

LOCALNEWS

FUN at the FAIR

County fair sees best turnout to date

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

NORTHOME — Desirable temperatures and sunshine provided by Mother Nature Friday and Saturday helped draw record numbers of people to this year's Koochiching County Fair in Northome, organizers say.

Fair organizer Mary Lukenbill said intermittent rain showers Sunday delayed some events, "but everything scheduled went as planned thanks to every volunteer who made it happen."

"With the beautiful summer weather, record crowds were in attendance for the weekend events at the county fairgrounds," she said.

Fairgoers were seen strolling around several craft and rummage tables in the open-air, free space sale on the fairgrounds Friday, which served as the kick off to the traditional summer event.

Lukenbill said crowds remained throughout the day for the picnic



STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

Participants in the Koochiching County Fair's sixth annual mud run get a little dirty during the open class section of the event in Northome Saturday.

lunch, afternoon kickball tournament and evening grandstand talent show.

Saturday's sunny, cool morning greeted 179 walkers and runners in the Scenic Sinkhole Scramble. Lukenbill said the event attracted a variety of ages, from scramblers in strollers to 90-year-old scramblers.

"At noon, the streets of Northome were packed with observers for the Bear Country parade," Lukenbill said.

Later that afternoon, mud and dirt flew during the sixth annual ATV Mud Run, which Lukenbill said brought the biggest turnout to date with participants coming as far as Grand Rapids



Children get comfortable on a barrel train ride.

and Grafton, N.D.

Fairgoers who preferred to browse the crowded grounds were

plays in the art barn, and bountiful garden produce and flower arrangements competing for recognition.

Saturday ended with Keith Winger and the Classic Country Band in the grandstand followed by what Lukenbill describes as the "best ever, spectacular fireworks."

The 4H Horse Drill Team from Beltrami County opened the Sunday horse show coordinated by the Effie Northwoods Saddle Club. Family events and competitions continued into the afternoon until it was time to say good-byes and depart the fairgrounds for another year, Lukenbill said.

City Beach reopened, no-wake zones lifted

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City Beach opened Saturday for public use and swimming, said a news release issued last week by the city Administrator.

Lifeguards were expected to be staffed at 11 a.m. Saturday, said Ken Anderson, city administrator.

Routine weekly testing will continue to be conducted by the Koochiching County Public Health staff through the summer and into September. The test samples will be taken at both City Beach and Ranier Beach to ensure the water is safe for swimming. If future water tests indicate bacteria levels that exceed the level safe for swimming, City Beach will be closed at that time.

No-wake zones lifted

Koochiching County Sheriff Brian Jespersen announced Monday he has lifted a no-wake zone on in place on county lakes and rivers since June when flooding caused concern for shoreline areas.

The no-wake zones required boats and personal watercraft to leave no wake within 600 feet of any shoreline. The zones were established in an attempt to protect from erosion shorelines and sandbag dikes protecting property.

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6:00 pm Elk's Spaghetti Dinner

Thursday, August 21st
2:00 pm Concessions Open
2:00 pm Flea Market
2:00 pm Craft Show
3:00 pm Teen Idol Contest
4:00 pm Beer Gardens Open
4:00 pm Flood Volunteer Appreciation
6:00 pm Boat Parade
6:30 pm Flood Volunteer Appreciation Program
7:30 pm Casting Call
10:00 pm Jam Session by Local Artists

Friday, August 22nd
10:00 am Arts & Crafts Festival Flea Market
11:00 am Concessions Open
11:00 am Rad Zoo
11:00 am Fun Zone Opens
12:00 pm Fun Zone Blow-Up
12:00 pm Tractor Rides
12:00 pm Beer Gardens open
1:00 pm Kids Games, Old Fashion Races & Fun Zone
1:30 pm Rad Zoo
4:00 pm Weigh-Ins
6:00 pm Lawn Mower Drag Racing

6:00 pm Steak Dinner
8:00 pm Don Tersigni-Comedian
9:30 pm Johnny Bird Show

Saturday, August 23rd
8:00 am Kids Fishing Tournament
8:00 am Classic Car/Motorcycle Show Registration
9:00 am 5 K Race
9:00 am Fastpitch Tournament
10:00 am Arts & Crafts Festival Flea Market
10:00 am Classic Car/Motorcycle Show
10:00 am Disc Golf
11:00 am Concessions Open
11:00 am Family Fun Zone opens
12:00 pm Beer Gardens open
12:00 pm Tractor Rides
12:00 pm Go Cart Races
12:00 pm Jam Session by Local Artists
12:00 pm Kids Games, Old Fashion Races & Fun Zone
12:30 pm Car/Motorcycle Show Awards - drive thru
3:30 pm Weigh-ins
4:00 pm Hypnotist
9:00 pm Brat Pack Radio
10:00 pm Raffle Drawing

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