

LOCALNEWS

Peace run pushes through the Falls

Ceremony will be held 10 a.m. Monday on the bridge

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

Members of an international peace organization will be running through Fort Frances and International Falls Monday in order to inspire peace.

The International Peace Run, founded in 1987 by Sri Chinmoy, promotes peace through the running of a months-long route that often crosses multiple international borders and covers thousands of miles. The 2014 North American route encompasses Mexico, the U.S., and Canada, and features runners crossing the U.S.-Canadian border through International Falls.

Regional coordinator Yuyudhan Hoppe said Chinmoy actually came through International Falls in 1991, when the run dedicated the international bridge as a peace bridge. This year's crossing marks the 200th anniversary of the signing of a U.S.-Canada peace treaty, Hoppe said.

The group doesn't have any corporate sponsors, Hoppe said, and doesn't solicit donations or promote a political agenda. The one-word message they promote is simple, he said: peace.

"We feel the goodness of

the world is spread by mutual inspiration," Hoppe said. "Peace has to happen in a person before it spreads, it begins with me, then I have it, and can share it."

To recognize the border crossing, a ceremony will be held 10 a.m. Monday on the bridge, when the U.S. and Canadian national anthems will be played, along with a special song written by Chinmoy in 1991 when he last visited the area.

"We have some skits and stories to tell about peace, and its importance to us," Hoppe said.

The group of eight runners arriving from Canada will join up with a few runners to help continue the relay to Minneapolis and onto Chicago, Hoppe said. This is a diverse group, he said, with runners from Australia, Czech Republic, and eastern Europe, as well as the U.S. and Canada. While some members of the group are elite runners, he said, anyone can join if they want to run a part of the route.

Hoppe said he got involved with the peace run in 1991, when he heard about Chinmoy dedicating the bridge in International Falls and was inspired to join. Since then, he said he's ran part of the route multiple times, and it's taken him to 23 countries.

"We've been to a whole bunch of places other groups couldn't get to," Hoppe said. "We're not proselytizing, so we can go a lot of places, and we're welcomed all over."

Seifert: A rural guy that knows the state

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

Republican candidate for governor Marty Seifert said Wednesday he wants to represent all of Minnesota, not just the more populated areas.

Seifert visited International Falls Wednesday to meet with Borderland business owners and party supporters. He completed a tour of all of Minnesota's 87 counties Thursday, "campaigning by air" because of the vast distances.

The candidate said he stands out among the other Republican and DFL candidates as the only rural candidate, helping him to understand the unique issues rural areas face.

"Where I live is a lot like here — small towns, limited employment, a number of people on fixed incomes and I want to be a governor for the whole state, not just part of the state," he told The Journal in an interview at Einarson's Flying Service. He runs a small business with his wife Traci in Marshall.

Locally, he said he met with Ranier Mayor Dennis Wagner, who discussed flooding concerns and need for state and federal rapid response with financial assistance.

He said Wagner discussed concerns about the Canadian National Railway train blockages of traffic in Ranier and other crossings, timber lease issues and regulatory permitting delays.

"We're down 25 percent

in the number of cords of wood being produced and that makes a big impact on the economy here and the Pollution Control Agency being a detriment for permitting to get some big projects," he said. "There is a multimillion dollar project that would lift a lot of new jobs in the community and add a lot of positive financial impact to the community and the PCA is horsing around for permits that could be up to two years of delay and that's unacceptable."

Wagner discussed a project in Arkansas was permitted in 60 days; a similar project he'd like to do locally could take two years to permit, Seifert said.

"That's ridiculous," he said. "Arkansas has an environment there, too, and they're figuring it out. There's got to be a gentle balance... but we've got to bring it back to the mainstream where it needs to be."

As governor, he said he would take a "hands-on approach" to make sure permits and regulation don't get in the way of economic progress.

Seifert said he would take a multifaceted plan of attack to improve the state's economy. First on his list is to simplify and make more competitive Minnesota's complex tax system and streamline the permit system.

"We have a lot of economic develop projects that aren't asking for government money, they just want government to get out of the way and let them get moving," he

said. "There's great opportunity with our work force if we can get them trained for jobs of the future."

Seifert said his work experience makes him a good candidate for governor. He's a small business owner, and in the past has worked in higher education, at a hospital, and as former Republican Minority Leader and former member of the Minnesota House of Representatives, where he served 14 years.

Rural Minnesota has more residents on fixed incomes, he said. He pledged, if elected, to end Minnesota taxation of Social Security benefits. Minnesota is among six states that tax those benefits.

"It's giving incentive to move," he said. "The weather isn't real attractive in the wintertime for someone in their 70s or 80s and I don't want the tax climate to pair up with the weather climate and push people away. It might be a phased-in process. For a lot of people that's their golden years on not wanting to have to move away from the state they love because of the tax climate."

Starting and running a business in Minnesota is difficult and he said he'd like to model business tax laws after neighboring states.

"What do they do to have businesses that pay, that stay to prosper?" he said. "The real challenge is making sure that state government is not costing an excess amount."

But he acknowledged as

governor, he would still have to convince the Legislature to agree with his proposed changes. His running mate is Pam Myhra, a state representative from Burnsville.

"I am best suited more than any ticket to bring the divide together," he said. "We haven't had a rural governor since Rudy Perpich. I think there is a lot of people as we approach the primary election on Aug. 12, it's a unique opportunity to have a rural governor again."

Seifert said he lived in the Twin Cities for 40 percent of the year while serving in the Legislature.

"I understand the issues they have with crime and issues we don't have, like traffic congestion, but my running mate is from the Twin Cities and I think we have a good balance," Seifert said.

As governor, he said he would make sure appointees to positions would be from across the state. Seifert Tuesday visited Menomane, Aida, Bagley and Red Lake Falls.

"None of them have seen a candidate for governor and I don't know if they ever have seen them," he said.

If successful in securing his party's nomination in the Aug. 12 primary and elected in the November election, Seifert pledges to travel the state frequently during his time as governor. In August, he faces other Republican candidates Kurt Zellers, Merrill Anderson, Jeff Johnson and Scott Honour.

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NOTICE OF CITY ELECTION AND FILING DATES

The City of International Falls will hold a city election in conjunction with the general election on November 4, 2014 between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. to fill the following offices:

Councilor East Ward	4-year term
Councilor Center Ward	4-year term
Councilor West Ward	4-year term

The polling places will be as follows:

East Ward	KOOTASCA Building 2232 Second Avenue East
Center Ward	Bob Walls Memorial Union Hall 509 Third Street
West Ward	St. Thomas Aquinas Hall 810 Fifth Street

Filings for the above offices will open at 8:00 A.M. on Tuesday, July 29, 2014 and will remain open until 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, August 12, 2014. Filing must be done through the Office of the City Administrator on forms available at that office in the municipal building located at 600 Fourth Street in International Falls. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. A fee of \$10 must be paid by each candidate filing for office at the time of filing. For more information regarding the city election please see the city's website at www.ci.international-falls.mn.us or contact the Office of the City Administrator at 218/283-9484 during regular business hours.

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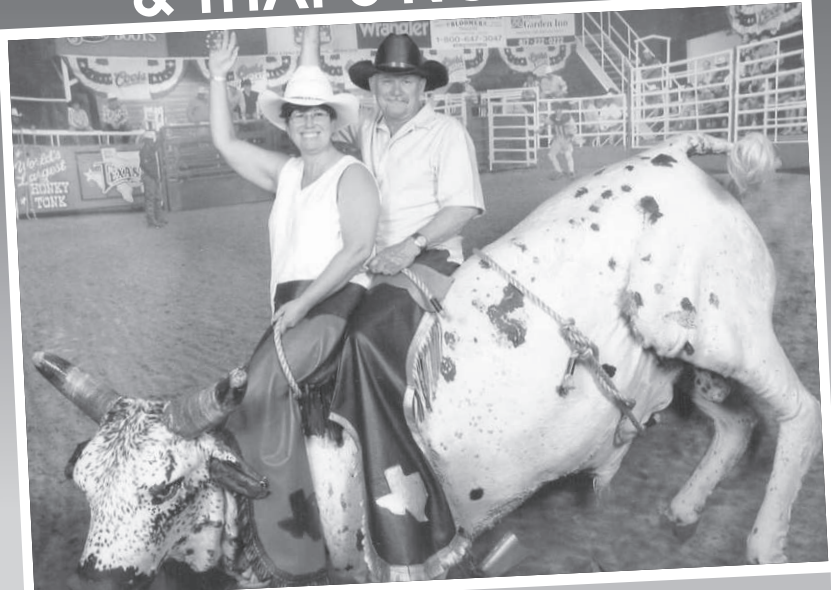
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