumbents Keith Knaeble and Mike Imhof have

filed for positions on the Littlefork-Big Falls School Board.

International Falls City Council has also drawn filings. Harley M. Droba and Joe Schwartz have filed for Center Ward councilor; Brian Briggs for East Ward councilor; and Charles C. Lepper and incumbent Cynthia Jaksa for West Ward councilor.

In Ranier, incumbent Ron Wilcox and JoAnn Kellner have filed for a councilor position on the Ranier City Council.

As of Tuesday afternoon, Big Falls has not drawn any filings for mayor or for city council.

Cities and schools districts don’t participate in the primary elections and races for positions on city councils and school boards will be decided in the Nov. 4 election

People may file for the following positions at city offices and school district offices:

Ranier City Council Council positions are for four-year terms

■ Council member, now held by Brenda Bauer

■ Council member, now held by Ron Wilcox, who is finishing the term vacated by Fred Woods.

International Falls City Council Council positions are four-year terms

■ East Ward councilor, now held by Paul Eklund

■ Center Ward councilor, now held by Gail Rognerud

■ West Ward councilor, now held by Cynthia Jaksa

Littlefork City Council

Council positions are four-year terms; mayor is a two-year term

■ Councilor, now held by Brian Lindvall

■ Councilor, now held by Kevin Sather

■ Mayor, now held by Mike Fort

Big Falls City Council Council positions are four-year terms; mayor is a two-year term

■ Councilor, now held by Leslie Lepisto

■ Councilor, now held by Shawn Pritchard

■ Mayor, now held by

Marta Lindemanis

Falls School Board Three board member positions, each of which are four-year terms, are up for election.

■ The positions are now held by Dena Wenberg, Willi Kostiuk, Darrell “Boxer” Wagner.

Littlefork School Board

Three board member positions, each of which are four-year terms, are up for election.

■ The positions are now held by Keith Knaeble, Mike Imhof, Anita Gray.



PURPLE PRIDE GOLF SCRAMBLE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2014

FALLS COUNTRY CLUB

9 HOLE SCRAMBLE & SOCIAL

4:00 REGISTRATION 5:00 SHOTGUN START

HORS D'OEUVRES, SILENT AUCTION WILL FOLLOW GOLF

Please join us! All proceeds benefit the Purple Pride Fund, a designated fund of Falls Education Foundation supporting extra-curricular activities at School Dist. #361. This fund was created to ensure ISD #361 would continue to have the ability to offer a full complement of arts, athletics and other student activities.
Come join the Purple Pride supporters!

COST: Hole Sponsor /includes 4 Member Team	\$500.00
Team/ Without Hole Sponsorship	\$300.00
Individual	\$75.00

Name _____

Phone _____ Sponsor Name _____

Team: _____

*Regrettably I am unable to attend the event, however, I would like to donate \$_____

Please make checks payable to
FEF Purple Pride, PO Box 933, Int'l Falls, MN. 56649

Any questions or concerns you may contact Steve Blair at 218-283-4883

Hope to see you there!

RANIER DAZE

SUMMER FESTIVAL

Friday August 8, 2014

Saturday August 9, 2014

7:00 pm

ICE BOX RADIO THEATRE

Ranier Community Building

8:00 pm

John Streiff-King Of The Road

Entertainment

Ranier Muni

Saturday, August 9

8am-11am

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Fundraiser at Community Building

Sponsored by County Market

PARADE

12 pm Pooch BYODog

MAIN PARADE TO FOLLOW

Contact Berta 218-286-3382

Floats/Entries Wanted

MUSIC

Following parade

RAINY LAKE ORCHESTRA

ON THE BOARDWALK

CORN DOGS, CHEESE CURDS, COTTON CANDY, ICED COFFEES, PIZZA, SMOOTHIES, ICE CREAM FLOATS, BBQ SANDWICHES, HOT DOGS, WINGS

DO YOU OR SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY STRUGGLE WITH ADDICTION, CHRONIC PAIN OR ALCOHOLISM?

BURNSIDE CONSULTANTS


2205 2nd Avenue West

International Falls, MN 56649

We can help you find answers.

 **Please call 218-283-2010**

Country Storm



THIRSTY THURSDAY:
ALL DRINK SPECIALS
\$250
FROM 5PM-9PM

COUNTRY STORM
WILL BE HERE TO
ROCK THE HOUSE

Littlefork Municipal Liquor Store

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15TH, AT 9:00 PM!

Finstad's

Auto-Marine Shop

Invites you to take a step back in time,

Saturday, August 9, 2014 • 10 am - 5 pm

Come Celebrate Ranier's Past & Future

• U.S. Coast Guard • U.S. Border Patrol

• Buck Johnson's Model Boats • Historic Rainy Lake Pictures

• Vintage Boats at the Dock • Old Engines

• Old Outboard Motors

Auto Marine Shop, nominated by the Minnesota Historical Society, placed in the National Registry of Historic Places, U.S. Dept. of Interior, 1983.

Come join us at 3475 Finstad Lane, Ranier, MN 56668

RAINY RIVER

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FALL SEMESTER BEGINS AUGUST 25!

There's still time to register!
Open until 7 PM August 5th - one stop to apply and register!

Begin your 4-year degree at RRCC!

Save money, while increasing your earning potential. Great selection of courses and programs - call today!

WWW.RAINYRIVER.EDU | 218.285.7722

Rainy River Community College is a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. We are an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and educator. All classes subject to change in the event of an emergency.