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DICKINSON COUNTY NEWS

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Anglers at the ready for annual Walleye Weekend



Seth Boyes
News Editor

It wasn't too long ago that those hoping to hook a fish in the Iowa Great Lakes had to come prepared with an ice auger but, with some early summer-like temperatures this season, the surface of the local lakes thawed rapidly ahead of the 41st annual Walleye Weekend fishing tournament.

Each year, 10 specially tagged walleyes are released into the local chain of lakes to mingle with all the panfish, bass and other prospective catches. Anglers entered in the upcoming tournament could win up to \$41,000 if they catch one of the tagged walleyes and confirm its serial number at participating business.

The tournament begins at 12:01 p.m. Sunday and ends at noon Sunday — participants can pay a

Walleye Weekend Preview
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WHERE TO LOOK:

The 10 tagged walleye will have been released by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources ahead of the tournament in locations on Big Spirit Lake, East Lake Okoboji and West Lake Okoboji, but chamber officials said they can also be caught in Little Spirit Lake, Upper Gar Lake, Lower Gar Lake or Minnowaska. Only fish caught in the contest area will be accepted and eligible for prizes at weigh-in stations.

WHERE TO WEIGH:

Official weigh-in stations for the 2023 Walleye Weekend tournament include:

Nature's Trading Post — 504 Hill Ave. in Spirit Lake
Daw Outdoor/The Hook Up — 2388 Highway 66 in Millard
Marr's Shell & Tackle — 2306 Okoboji Ave. in Millard

All fish must be alive and caught during tournament hours to qualify. All weigh stations have commercial scales certified by the state of Iowa. Individuals may weigh fish once per day but are limited to one winning weigh-in per licensed fish angler.

INGRAHAM PLEADS GUILTY TO FELONY ENTICEMENT

Seth Boyes
News Editor

A Spirit Lake man pleaded guilty to enticement of a minor Monday morning and was sentenced during the same court hearing. The Class D felony will require 48-year-old Christopher Craig Ingraham to register as a sex offender, submit to DNA profiling and be subject to two years of probation in addition to a five-year no contact order with the teenage victim.

Ingraham, the former chief nursing officer at Lakes Regional Healthcare in Spirit Lake, was charged after attempting to obtain explicit images from a then 14-year-old between February and March of 2020. Ingraham was accused of sending the girl several electronic messages and touching the teen's waist while she was visiting Ingraham's step-daughter. The victim — now 17 years old — made a statement Monday ahead of Ingraham's sentencing.

"It definitely was trying to get me to do something sexual with him," the victim said, citing one such explicit message. "Of course, I said no. I did not see him saying inappropriate things. It was clear to him I didn't like how he was making me feel. I feel as if these messages are enough to show his intentions on wanting to make something physical. He was clearly wanting me to reciprocate his intentions, whether it be over the phone or in person."

Ingraham named himself in to authorities in July of 2022.

"Since that time, I've been in counseling," Ingraham told the court Monday. "I've been seeing somebody to work on my

Ingraham Sentencing
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(Bottom) Christopher Ingraham, former chief nursing officer at Lakes Regional Healthcare, entered the courtroom Monday morning and pleaded guilty to the felony charge of enticing a minor. (Top) A small group of protesters gathered outside the courthouse ahead of Ingraham's sentencing on Monday in support of the victim, whom they felt was being threatened and silenced after an initial plea deal in the case. That plea deal was rejected by the court, and Ingraham pleaded guilty Monday to the original felony charge of enticing a minor. (Photos by Seth Boyes)

'Challenge by choice'



A group of 55 Spirit Lake sixth-grade students dashed off the starting line during last week's triathlon, which organizers hope will become an annual event. (Photos by Seth Boyes)

SLMS debuts its sixth-grade triathlon

Seth Boyes
News Editor

There was no podium. There were no medals. But that wasn't why dozens of Spirit Lake's sixth-grade students were running, pedaling and paddling their way through the school's debut triathlon last week. Rather, Spirit Lake Health and

Physical Education teacher Tim O'Hagan had offered each student the opportunity to find their strengths and areas for improvement as they prepared for the optional event, which he hopes will become a yearly happening.

A total of 51 sixth-grade students headed to the high school each the afternoon of April 26 to begin the first leg of the race. Students first ran 1 mile, then cycled

SLMS Triathlon
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Trio of area fire departments contain grass fire near Dickinson County line



Superior Fire Chief Kevin Swale walked along 348th Avenue as multiple crews contained a grass fire. Swale estimated the blaze consumed between 70 and 80 acres. (Photo by Seth Boyes)

Seth Boyes
News Editor

An Emmet county landowner's extended burn got out of hand last week and was blown across the county line, igniting a swath of conservation land in Dickinson County northeast of Superior. No injuries or damage were reported, but Superior Fire Chief Kevin Swale estimated the blaze consumed between 70 and 80 acres. "It was spreading quite rapidly," Swale said. "It's not far enough into the summer yet, so we don't have the green growth in the grasslands to slow stuff down for us. So people need to be pretty diligent about thinking about what the weather's doing when they start conducting burns."

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