

BEARGREASE

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an early lead.

“When I came into Finland, which is the second to last checkpoint, I had Nathan by about 10 minutes,” Anderson said. “I figured at that point, I had the faster, stronger team, but we were still 70 miles from the finish line, in my head I figured everything could still change.”

The Ray musher pulled into final checkpoint, about 34 miles north of the finish line in Duluth, about half an hour before Schroeder, but because Anderson had more mandatory rest time, the two left at nearly the same time.

“We go off trail time,” Anderson explained of how a lead is calculated. “At some point, everyone will take the same amount of rest, so we go off our cumulative run time...I was consistently the fastest team, but not by much.”

This isn’t the first time the two mushers have run neck-and-neck. Back in 2011, Schroeder had about a 45-minute lead on Anderson, but experienced some trouble with his team on the trail. Anderson was able to catch up to and pass his competition to pull off the win. Schroeder was only about 20 seconds behind.

A different approach

This time around, An-



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY PAUL M. WALSH

Ryan Anderson gets a hug from his wife Missy Anderson at the finish line of the Beargrease Wednesday morning.

derson adjusted his normal strategies based on the warmer-than-usual weather. Instead of resting at the Sawbill checkpoint, the 33-year-old musher “went on a pretty long run to Finland (checkpoint).”

“I wanted to get as far down the trail before it got too warm,” he said. “It’s not usually what I do. There was 6 inches of fresh snow on the trail and we broke through that.”

Because the run was longer, Anderson made the decision to drop one of his team members, a 16-month-old dog.

“I just didn’t want to put the dog through that,” An-

derson said.

On the same note, Anderson said he was pleased he finished with 11 of the 12 dogs that made up his Beargrease team.

“I got a lot of compliments on how the team looked,” he said, noting he received the Beargrease’s Best Kept Team award. “That, to me, was the highlight of the whole weekend.”

Teamwork and success

Anderson said his team looked so good, that not one leader stood out.

“I had five or six leaders in the group, but everyone really stepped up,” he said of his four-legged teammates. “Dolce was one dog I only

intended on running one or two legs in the lead, but she ran the whole thing in the lead...All the dogs did great.

“I’ve been training really hard this year and the dogs did everything I wanted them to do in more. Mentally, they handled it and physically, they held up for it. It was actually really neat to see.”

After making the trip home Thursday, Anderson said he will reevaluate his team and decide who will join him in Michigan’s UP 200 set for Feb. 13. Some of the dogs in his kennel can run with the Beargrease team, but others will be more suited for the Hudson



PHOTO BY NACE HAGEMANN, NACEHAGEMANN.COM

Amanda Vogel of Ray competes in the 2015 John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon.

Bay Quest later in the season, he said.

“I’ve got a good team, and I’m excited about it,” Anderson said. “It’s starting off to be a good season.”

A different ending

Meanwhile, Amanda Vogel, also of Ray, scratched or dropped out of the race, Tuesday.

Vogel, who was using the Beargrease as her last qualifier for the more than 1,000 mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in Alaska, did not return a call to The Journal in time for this story.

LIQUOR

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this year in the Senate, but said he’s not sure how it will play out. A House vote in 2013 on an amendment on the floor to open Sunday sales brought more than 100 no votes, he said.

“Some faces have changed, the corporate community supports it and House Speaker Kurt Daudt is now in favor, but I would be surprised if there is the kind of change what will flip the position of the House,” Bakk said.

The news media has given the issue a lot of attention in recent weeks. But Bakk said those who imbibe may not realize they could be paying more for that 12-pack or bottle when those increased

costs associated with being open an extra day are passed onto the customer.

“Liquor will cost more if they decide to stay open Sunday,” said Bakk. “If people think the convenience is worth that, fine. But when the price of liquor goes up, don’t call me. I can do the math. Add labor to a business and the costs go up.”

Dill said border communities, which face competition from Sunday sales in adjacent states, must be considered.

“The question of whether it will pass, I am thinking there will be compromise more to do with micro breweries, but that’s a long way out yet,” Dill said.

But Dill said Minnesota’s tourism industry plays a key role in the economy of the state, and especially is

smaller communities along the Canadian border.

“Have the people in my church called me and want Sunday liquor? No,” said Dill. “If they want a 12-pack they know to buy is Saturday. But the tourists don’t.”

Store owners

Meanwhile, one local liquor store owner said he’s not sure he’d see an increase in sales if his business was open on Sundays.

Jim Leinum, owner of The Jug Liquor Store on Third Avenue, said he “doubted” he’d see an overall bump in sales if his store was open seven days a week.

“If customers need something, they buy it in anticipation of the store being closed on Sunday,” Leinum said. “I don’t think overall there’d be a noticeable increase.”

Personally, Leinum said he’s against repealing the blue law, and said it should be left as is.

“We’re open six days with long hours, we don’t need to be open another day,” Leinum said. “People can go to church with their families on Sunday, I don’t see why it’s necessary for us to be open.”

Leinum said his employees like being closed on Sundays, as it gives them a guaranteed day off. If they were open on Sundays, though, he said they’d make it work, but it wouldn’t be ideal.

“Right now, they like the idea that we’re closed that day,” Leinum said. “Being open on Sundays is not something we would like to have to do.”

North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Wisconsin and

Canada all permit alcohol sales on Sunday. Leinum said he understands the Sunday liquor sales issue affects border communities differently. However, he said he doesn’t think he’s currently losing any sales from customers going to Canada to buy liquor on Sundays.

Miner’s Inc. owns and operates County Market Liquor next door to Menard’s. Patrick Miner, store director, said he thinks the consumer demand for Sunday liquor sales is going to keep increasing.

“Everything I’ve been hearing is more people are interested in having that convenience,” Miner said. “Our job is to meet the demand that’s out there.”

Miner said he believes the company would see an increase in sales if stores were

open seven days a week. The company is already paying energy and refrigeration costs on Sunday when there isn’t anyone there.

“Expenses are happening on Sunday whether we’re there or not,” Miner said. “It would also give us an opportunity to market ourselves better than we do today.”

An extra day of availability means more hours for employees to work, Miner said, which creates an opportunity for employees looking to work more hours. With stores in border towns like International Falls and Duluth, Sunday liquor sales would also eliminate their competitors’ advantage.

“We’ve got competitors who have an advantage being open on Sunday,” Miner said. “This would level the playing field.”

WATERSHED

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■ Aquatic invasive species: Seven projects to strengthen ongoing prevention measures and pursue control efforts to curb the negative effects of the many invasive species now residing in the basin.

■ Surface and groundwater contamination: Seven projects to better understand contamination sources, assess the vulnerability of water resources and establish protective measures.

■ Capacity building: Six projects to engage all Basin interests on water quality management and promote greater cooperation among agencies working in it.

Immediate action

Within those themes, the plan also recommends four projects for immediate action to address significant, and urgent risks to the basin’s ecosystem health:

■ -Project 27: International platform for implementation. This project is crucial to the successful implementation of the Plan of Study and future

binational management opportunities.

“Key to the successful implementation of the plan of study is to have a foundation to move from the science to the solutions and we need a commitment from the local governments to implement,” said Moy.

■ Project 14: Rapid evaluation and implementation of options to manage recent zebra mussel infestation in headwaters areas in Minnesota. Zebra mussels pose a significant, immediate risk to the ecosystem health of

the Basin.

“We have no choice on this,” said Moy. “We have to do this immediately.”

■ Component of Project 1: Long-term funding of Wheeler’s Point Gage and designation as a gage of binational significance. This is a critical component for determining ecosystem health in the Basin.

■ Components of Projects 5 and 7: Implementation of proven best management practices (BMPs) and removal of solids from effluent. Where BMPs have

been identified as effective at reducing nutrient loads from agricultural lands, they should be implemented immediately. Effluent from sewage and wastewater treatment facilities is an

important source of nutrients that can impact lakes and rivers. An immediate action to reduce nutrients would be to enhance the capacity of treatment facilities to reduce solids.

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Tues.	Breakfast Sandwich with hashbrowns
Wed.	French Toast w/eggs & sausage or bacon
Thurs.	Blueberry Pancakes w/eggs & sausage or bacon
Fri.	Biscuits & Gravy w/eggs & hashbrowns
Sat.	Cinnamon Swirl French Toast with ham & eggs
Sun.	Blueberry Cream Cheese Crepes with eggs & ham

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Dinner Specials

Mon.	Half Chicken Dinner	\$10.99
Tues.	Full Rack of BBQ Ribs	\$17.99
Wed.	Pan Fried Walleye	\$14.99
Thurs.	Mozzarella Girasole w/Marinara Sauce	\$10.99
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Sat.	Rib Eye Steak	\$17.99
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