

# NEW ULM JOURNAL

Capital for a Day event

TO THE EDITOR:

Riverside Park along the Minnesota River is the place to be next Thursday afternoon (May 15), especially for kids.

At approximately 4:30 p.m. that day, a huge flathead catfish will be released into the Minnesota River - a catfish wearing a special tag worth \$1000 to any person lucky enough to someday catch this fish. While the catfish release is the centerpiece of the event, it is only part of the free festivities that will take place at the Park beginning at 3 p.m.

As part of New Ulm's "Capital for a Day" celebration, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), City of New Ulm, the New Ulm Sport Fishermen Club and KNUJ radio have teamed up to sponsor the catfish event. A variety of activities for kids, from learning to cast to fish printing, will be offered. Youth are encouraged to bring rods and reels and take part in a special fishing event beginning at about 5 p.m. (bait will be provided.)

There will be displays and exhibits of interest to adults as well as kids, from special DNR boats and equipment to tanks with fish species from the Minnesota River, invasive species, a turtle telemetry study, shoreline planting information, invertebrates and mussels from the river, and more.

The River Regional History and Interpretive Center will also be open to the public that afternoon with a special program to be held directly behind the building at 4 p.m.. Lt. Governor Carol Molnau, DNR Commissioner Mark Moisten and others will participate in the program that will introduce and present prizes to the top ten finalists from a New Ulm Elementary School catfish essay contest. The grand prize winner of that contest will receive a special prize and be invited to join DNR Commissioner Holsten and others when the fish is released from a boat into the Minnesota River.

The goal of the event is to highlight New Ulm as a proud and historic river town, promote a greater understanding of why our state's namesake river deserves better treatment than it has received in the past, and provide a fun outdoor recreation experience for kids. See

you there!

TOM CONROY

DNR Regional Information Officer

New Ulm