

# LOCALNEWS

## UNDERWATER WORLD



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Koochiching County Land Commissioner Dennis Hummiltzsch reports the Rainy River may have crested — for now. This photo taken Friday of Nelson Park in Birchdale, shows the wheels of an upside down dock at the boat access. A release from the International Rainy — Lake of the Woods Watershed Board said the dam at Fort Frances-International Falls on the Rainy River has flow passing through all turbines and all sluice gates. The last two gates were opened Friday 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.

## Water quality study begins in area watershed

June 19 meeting focuses on Rainy River-Headwaters watershed

### JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Water quality experts will kick off a multi-year intensive protection and restoration process for the Rainy River-Headwaters watershed at a public informational meeting on June 19. Opportunities to volunteer as a citizen lake or stream monitor and to engage in the process in other ways will be on the agenda. The Headwaters watershed is an international natural resource that contains approximately 95 percent of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and most of Voyageurs National Park. The Canadian portion contains Quetico Provincial Park and other water resources. The watershed stretches from the Namakan Dam at Voyageurs' National Park on the west to Gunflint and Mayhew lakes on its eastern edge.

Year-round and seasonal residents, along with the general public, are invited to attend the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency meeting from 6:30-8:30 p.m. June 19 at the Gunflint Lodge Conference Center, 143 South Gunflint Lake, located off the Gunflint Trail outside Grand Marais. Scientists will start collecting water, sediment, biological and fish data to help better understand what factors are influencing water quality and the aquatic plants and animals dependent upon it. Staff from the MPCA, the state departments of natural resources and health, along with U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Lake, Cook and St. Louis county staff will take part in the monitoring effort. The MPCA is rotating

through all of the state's 81 major watersheds and conducting 10 years of research, monitoring, assessment, strategy development for impaired waters and protection plans for waters needing additional help to prevent future water quality problems. Funding for this research effort is provided by the Clean Water Land and Legacy Act, approved by Minnesota voters in 2008. For more information about the Rainy River — headwaters watershed, visit <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/yhizdad>. For more information about the agency's 10-year watershed approach to restoring and protecting the state's water quality, visit <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/irypf30>. Questions about the meeting can also be addressed to Joel Peterson at 218-302-6646 or 800-756-3864.

## Seeking photos of fallen Vietnam vets

BY LAUREL BEAGER  
Editor

The names go along with a story and a family, but there's no photographs of several Vietnam War veterans from Koochiching County. This newspaper is joining with others across the nation seeking photographs of Vietnam veterans for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation project "Faces Never Forgotten." The photos will help complete an electronic "Wall of Faces" in a new education center at the Vietnam Memorial Wall at the National Mall in Washington D.C. Construction for the education facility is planned to start in 2016 and be completed for a grand opening in 2019.

So far, the VVMF has collected 34,000 of the photos and still needs to find about 24,000 photos of soldiers listed on the wall. Soldiers since 9/11 will also be honored in the new center. More information about this project can be found at [www.vvmf.org](http://www.vvmf.org)

Newspapers and newspaper associations across the country are being asked to help locate missing photographs to provide a moving tribute to fallen soldiers. About 250 Minnesota vets have no photographs to include in the memorial. The Minnesota Newspaper Association, of which this newspaper is a member, will collect the photos from member newspapers and provide photos to the VVMF as they are received. Drop photos off at The Journal, where they will be scanned, or email to [laurel@ifallsjournal.com](mailto:laurel@ifallsjournal.com). The Journal will forward them onto the MNA, which will provide them to the VVMF. The photographs of the following vets are being sought: Earl M. Deneen,

date of casualty, April 27, 1969; Woodrow J. Ewald Jr., date of casualty, Sept. 11, 1969; Barney Kaatz, date of casualty, April 6, 1962; Jerry A. Longtine, date of casualty, May 25, 1968; James W. Nichols Jr., date of casualty, Feb. 26, 1968; Larry D. McKenzie, date of casualty, June 3, 1969.



Wade Pavleck  
Vietnam vet

This newspaper's first call may have helped provide faces to several names included in the Koochiching County section of the memorial.

Vietnam veteran Wade Pavleck asked for the names. "I know these people," he said. "I will contact relatives."

Pavleck said he believes putting a face to the name of a fallen soldier more effectively tells the story of their life and death.

"I think it's the right thing to have a picture with a name so we don't forget," he said. "That's kind of neat."

He said the memorial and remembrance holds special meaning for the family of fallen soldiers.

"It's touching, not just for the vets that die, but their families really paid the big price," he said. "Remembering is a good thing, especially for families."

Pavleck said he's glad there is an effort to pay tribute to the fallen soldiers, whose names, faces and lives have not been forgotten. He said just this week he had a conversation with the brother of John Stenberg, whose name and picture are included in the Koochiching County listing of the fallen vets.

The MNA got involved after National Newspaper Association representa-

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tive Andrew Johnson, a publisher of a small weekly Wisconsin newspaper, read a news release about the missing photographs. Johnson knows firsthand the effects of losing family to war: his son, U.S. Army Lt. David Johnson, was killed in action Jan. 25, 2012, in Afghanistan.

"This event drastically changed my family," he wrote in a plea to newspapers across the nation of the need to locate photographs of all 58,286 soldiers listed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

"Vietnam veterans from home to across the country have been so kind and good to my family during our incredible grieving journey," he wrote to newspapers. "They have shown great honor to my son as well as all of those killed in action."

"I am asking every newspaper association and newspaper in the United States to join in the effort in finding the missing photos of our heroes listed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall."

"We want to get the photos to VVMF by November 11, 2014 or Veteran's Day. It is the very least we can do to show our honor and love for these American soldiers."

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### For the most current information on Rainy and Namakan Lake levels, visit the following:

[ijc.org/conseil\\_board/rainy\\_lake](http://ijc.org/conseil_board/rainy_lake)

(click on the 'Data' link)

or

[boiseinc.com](http://boiseinc.com)



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## Rainy Lake Rural Health Clinic Recognizes: Men's Health Month



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### Rainy Lake Rural Health Clinic:

- Monday - Friday
- 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

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