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Business helps create memorable keepsakes

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Wind blows away derby attendance

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Old Man Winter certainly tested the dedication of Borderland anglers Saturday as fierce 30-mph winds whipped across Rainy Lake during the annual Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club's derby and raffle.

The wind didn't stop Martin Hyatt.

The resident said a little cold wouldn't keep him off the ice. In fact, he said when he was younger, it was common to catch him and his buddies enjoying a day fishing with a cold beverage in one hand and a fishing pole in the other.

"This is nothing," he said with a smile, adding he hadn't even had a bite yet.

Still, organizers of the 29th annual event said attendance was down – way down.

"It was a poorest year we've had for attendance," said RLSC member Dave Peterson. "And ticket sales were down, too."

Peterson called Saturday's weather "atrocious" and said it kept people at home and off the ice.

"We do appreciate the people who did come out though," he added.

The club's president, Eric Norstad, agreed.

"There were some die-hard (anglers) out there," he said. "Some had portable fish houses anchored to their cars...one guy told me his got away and he had to chase it down."

Wind gusts as high as 33 mph were recorded Saturday causing with temperatures hovering around zero degrees.

Those who ventured out for the event braced against the wind under layers of clothing to register a fish or grab a snack to warm up.

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STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

Martin Hyatt doesn't let wind and cold keep him off the ice Saturday during the Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club's 29th Annual Family Ice Fishing Derby and Raffle.



John Udovich shows a perch he reeled in during Saturday's derby. Organizers say about 100 fish were registered during the event.



Bill Alleman and his daughter hurry back to their fish house after grabbing snacks during Saturday's derby.

EDA sends Donahue plan to council

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

A recommendation to take the minimum actions needed to honor a contract with the Donahue Trust will be referred to the International Falls City Council.

The city's Economic Development Authority Commission Monday on a 4-1 vote agreed to refer a recommendation about the issue from the EDA Advisory Board to the Falls City Council. The recommendation calls for the city to take the minimum actions at a minimal cost to maintain a contract for the 122 acres of land west of International Falls known as the Donahue property.

Commissioner Bob Anderson voted against the motion to refer the recommendation to the council. The matter is sent to the council because the city, not the EDA, owns the property under an agreement with the Donahue Trust. The contract for the property calls for a total of about \$90,000 in brokerage fees paid annually over six years to Matt Donahue's brokerage firm.

Anderson asked the whether the actions called for in the recommendation should move forward prior to paying the last two payments, totaling \$30,000. He has said the city cannot afford the property once called a gift from the Donahue Trust and has suggested the city ask Matt Donahue to take the property back or sell it.

The recommendation from the board came following a "visioning process" conducted by staff of the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission and presented to the city in a report.

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County board seeks sun's power

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

The Koochiching County Board Tuesday decided to continue the process of applying for a grant to install solar energy panels on the roof of the Forestland Annex building.

The solar panel array is from Silicon Energy of Mt. Iron, Minn., and the bulk of the project would be funded by a grant from the Made in Minnesota Solar Incentive program through the Department of Commerce. If the county's grant application is approved, it will then make a final decision on going forward with the project.

The application deadline is Feb. 28, and applications are approved via a random lottery process. If approved, the county's match would be 10 percent of the project's total cost. This match amount of \$45,000 isn't in the 2014 budget, county Administration

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