

LOCALNEWS

American Cancer Society recognizes local relay

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Citing outstanding contributions in the fight against cancer, the American Cancer Society recently presented a Regional Division Community of Hope Award to the volunteers of the Relay For Life of Koochiching County.

The recognition was made at the 2014 Northern Minnesota Leadership

Conference held in Detroit Lakes.

The Community of Hope Award is presented annually to a Relay For Life community that demonstrates leadership, initiative, and creativity to successfully implement mission-related activities in order to positively impact the cancer burden and increase American Cancer Society awareness in their

community, said a news release.

“The American Cancer Society recognizes and appreciates when volunteers understand the importance of showing others how the Society is active in their community, helping friends and families every day,” said Denae Alamano, American Cancer Society staff partner. “The volunteers of Koochiching

County are very deserving of this award.”

The Koochiching County volunteers work hard to raise awareness within the community, while staying focused on the mission of the American Cancer Society, said the release.

“Volunteers developed creative and exciting ways to bring more members of the community to the event and were able to raise

over \$31,000 for the fight against cancer,” the release described. “The volunteers continue to do a wonderful job of sharing how the money raised at their Relay For Life event is used to support local community members.”

Relay For Life is the world’s largest movement to end cancer, where each year more than 4 million people in over 20 countries raise much-needed funds

and awareness to save lives from cancer. To learn more about the American Cancer Society Relay For Life, visit RelayForLife.org or call 1-800-227-2345.

The American Cancer Society is a global grassroots force of more than three million volunteers saving lives and fighting for every birthday threatened by every cancer in every community.

Logging camp again theme of fundraiser

KAO STAFF REPORT

A holiday celebration geared for Paul Bunyan and local loggers at heart will return for its fourth season on Dec. 5. The Logging Camp Christmas is a fundraising event to benefit local nonprofit Koochiching Aging Options.

The event offers a casual evening of old-time entertainments, good food and good cheer, according to Douglas Skrief, executive director of Koochiching Aging Options.

“The sold-out success of the last three years has in-

spired us to bring back this fun gathering,” said Skrief, adding that there will be entertainment throughout the evening along with fundraising activities in a logging camp setting. Most of the 140 guests come to the event wearing lumberjack plaids, he said.

“Koochiching Aging Options is devoted to supporting older Koochiching County citizens and their families,” noted KAO Board Chair Susan Congrave. “The dinner is a chance to help support the organization – and have a fun evening out.”

Programs of Koochiching Aging Options include Groceries to You!, Senior Wheels, and the Senior Companion Program. It has also been the lead agency for the Greater International Falls Act on Alzheimer’s initiative.

“The generosity of the community in supporting this event is amazing,” Skrief said. “Volunteers include members of the Rainy River Community College baseball team, Darcy’s Dancers, the Slough Grass band and about 70 others. Over fifty local businesses and individuals have

donated items for auction. Sponsors of the event include Boise, Molpus Forest Products, and Wenberg Transfer.

Tickets are disappearing quickly and need to be purchased in advance, according to Skrief. They are available while they last at City Drug in the Falls and at the Koochiching Aging Options office.

The event is held on the stage of Backus Community Center. No Place Like Home Logging is in charge of the logging-era decorations. Citizen of the Year Cynthia Warren is the chef for the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A popular fundraiser, KAO’s Logging Camp Christmas returns Dec. 5.

evening.

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for socializing with dinner to begin at 6:30.

For more about the event, visit the website KoochichingAgingOptions.org or call 283-7084.

COUNTY

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board’s approval.

City Attorney Steve Sherman told county commissioners protection of Second Creek is included in the agreement, and it also defines a buffer zone in which no development will occur.

“Actually, through this annexation and our proposed usage, it offers much more protection to Second Creek than it otherwise would have,” he said. “Without the city coming in to establish these buffers and the types of usage that we want to use, anything could have occurred there.”

The city attorney continued he will work with a group in January to develop a document that better outlines protection of fish habitat and water quality in Second Creek. He said that document may include what restrictions to development should be adopted.

Commissioner Wade Pavleck said residents were concerned some kind of industrial waste facility, such as the Renewable Energy Clean Air Project, or RECAP, would be located on the site.

“It’s not to pick on RECAP,” he said. “It’s any industrial waste facility. Why wouldn’t they be concerned

about that?”

Shermoen said city officials are not considering RECAP as a tenant, even though they were approached by RECAP officials more than one year ago about the location.

“We’ve backed off on any discussions,” he said. “There is no way RECAP is going to come into this area unless the county board wants it to.”

However, Shermoen said it wouldn’t be appropriate to prohibit any business or type of business in an annexation agreement.

Pavleck disagreed.

“From everything I understand, it can be excluded,” he said. “I think it should be in (an agreement) and I think it can be done.”

He then said he didn’t think the county should take any action until there was an agreement both sides could recommend.

Commissioner Brian McBride said the city has a viable business looking to locate in the district and would need the annexation to advance.

“We need to move forward,” McBride said.

“We’ve made our worst decisions when someone says, ‘You gotta act now,’” Pavleck said. “We’re not ready.”

The agenda for Monday’s regular Falls City Council meeting includes under old

business an update and reconsideration of the joint resolution and annexation agreement with the county for the multimodal district.

In other business, the board on a 4-1 vote approved a land repurchase application for a property within International Falls city limits that has been sitting vacant since 2008. Commissioner Brian McBride voted against the motion.

Scott Tupper, who previously owned the lot located on Main Avenue, will be able to repurchase the property home which was forfeited to the state Dec. 3, 2013. Taxes became delinquent in 2009. Tax forfeited property is managed by the county in which it is located.

“Mr. Tupper under our repurchase policy and under state law has the right to apply,” said county Land Commissioner Dennis Hummitzsch.

McBride said the property may have been purchased by adjacent property owners or others had it been sold by the county in an auction. Instead, he said the property owner who stopped paying taxes is allowed to wait until the last minute to buy it back.

“We’ve sat on it for a year and I believe it should have went up for auction to give all neighbors a chance to buy it,” he said.

Kelly Meyers, International Falls building official, said he, too, wishes the process to sell a property in an auction was faster, and that city officials have been aware of issues with the property for some time.

“I would have written this one up as a home that needed to be taken care of in a timely fashion,” he said, noting he hasn’t been in the building on the property since 2008.

Prior to the board’s decision, Meyers said if Tupper

repurchases the property, the city will likely give him a timeline to make repairs to get the structure in compliance with city regulations.

Cara Taschuk told board members she lives next door to the property and would have liked to bid on it had it gone to auction.

“It’s an eye sore,” she said. “It gets tagged for grass all the time. We help with upkeep with the grass as much as we can do...It would be nice to have the opportunity to try

and buy it.”

Tupper’s cousin, Wayne Fuller, said the property has been for sale for “quite some time.”

“I believe most of the surrounding property owners were aware of that,” he said. “I currently have a signed purchase agreement on the property contingent on the decision of the board today.”

Fuller said he has experience working with hazardous properties and intends to fix up the structure.

HGTV

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Heinle admitted. “It was a few full days of it.”

Heinle said the focus of the episode will be a family from the Icebox of the Nation looking for a condo in a warmer climate. The storyline is the two boys want a place closer to the party scene while she and Tim would like something quieter, but at the same time in an ideal location to hopefully open a coffee shop nearby.

“I’d love to have Coffee Landing Cayman,” Heinle

said. “I’ve met with other coffee shop owners down there and I’m really hoping I can make that happen someday...By the end of the show, I think people will be surprised which of the three properties we choose. Everybody kind of scored on what we ended up with.”

When her friends, family and strangers watch the show, Heinle is hopeful people realize they can do what they set their minds to.

“We’re a small-town family who accomplished our dream,” she said. “Some people have hunting shacks, some have cabins, it just so

happens we have a condo in the Cayman.”

Now the family can alter its focus on enjoying the new condo, when schedules allow.

“We got it all decked out,” Heinle said of her second home. “I just love it there. I like the island because their motto is they are Cayman Kind. Since we come from Minnesota Nice, it is a good fit.”

As soon as an air date for the Heinle’s episode of House Hunters International is announced, The Journal will include the information in the Borderland Briefs section.

ICE

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ice picks.

While some people locally are already beginning to ice fish and spear fish, Voyageurs National Park Chief Ranger Chuck Remus urged caution.

“Check on your way out the ice thickness because conditions now are variable,” Remus said. “I would advise no travel on ice.”

He noted the main parts of Rainy and Namakan lakes

are not yet frozen over.

DNR clear ice thickness recommendations are:

- 4 inches for walking.
- 5 inches for a snowmobile or ATV.
- 8-12 inches for a car.
- 12-15 inches for a medium-sized truck.

Snowmobile, ski and snowshoe trails in Borderland are not yet ready for use.

Remus said no trails in Voyageurs National Park are yet being prepared for use, and he noted many park trails can only be accessed via ice, which is not yet ready

for travel.

The International Voyageurs Snowmobile Club, which maintains about 134 miles of groomed trails in Borderland, has scheduled its annual trail clearing day for Dec. 6, according to its website, <http://www.ridetheborder.com/>.

People interested in assisting to get the trails ready for use are urged to meet at 9 a.m. at Rainy Lake One Stop, Highway 11 east.

The club will host the 2015 MNUSA Winter Rendezvous Feb. 12-15.



TruStar Federal Credit Union and TruInsure invite you to our

Holiday Open House

Thursday, December 4, 2014, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Come join our staff during our Holiday Open House. Enjoy cookies, cider and good company. While you are here, don’t forget to sign up for a prize package valued at \$100.

May your holidays be Merry and Bright!