

RELAY

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people to walk through.

“It sounds crazy, but it’s going to be really cool,” Rom said.

The Strollin’ Colon is a 12-foot wide, 10-foot tall blow-up colon loaded with information about colon cancer.

“You can take a selfie in a colon,” Rom said with a laugh. “How cool is that.”

Joining the life-size colon will be an inflatable pelvis packed with information about prostate cancer.

“Colon and prostate are some of the most treatable cancer if caught early,” Rom said. “The blow-up pelvis will hopefully show guys the prostate isn’t that far up, so stop freaking out and go get the test.”

Both attractions are making their debut this far north and the pelvis, has never been displayed before, Rom said

“They are family-friendly,” she added. “Kids can walk through them and parents can get education. I am super excited about it.”

Favorites return

Beside the not-so-common inflatable attractions, the April 11 relay will return some of its signature components including the opening ceremony with a speech by caregiver Deanna Hanson, who lost her son to cancer 11 years ago; the luminary ceremony with Katie Briggs, a 21-year-old cancer survivor speaking about her experi-

ANDERSON

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against the team heading north creating snow drifts that eliminated any kind of trail.

“It just wasn’t smooth,” the musher reiterated. “But Hudson Bay is always a good race that I like to go to.”

While Anderson is proud of his team, it’s still a bitter sweet end to the season.

“I wish there were more

Schedule of events

- 8 a.m. — Doors open for set up. People who need to set up can also come Friday night.
- Noon — Doors open for event. Survivor registration. Cake and coffee will be served.
- 1 p.m. — Opening ceremony, caregiver speech, singer, poem, survivor lap, caregiver lap
- 2 p.m. — Team Evolve U workout class, The Canvas Butcher kids painting
- 3 p.m. — Stretcher races, The Canvas Butcher kids painting
- 4 p.m. — Team Evolve U workout class, The Canvas Butcher kids painting, bidding starts for silent auction, pie in the face event
- 5 p.m. — Kiss the pig
- 5-7:30 p.m. — Dinner served by International Falls Fire Department
- 6 p.m. — Silent auction winners announced
- 6:30 p.m. — Luminary ceremony, survivor speaker, performance by Scott Fuller, lap
- 7:30 p.m. — Team Evolve U workout class
- 8-8:30 p.m. — Karaoke
- 9 p.m. — Team Evolve U workout class

ences; and acoustic music from Scott Fuller.

The event will also feature workout classes from Evlove U fitness, painting demonstrations from The Canvass Butcher, a bake sale, a silent auction and more.

“What we need to remember is that this is for all of Koochiching County,” Rom said. “Even though its in International Falls, Relay for Life is for people in Northome, Indus, Littlefork, Ray, Big Falls, everybody. We need to get more people involved. Relay for Life is a support group for all of us.”

Touching everyone

Almost everyone knows someone who has been affected by cancer in some way. For Rom, it is close

relatives like her father and grandmother, for others it could be a neighbor or acquaintance. Regardless, Rom said it’s important for everyone to become involved in the fight against cancer if they can.

“We need to draw attention to cancer and early detection and prevention,” she said.

While Relay for Life serves as a major fundraiser for the organization, it also brings awareness to cancer and its many different forms.

“People need to be educated on getting regular check-ups and getting necessary cancer prevention tests,” she said. “Relay for Life can help get that word out.”

Watching her father suffer

through five bone marrow biopsies, kidney dialysis and countless other treatments was difficult, but Rom said it served a purpose.

“My dad’s proudest moment was when the doctor told him they wouldn’t be able to save my dad, but he might help save someone else,” Rom said. “My dad found great pride in knowing he was going to be a teacher... The side effects were horrible, but he was willing to do it to help others.”

Denae Alamano, a specialist for the Midwest Division of Relay For Life, said last year, \$30,000 was raised through Relay for Life, and this year, she hopes to meet or exceed that goal.

“Relay For Life is why many people are still alive today,” she said. “ACS has been a part of every cancer breakthrough in the last 100 years. We’ve funded the research that gives us our preventative tests, such as a mammogram and colonoscopy, along with many life saving drugs and treatments. Bottom line – we want to find a cure for all cancers.”

Rom pointed out how far research has come in the 27 years since her grandmother died to today.

“Back then, she was diagnosed and died about four months later,” Rom said. “Then my dad got an extra seven years to live and there have been more advances made since. We can and we will fight this. As a community, we can make a difference.”

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Thurs.	Blueberry Pancakes w/eggs & sausage or bacon
Fri.	Biscuits & Gravy w/eggs & hashbrowns
Sat.	Cinnamon Swirl French Toast with ham & eggs
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