

LOCALNEWS

A sweep for Team USA

BY EMILY GEDDE  
Staff Writer

As soon as members of Team USA got the green light to pull, they couldn't be stopped.

The team claimed a sweeping victory Tuesday in all three pulls of the annual Pulling for Peace: International Tug-of-War event at the Pat Roche Landing.

"I am so proud of our people – well done my friends," said Faye Whitbeck, president of the International Falls Chamber of Commerce, who helped organize the event.

Strategy and perseverance took over as pullers grabbed hold of the rope with one goal in mind – bringing the trophy back to U.S. territory.

"I was here a few years ago when this didn't turn out that well for us," said U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar of the 2011 event which had the same outcome as Tuesday's, only in Canada's favor.

Last year, threatening weather prompted the event to be canceled, and Canada retained the traveling trophy for another year.

Robin Bjorkquist, event organizer, told The Journal she had a strong faith in the success of the team.

"I expected our team to win," she said.

Team USA claimed a victory in each of the three-tiered event's pulls – the celebrity tug, a community tug, and a power pull for competitively strong athletes. It was the power pull's triumph that ultimately sent the trophy – and bragging rights – back to U.S.

Territory.

The celebrity team was made up of Minnesota Vikings alumni Greg Coleman, who served as team captain, Frank Youso, Carl Eller, Stu Voigt, as well as National Hockey League alumnus Neil Sheehy, Minnesota Senate Majority Leader Tom Bakk, Klobuchar, local athletes Billy "The Kid" Christianson, Nick Reece and Jake Youso as well as other local well-known folks.

"It was so much fun," Klobuchar said following the victorious event. "It is always great to see those Vikings. It doesn't matter how long they've been out of playing, they are still true competitors."

And true competitors they were.

Joseph Juranitch, better known as Ragnar, mascot for the Minnesota Vikings, offered a pep talk to pullers before the event began.

"We can do this everybody," the bearded enthusiast said while high-fiving participants.

Ragnar's boost of encouragement paid off despite friendly threats from Canadian Consul General Jamshed Merchant.

"Canadians as you know are very peaceful, easy-going people," Merchant, who is based out of Minneapolis, but was pulling for Team Canada, said. "So today, in a very peaceful and easy-going way, (Canada) is still going to whip your asses."

His speech was cut short, however, as Coleman stepped up to his captain duties to interrupt Merchant.

"You don't come over here talking trash on our land,"



STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

From left, Minnesota Viking mascot Ragnar, Koochiching County Sheriff Brian Jespersen and Viking alumnus Carl Eller, take hold of the rope Tuesday during the Pulling for Peace: International Tug-of-War event at the Pat Roche Landing. The men helped claim a victory for Team USA's celebrity team.

he said with a laugh. "We might be friends, but that only goes so far. We're gonna whip your little behind and send you back across the water, you understand me?"

Keeping the affable theme of the event going, the two men shook hands and wished each other luck in the contest.

Friendly competition

Because Canada and the United States share the longest undefended border in

the world, Canadian Prime Minister Harper last year declared July 2 International Peaceful Borders Day and U.S. President Barack Obama will be asked by the Sister Cities to do the same.

The day is an effort to promote peace throughout the world by celebrating the peaceful border enjoyed between the United States and

Canada. The date was chosen because it falls between the two national celebrations of Canada Day, July 1 and U.S. Independence Day, July 4.

"This event reminds us not only of the important bond with our sister city, but also of the vital connections we can nurture at home with each other and as a community – now more

than ever," Whitbeck said.

Merchant, who was scheduled to meet with local leaders while visiting the area, called the two countries "the best of friends."

"We work together and we play together ... nowhere is that so exemplified as in International Falls and across the river in Fort Frances," he said.

Plans underway for 92nd Annual Northern Minnesota District Fair

BY ERIC MATHEWS  
Staff Intern

Organizers are gearing up for the 92nd Annual Northern Minnesota District Fair in Littlefork, July 12-14.

The fair is being scheduled for July again this year, as it appears to draw more people than when it's been held earlier in the summer, said Sue Cole, a member of the fair board.

The fair will offer live entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights, based on successful draws to featured entrainment last year, she said.

The band "Country Storm" is scheduled to perform again this year, on both Friday and Saturday nights. The band has been a good draw in the past at the fair, and also at local venues, said Cole.

"They are fantastic," said Cole of the band. "We've had really good responses to them in the past, and we are looking forward to them coming down."

Katie Murray, a performer with local roots, will sing in the gazebo from 5-7 p.m. Saturday, and at the tracks at noon Saturday, before the oval races.

A Saturday horseshoe tournament could take place at noon, offering fairgoers something different in which to take part. But Cole said the tournament will only take place if enough people are willing to participate.

The popular mud races will return to the fair and will take place at 6 p.m. Saturday.

Other events making a comeback from previous years include Sunday's oval races, where

local drivers can have the chance to make money in first, second and third place wins. The cash prizes will start with \$500 dollars for the winner, \$250 for second place, and \$150 for finishing in third. The entry fee for the race is \$25.

People who love the oldies, but goodies can watch or take part in the antique tractor show and parade. Contact Terry Baird at 218-556-4827.

On Sunday, the Clover Cruise 10k run and 5k walk/run will include a 1k kids run. Registration will start at 8 a.m., and the events start at 9.

Wrist band specials will be offered each night and advance ticket special are available in International Falls at Koochiching County Museums and the Falls Country Club, and in Littlefork at Polkinghorne's Hardware and J & D Foods.

You can go to [www.northernmndistrictfair.com](http://www.northernmndistrictfair.com) for more information on the fair.

SCHEDULE

Thursday, July 11

11 a.m.-9 p.m. Lutheran Church Food Booth Open  
9 a.m.-6 p.m. Exhibit Building Open for Pre-Registration  
noon-6 a.m. Fair Office Open

Friday, July 12

6 a.m.-10 p.m. Lutheran Church Food Booth Open  
9 a.m.-9 p.m. Fair Office Open  
9 a.m.-6 p.m. General Fair Entries Open  
noon-10 p.m. Midway Open  
1 p.m.-5 p.m. Open Judging  
1 p.m.-Closing Firemen's Bingo  
11 a.m.-10 p.m. 4-H Food

Booth Stand Open  
5 p.m. Riding Lawn Mower Races

5 p.m.-9 p.m. Children's Barn Open  
6 p.m.-8 p.m. 4-H and Open Rabbit and Poultry Judging  
8 p.m. Country Storm  
9 p.m.-10 p.m. High Stakes Bingo

Saturday, July 13

6 a.m.-10 p.m. Lutheran Church Food Booth Open  
9 a.m.-9 p.m. Fair Office Open  
9 a.m.-6 p.m. General Fair Entries Open  
9 a.m. Light Horse & Draft Halter Classes  
9am 4-H Open Cattle & Swine & Goat Show  
10 a.m.-9 p.m. Children's Barn Open  
10 a.m. Scavenger Hunt  
11 a.m. Northern Minnesota District Fair Horse Show

11 a.m.-10 p.m. 4-H Food Stand Open  
noon-10 p.m. Midway Open  
Fireman's Bingo  
1 p.m. Horseshoe Tournament  
(Registration at noon, \$2 entry fee)

noon-4 p.m. Icebox Radio Theater  
2 p.m.-3 p.m. Antique Tractor Show  
5 p.m. Antique Tractor Parade

6 p.m.-9 p.m. North Country Mud Race  
8 p.m.-10 p.m. Teen Dance

8 p.m. Country Storm  
9 p.m.-10 p.m. High Stakes Bingo

Sunday, July 14

6 a.m.-10 p.m. Lutheran Church Food Booth Open  
9 a.m.-6 p.m. Fair Office Open  
noon Midway Open  
noon Kids Pedal Pull  
1 p.m.-4 p.m. Oval Races

SUMMER CLEARANCE EVENT

RAM

DODGE

CHRYSLER

Jeep

With Ram Bonus Cash July 2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>

NEW

2013 RAM 1500 LARAMIE

QUAD CAB 4 X 4

\$7,766

IN TOTAL SAVINGS!

Black/Gold Pearl Coat, Leather trimmed bucket seats, Chrome body side Moldings, Chrome Tubular Side steps, U-Connect 8.4 inch Nav, Remote start, Receiver Hitch, 5.7 L Hemi V8, 6 Speed Auto Transmission + More!!

MSRP .....	\$45,265.00
Consumer Cash.....	\$1,250.00
Dealer Bonus Cash.....	\$1,250.00
Trade Assist Bonus.....	\$1,000.00
4th Of July Event Bonus.....	\$1,000.00
Wherley Motors Discount.....	\$3,266.00

\$37,499.00

NEW

2013 RAM 1500 ST

CREW CAB 4 X 4

\$9,041

IN TOTAL SAVINGS!

True Blue Clear Coat, Popular Equipment, 5.7 L Hemi V8, Receiver Hitch, Trailer Brake Control

Before Discounts .....	\$39,040.00
Package Savings.....	\$1,000.00
Consumer Cash.....	\$2,500.00
Bonus Cash .....	\$1,000.00
4th of July Bonus.....	\$1,000.00
Wherley Motors Discount .....	\$2,541.00
Ram Trade In Assist.....	\$1,000.00

4th of July Event Sale Price \$29,999.00

NEW

2013 RAM 2500 ST

CREW CAB 4 X 4

\$6,541

IN TOTAL SAVINGS!

Black/Gold Pearl Coat, 5.7 L Hemi V8, 6 Speed Auto Transmission, Popular Group, Chrome Appearance Package, Snowplow Prep, Popular Equipment, Anti Spin Differential, LT265/70R17E OWL On/Off Road Tires

Before Discounts .....	\$39,440.00
Retail Consumer Cash.....	\$2,000.00
Wherley Motors Discount .....	\$2,541.00
4th of July Event Bonus.....	\$1,000.00
Chrysler Capital Bonus Cash.....	\$1,000.00

\$32,899.00

Wherley Motors

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