


PARADE

► continued from A1

Local law enforcement personnel pulled out all the stops, showing off fire trucks, ambulances, boats, and other emergency response vehicles.

International Falls Mayor Bob Anderson and International Falls Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Cynthia Warren rode in a vintage fire truck driven by Falls Fire Chief Adam Mannausau. Quick problem-solving was needed, however, when the fire truck stalled on Third Street in front of The Coffee Landing Cafe. Anderson directed the fire truck behind them to push-start the vintage fire truck, which sputtered back to life as spectators cheered.

Elections are coming in November, and the parade featured locals running



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Fourth of July parade Friday in Birchdale featured creative floats, like the winner here, “A Bug’s Life.”

LEVELS

► continued from A1

other to rise, said Watson and others.

“Fundamentally, flooding on Rainy and Namakan occurs because the outlets of these lakes cannot pass water fast enough to keep up with inflow that results from very significant rainfall,” said Matt DeWolfe in an email. DeWolfe serves as Canadian engineering adviser to the Water Levels Committee of the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board. “No changes with the rule curves will alleviate this issue, though the peak level could be reduced if the whole range were shifted downwards.”

A release on water levels forwarded by Tom Worth, an International Falls resident and long-time member of the Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club, notes, “as you can see it is complicated... It would seem that the best course of action would be to have the control board do what is best for the total system.”

Watson, DeWolfe, and others, have said if water was held back at the Kettle Falls dam, it would reduce the level of Rainy Lake by one inch and raise Kabetogama by 4 inches; reducing the level of Rainy by 5 inches, raises Kabetogama by 20 inches.

“The question is, by him advocating those things, is it making it worse for more people?” Watson said. “We need to work together.”

DeWolfe said reducing flows out of Namakan Lake while it is in emergency conditions, or even above the upper rule curve given the saturated basin conditions, requires serious consideration, as it is adding risk to one area to reduce it in

another.

“Ultimately, such a decision requires an Emergency Order from the IJC (International Joint Commission), which would come only after recommendation from the Water Levels Committee and then only if the IJC agreed,” he wrote about the conditions. “The Water Levels Committee, that I serve as an adviser, is reviewing these options carefully, but a reduction before the lake falls below the All Gates Open level on Namakan is unlikely.”

While Namakan has been declining earlier, he said it is not at a normal level and could easily go higher again with more significant rainfall. Property owners up in Crane Lake and Kabetogama, have been hit hard by flooding there as well this year, and are highest since 1968, he added.

And the unusual amount of rainfall in the basin appears to continue.

On Monday, the Ontario Surface Water Monitoring Center released this advisory: “Beginning this afternoon (Monday July 7) and lasting into the evening, instability across the Northwest in the Fort Francis, Kenora and Dryden areas is forecast to produce showers in the 10 to 25 mm range (up to 1 inch) with the potential for thunderstorms to add an additional 10 to 15 mm in localized areas. The system is forecast to move out of the Fort Francis, Kenora and Dryden areas Tuesday bringing relatively clear skies Tuesday to Thursday. Another system is forecast to move into the northwest Friday with the potential to bring heavy precipitation. The track and intensity of the system moving in on Friday is currently uncertain and updates will be made as confidence increases in model forecasts.”

Watson said a common sense approach is needed.

“In this case it’s Mother nature’s event,” he said. “We’ve had 12 inches of rain in June on Namakan and the average is 3.2 inches. There are natural constrictions in the waterways that holds water back from the process to get it out. It is what it is and we’ve got to cope with it. The resorts are still operating, we’ve still got people coming in, people are fishing when we get a nice day — we need to market that and make do the best we can.”

DeWolfe had similar views.

“Downstream of Rainy Lake there has been very damaging flooding all the way to Manitoba, yet no action to hold back water on Rainy Lake is ever considered for these interests,” he said in an email. “The town of Rainy River was threatened with being completely inundated in June, but no flow cut from Rainy Lake was made. Lake of the Woods is experiencing the highest levels in 65 years, with significant damage particularly on the south shore, but also in the north with lost dock and boats, damaged boathouses, lost business, etc., but if that area receives more rain this month no one will ask that Rainy Lake reduce flows to share the high water more evenly.”

“Further downstream the flows along the Winnipeg River in Manitoba are higher than ever recorded, with permanent residences at risk and very significant damages already, but Rainy Lake and Lake of the Woods dams have been fully opened up for weeks and will be for weeks more. Some might argue that flow cuts should be made all along the system to even things out, but that is a very difficult if not impossible task for both technical and social reasons.”

RIVERFEST

► continued from A1

Ward Merrill, Backus Community Center, and Mike Ward, Rotary, said the two nonprofits put a lot of time, effort and money into creating what they thought people wanted in the fourth year of the concert event.

They said they listened to input after last year’s concert offerings and heard people wanted a big-name band to perform around the time of Fourth of July celebration.

Merrill said about 500 people purchased tickets for the concert, less than last year’s draw of about 1,000 people. Riverfest 2013 was the third concert at the Irvin N. Anderson Amphitheater, located between Highway 11 East and Rainy River, when four tribute bands performed.

This is the second year the concert was presented in a partnership between the International Falls Rotary Club and the Backus Community Center. The two previous events were presented by the International Falls Economic Development Authority headlining rock bands Loverboy and 38 Special.

“We were disappointed,” said Merrill. “We were also disappointed in the bottom line of finances. We don’t have hard, fast numbers yet, but Rotary and Backus will have to take a look at the bottom line. It will be a tough discussion about whether we do it again next year.”

Ward said while those discussions have not yet occurred, it’s unlikely the two organizations will be able to offer a concert in 2015. Ward said both nonprofit community organizations confronted a lot of money to get the name act. Merrill said the two groups had bud-



STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

A fan captures the Little River Band performance on video Saturday.

Wedding Invitations

Custom Printed by North Star Publishing

- Invitations and Envelopes
- Programs
- Save the Date Cards and Magnets
- Thank You Cards



1602 Hwy 71 • Int'l Falls, MN 218-285-7411

Timberpins Bowling Lanes

(Formerly International House of Bowling)

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT! Come be entertained by all that Timberpins has to offer!

- Bowling with music and lights
- Bowling and Sports bar
- Canadian Money at Par
- Private Parties
- Arcade
- Darts
- Food
- Pool

NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK, 3PM-CLOSE!! Phone 218-373-2695 12 Shorewood Drive



218-283-2481

SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT ONLINE AT WWW.OXIFRESH.COM

- ✓ Safe For Children & Pets
- ✓ Pet Odor & Stain Removal Experts
- ✓ Fast One-Hour Dry Time
- ✓ Residential & Commercial
- ✓ Cabins, Condos, Boats & RV's









2 ROOMS CLEANED \$68

WHOLE HOUSE CARPET CLEANING \$146

UPHOLSTERY SPECIAL \$158

FREE BOTTLE OF OXI FRESH SPOT REMOVER GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Go to ifallsjournal.com



Read. (New stuff every day)

Register. (Once. You're done!)

Remark. (Comment blog.)

Thunderbird Mall

Crazy Days Sidewalk Sales

Wednesday-Saturday

4 Days - July 9-12

Thunderbird Mall Shops are out in the mall concourse with racks & tables jammed with Spring & Summer Merchandise at the Lowest Prices Possible!

Herberger's

Dunham's Sports

Maurices

Tradethome Shoes

Glik's

Bath & Body Works

Christopher & Banks/CJ Banks

Radio Shack

Vanity

General Nutrition Center

Suzanne's Jewelry

Regis Hair Salon

Claire's Boutique

Evenson's Hallmark

75% OFF

No refunds on prior purchases. Discounts vary by store. See stores for exclusions

www.thunderbirdmall.com

1401 South 12th Avenue, Virginia, MN 55792 (218)741-9228

Thunderbird Mall Shopping Hours: Monday-Friday 10am-9pm; Saturday 10am-6pm; Sunday Noon-5pm