

LOCALNEWS

Spring welcomed with fresh layer of snow

Caution urged near rivers, lakes

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

It may officially be spring according to the calendar, but a glimpse at the forecast suggests otherwise.

A winter weather advisory Thursday called for up to six more inches of snow throughout the week-end and high temperatures barely reaching 20 degrees. It looks like the season of warmer weather and flowers hasn't arrived just yet.

However, an incident Tuesday on the Big Fork River prompted Koochiching County Undersheriff Bruce Grotberg to warn people about the quickly changing ice conditions on area rivers and lakes.

Grotberg said Marlene C. Sethney, 75, Effie, walked down a steep bank of the river near her home when she thought her dog may have fallen through the ice. She contacted her sister in Garrison, Minn., before she started looking for the dog near the river. When she didn't hear back soon from Sethney, the sister called the Sheriff's Office, which sent two deputies.

Sethney found the wet dog, which had pulled itself from the river on its own, but Sethney's husband had come down to the river to look for her, said Grotberg.

In the meantime, staff with the Itasca Sheriff's Department and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources arrived, along with the "local mail lady," to help, he said.

Sethney's husband and dog required assistance getting back up the bank of the river.

"But all were fine," Grotberg said. "It could have been a different story."

He urged people to keep their children and pets away from ice to avoid the risk of falling through the ice, or requiring others to help them out of a dangerous situation.

Normal?

Meanwhile, Melody Lovin, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Duluth, said while the extended forecast predicts a "more normal spring," temperatures are expected to stay slightly below normal.

"They won't be anything too extreme," she said of temps, "but we are expecting to see the trend of slightly below average continue."

Still, the meteorologist was optimistic that Saturday night into Sunday morning would be the only time that the area may experience subzero temps.

"Sunday morning temperatures will be slightly below the single digits," she said. "The rest of the month is looking like it'll stay above zero."

Borderland received some winter relief with a few days of 40-degree temperatures earlier this month, but just last week the area broke two records, March 16 and 17, for low temperatures of 23 degrees below zero each day.

The cold mixed with the snow may have some feeling

More information

For a complete forecast and to stay up-to-date on weather alerts, visit www.crh.noaa.gov/dlh

like winter may never end.

But Lovin looked on the bright side of things.

She told The Journal Thursday the low pressure system bringing Friday's snow is nothing out of the ordinary for this time of year. In fact, while it may seem like the local snow banks are never-ending, last year at this time, there was much more of the white stuff piled up.

"In 2013, there was 29 inches of snow on the ground in International Falls March 20," she said. "This year, there is only 19 inches."

She added that spring in Borderland has been on quite the rollercoaster ride in the past few years. In 2012 at this time, there was no snow on the ground.

"It's like we skipped spring and went straight to summer that year."

The normal high for the end of March is about 36 degrees and lows are normally around 15 degrees.

Snowfall tends to stay to less than half an inch, but of course, in northern Minnesota, anything is possible, Lovin said.

"It varies on when a snow system moves in," she said. "This storm coming up is one of those things. It's just another system giving northern Minnesota some more snow."

GIVING THE GIFT



STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

Darrick Johnson, International Falls, was among many volunteers who donated blood Thursday during the Boise Paper drive at the Memorial Blood Center collection bus. Center staff Vincent Cichy, left, and Kate Swantko were on hand to assist. The center's website reports one out of three people will need blood in their lifetime. Donated blood, considered the gift of life, is provided to people who have been in car accidents, during some surgeries, and to premature infants, among others. See the center website at www.mbc.org to learn more about giving blood and for the location of future blood drives.

SEEDLING SITE



A stump stands where a large spruce tree was cut down by International Falls crews this week. The spruce was among five trees — spruce, ash and elm — removed from Smokey Bear Park and near the Falls Municipal Building that were dead or dying, according to Falls Street Commissioner Dennis Jonson. Jonson said forester Dave Austin inspected the trees and suggested they be removed before they fell, risking an injury to someone. Jonson said new trees will be planted this summer to take the place of the trees that were removed.

STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

Now open

Offering:

- Colored text & cardstock
- Specialty paper
- Garage sale signs
- Poster board
- Boxes
- Newspaper end rolls

North Star

PUBLISHING

Paper & More

STORE

North Star Publishing and The Journal

1602 Highway 71 Int'l Falls 218-285-7411 Hours: Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm

St. Thomas Preschool & Kindergarten Round-Up


Open House & Registration

Tuesday, March 25, 4:00-6:00pm

St. Thomas School

It's time to register your child for the 2014-2015 school year in a Christ-centered, warm, caring, family environment that provides your child the best education!

Our Preschool & Kindergarten teachers will be on hand to visit with you, explain the programs and answer questions.



PRESCHOOL SCHEDULES & RATES

Group 1: M, T, W, Th 8:30am-3:10pm \$225/mo.

Group 2: M, T, W, Th 8:30am- 11:30am \$120/mo.

For more information, please stop in at the Open House or call Preschool teacher, Jo Ann Flansburg or Kindergarten teacher, Joanna Brunkhorst at 283-3430 any time during the school day.

Children of all faiths are welcome at St. Thomas School.

Notice of Nondiscrimination policy as to students:

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, scholarships and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

CHILDBIRTH CLASSES

PREPARING FOR LABOR TO POSTPARTUM CARE

Expectant mothers in or past their sixth month of pregnancy are welcome to attend FREE classes.

THURSDAYS,

APRIL

3, 10 & 17

6:30 - 8:30 PM


HOSPITAL CAMPUS

1400 HIGHWAY 71

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

APRIL 1


Call 218.283.5524



KOOCHICHING COUNTY

Public Health


Prevent. Promote. Protect.



Rainy Lake

MEDICAL CENTER

In association with Essentia Health



FOR MORE INFORMATION,
"LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK

