

LOCALNEWS

Flow into Rainy Lake reduced

More than 1.6 inches of rain fell Tuesday

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

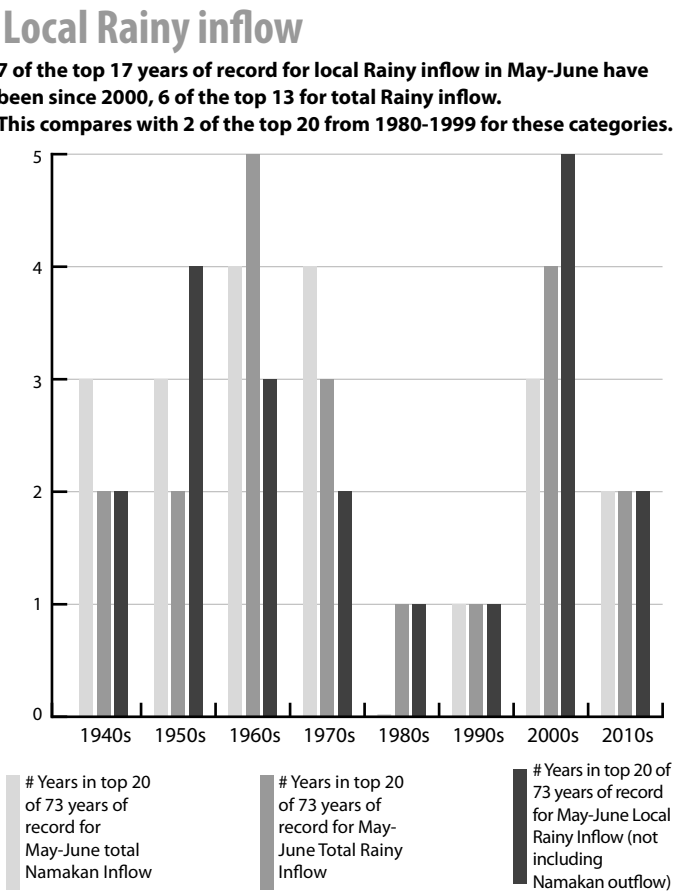
Logs have been added at the dam at Kettle Falls to reduce the rate of decrease of the Namakan Lake level and reduce the inflow to Rainy Lake.

The Water Levels Committee of the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board directed the dam operators on Namakan Lake to target the upper rule curve rather than the middle portion of the rule curve band.

As a result the outflow from the Kettle Falls dam was reduced on Sunday, reports the committee. As of Monday, the average level of Namakan Lake was just below the upper rule curve.

Conditions are being monitored closely in the wake of the precipitation that fell over the last day.

Should the inflow to Namakan Lake rise significantly above the current outflow, it may be necessary to increase outflow to maintain the lake level near the upper rule curve to reduce the risk of further damages due to high water on the Namakan Chain of Lakes.



Construction will resume

BY ERIC MATHEWS
Staff Intern

Construction on a bike trail off Highway 11 east will resume this summer after a more than two-year deal.

The 1.73 mile long bike trail will connect to the existing Koochiching County and Rainy Lake Trail which starts in International Falls and now ends near Thunderbird Lodge. The addition to the trail will follow alongside County Road 96, which leads into the parking area at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center in Voyageurs National Park.

“We’re excited for the trail to be open this year,” said William Carlson, facility manager at VNP.

The park trail section meanders away from the highway, and will let people see more of the forested areas in VNP once it opens in October. The trail also has



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC MATHEWS

Construction on a bike trail near Voyageurs National Park will resume this summer. The project is expected to be completed in October.

a nice outlook over Krause Bay, Carlson said.

The trail is expected to cost \$1.2 million, the majority of which will be funded by the Minnesota Department of Transportation. VNP will also contribute funds to cover costs, Carlson said.

Work on the 10-foot wide asphalt trail began in late fall of 2011, and was expected to be finished earlier

than the contract required because of optimal weather for construction that year. According to park officials, it was delayed until now because of issues with the previous contractor.

A new contract will be awarded within the next few weeks, according to Carlson, so that construction can once again begin on the long awaited trail.

No action for Ranier City Council

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

RANIER — The Ranier City Council Monday took no formal action because it did not have enough council members in attendance.

With Councilors Todd Coulombe and Brenda Bauer both absent from the meeting, there weren’t enough members to form a quorum, so no formal action could be taken on any of the motions on the agenda. Instead, the council members attending the meeting heard reports on various topics.

Douglas Skrief, Koochiching Aging Options executive director, told the council about ACT on Alzheimer’s, a volunteer-driven, statewide initiative to assess how communities are prepared to deal with

an aging population.

Volunteers have already started conducting community surveys of the greater International Falls area, which includes Ranier, Skrief said. The surveys, which take about 40 minutes, will help identify areas which need improvement, in order for the community to be deemed dementia-friendly.

“There’s a coming age wave of retirees,” Skrief said. “We’re trying to help communities become aware and ready for an increase in dementia-sufferers.”

According to data from the Alzheimer’s Association provided by Skrief, 100,000 Minnesotans are living with Alzheimer’s, and the number is growing. One in nine people age 65 and older has Alzheimer’s, and one-third of people over

age 85 have the disease.

Some of the qualities of a dementia-friendly community include appropriate transportation, supporting care partners and families, and businesses with employees who are trained to respond to customers with dementia.

In another presentation, Josh Bergstad of the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission outlined the unified land use ordinance ARDC has been working on for the city of Ranier. The new plan renames some of the zoning districts used for Ranier in order to better differentiate between the different distinct areas of the city.

As part of the adoption process, ARDC staff expect to seek comment on plan from the public in August, Bergstad said.

Littlefork Council ends airport leases

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Littlefork City Council Thursday terminated two airport lease agreements with leaseholders who didn’t want to renew their leases.

Four people have lease agreements at the Littlefork Municipal Airport, city Administrator Sonja Pelland said. The city approached two of the leaseholders, Har-

old Boelk and Kevin Boelk, about signing new lease agreements at higher rates, she said. Neither wanted to pay the higher rate, so the council voted to terminate their current leases.

Harold had an older hangar at the airport, and didn’t have a plane, Pelland said. Kevin didn’t have a hangar, she said, but had had the agreement for a few years, with the intent to build a

hangar.

In other business, the council approved changing the signs at Lofgren Park detailing the camping rates for the different sites. The signs weren’t clear on the different rates, Pelland said, so they needed to be changed.

“The signs had conflicting information, and it was confusing for campers,” Pelland said. “We just had to straighten it out.”

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McDonald's
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Voyageur Cafe'

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Borderland Alano Club:
Borderland Alano Club: Tacos in a Bag
The Dog House: Walleye Sandwich, Shrimp, Curds, Indian Bread & More
Oh 4 Sweet Catering: Variety
Knights of Columbus: Snow Cones
Moose Lodge: Burgers and Brats
Chamber: Cotton Candy

MAIN STREET ACTIVITIES:

8-10 a.m. Sloughgrass Family Band
10:45-11:45 a.m. Live Music by Uncommon Joes
11 a.m. Special Kickboxing Presentation
by Evolve U Fitness
Noon-2 p.m. Live Music by Gerry and Jackie Guimond
2:15-4:15 p.m. Ron Cash Performing Johnny Cash and other Legends

Bargains at Shops Up & Down Main Street

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Clothing by Sha- Sha Resort
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On Second Avenue:
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On Fourth Avenue:
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East Int'l Falls:
Sjoblom's Landscape & Nursery

West Int'l Falls:
No Place Like Home Again, Menard's

Highway 53 and South:
The Chocolate Moose, Fun Food Factory, It's a Girl Thing, McDonald's, The Spot on 53, ShoreLunch Café, Voyageur Cafe'

**SHOP
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DAZE:**

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Ballan Furniture
Ben Franklin Crafts
Border Bob's
The Bootery
The Chocolate Moose
City Drug
Coffee Landing Cafe'
Consultant Connections
The Dog House
Evolve U Fitness
Fun Food Factory
Gearhart's Floral & Gifts
Giovanni's
It's A Girl Thing
Iverne's
Knights of Columbus
Mason's on Main
McDonald's
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Moose Lodge No. 1259
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No Place Like Home Again
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