

Add a little fun

Indus students apply math to shapes

B7



Decision upheld

Court upholds local man's conviction

A4



International Falls Journal

ifallsjournal.com



Find us on
Twitter



Find us on
Facebook



Scan for
The Journal
online

Saturday,
January 17, 2015

International Falls, Minnesota

www.ifallsjournal.com

\$1

Gizzards might not freeze

A high of 28 degrees is predicted for today's iconic race

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

What might be considered mild temperatures for some, is downright cold to others.

This weekend's Freeze Yer Gizzard Blizzard Run will test opinions.

The 35th annual race is set for today and as of Thursday, temperatures were expected to hover right around 30 degrees.

International Falls Chamber of Commerce President Faye Whitbeck said while it's hard to predict how many runners will lace up their shoes and face mid-January weather, warmer temps tend to attract more locals.

"It's a hard gig to estimate," she said of the race. "Historically,

warmer weather usually brings out more locals, which is a bit contradictory as well as amusing."

After several weeks of Borderland's below zero temperatures, those who live in the Icebox of the Nation year-round, might think 30 degrees feels tropical. However, to others, running in temperatures below freezing might be hard to comprehend.

Last year, about 230 people – 52 from International Falls – ran the race with temperatures dipping to around 11 degrees below zero.

"Sometimes the weather has a residual effect on the race from year to year," Whitbeck said. "The previous year's weather may influence the current year's turnout."

Two and three years ago, Whit-

beck said "fairly cold" weather sparked more than 300 runners — record participation. She said it could be 2010's warmer temperatures exposed more people to the event and played a role in the consecutive years' high participation numbers.

And the race is an easy headline-maker.

Last year, because of the all-time low temperatures that set in most of December and into January, the whole state and especially the Icebox of the Nation were taking top slots on national news coverage.

"That can linger persistently in the minds of non-residents," Whitbeck said of out-of-towners

Run to A7 ➤



FILE PHOTO

About 100 runners take off from the start/finish line at Rainy River Community College during last year's 10-kilometer Freeze Yer Gizzard Blizzard Run. The air temperature was 9 below zero at the start of the race.

MnUSA Rendezvous to shine light on Borderland

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

More information

To volunteer, contact Eric Johnson at 218-244-6506 or Mike Heibel at 218-244-7548.

Borderland will get another chance to shine this winter with the Minnesota United Snowmobile Association's 2015 Winter Rendezvous.

The event, hosted by the International Voyageur Snowmobile Club, will take place Feb. 12-15, and is expected to draw up to 300 riders, said Eric Johnson, IVSC steering committee co-chair.

"It'll be a great chance to showcase our beautiful trails and miles and miles of lake trail in Voyageurs National Park and everything International Falls has to offer as a snowmobile winter destination," Johnson said.

His co-chair, Mike Heibel, said hosting the event has future benefits.

"The No. 1 thing is we get our area on the radar of state legislators and the state association," he said. "When they ride up here they take a little ownership of the issues we have. When they see and experience the area, it's

easier to stick up for it."

The event was awarded to IVSC at the 2014 event held at Shooting Star Casino, where members of the IVSC board pitched a proposal for a Rendezvous that will encompass a larger region than just International Falls and Rainy Lake.

Johnson said three counties and many towns, townships and communities are involved. He said guided rides will include destinations to the east, west and south of International Falls.

While local riders are encouraged to register for the Rendezvous, which will be headquartered at the AmericInn, volunteers are needed from every part of the region.

"When you look at the region

Rendezvous to A7 ➤

Project could head to mediation

Delay in completion of treatment plant causes concern

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

The North Koochiching Area Sanitary District may seek mediation because a portion of the modernization of its treatment facility in International Falls has not been completed by the general contractor in the set time.

A letter to District Judge Kurt J. Marben regarding board appointments to the district's board by district attorney Joe Boyle also said the district has notified the general contractor, Gridor Construction Inc., it is assessing liquidated damages of about

\$500,000 due to the lack of substantial completion as of Dec. 27, 2013.

"The project is about to receive an application from the contractor which will determine a final completion date and what is the appropriate payments pursuant to the contract to complete the project," Boyle wrote in the Dec. 31, 2014 letter.

Tim "Chopper" McBride, executive director of the district, said the contract included a clause in which the contractor agrees to a specific amount of damages per day if the job is not completed on

Project to A7 ➤



Tim
"Chopper"
McBride



STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

St. Thomas School student Colin Kostiuik works alongside his classmates to create a snow sculpture at Smokey Bear Park Thursday. The snow sculptures mark the traditional kickoff to Icebox Days.



Above: Four-year-old Jude Shinnars grabbed his plastic shovels and "helped" his brother's class make a peace sign out of snow Thursday.

Right: Olivia Thostenson flings a chunk of snow through the air to gain better access to the snow bank.



INSIDE
TO REACH US

OBITUARIES/A6
PHONE: (218) 285-7411

OPINION/A8
FAX: (218) 285-7206

SPORTS/B1

CLASSIFIEDS/B4
ONLINE: IFALLSJOURNAL.COM OR FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

OUTDOORS/B5

COMICS/B6

VOLUME 6
NUMBER 6