

**WATER**

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boat rental space is a crib dock, or stationary dock, which is already partially submerged under water.

“What we do,” Herberg said, “is put an 8-inch stand on the dock and set barrels on top of it...That way if we get a strong south wind, the docks won’t break away. Our crib docks will be under water in the next three or four days.”

The blue and white barrel trend is taking over many businesses and residences on Rainy Lake. Thunderbird Resort, which has a mostly stationary docking system, has several barrels set up to keep the structures in place. Docks at Woody’s Rainy Lake Resort in Ranier are also covered in the containers.

“Rainy Lake is probably in the best shape right now of all the area lakes,” Herberg concluded. “But, it’s coming this way.”

And he’s right.

Phil Hart, owner of Pine Tree Cove Resort and the Gateway Store in Kabetogama, said his docks are “totally under water.”

“We’re going to start launching a sandbag effort,” he said.

Hart said he and other resort owners are scrambling to make out-of-town visitors aware of the situation.

“If guests launch a boat on the ramp, they won’t even see the docks,” he said. “They could run right over them.”

The last time Hart remembers Kabetogama’s water as high as it is today was in 1998 or 1999.

“It’s definitely been awhile since it’s created this much havoc,” he said. “Right now, it’s a waiting game to see how much water we’re going to get.”

With more rain in the weekend’s forecast, Hart expects conditions to worsen.

“There’s already debris floating all over the lake,” he said. “It hasn’t hurt our resort business yet, but we are alerting guests they

**More information**

Up-to-date water level information can be found by following the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board’s page on the IJC website, [www.ijc.org](http://www.ijc.org) or call 800-661-5922 ex. 3.

**Sandbags available**

Sandbags are available at the Koochiching County Law Enforcement Center in International Falls. Sheriff Brian Jespersen said officers will keep track of how many bags are distributed, and anyone in need of sandbags is required to provide their name and the address where the bags will be placed.

and 9 were closed because of the water.

**The science behind it all**

A release from the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board Wednesday said storms over the past week brought more than 2 inches of rainfall to most of the Rainy River drainage basin, with many areas receiving higher amounts – up to 5 inches. Normal basin rainfall for the first week of June is about 1 inch.

Areas west of International Falls, like the Loman Park, are found almost completely submerged because of rising water levels.

Dams at both Namakan Lake and Rainy Lake are operated to maintain the lake levels within an operating

band, called the rule curve, specified by the International Joint Commission. The level of Namakan Lake is 7 inches above the upper rule curve, or URC. The dams at the outlet to Namakan Lake have been fully opened since May 16. Further upstream, particularly heavy rainfall near the Vermillion River has led to the level at Crane Lake rising by over 16 inches since May 30.

Rainy Lake also rose above its URC, on May 29, and is now 6 inches above the URC. Rainy Lake’s level, the release said, has risen by 8 inches during the past seven days.

At Fort Frances-International Falls, the dam on the Rainy River has flow passing through all turbines

and 13 of the 15 sluice gates. This configuration allows the dam to pass the flow at the rate received from the outlet of Rainy Lake. As the lake level rises, the rate of flow from the outlet of Rainy Lake increases. The last two gates will be opened as necessary to ensure maximum outflow from the dam.

Both Rainy Lake and Namakan Lake will continue to rise in the near term, and their ultimate peak levels will depend on the amount of rainfall received over the next few weeks.

The Rainy River is currently 7.2 feet above its median level at this time of year below the Fort Frances- International Falls dam and is 8.9 feet above the median level at Manitou Rapids, the release said. The level and flow at Manitou Rapids is rising quickly due to significant increases in flow from the Bigfork and Littlefork river basins which had some of the heaviest rainfall last weekend.

**BAKK**

➤ **continued from A1**

After many months “stuck down there... with life so disrupted,” it feels suddenly over, he said, and he welcomes the drive home watching the terrain change from urban to suburban to agricultural and finally to the rural pine-covered, rocky lakes region he represents.

“It’s been a while since I felt this good about a session,” he told The Journal from his home Wednesday.

He lists a variety of bills and accomplishments, some that appear to have been overlooked, that make him feel like it’s been an awfully successful two years.

Among the most important accomplishments has been the restoration of the relationship between state and local units of government as partners, he said.

Services are delivered at the local level, and restoring money cut by the Pawlenty administration to cities’ local government aid and counties’ payment in lieu of taxes and other programs has made a difference in the lives of Minnesotans, he said.

The earlier cuts were made to resolve state budget deficits, but he said local governments were demonized when they had to increase taxes to make up for the unallotted funds. He

pointed to a new aid program funded with \$10 million that provides money to counties to use at their boat landings to assist in stopping the spread of invasive species.

He also cited action to end the payment of sales tax on purchases by counties and cities. It’s not very sexy, but it helps Minnesotans, he said.

Freezing tuition for two years at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities is a “big deal for families” after more than a decade of out-of-control increases.

Action also reduced the reliance on levies for school districts, he said.

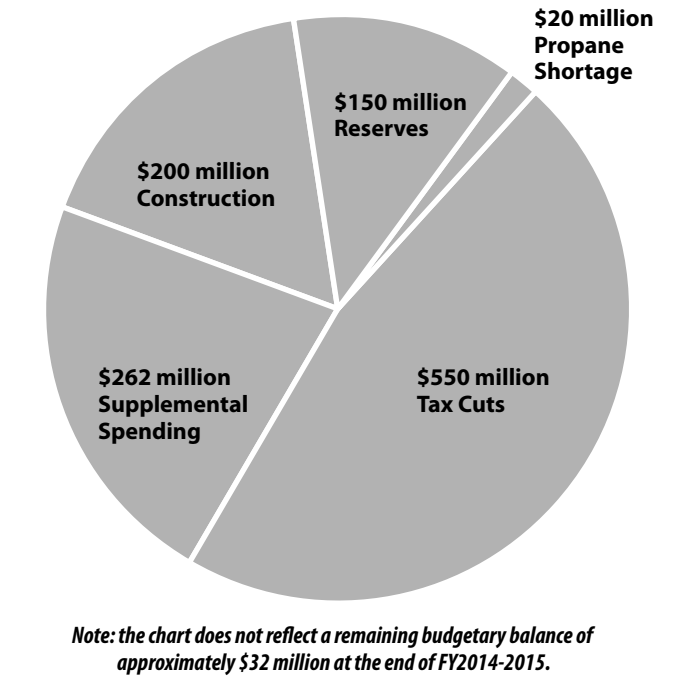
Bakk said some of those accomplishments were a result of an effort to develop a good relationship with Senate Minority Leader David Hann. He said he and Hann met every other week to provide a better understanding of timelines and issues “so there would be no surprises.”

The effort showed in the session, he said. The Senate worked maybe one late night and there were no Saturday sessions, which was a bit unusual.

“And we adjourned three days early, which we haven’t done in 30 years,” Bakk said.

The money Borderland will receive from the bonding bill will put people to work, Bakk said. Work included in the Voyageurs National Park Clean Water

**Where did Minnesota’s surplus go?**



Project and the renovation of the Falls International Airport is critical infrastructure for the community and important to future economic development, he said.

The most fiscally important action during the session brought a clause in the tax bill that triggers one-third of a surplus to go into the state’s budget reserves.

Bakk said he believes the state spent a little too much on spending and tax cuts from the surplus.

“I was one of the only leaders trying to restrain spending,” he said. “We have been on a roller coaster of deficits for too long. But

the governor felt strongly about tax cuts, and the House felt strongly about new spending.”

Bakk said he was harshly criticized in mid-March when the House sent over the tax bill and he wouldn’t send it to the governor. He said he wanted the surplus reserve issue to be determined early in the session, and figured if he sat on it long enough, “they’d have to take what I send, and there’d be no time to do conference committee.”

The result of the stronger budget reserve is the state is less likely to borrow from schools for deficits in the future. “This is very

important to the health of the state,” he said.

The minimum wage bill did not have enough votes in the Senate a year ago, but a phase-in period and a clause that allows the inflation to be suspended in an economic downturn “took some of the anxiety” out of the bill for Bakk.

“A really, really big deal that didn’t take legislation” but got things done involved working with MnSCU Chancellor Steven Rosenstone and Sue Collins, Northeast Higher Education District president, to come up with an arrangement to offer students concurrent enrollment in high school and college, without removing them from the high school campus.

“We’re making huge headway on that,” he said, quickly noting the Post Secondary Enrollment Option is a great advantage for many, but not all students and school districts.

Bakk has just as much, if not more, to say about plans for the next session. He points to two looming issues:

- The need to develop a long-term plan to deal with the state’s crumbling infrastructure. “Our highways, roads, and bridges are falling apart and they’re not going to fix themselves. And it will only get more expensive.”
- The need to find a different way to handle sex offenders civilly committed to a state facility. He said the state’s sex offender program

is on the verge of being declared unconstitutional by the courts and a recent ruling has ordered an evaluation of all 900 offenders now held. “We are going to have to find for offenders who are low risk some alternative less restrictive ways to care for them or the courts will throw the program out and that’s a serious problem,” he said.

“Anytime you vote to have a less restrictive environment for people accused of sex crimes and something happens (like a repeat offense), it’s tough politics,” he said. “But we have to figure it out.”

Meanwhile, even though the session has ended, Bakk says he’s got lots to do around home and the state. “I’ll be plenty busy,” he said, noting it’s difficult to sneak away to his cabin.

As a caucus leader, he’s responsible to ensure Capitol renovations and the new Senate offices are moving forward. He’s also responsible for raising money for the next election.

He’ll be involved in the National Conference of State Legislators to be held for the first time in Minnesota in August.

He said he’s already told his staff he’s duck hunting in Canada Sept. 10, after they tried to schedule something just the day before.

“You’ve really just got to mark some time off,” he said.

**FESTIVITIES**

➤ **continued from A1**

Even though the pulls start at 5 p.m., the fun starts an hour earlier at 4 p.m. There will be performances by the Sloughgrass Band, Darcie Schulz’s dancers and the Falls High School cheerleaders. Before the event there will also be a free community supper, dessert vendors, and a land-based kiddie pull for kids ages 5-13.

Those who wish to be in the power pull must register by filling out forms which can be obtained either at the Chamber Office or at [peacepull.org](http://peacepull.org).

**July 3 events**

Booths in Smokey Bear Park will be open from 2-11:30 p.m. This year, corn dogs will be served in the

park, a popular item which was missed during last year’s festivities. Beer gardens will also be open at 4 p.m. To register a booth for the event, call Becky Roeder with the Rotary Club at 218-341-0880.

Children’s karaoke will take place in two brackets for children 11 & under, and 12-16 at the bandshell starting at 4 p.m. Participants can call John Streiff with King of the Road Entertainment at 218-324-0216. Prizes will be given at the event for first, second, and third place for both age groups.

**Fourth of July events**

Independence Day celebrations will start out with the Bronco 5k Run/Walk at 8 a.m. at the Falls High School track, followed by the kids run at 9 a.m. The 5K costs \$20 to enter, but the

kids run is free. Participants can call Jen Erickson at 218-324-0221, or pick up registration forms at the community education office in Falls High School, or at northlandrunner.com.

Afterwards, food, craft, and game booths will be open all day in Smokey Bear Park. They will officially open at 11 a.m., but people can expect some booths to be open earlier around 9 a.m. The beer gardens will open at the same time as the previous day, however, at 4 p.m.

A new event will be a part of the fun this year. Go-kart races will be held at the Rainy Lake Oil Speedway from 4-7 p.m.

Two Independence Day parades will take place to celebrate our nation’s birthday. The main parade will start at 1 p.m., with cars, floats

and more being lead by the color guard. The parade will congregate beforehand on Eighth Avenue. People can expect different attractions in the parade to follow the parade’s theme of honoring Afghanistan and Iraq War veterans and celebrating the 200th anniversary of the writing of our nation’s anthem.

Floats, marching units, and vehicles which want to be in the main parade can contact Kevin Adee at 218-283-2035 or 218-244-0684.

There will be a kiddie parade before the main parade, and will have prizes for all children who participate. Children who would like to be in the Kiddie Parade can call Nancy Rognerud with the Rotary Club at 218-324-2543. Same day parade entries are welcome.

The band Dances with the Shamrocks will perform from 8:30 p.m. to midnight at the beer garden. Then at 10 p.m. fireworks will start in the clearing near the FHS track.

**July 5 events**

Riverfest will be kicking off on Saturday, the day after Independence Day. The gates will open to the Irvin N. Anderson Amphitheater at 2:30 p.m. The Mike Ure Band, a Canadian country-rock band will kickoff the event at 3:30 p.m., followed by Lamont Cranston, a blues recording artist, at 5:00 p.m. This leads up to the Little River Band, which will begin their performance at 7 p.m. Tickets for the event in the Falls can be found at KGHS-KSDM Radio, City Drug, Backus Community Center, and in Fort Francis at Betty’s of Fort Francis, and

Northwoods Gallery & Gifts.

**Birchdale events**

Birchdale kicks off its day of events with “America’s Parade” at 11 a.m., which will include live music from the Fort Francis Bagpipers. Anyone is allowed to come and include any antique cars or equipment for floats to be in the parade. Participants can line up at the church in Birchdale at 11 a.m. before the parade starts.

Following the parade, everyone is invited to the “World’s Greatest Potluck”, where people are invited to bring their favorite foods to share. The food will be served at the Birchdale Community Building.

There will also be plenty of games for children to come and enjoy into the early afternoon.

# Garden Girls' Plant Sale!

Friday, June 13th  
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Ranier Community Building

**DOOR PRIZE!**





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# The family of IAN KLEMENTSEN

would like to thank all the businesses, family, friends, The Junction, everyone who helped with the benefit & all who came. What a great community we live in.

*Thank you!*

