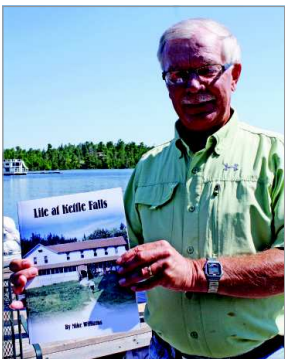


Book of memories

Mike Williams writes about Kettle Falls

A4



Sweating in the park

Ranier installs outdoor exercise equipment

B6



The Journal



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\$1

FOURTH OF JULY PARADE FEATURES FUN FLOATS



Youngsters dress up like Uncle Sam during the Fourth of July parade Friday.

STAFF PHOTOS BY SPENSER BICKETT

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Clear skies and warm temperatures Friday combined to bring many members of the community to downtown International Falls and Smokey Bear Park for Fourth of July festivities. The Fourth of July parade kicked off with youngsters taking to Third Street in wagons, bikes, and more for the kiddie parade. The grown-ups followed after in a wide variety of cars, trucks, and motorcycles.

Parade to A7 ►

FOR MORE PHOTOS, TURN TO PAGE B10.



Joseph Stevens drives a wagon towing mustachioed youngsters imploring Fourth of July parade watchers to support military veterans.

Rule curve proposal 'playing politics'

Several say record June rainfall to blame for flooding, not 2000 rule curve

BY LAUREL BEAGER Editor

Tim Watson's family has a history of Borderland water level issues, starting before he was born. His grandfather homesteaded on the banks of the Rat Root River at Ericsburg in 1906. When the dam was built at International Falls in 1910, his grandfather's property was flooded. Watson's been guiding on Kabetogama Lake for more than 30 years and his family has been involved with the first resort built on that lake in 1916. And Watson served as a member of an international steering committee that developed the rule curves now in place that help guide the levels of the area's large bodies of water that all interconnected. "No matter what anyone would have done, we would have flooding this year," he said in response to a proposal presented by Tom Dougherty last week to U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar calling for reverting back to the 1970 rule curve in the Namakan Basin and to target the upper level at 90 percent of the curve. Watson said the proposal is "playing politics." Record rainfall in the basin is what has caused flooding from the east to the west of the basin, Watson said. "The last thing we need is finger pointing," he said. "We're all in the same boat." He pointed to shoreline and dock damage from Vermillion Lake to Lake of the Woods and Lake Winnipeg. "Nobody in Baudette or Rainy River is saying close the dam at International Falls," he said. Record rainfall into a basin that is larger than most people understand is the cause of the flooding, and dropping levels in one lake would cause the levels in

Levels to A7 ►

Riverfest future unsure

Organizers: Good music, good weather, not enough people

BY LAUREL BEAGER Editor

International Falls Rotary and Backus Community Center brought great music, talented bands and people who had a good time to Saturday's Riverfest 2014, say organizers. The only problem is not enough people attended to assure the event will be offered to the community next year.

FOR MORE PHOTOS, TURN TO PAGE A9 OR VISIT WWW.IFALLSJOURNAL.SMUGMUG.COM.

With storm clouds looming, headliner Little River Band got a lot of help performing their hits as the crowd sang along with the familiar songs, the rain stayed at bay. The Australian-originated band followed opening acts Minnesota blues band Lamont Cranston and Ontario country rock Mike Ure on stage.

Riverfest to A7 ►



STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

The Little River Band performed along side Rainy River Saturday under clouds that threatened, but did not produce rain.

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SPORTS/B1

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BUSINESS/B6

COMICS/B9

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 55