

Lee Grim, Carl Brown and Patty Ross reported at 2:36 p.m. Saturday they had spotted a gull in Ranier. Local folklore calls for three snowstorms after the first gulls return to Borderland.



Feeding frenzy
Local man keeps deer full
B10



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Jim Rognerud makes a careful cut on a beaver while he demonstrates the clean-skinning technique at the International Falls Outdoor Expo Friday.

STAFF PHOTOS BY SPENSER BICKETT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Woods stands with fellow inductee Ralph “Butch” Furtman, a well-recognized writer, an expert angler and hunter, and long-time consultant to the fishing tackle industry.

Woods humbled by Hall of Fame honor

Fishing guide says there are many on Rainy who deserve it

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

Rainy Lake fishing guide Barry “Woody” Woods said he hopes he’s just the first of many other local guides to be recognized with induction into the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame.

Woods and fellow Minnesota inductee Ralph “Butch” Furtman were recognized Saturday with induction into the Hall of Fame during the Northwest Sportshow at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

The Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame listed many of Woods’ accomplishments over the past 40 years besides being a guide starting at age 13. The Hall of Fame listed Woods’ appearances on many television and radio shows and inclusion in newspapers and magazines. It also notes his “quick wit” and notoriety for being “fairly reliable,” from which his guide service “Woody’s Fairly Reliable Guide Service” originates.

That quick wit was on display in Woods’ acceptance speech, which can be viewed on a YouTube video uploaded by Falls High School classmate and professional hockey player Neil Sheehy, who attended Saturday’s induction with other friends and many family.

Woods was introduced by fel-

low Hall of Famer Larry Bollig, who now lives in Borderland. The event drew several well-known anglers.

Woods told The Journal Monday he feels fortunate. Asked how he’d top the recognition, a humbled Woods replied, “Gosh, I don’t know. Hopefully there are other people from this area that get in. There are a lot of people from here that deserve it.”

Emmett Brown, executive director of the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame, based in Hayward, Wis., told The Journal Monday that Woods is very deserving of the honor.

“Woody is a well spoken guide in the area,” he said. “He joins Ted Williams, Curt Gowdy, Al and Ron Lindner and Babe Winkelman — that is the company that Barry now keeps.”

Woods credits his guiding style to his uncle Fred “Butch” Lessard. “He was so much fun and you don’t always catch a ton of fish everyday, but Butch’s customers always came in happy,” he said at the induction. “That’s what inspired me.”

After his start in the business, he guided for his uncle, former Sen. Bob Lessard, at that time fishing guide.

Woods was accompanied to

Hall of Fame to A7 >

Outdoor expo rings in spring

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

With the sun peeking out and temperatures hitting 35 degrees and more this weekend, outdoors enthusiasts headed inside a local church to learn about the newest outdoors gadgets and gizmos.

The fourth annual International Falls Outdoors Expo took over Evangelical Covenant Church Friday afternoon and most of Saturday with hunting, fishing, and trapping fans coming in droves to talk with vendors and listen to industry experts.

Kerry Meyers, a black powder shooting aficionado, said he sets up a booth at the expo to get kids interested in black powder shooting, and spark



Kerry Meyers shows an interested expo attendee the finer points of black powder shooting, which he says is more of a challenge than hunting with a modern rifle.



Jon Froemke of the Falls Kart Club explains the ins and outs of kart racing to a youngster.

Outdoor to A7 >



STAFF PHOTO BY SPENSER BICKETT

Sheriff Brian Jespersen, Rainy River Community College interim dean of students Elena Favela, and Koochiching Economic Development Authority Director Paul Nevanen discuss the location of an RRCC industrial maintenance course at the Koochiching County Board Tuesday.

County board discusses RRCC course location

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

The Koochiching County Board Tuesday discussed using an armory building for Rainy River Community College’s industrial maintenance course.

In a committee session with Sheriff Brian Jespersen, Koochiching Economic Development Authority Director Paul Nevanen, and RRCC interim dean of students Elena Favela, the group discussed the college’s options for hosting the course in the fall.

The program was suspended this year due to a lack of enrollment, Favela said. The college brought in a consultant to deter-

mine if the course was viable in this community, she said, and one of the pieces of advice the consultant gave was the course needed a bigger space if it were to reopen.

“So we’re looking at a space in the community to rent, more than likely, to run our program,” Favela said.

The college is seeking a space of about 3,000 square feet, Favela said, though if need be, it can hold the classroom portion at the college and the practical portion off-site. The armory building is about 4,200 square feet, Jespersen said, adding it needs improvements if it were to host the course. He would also need to find another space to store the equipment he keeps

there, he said.

“There’s no plumbing out there, so your bathrooms got to get water,” Jespersen said. “Definitely needs a lot of clean up.”

County Commissioner Brian McBride had been involved with the first three years of the RRCC program, and he said the space the college has isn’t workable for the class, and it really need a larger space. With the improvements needed at the armory building to host the class, he said costs would easily be more than \$100,000.

“I just do not think that is the building for the college to use,” he said. “I think you put too much

County to A7 >