

LOCALNEWS


Minnesota likely to see early start to fire season

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

With the recent warm weather, Department of Natural Resources fire behavior analysts are predicting an early start to Minnesota's spring fire season. Temperatures last week in the 40s and 50s will likely take care of what little snowpack the state had this winter. Plus, forecasts for the next two weeks show mild temperatures and a dry weather pattern. Minnesota also had a relatively dry fall and very little snow this winter. All of this points toward abnormally dry conditions in early spring, said DNR staff in a news release. In addition to predicting an early start to the spring fire season, fire behavior analysts say, based on past weather patterns and fire occurrence, Minnesota will likely have an average to above average number of fires this spring. Without the snow compaction, grass fires will move faster and be more intense. And, with dry conditions, Minnesota could face fire mop-up and peat fire issues. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is predicting above average temperatures and average precipitation for Minnesota this spring. The U.S. Drought Monitor shows most of the state as abnormally dry with some areas of moderate drought. And, predictive services at the National Interagency Coordination Center in Boise, Idaho says Minnesota will likely see above normal fire potential in March, April

and May. But, even during dry periods, timely rain can lessen fire danger over the short term. Spring fires are predominantly wind-driven in fine fuels like leaves and grasses. These fine fuels respond quickly to changes in the weather. Spring fire danger will vary with the weather, so fire activity could be subdued with well-timed periodic rain, said the release. "Because the snow is disappearing quickly, we urge people to check fire conditions and burning regulations prior to doing any open burning and to use extra caution when burning," said Tom Fasteland, Minnesota Interagency Fire Center coordinator. With an early start to spring, open burning restrictions are likely to be implemented earlier than normal. Residents may need to find alternatives to burning or wait until after green-up when it is safer to burn. The DNR restricts open burning shortly after snow melt when exposed dead grass and brush can light easily and burn quickly. Once spring open burning restrictions are in place the state will not give out burning permits for burning brush or yard waste. The restrictions normally last from four to six weeks until sufficient green vegetative growth occurs. For more information on fire conditions and burning restrictions, visit the Minnesota DNR website, www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/firerating_restrictions.html.

Happy
90th Birthday to
Edith Sheasby!



We would like to extend an invitation for an open house at the Rivers Edge Villa located at 1406 Hwy 71 on **March 28th 3-6 PM** to share birthday wishes and refreshments with her friends and family. No presents are necessary, your presence is gift enough.

RRCC again named one of top 150 in country

RRCC REPORT

The Aspen Institute has once again identified Rainy River Community College as one of the top 150 community colleges in the nation, from over 1,000 potential candidates, based on publicly available data from the National Center for Education Statistics' Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems and the U.S. Census Bureau. In 2013, Rainy River Community College was also identified as a high performing college by the Aspen Institute and the most

effective two-year college in the state of Minnesota by the Midwestern Higher Education Compact. Every two years, the Aspen Advisory Panel uses publicly available data to identify 150 two-year institutions that demonstrate strong outcomes considering three areas of student success: student success in persistence, completion,



Carol Helland

and transfer; consistent improvement in outcomes over time; and equity in outcomes for students of all racial/ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. By focusing on student success and lifting up models that work, the Aspen Institute and its partners aim to further the national understanding of community colleges that strive to increase student success, stimulate innovation, and create benchmarks for measuring progress. According to Rainy River Community College Provost Carol Helland, "The

Aspen Institute's findings solidify what we know to be true at our college: We place teaching and learning at the forefront of our mission while supporting students to achieve their very best as learners. We call it 'The Rainy Experience' because it identifies our student success model from the first day of class to graduation. To be recognized as the most effective two-year college in Minnesota encourages us to continue with our student-focused approach, whether in the classroom, residential hall, or student-life activities."

CO REPORT

03-16-2015
District 5 — Eveleth area
■ CO Jim Van Asch (International Falls) spent the week monitoring angling activity on Rainy Lake and Rainy River. Ice house removal was also monitored on surrounding lakes with the removal date growing closer. Anglers are reminded to remove all ice house items, including trash and debris. CO Van Asch also prepared for an upcoming firearm safety class. Enforcement action was taken for angling with unlawful tackle.
■ CO Troy Fondie (Orr) reports small streams have started to open, most snow cover is off area lakes, snowmobile trails are down to dirt and rocks with the season all but over. Public access sites were monitored and area forest roads checked.
■ CO Brad Schultz (Cook) reports the warm weather this past week has melted just about all the snow in the area. A few snowmobiles were observed on the area lakes and they were operating in the water standing on the ice instead of snow. Anglers have done a good job of removing any litter from the ice around fish houses.
■ CO Marc Hopkins (Tower) worked snowmobile activities on Lake Vermilion. Warm weather has made the snowmobile trails completely unusable.
■ CO Matt Frericks (Virginia) monitored the removal of ice shelters

from Virginia area lakes. A few crappie anglers were seen out enjoying the nice weather. On one lake, CO Frericks checked two of those anglers who had neglected to purchase an updated angling license.
■ CO Mark Fredin (Aurora) gave a law presentation to youths at a Hoyt Lakes Snowmobile Safety class. Fortunately enough snow was left in the field for the youth to perform the riding requirement. Fish house removal was monitored and anglers fishing in the warm weather were checked. Violations of no angling license and angling with live minnows on a designated trout lake were found.
■ Ray — vacant.
District 1 — Baudette area
■ CO Ben Huener (Roseau) assisted with an angler harassment issue in the Wheeler's Point area of Lake of the Woods. Assistance was given to the Roseau Firearms Safety Class. Area WMAs were patrolled and assistance was given to a local agency with a warrant arrest.
■ CO Eric Benjamin (Warroad) worked snowmobiling, ATV and angling enforcement throughout Warroad and the surrounding areas. Information for individuals that have ice shelters out on Lake of the Wood: you may want to think about pulling your shelters off of the lake as soon as possible. The recent warm weather is

making movement on the lake unpredictable. Several resorts have begun closing their access points due to safety concerns. Enforcement action was taken for angling without a license in possession, allowing illegal operation of an ATV by a juvenile, ATV passenger under 18 without a helmet, failure to display valid registration on an ATV and burning of prohibited materials.
■ CO Hannah Cowden (Warroad) continued to check anglers and snowmobilers on Lake of the Woods. Mild success with walleye still reported, but the large pike seem to be hungry. If you are out fishing, please remember that a new angling license was needed on March 1, 2015 and your 2014 license is no longer valid. ATV use on the big lake, as well as in the surrounding areas has increased greatly and ATV enforcement was worked. CO Cowden spoke at a Warroad Cub Scout meeting. Enforcement action taken for angling without a license, no angling license in possession, angling with extra lines, and various ATV registration related offenses.
■ CO Nicholas Prachar (Baudette) spent time at Camp Ripley assisting with training on the new RMS (Record Management System). CO Prachar responded to TIP calls in the area pertaining to burning of prohibited material and possible taking of il-

legal length walleye. Enforcement action included angling with extra lines, leaving line unattended through the ice, burning prohibited material and failure to transfer registration of an ATV.
■ CO Jeremy Woinarowicz (Thief River Falls) monitored ice shelter removal and answered angling bait and coyote hunting questions. Follow up on an ongoing case was completed.
■ CO Traci Hanson (Thief River Falls) worked ATV activity, predator hunters as well as monitored fish house removal. CO Hanson gave a law presentation to young snowmobilers in Grygla. A Pennington County resident was met with who found a young bobcat dead in the window of his chicken coop.
■ CO Demosthenes Regas (Blackduck) reports checking anglers as they pursued perch and crappie with the warmer weather and fish house removal progress was monitored throughout the week. Time was spent monitoring ATV activity on lakes and trails and work continues on commercial inspections. CO Regas attended the Upper Red Lake Technical meeting and training at Camp Ripley. Enforcement action for the week included angling violations and juvenile ATV operators not wearing a helmet.
■ Baudette #2 - vacant.
■ Blackduck #2 — vacant.
■ Karlstad — vacant.

There's a little HERO in all of us!



Watch for THE FLOCK around town!



Bust out your SUPERPOWER and donate this March!

As part of the Minnesota FoodShare Campaign, Border State Bank will be a drop point for this community-wide effort. Like years past, we will match up to **\$1,000.00 of funds donated!**
BE THE HERO : FIGHT HUNGER!

All donations will directly benefit Falls Hunger Coalition.

Everyone welcome to give! Need not be a BSB customer to participate!



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BORDER State Bank
COMMUNITY BANKING AT ITS BEST!

THE AEOA IS LOOKING FOR DRIVERS FOR ITS Medical and Rural Rides program in International Falls.

Reimbursement is 57.5 cents a mile from when you leave your driveway until you return to your driveway. Drivers must have a valid driver's license, a dependable vehicle, insurance and a clean driving record.

Contact Martin Lepak 218-410-9755
martin.lepak@aeoa.org



Just Married!

Kevin Kennedy & Cindy Brokaw

were married on **February 14, 2015** in **Mission Texas** on the **Rio Grande**

It's Time to Celebrate!

Saturday, March 28, 2015
5:00 pm - 'til close

Littlefork Community Building
Littlefork, Minnesota
Come for food, beverage & music!