

Last lifts

Electrician gears up for retirement

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Hop, skip, and jump

Indus hosts track and field day

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Olaf Lindquist plays a tune on the freshly-painted piano at Ranier Park Wednesday during the first Sing and Play in the Park event.

About 20 children and their families gathered at the park in Ranier Wednesday morning for the debut Sing and Play in the Park event.

Sing and Play, which will run from 10 to 11 a.m. every Wednesday until Aug. 6, features stories, songs, instruments, dancing and exploring the freshly-painted piano located in the Ranier Park.

According to organizers, the classes are geared towards ages 3 through 8, but older and younger children are welcome to attend. There is no sign-up or fee for the classes taught by Erin Gregorcich, who has a background in both music education and early childhood education.



Axel Davis, left, and Carly Thrasher, listen to instructions on when to make sounds with their instruments Wednesday.



Sing and Play instructor Erin Gregorcich guides children on how to use instruments Wednesday. Gregorcich says music education is something she is passionate about, adding she is excited to teach children who live in the community, including her own three young kids.

STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE



Brody Baldwin tests out his musical skills at Sing and Play.



STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

Jeff Herberg, owner of Sha Sha Resort, fills a barrel with water Thursday to help keep one of the resort's crib docks in place. Herberg said he predicts most of his crib docks, or stationary docks, will be under water within three or four days.

A wet situation

Area business owners prepare for rising waters

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

It's not a matter of if Rainy Lake's water levels continue to rise, it's when, according to Jeff Herberg.

And when it happens, he said he hopes he's ready.

The owner of Sha Sha Resort and his staff spent much of this week placing barrels on several docks to keep them from falling victim to Rainy's rising waters.

"It's coming up about 3 or 4

inches each day," Herberg said Thursday of the lake's levels, just hours before another down-pour.

In the six summers Herberg and his wife, Jodi, have owned the resort, three of them have put some amount of water on their docks. But this year, he said, is the worst.

"It's frustrating when you have people who rent dock space and they have to wade through water to get to their boat," he said.

Sha Sha's three docks that support it's main come-and-go traffic are floating docks, which Herberg explained will rise with the water levels. However, the dock anchoring much of the

Water to A7 >

Bakk: A feel-good session

Just two weeks after session, senate majority leader thinking about next year

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

This message left by Minnesota Sen. Tom Bakk said a lot about the past few months: "I have a beautiful sight: The Capitol in my rearview mirror."

Bakk headed north Tuesday toward his home in Cook after leading the majority in the Minnesota Senate during the 2013-14 biennium, which he calls the most productive he can remember.

It's an emotional end-of-the-session drive for the District 3 senator who has served in the Legislature since 1995 and

turns 60 on Sunday with a family celebration. He's spent the last two weeks after the May 16 adjournment wrapping up details.

"The first drive home, you're thinking of all the things you've worked on, what you got done, what you didn't get done, what you could have done differently that might have accomplished what you wanted," he said.



Sen. Tom Bakk

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Falls plans extended Fourth of July festivities this year

BY ERIC MATHEWS
Staff Intern

The International Falls Fourth of July celebration is already being planned, and this time around there is more to celebrate besides our nation's birthday. This year marks the 200th anniversary of the writing of The Star Spangled Banner by Francis Scott Key. The

festivities will also honor our Iraq and Afghanistan War veterans.

This year's celebration in International Falls will be held over the course of four days, running July 2-5, and will include all of the usual gatherings and events held in the past such as booths, parades, beer gardens, children's karaoke, the Bronco 5K Run/Walk, and a kid's fun run.

July 2 events

The U.S. and Canada will face off against one another during the Pulling for Peace tug-of-war competitions. This match will be held in Fort Francis and International Falls as a part of "International Peaceful Borders Day" to celebrate the shared border between the two cities.

The event will begin at 5 p.m.

at the Pat Roche Landing, as it has in previous years. A new pull will replace the celebrity pull this year. The military/veteran pull will consist of military veterans on the U.S. side and the Lake Superior Scottish Regiment Battalion Group on the Canadian side. This new pull will occur first, right after the VFW Post 2948 color guard presentation and the two nations'

national anthems.

The community and power pulls will be back for another year. The community pull will be made up of the general public along with local dignitaries and celebrities. The power pull will be made up of 40 strong men and women on either side of Rainy River.

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