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Fishing tourney nets plenty of carp

BY MEGHAN JACKSON
Guest Columnist

Between the strong winds and cloudless skies, the tournament was a challenge for some, but persistence and skill paid off during the four-hour time limit to catch as many carp as possible on Prior Lake, Spring Lake and Fish Lake.

Removing carp and promoting awareness of the destructive nature of the invasive fish was the main goal of the event, but another benefit was increasing the understanding of the carp

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Nicholas Simpkins, Ryan Coyle, David Simpkins and Ryan Wetherell of the under-18 team Back Country Bowfishing caught the largest carp at 28.8 pounds and 91 centimeters.

population in and around Prior Lake. In the winter of 2011-12, the watershed district, with the help of students from Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools, caught and tagged more than 1,700 fish in Spring Lake. Since then, fish with the distinctive tags and clipped fins have turned up in Spring and Prior lakes, and as far away as Jeffers Pond.

During the weigh-in tournament, volunteers kept their eyes open for the tagged fish, and spotted two carp with clipped fins. This will help to create an estimate of the number of carp in the lakes, and guide decisions about what should be done in the future. The watershed district is already planning future commercial seining (netting) to remove carp from Spring Lake; these wily competitors to our native fish will be facing a tough fight in the years to come.

After the tournament, the 1,464 pounds of carp were collected by Buckingham

Waste and transported to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) Organics Recycling Facility, where the carp will be incorporated with other organic material and turned into compost, a nutrient-rich soil. For more information about composting and the SMSC Organics Recycling Facility, visit their website at www.smscorf.com.

The watershed district would especially like to thank Captain Jack's for hosting the event. We also would like to thank Buckingham Waste and the SMSC Organics Recycling Facility for helping to transport and dispose of all the carp caught, and Encore Limousine for providing a shuttle service to and from the event. Also, many thanks to all of the participants, volunteers and spectators who helped to make this tournament a success.

Meghan Jackson is the outreach specialist with the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District.

Shakopee woman is 'Best Mom on Wheels'

BY PAT MINELLI
editor@shakopeenews.com

Nora Boyle of Shakopee is the 2013 "Best Mom on Wheels."

To recognize exceptional parents who defy the limitations of paralysis, the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation conducts Best Mom on Wheels and Best Dad on Wheels contests annually. For the moms, the contest looks to honor “amazing mother figures living with paralysis.”

People from across the country could read about each of the contestants and then cast their votes through last Thursday. Boyle was the top choice for moms this year.

The winner of each contest will receive a \$500 gift card from Tilt-A-Rack, producer of mobility hitch-mounted aluminum carriers to make the transportation of wheelchairs and electric mobility scooters easier and eliminate the need for trailers.

Boyle, 35, who is married to Jesse Boyle, leads a full and active life, just like most mothers of two children, except she does things from her wheelchair. She was in a car accident at age 16 on the way to school. She rolled her car and was thrown from it, breaking her back and crushing her spinal cord.

Boyle is a special education teacher's aide at an elementary school, a Girl Scout leader and loves going on scrapbooking retreats with her girlfriends. She doesn't see herself any differently than any other mom getting involved in whatever her two kids are doing. Her children are Owen, 10, and Debbie, 12.

"I think it's just my kids. They're in a lot of stuff and I like to be involved in their lives," Boyle said. "If I can, even I try to volunteer at my kids' activities."



Nora Boyle

just tries to do what other moms do.

When Boyle won the contest she said she was happy, but that in many ways, she's no different than other moms.

"I think there's a lot of good moms out there," she said. "I think there's a lot of good moms both out of wheels and in wheels. Any mom deserves an award."

Boyle was nominated for the award by her mother, Sue Hoffmann of Shakopee. She wrote:

"Nora does so much for people in her area. A Girl Scout leader, she has numerous ac-

activities, she has numerous accolades, nothing stops her. With two children ages 12 and 10, she is kept busy with their after-school programs. She is always on the go with different projects, has a full-time job in the school system, keeps her family ties together. She is just a wonderful person that is so independent and does things all the time for others, and she is so determined at everything she does. A few items she is involved with: community sales, Scouts, scrapbooking week ends, cooking, babysitting trips. She never seems to forget anyone or anything; when she is needed she is there.

"She has been wheelchair bound since she was 16 and she has just got better all the time. She sets goals, and reaches them, bungee jumping, sky diving, working; you name

it — she will try it. She lives in a non-accessible home with ramps built by her husband. She is determined not to bother people and do things for herself. If there was more space I could add all the actual adventures she has done. Please consider this remarkable young woman."

“The responsibilities of being a parent are endless, and there are many men and women who take on those responsibilities in the face of their own physical challenges,” said Peter T. Wilderotter, Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation president and CEO. “Through our annual Best Mom on Wheels and Best Dad on Wheels contests, we will once again honor two individuals living with paralysis who exhibit the compassion, fortitude and positivity needed to embrace family life, and serve not only as inspirations to other parents with paralysis, but also to able-bodied parents and their communities.”

The 2012 Best Dad on Wheels winner was Steven Laux, 36, of Maple Grove. When he's not working full-time as a marketing manager, Laux is either volunteering or playing with his three daughters from his wheelchair.

The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research and improving the quality of life for people living with paralysis through grants, information and advocacy. It meets all 20 of the Better Business Bureau's standards for charity accountability and holds the BBB's Charity Seal. For more information, visit www.ChristopherReeve.org or call 800-225-0292.

Allison Roorda contributed to this report.

Saints Healthcare golf tourney is June 13

The Saints Healthcare Foundation, a merger of the St. Francis and St. Gertrude's

foundations, will have its 16th annual "Tee One for Hope" Charity Golf Tournament to benefit both St. Gertrude's Health and Rehabilitation Center and St. Francis Regional Medical Center.

The golf tournament will take place Thursday, June 13 at Stonebrooke Golf Club, 2693 County Road 79, Shakopee with a 9 a.m. shotgun start.

"We were able to raise more than \$75,000 despite having our event rain out last year due to the longstanding, loyal support we received from corporations, vendors and community donors,"

said Carolyn Christopherson, Saints Healthcare Foundation golf tournament manager.

The "Tee One for Hope" golf tournament, which attracts participants throughout Scott and Carver counties, includes unique contests, hole activities, and opportunities to win team and individual prizes. The afternoon will conclude with a barbeque lunch buffet, silent auction and awards ceremony. The 18-hole four-person scramble sold out last year, so participants are encouraged to register early.

All proceeds raised from the golf tournament help to provide integrative health care services at St. Francis.

Regional Medical Center and St. Gertrude's Health and Rehabilitation Center.

The foundation is accepting silent auction items in support of this cause. Corporate sponsorships are also available. Cost is \$150 per golfer, which includes golf, cart, continental breakfast, lunch and donation to the foundation's Integrative HealthCare Fund benefiting both St. Gertrude and St. Francis.

For information on event sponsorship, donating items or to register, contact Carolyn Christopherson at (952) 428-GOLF (4653), cjchris@frontiernet.net, or visit www.saintshealthcarefoundation.org.