FIRE DEPARTMENT 5:05 P.M. 09/29/17 N. LUKASAVITZ

River Falls fire chief, Scott Nelson, says the fire department’s annual open house is a city tradition that expands and improves each year, with this year being no exception.

Nathan Lukasavitz (LUKE-us-av-its) has the story.

MP3 RUNS: 1:30 Q: “…LUKASAVITZ.”

NATURAL SOUND: (NINE SECONDS)

NATHAN LUKASAVITZ: THE 2017 FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE OFFERED A VARIETY OF GAMES, COMPETITIONS, AND ACTIVITES, SOME OF WHICH WERE BRAND NEW TO THE EVENT, OTHERS WERE REPEATED AS ANNUAL FAVORITES. HOWEVER, FOR FIRE CHIEF SCOTT NELSON, HIS FAVORITE ASPECT OF THE EVENT IS ONE THAT HAS LITTLE TO DO WITH FIRE SAFETY.

SCOTT NELSON: (LAUGHTER) THE FOOD (LAUGHTER). THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN RIVER FALLS MAKE THAT FOR US. ACTUALLY, WHAT THEY DO IS WE HAVE A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM, AND THEIR COOKING CLASS ACTUALLY MAKES US OUR MEALS EVERY MONDAY NIGHT FOR TRAINING. WE, OF COURSE, PAY FOR THE FOOD, BUT THEN THAT HELPS THEIR BUDGET, AND THEN THEY COOK THE FOOD FOR US, AND TODAY THEY MADE US SLOPPY JOES.

NATHAN LUKASAVITZ: NOT ALL FIREFIGHTERS ON THE DEPARTMENT FOUND THE FOOD TO BE THEIR FAVORITE PART. FIREFIGHTER DOUG RUDESILL HAD A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT OPINIION.

DOUG RUDESILL: I’M THE CAPTAIN OF THE LADDER TRUCK, SO THAT’S THE BEST ASPECT OF THE EVENT IS THE TRUCK THAT’S THE BIGGEST OF THE FLEET.

NATHAN LUKASAVITZ: ACCORDING TO THE ORGANIZER OF THE EVENT, PAULINE WILLIAMS, THE THING THAT APPEARED TO BE THE MOST POPULAR AMONGST THE 400 PLUS PEOPLE WHO ATTENDED WERE THE LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS.

PAULINE WILLIAMS: EVERY YEAR WE TRY TO DO SOMETHING NEW, SO THE NEW THING THAT WE HAD THIS YEAR WAS THE SEATBELT CONVINCER, IT’S CALLED, THE ROLLOVER SIMULATOR FROM THE STATE OF WISCONSIN. THAT WAS A BIG HIT. AND THEN, OF COURSE, THE INFLATABLE OBSTACLE COURSE WAS A BIG HIT WITH THE KIDS.

NATHAN LUKASAVITZ: IN ADDITION TO ALL OF THE CITY FIREFIGHTERS WHO HELPED WITH THE OPEN HOUSE, CITY ADMINISTRATOR SCOT SIMPSON WAS PRESENT AT THE EVENT AS WELL AS SEVERAL OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATION STAFF. FOR THE FALCON NEWS SERVICE, I’M NATHN LUKASAVITZ.

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