

VOTED #1 SPECIAL SECTION BY THE MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Maple Flake

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INSIDE



New Derby Rules will be Enforced?

Derby committee has posted new rules at the 55 Landing

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Local Boy Scout Invents Fish Translator

A new phone app records and translates fish conversations!

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Last week on Maple Lake!

A string of odd calls leads to an In-depth Police Investigation!

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The Reel Deal – Let's get digital!

Committee considers switching to a virtual ice fishing contest in 2027

By Paige Turner

After years of dealing with unpredictable Minnesota weather, attempted sabotage and lawsuits over frozen fingers the Maple Lake Ice Fishing Derby Committee is considering going virtual.

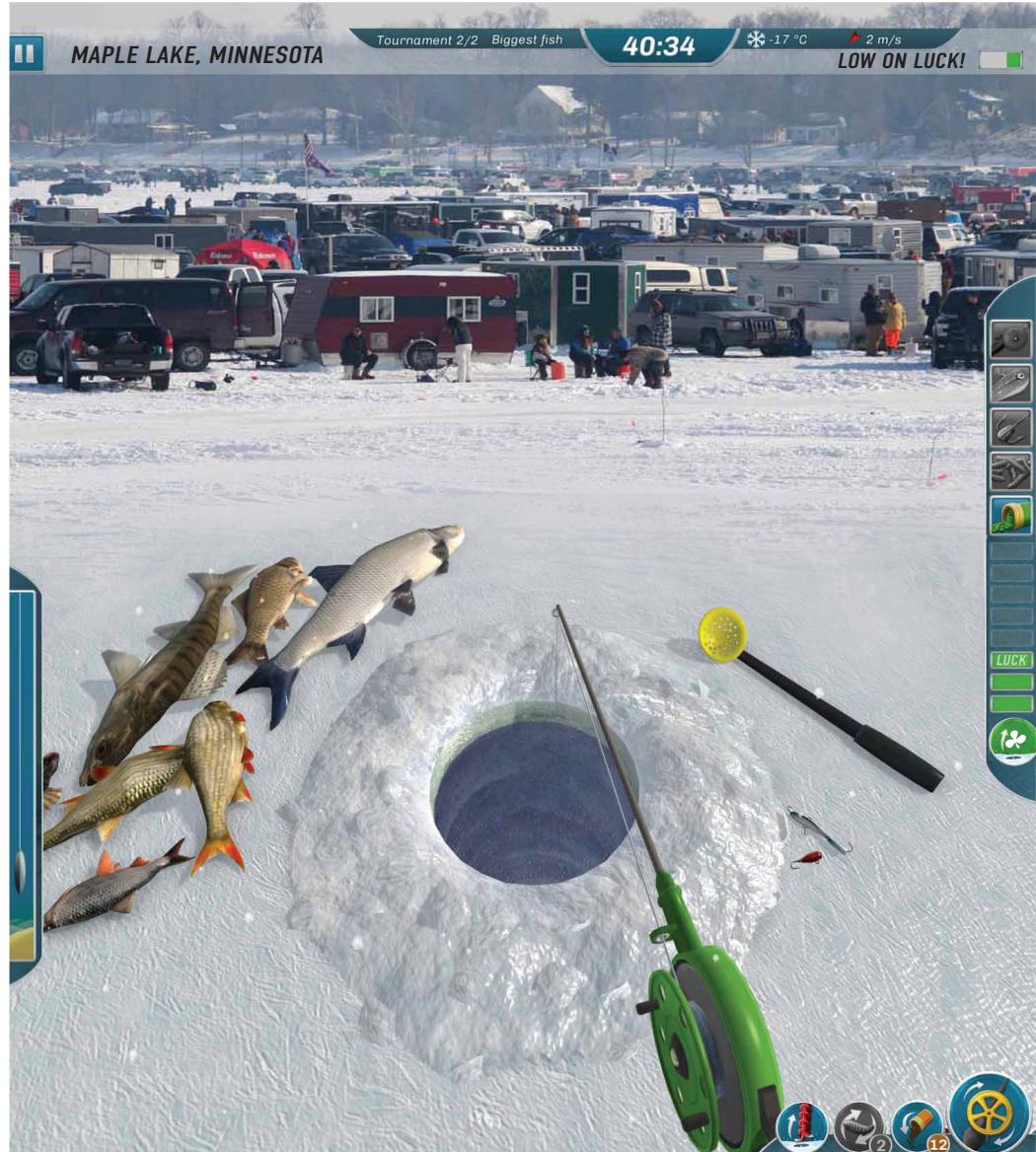
The committee's new president Freda Fish petitioned for the change at last month's meeting and the idea will be put to a vote tonight. If approved, it would mean radical changes for the beloved Maple Lake event.

"Three out of the last four years we've had to cancel or make last minute changes that affected participation and enjoyment because the ice wasn't thick enough. And when it was held as intended, it attracted nuts like those nudists who tried to sue us over their frostbitten bits," Fish said. "Just imagine the headaches we could save ourselves if everybody just stayed home and fished from their living room couch."

Local gaming developers from Better Than the Real Deal LLC were in attendance to give a presentation on the proposed software. If a virtual event were approved, the company would be hired to design the game to make it as real to the actual Maple Lake event as possible.

"We will develop a game so realistic, so immersive that when you put on that headset, you'll be transported onto frozen Maple Lake," Better Than the Real Deal President Ben Makinitup said.

Makinitup described how he and his crew are in the process of developing a new AI driven touch sensitive technology in their underground lab south of town near Howard Lake they call "Feelin Fine". It is slated to be "mostly" finished by next winter and if



The Maple Lake Ice Derby VR fishing tournament in 2027 would be as realistic as the real thing with all the comforts of home! Software developers have designed an app down to the smallest details.

Image courtesy of Cam Raman

the fishing derby were to volunteer as a test subject, the committee could be looking at a 40% discount on the software.

Makinitup explained how their virtual system creates its immersive world with high-definition graphics and miniature motors that simulate pressure and move-

ment.

"If you want it really real, we can simulate say, getting a hook stuck in your finger, if you're into that kind of thing," he said.

They are also working on a technology

(See "Digital Ice Derby" page 13)

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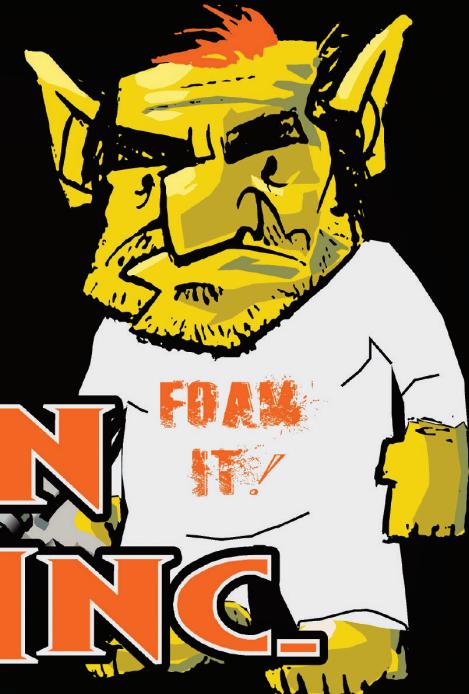
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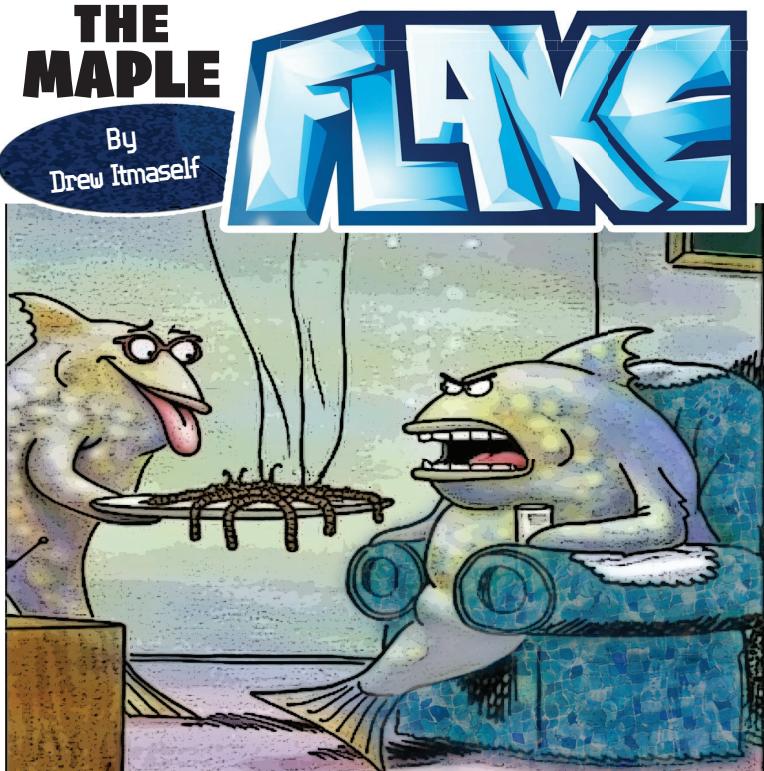
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"Why are you being so nice all of a sudden?"



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LAW AND ORDER DESCEND ON *Fishing Derby*

By Paige Turner

Contestants in this year's Ice Fishing Derby should be aware of some changes taking effect this year, specifically as it applies to safety.

The DNR is requiring anglers to obtain certification before handling fish of certain sizes and species due to the danger of being bitten or pierced by a fin. The DNR (Department of Nonsense and Redundancies) is offering online classes now through the end of the ice fishing season and proof of certification must be presented at check in on derby day. DNR officials said the action is necessary after last year's tragedy involving State Representative Howie Fellapart who lost the tip of his pinky finger to an overly aggressive pike at the popular Maple Lake event.

The new rule inspired the Derby board to take a closer look at its own safety policy and that's when members realized they didn't have one. Considering they've been sued like five times for negligence they decided it was pretty stupid planning on their part and immediately set out to rectify the matter by establishing a number of safety guidelines.

The board assigned a committee the task of coming up with a list of regulations that will make the annual fishing derby safer and subsequently more fun because "being safe is having fun," which coincidentally is the derby's new motto.

The safety committee presented five rules that the board adopted at its January meeting and will go into effect this Feb. 7th.

New Derby Rules are as follows:

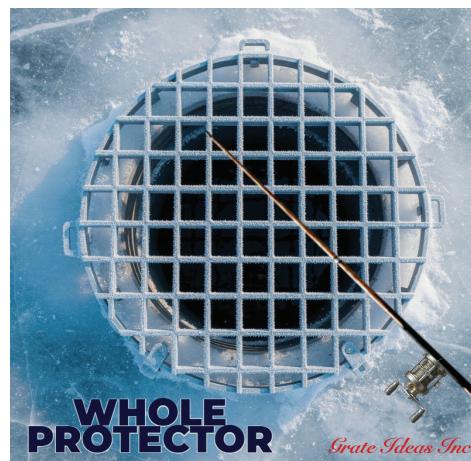
1 Everyone participating in the Derby, whether a contestant or observer, must wear a derby-approved life preserver when out on the ice. That includes inside fish houses and under the big white tent (yes, even at the after party though it's going cramp this reporter's style). The Rubber Ducky Ring © life preserver received unanimous committee approval



Everyone must wear these Derby-approved life preservers on the ice at this year's derby.

Photos by Cam Raman

because it's quote, "perky expression and vibrant demeanor is like a ray of sunshine on a cold winter's day." For the sunniest effect, the Rubber Ducky Ring should be yellow, the official rule states, but other colors are permissible as long as it is not green, black, brown, blue, purple, red or mauve.



These mandatory hole protectors will be on sale Derby-day by Grate Ideas Inc. Look for their booth on the ice and get yours or get disqualified.

2 All those who plan to fish with a child or pet under the age of 10 must baby proof their fishing holes. The committee has contracted with the locally owned Grate Ideas Inc. who have come up with an ingenious product that is POKE (Protect our Kids Establishment) certified and will be sold onsite at the derby. The product is called The Whole Protector and provides ample safety while allowing a line to be dropped through the bars of the grate into the water. To remove the grate to retrieve a fish simply pry the five safety stakes out of the ice and slide the grate to the side. Sliding is the recommended method of removal as the grate is very, very heavy.

3 After a 2024 lawsuit that last year prompted the board to post signs reminding folks that ice is indeed slippery, the committee came up with a rule to require all who walk on the ice to wear cleats, that includes pets. The derby lost a lawsuit two years ago to Upton Ogood who claimed the board neglected its duties by not warning him just how slippery a frozen lake can be. Ogood won a \$50,000

settlement to cover the medical expenses associated with the broken tail his cat Mr. Fluffy McFluffbutt suffered when he slipped and did an impressive 360, mid-air flip outside Ogood's fish house during the derby. The frantic cat retreated inside the fish shanty after the accident and promptly fell into the uncovered ice hole which prompted rule No. 2.

4 In the last five years the board has been sued three times for loss of appendages due to frostbite costing the committee thousands of dollars. Since 90% of the derby's income is donated they were understandably concerned, which inspired rule No. 4. The rule states that 99.9% of Derby contestants' skin must be covered by three to four layers of insulated material if the temperature is below 20 degrees Fahrenheit and if you plan on being outside your fish house for more than 15 minutes. This will be monitored closely, Committee Chair Dick Tator said, so please consider the distance you need to travel from your ice shanty to the judges table in relation to the outside temperature and plan to wear adequate clothing. According to Dr. Noah Lott, the threshold for frostbite is statistically increased if your skin is exposed to air colder than 20 degrees while traveling at or above 20 mph so if you plan on driving a snowmo-



Mr. Fluffy McFluffbutt models his new cleats. All pets and people will be required to wear cleats at the fishing derby this year to avoid accidents.

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bile or ATV that is unprotected from the elements you will need to double your protective layers by 100%, the rule states.

5 An incident that required a police investigation last week inspired the final rule. A combination of alcohol and CO2 poisoning caused hallucinations that made the local papers and reflected poorly on the Derby's image, Committee Vice Chair Sue Me said. Since they can't do anything about anglers and their Coors, committee members decided to enact a rule to combat CO2 poisoning. The rule states that your icehouse must be properly ventilated with a 6x6 foot air vent that opens directly to the outdoors. If your heat source cannot keep your house warmer than 10 degrees, the frost-bite prevention measures stated above must be adhered to.

The derby board said the new safety policy is a work in progress and new rules may be added as situations arise. The key objective is to keep contestants and all who enjoy the Derby safe, Chair Dick Tator said.

"With the commonsense commodity being as scarce as it is we must ready ourselves to be in a position to tell people what to do, even at the smallest most insignificant level to protect not only them, but ourselves," Chair Dick Tator said.

The new rules will be posted at the 55 landing prior to Saturday's festivities.



The Maple Lake Ice Fishing Derby committee has already posted its new rules at the HWY 55 landing.

Good Luck at the Derby!



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BOY SCOUT INVENTS THE

By Paige Turner

The Maple Lake Ice Fishing Derby Committee is struggling with an ethical question prompted by a local boy scout's invention that uses AI to communicate with fish.

At the committee's Tuesday, Jan. 3 meeting, Miles A. Head of Troop 411 presented a phone app he has developed that uses deep-learning models to deliver near-human translations in real time.

In English that means we'll be able to hear and understand what fish are saying.

Head claims the app is simple to use and requires minimal equipment, only a phone and a small microphone that drops down into the ice fishing hole.

"This new technology will help anglers to better understand their prey and ultimately be more successful when it comes to reeling in those big fish," he said.

Head developed the technology as his Eagle Scout service project with hopes the fishing committee would agree to use it in the upcoming derby.

"I've used it a number of times with positive results. Now it's time to see how it holds up in a large, competitive setting like the derby," he said.

At first committee members were skeptical and wanted proof that the technology worked. Always prepared, the boy scout pulled out his phone and played a recording he made on Maple Lake the night before. All were amazed when a masculine voice with a slight British accent came through the phone's tiny speakers: "Supertime gents, what are you in the mood for," it said. Another voice, slightly softer and with a cockney lilt responded, "ow about something red, red and stinky, eh? That will fill me belly up right," to which a chorus of agreements followed in a variety of accents and languages. Head later explained all the different languages and accents was AI working to distinguish between multiple speakers.

"Based on this conversation I used a Scarlet CrankMaster 2,000 and caught my limit in just 10 minutes," Head said pulling a bucket of frozen fish from underneath the podium where he stood. After several minutes of oohing and

Interspecies Translator



awing over the impressive catch, committee members were thoroughly convinced and the meeting turned serious.

"This technology brings with it some serious ethical questions and I'm afraid I just can't condone using it in our derby," stated Committee Vice Chair Debbie Downer.

Her comment received some mumbles of agreement from committee members who assumed she meant because it would give an unfair advantage to certain people, but it turns out that's not what she meant at all.

"I mean, we're talking about interspecies eavesdropping," she clarified.

It was obvious her fellow board members

thought she was joking, but as Downer's expression fell so did their laughter.

"You're seriously talking invasion of fish privacy," marveled Arti Kidme who everyone knows is a terrible fisherman and was practically bouncing in his seat in anticipation of giving this new app a whirl. "That's plain crazy," he argued, "and worst of all, by denying this young man's request we'll be putting at risk his aspirations for Eagle Scout. If he doesn't make Eagle how will he get into the college of his choice, and then the job of his dreams, marriage to an upstanding woman and the average ideal family size of 2.7 children! Why, we might as well take away his entire future!"

"This technology brings with it some serious ethical questions and I'm afraid I just can't condone using it in our derby"

Debbie Downer
— Committee Vice Chair

The air was thick with tension while Downer and the others grappled with the ethical dilemma they were in.

Chairman Holden D'Gavel acknowledged Head's accomplishment was "brilliant" and far ahead of any known technology on the market. When asked where he learned the skills do this, Head replied coolly, "high school physics." Here the debate veered off track as the committee marveled over the prowess of our local public schools for several minutes.

"Head has obviously shown a lot of initiative not to mention smarts, all the qualities of an Eagle Scout. He's a real credit to our community and a shining example of our public school system," D'Gavel said.

Ophelia Pane suggested they use the technology, but with some rules. After several hours of bickering, I mean debate, during which the "ethical" question of "interspecies eavesdropping" resurfaced (seriously, it did), the committee agreed to have their lawyer draw up a contract

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Fish were leaping right out of the water to talk with Boy Scout Miles A. Head of Troop 411 the first time he used his fish translator. His friend Ima Believer caught this amazing encounter on camera.

that every angler will be required to sign before downloading the app.

Downer insisted anglers must agree to use the information gained from listening in on the conversations of a fish or school of fish for research purposes only and in no way use it to cause harm to the aforementioned fish or school of fish.

Kidme vehemently objected, stating that was the entire point of the app, to cause harm to fish! Namely to catch them and fry them up for dinner!

The two squared off for several minutes and accusations flew regarding Downer

being a “party pooper” and Kidme’s legendary inability to catch fish. Finally, they agreed on editing the stipulation to state if anglers must do harm, it had to be fast and painless; a quick smash against the ice for instance, none of this letting the fish suffocate or freeze to death in a snowbank.

The suggestion to catch and release came up but was quickly rejected by all parties.

After several more hours a rough draft was drawn up and approved unanimously. The board expected to have a final

draft of the rules reviewed by their attorney and posted on their website by the end of the week.

Once anglers have signed the agreement they will be directed to the Boy Scout Troop 411 website where they can purchase the microphone. The app will be available to download for free and is compatible with both iPhone and Android. Proceeds from the microphone sale will go to product development and the Boy Scout Troop’s summer trip to Antarctica.

Head thanked the committee and reminded them that this new technology

really is something to celebrate.

“Not to toot my own horn too much, but with this app I’ve proven that the dream of universal communication is closer than ever with AI acting as our global and now interspecies interpreter.”

No one seemed to consider the threat this AI program could present to humanity but be assured if the robots try to take over the world, this reporter will be there to cover it.

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Lake monsters, Smurfs and Elvis!

By Paige Turner

Carbon monoxide and alcohol is thought to have played a role in a bizarre incident on Maple Lake early this afternoon involving several mythical creatures, cartoon characters and what can only be described as the Loch Ness Monster, or in this case, the Maple Lake Monster.

Around 12:30 p.m. Saturday, officials began receiving reports of strange creatures lurking beneath the ice.

According to the sheriff's report, the first complaint involved 29-year-old Al Coholic who stated he saw a giant shadow pass beneath his ice fishing hole when reeling in a fish then a "snake-like" creature emerged from the water into his fish house and ate his the fish right out of his hands! Coholic claims the "snake-like" creature was actually just the creature's head suspended on a long neck that was attached to the giant shadow he saw pass by

earlier.

This is a transcript of the actual conversation between the 911 operator and Coholic:

Operator: "911, please state your emergency"

Coholic: Yes, umm, this is gonna sound crazy, but a giant Lake monster just robbed my fish house."

Operator: (pause) "I'm sorry, could you repeat that?"

Coholic: "I said a Lake monster just broke into my fish house and ate my fish, and I'm afraid it's going to come back and eat me!"

Operator: (pause) "Sir, did you say a Lake monster broke into your fish house?"

Coholic: "Yes."

Operator: "Is the Lake monster still in your fish house?"

Coholic: "no, no, it's gone now."

Operator: "sir, have you ingested any illegal substances today? Are you on any medications?"

Coholic: "no, no, I mean I had a couple beers, but that's it. I swear!"

Operator: "sir, do you have a history of mental illness.... (operator is cut off)

Coholic: "I'm not crazy! I really saw it and it's gonna come back for me. All it got was a couple shiners and that can't possibly fill that huge thing up!"

Operator: "sir, I want you to relax and step out of your fish house."

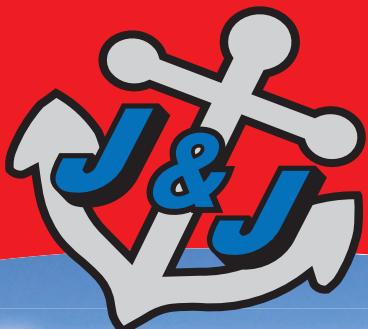
Coholic: "What! No! If I leave now that yahoo Bob LaBla is gonna catch my fish! I'm pre-fishing for next Saturday's Derby. He beats me every year! But not this year! No way! (hangs up)

Operator: "sir? Sir? I lost him."



AI Coholic's description of the lake creature that stole his walleye while fishing on Maple Lake last week was recreated by a police sketch artist last week.

Images courtesy of Drew Itmaseif



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Ten minutes after that disturbing phone call another came in from a woman claiming dozens of tiny blue men were squeezing through the cracks in her fish house and playing with her fishing lines, swinging from them and such. In the official police report she called them “annoyingly cheerful” and “humming a song that is going to be stuck in my head for weeks - fa, la, la la, la, la.”

Further complaints involved a green ogre with a Scottish accent, a merman holding a trident, two unicorns and a singing Charlie the

Tuna.

“At first we thought it was a joke, a very bad and very illegal joke,” officer Pat Downe said. “But then we started getting so many calls they were tying up our phone lines, and we were worried they would start interfering with real emergencies, so we thought we better send somebody out there.”

Downe himself took on the assignment. At first, he saw nothing out of the ordinary. Then he started knocking on fish house doors and visiting with the occupants. He

soon discovered all of them were showing symptoms of paranoia and hallucinations.

“They were all acting nuts,” he later told the Flake. “One guy said he looked out his window and saw Elvis dancing with his ex-wife out on the ice. And they were all saying crazy things like that. Truth be told, I didn’t know what to think. Either they were having one heck of a party out there, or something was really wrong with these people. I didn’t suspect carbon monoxide poisoning until that pink elephant in a tutu handed me a beer. I jumped up so fast and was out of that fish house before you could say crazy.”

Upon further inspection, Downe discovered that snow, which had been falling steadily all morning, had plugged the chimneys of all the fish houses whose occupants had reported seeing things. Most had also consumed their fair share of alcohol, Downe added. Combined, the two ingredients were enough to create some extraordinary fantasies.

Once the anglers were in the fresh air for a while, and they began to sober up, their hallucinations disappeared.

“I have to say, it was one of the strangest cases I’ve ever seen,”

Downe admitted. “Stranger even than that string of crimes committed by a cow last year. It always gets weird around Derby time. I can’t wait to see what happens next.”

Police officer Pat Downe and sketch artist Drew Itmasef were busy answering strange calls last week on Maple Lake . It was later determined anglers were having carbon monoxide induced hallucinations.

Image courtesy of Drew Itmasef



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Ice Derby Grand Prize

By Paige Turner

For 51 years, the local Ice Fishing Derby has given away a posh Icye Kastle fish house to the winning angler. But in a surprise move, Tuesday, the derby board announced they will not be working with Icye Kastle this year because of an “unexpected financial hardship.” Instead, they have purchased a fish house from an out-of-state company called Ice Hovel Fishhouses, Inc.

“It’s a great house, a throwback to a simpler time. The kind of shanty our grandfathers grew up using,” President Terry (Bull) Lyer said. “Sure, it could use a few updates, but that’s why we got such a good deal and board members Dusty Saaz and Duane Pipe have volunteered to spruce it up. What’s most important here is it’s in our budget.”

Flake reporters reached out to board treasurer Fonda Numbers to clarify what President Lyer meant by “financial hardship” since just last month the board approved a budget that showed a healthy fund balance. After some gentle prodding Numbers, all too easily confided that board member Owen Big had lost a large sum of the derby’s money betting on a popular, Texas bar game called Chicken Sh* Bingo.

“Apparently its huge in Texas; that’s where they vacationed last week,” Numbers said. “I don’t like to gossip, but his wife Bette (Reel-Big) told me Owen spent all their cash and maxed out their credit cards before they were halfway through their stay. She didn’t know how they were going to eat or afford gas money for the trip home. She said she tried to convince Owen to call her family for help, but he insisted they don’t take charity. Then he remembered he knew the derby’s checking account number. Then I guess Owen got this crazy idea to try and win back what he lost,” Numbers said.

For those who have never heard of Chicken Sh* Bingo, according to Bizarreet.com it’s a long-running tradition in

A Historic Ice hovel



Owen Big and his wife Bette Reel-Big lost a large sum of derby money betting on a Texas bar game, Chicken Sh* Bingo. The couple took this selfie during their recent vacation.

Texas in which chickens are released on top of a numbered grid. If the bird drops a “gift” on the same number that’s on the player’s ticket, that player wins.

According to Numbers, Owen put all his “borrowed” money on a hen named Lola who the bartender told him was a sure thing. When she failed to defecate on his number he was devastated.

Owen and Bette have since returned and are recovering from the experience at their Maple Lake home. Grateful to be back on snowy soil, Bette was willing to answer some questions from Flake reporters.

“At first it was a lot of fun,” Bette said. “It was so primal and crude, not like any game we ever played in Minnesota. But when that bartender told Owen to bet it all

on Lola, well that just didn’t smell right to me, in fact the whole thing started to really stink.”

Treasurer Numbers confided that Owen had lost more than half of the derby’s money and an Ice Hovel was literally all they could afford.

President Lyer tried to put a positive spin on the whole fiasco with an enthusiastic description of what everyone knows is a subpar grand prize.

“It’s really not so bad,” he said at a press conference later that day. “We’ll pull it out of the lake, get it dried off and patched up and, well, it has some really nice features.

Let me read you the product description, that does it more justice than I ever could,” he said.

President Lyer then read the following: “This single frame, single story fish house has everything an angler could want. It comes equipped with a fully functioning door and a cute little window that frames the stunning winter landscape outside. The missing glass in the window makes the view even clearer. The rough, unwashed wood-plank floors will provide great traction and keep you from slipping. The floor is also conveniently riddled with holes allowing for fishing versatility. If the fish aren’t biting in one hole, move to another and another and another. Anglers won’t have to worry about deadly CO2 gathering in their fish house from their heating source either, as there is plenty of ventilation.”

President Lyer added the Derby will donate a waterproof tarp to throw over the hole in the roof in case of freezing rain.

Meanwhile the derby board has decided not to press charges against Big. Their attorney Al Roulette stated, “we’ve all gotten ourselves into binds like this and I advised them it’s better to forgive and forget.”

While it means a slightly lesser quality grand prize at this year’s event, the board is already brainstorming ideas to recoup the money. Feeling indebted to the organization - and rightly so - Big is looking into getting a charitable gambling license and starting his own version of Chicken Sh* Bingo, although he proposes using ferrets instead of chickens.

“It’s a great money maker; you should have seen the crowds. It won’t take us long at all to be back in the black and be assured, next year’s grand prize is going to be bigger and better than ever,” Big said.





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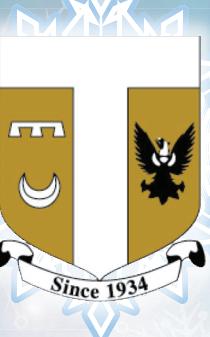


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Digital Ice Derby

(From page 1)

just for the derby that incorporates tiny AC units and fans in the headset that simulate air movement allowing the player to literally feel the bite of cold air on their face. The great part about it is the cold air can be turned off at any time, so no more frozen nose hairs, Makinitup said.

Included in the package are scented candles to put the finishing touches on the entire illusion. Scents include woodburning stove, dead fish and "cold" although Makinitup said they're still trying to figure out exactly what "cold" smells like.

"We're told it definitely has a smell," he said.

Using hundreds of pictures of past



If a virtual reality ice fishing contest were approved for 2027, Fishing Derby contestants would download this app to get in on the action.

events, Better Than the Real Deal LLC will create a virtual terrain that replicates the fishing derby down to the last detail, going so far as to include the famous ice bar under the big white tent. They can even incorporate live music.

"We'll still be able to have the party, but we won't have to worry about anyone drinking too much and getting unruly, you know, because you can't actually drink the alcohol, because it's virtual," Fish stated enthusiastically but unnecessarily.

In addition to state-of-the-art graphics and sensations the game will incorporate real to life casting and reeling motions that are quote "so simple a toddler could do it."

"To drop the line into the hole the virtual fisher person will press the A and B button on the left controller while simultaneously pushing back the joystick on the right controller. The controller will vibrate when

"Theoretically, we could even make the grand prize virtual, that would save us a ton of money."

— Ty Coon
Committee Treasurer

a fish is on the line. You set the hook by pressing the X button on the right controller then while holding the left controller you pump your fist up and down until the fish emerges from the hole. Easy, peasy lemon squeasy," Makinitup said, wisely ignoring the committee members' vacant expressions.

There'd be no more trekking across the ice to the judges table either. Just hold both triggers for 5 seconds and Voilà, your catch is submitted.

To make up for lost income an in-person event draws through food and drink sales on the ice, the committee would consider in-game purchases and advertising for local businesses. Players will have the option of uploading their credit card information prior to the start of the contest to buy items like "luck." Luck can be used to increase your chances of catching that really big fish. The more "luck" you buy, the better the odds of reeling in a winner.

If you are the frugal type, you can go the old-fashioned route of earning skill by catching a set number of fish in specific species. This option is free, but takes much, much longer, game designer Willie Doit said.

Using their credit card on file players can choose to upgrade their fishing equipment which also increases their chances of catching a keeper, ie. poles, tackle, etc.

Local bars and restaurants will have the option of purchasing ads that will appear every 15 minutes throughout the three-hour contest offering food and drink which players will be able to order right through their headset and have delivered to their home.

"Imagine all the excitement of ice fishing minus the work of having to lug all your equipment miles across a frozen lake looking for that perfect spot only to find out an hour later it wasn't so perfect after all, and now you have to pack everything up and do it all over again," Makinitup said. "With our virtual Maple Lake Ice



A player's avatar can enjoy a drink at the virtual after party with other contestants at the big white tent and virtual ice bar!

Fishing Tournament game, you won't have to worry about frostbitten toes or fingers, you won't have to worry about falling through a patch of thin ice or yuck, touching a slimy fish!"

Committee members Fran Tick and Norma Lee Shy were obviously wowed by the technology and would have voted yes then and there without even seeing the price tag— which is HUGE by the way, even with the discount.

Peg Legge showed some concern about being a guinea pig to untested technology



Next year's Ice Fishing contestants will fish from the comfort of their couches if committee members approve a new virtual reality contest.

which could result in more of the law-suits President Fish was trying to avoid but lured by the opulence of Makinitup's description she was quickly cowed into submission.

With his calculator in hand, Committee Treasurer Ty Coon declared that after the initial cost, the game could be a huge money maker for the event.

"Theoretically, we could even make the grand prize virtual," he said. "That would save us a ton of money."

Jerry Atrick expressed his reservations by ceremoniously taking the podium to describe in an overly long oration his experiences fishing on Maple Lake as a kid and how young people spend too much time indoors in front of screens as it is, but since he's old and more of a figure-head who doesn't even get a vote, everyone ignored him.

If approved for next year's event, the committee would have a lot of details to work out. Namely how much equipment they would have to buy to provide each participant with the proper gear, how they would get the gear to each participant considering contestants come from all over the state and how much they would have to charge to make up the cost. It seemed a daunting task and may just be the blow of reality in an otherwise beautiful, virtual dream.

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FOR SALE

Wedding dress for sale. I am selling my wedding dress. This is a beautiful size 10 gown. It was never altered because I was a perfect size 10 when I wore this gown 20 years ago. Now, I am a perfect size . . . oh, wait, moving on . . . back to the dress. I saved this dress because I thought my daughter would one day wear it. It turns out she is a perfect (and very short) size 2. No amount of altering will fix this dress for her.

If you are getting married and want a beautiful vintage gown, this is it. If you are not getting married, here is a list of things you can do in a wedding

dress besides get married: Go bowling, Halloween costume, scare your boyfriend, wear to Rocky Horror Picture Show midnight showing, Wear to sign your divorce papers, tell your new ex you are in a hurry, wear it to chaperone your son's prom, wear it on Santa's lap, tell him you want a husband, keep it hanging in the back of your car and every time you get pulled over for speeding, cry and tell the officer you are late for your wedding.

Reptiles for sale. I am going through a difficult breakup and impulsively adopted 16 different types of reptiles over Craigslist. I have made a huge mistake. My roommates are furious. I have 1 ball python, 7 various geckos, a bearded dragon, and 2 red slider turtles. They are all named Amanda. No rehoming fee. Call to adopt all or as many as you like. 761-456-9876.

Mattress. Meet me at Pizza Hut tomorrow at 4 p.m. if you want a king-sized mattress. We'll go to my mom's house and get it. It's brand new, except for some cat hair. Bring a couple bucks for some Gatorades or Snapples or some Fritos. – Owen

Georgia peaches: California grown 89 cents lb.

Used toilet paper – for sale. I have a wide selection of brands and designs, call for details and prices. 430-756-7897.

FREE

Free – 20 tins of Holiday popcorn (minus the caramel corn). Message Howie Ateitup

FOUND

Dirty white dog. Looks like a rat. . . been out for a while. . . better be a reward.

LOVE LINES

You were the tall brunette with the near perfect body that farted in the bread section last night at Cub Foods. I was the guy next to you that looked over and asked, "Was that you?" You quickly replied "No. . . Wasn't me!" You almost seemed insulted I would ask. As the stink grew you continued to deny your flatulence, but it was evident. I tried to get rid of the stench by waving 2 loafs of Ciabatta bread. You proceeded to storm off in an angry manner. You are beautiful and even if you are a liar and fart like a Clydesdale horse, I'd love to meet up sometime. If interested, text Terry Bull at 245-896-6754.

WANTED

Man wanted to work in dynamite factory. Must be willing to fly.

WANTED: One of those coaches that sees potential in me.

Wanted to buy: Playpen, cradle, and highchair. Also, two single beds.

Wanted: More wishes. Does that work here?

Wanted: someone who kind of looks like me to attend my high school reunion to see if anyone remembers me enough to notice it is not me.

LOST

Deputy Marshall Law lost a handgun and badge from his patrol car while it was being washed by prisoners at the local training center. Please return to City Hall if found.

LOST MARBLES: Full set last seen the night before I had my first kid. If you find them, please text me at 555-6466 because I haven't been able to answer an incoming phone call to have a real conversation since 2019.

MISC.

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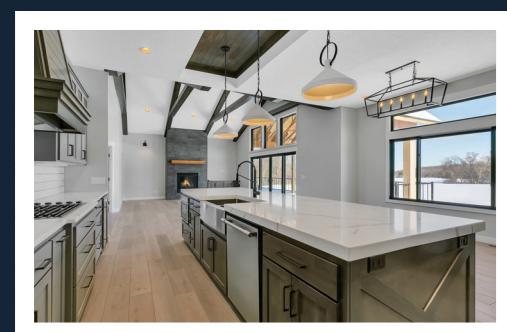
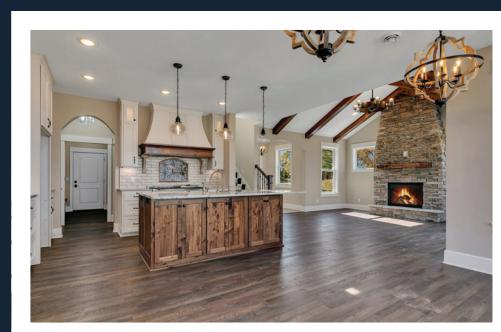
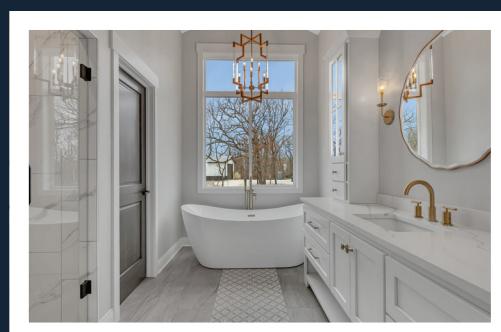


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