

Effort marks
35th year

Rehearsals set to
begin Aug. 11

A4



Seeking
grants

KCCTV explores funding
options for software

A3



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\$1

RIVERFEST 2013



STAFF PHOTOS BY LAUREL BEAGER

Members of A Hard Day's Night performed tunes by The Beatles Saturday at Riverfest.

Lower ticket sales, but good music

Organizers already
looking to bring
known name band
for 2014 to up
attendance

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

Attendance at Riverfest 2013 Saturday was a little low, say organizers, but it appeared that the nearly 1,000 people who showed up had a good time.

This year's concert event, the third at the Irvin N. Anderson Amphitheater located between Highway 11 East and Rainy River, brought four tribute bands to the venue.

Saturday's event marked the first year that the concert was presented in a new partnership between the International Falls Rotary Club and the Backus Community Center. The two previous events were presented by the International Falls Economic Development Authority.

With temperatures reaching the mid-60s under sunny skies, tribute band Arch Allies, known for performances of music by Journey, Styx and REO Speedwagon, headlined the summer festival and ended the day of

music with its traditional blast of sound and lights. Arch Allies has during the past two Riverfest events shared the amphitheater stage with headlining rock bands Loverboy and 38 Special.

Also Saturday, tribute band A Hard Days Night performed in early '60s costumes and even a couple members donned mop-top wigs as they covered tunes from The Beatles early to late periods. And Free Bird, a Lynyrd Skynyrd cover band, looked and sounded the part they were performing. An injury kept Spindrift, a Rush cover band, from joining the event, but organizers said Arch Allies' Kevin Todd helped to fill the gap by connecting with a ZZ Top cover band.

Rotary President Mike Ward called the event a success. "It went fantastic, but we would have loved more people there," he said.

And while some people seemed to enjoy the cooler than normal sunny weather, Ward said warmer temperatures and more attendees would have led to more beer sales at the event, which has served as Rotary's largest fundraiser over the past three years.

"Rotary and Backus were pulling together on all — marketing, bands, venue, and it went extremely well," he said. "It was a great success."

Riverfest to A7 ►



Organizers said nearly 1,000 people gathered for the concert Saturday.

Donahue planning process on hold

Preliminary
information to be
gathered about
selling VNP HQ

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

In effort to gain the greatest attendance, a public planning process for future use of the International Falls-owned Donahue property has been rescheduled to September and October.

On Monday, the International Falls Economic Development Authority Commission Monday rescheduled planning meetings for the 125 acres of undeveloped property to the west of the city limits provided to the city in 2009. The vote was approved 4-1.

The meetings, scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. in the AmericInn, are now planned for Sept. 11 and 25; and Oct. 9 and 23. A July 31 meeting has been canceled.

Andy Hubley, senior planner with the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, is scheduled to serve as facilitator at the meetings, which are expected to result in a final report in December.

In addition, the commission agreed to accept an offer from Dave Serrano, Arro of the North, to provide a wetland assessment of the property at no cost to the city.

Both actions were recommended by the EDA Advisory Board. EDA Commissioner Bob Anderson, who serves as Falls mayor, voted against the motion. The EDA Commission is made up of members of the Falls City Council.

EDA Pres. Gail Rognerud told the group that conducting the meetings in the fall would likely attract more participants than on a warm summer evening, and would allow "snowbirds," or people who reside elsewhere in the winter months, to attend.

"I've heard many suggestions and about how people feel about (the property)," she said Monday. "We will move forward

Donahue to A7 ►

County to hire additional staff to overcome anticipated workload

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

A new face will be added to the Koochiching County Community Services Department with action taken by the county board Tuesday.

Terry Murray, director of the county's Community Services Department, requested the additional staff because he expects to see hundreds of additional clients with the implementation of MNsure, a new central marketplace where Minnesota individuals, families and small employers can get health insurance and access

tax credits or assistance to help pay for coverage.

Enrollment begins in October and plan coverage starts Jan. 1, 2014.

"Previously, I asked for one (staff member)...but we need two in order to implement," Murray said of implementing MNsure. "I really feel the (additional) person is needed in order for us to provide the services."

Murray said he plans to have one of the new hires pose as a "navigator" to determine what programs are available to new clients.

"We have to have this," Com-

missioner Wade Pavleck said of the additional staff.

County Administration Director Teresa Jaksa said funding is available for the full-time position and Murray noted he was told, "Funding is secure as federal funding has always been."

In related business, the board agreed to allow UCare, a nonprofit health plan providing health coverage and services to more than 300,000 members in Minnesota and western Wisconsin, to provide health care services to recipients of medical assistance in Koochiching County.

A contract with UCare was

terminated about two years ago by the county after Murray said the company could not provide transportation to clients to medical facilities outside the county.

"That seemed to stimulate (UCare officials) to work with our contractor to provide those services," Murray explained.

In addition to UCare, the county has managed services provided by First Plan and Medica to residents who qualify for medical assistance.

Murray also informed commissioners that the county was awarded a \$2,784 Adoption and Foster Care Recruitment Grant

to recruit relatives to pose as adoptive and/or foster parents for children in foster care.

The grant will be used to purchase LexisNexis — an advanced search engine to locate relatives of foster children.

The grant, according to a letter to Murray from the Minnesota Department of Human Services, is available until June 30, 2015 through state funds. It supports agencies' efforts for the recruitment of relatives to become foster and adoptive parents through access of web-based search tech-

County to A7 ►

INSIDE
TO REACH US

OBITUARIES/A6
PHONE: (218) 285-7411

OPINION/A8
FAX: (218) 285-7206

BUSINESS/A9

SPORTS/B1
ONLINE: IFALLSJOURNAL.COM OR FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

CLASSIFIEDS/B4

COMICS/B9

VOLUME 4
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