

## Same face, new name

Medical center updates sign with new name

A4



## Helping at home

Local Red Cross volunteer assists in relief efforts

A3



# The Journal



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## Rainy Lake expected to crest this week

### Ecklund provides update on flooding

BY LAUREL BEAGER  
Editor

Rainy Lake is expected to rise 1 to 2 inches over the next week and crest, with no increase in rainfall, Thursday or Friday, reported Koochiching County Board Chairman Rob Ecklund Tuesday.



Rob Ecklund

The concern now surrounds forecasts for northwest winds in the next few days, he said.

"That could have a major impact on efforts to save the homes," he said. "I guess we'll see how things go with that."

He reiterated boaters should use extreme caution on lakes and rivers as debris from shorelines, docks and other structures continues to float. He stressed caution should be used boating beneath the Ranier lift bridge, where high current and water conditions have made passage very dangerous and nearly impossible.

Sandbags continue to be available at Kerry Park to protect structures or fortify existing sandbag dikes, he said. Voyageurs National Park has made a crew of five to six people available to add sandbags to existing dikes. A loader operator will be available at Kerry Park to load trucks, or people may hand-load pick ups for smaller loads.

For now, Ecklund said sandbags won't be filled with sand, unless they are needed as an inventory on hand now may be enough.

However, he said the two sandbag filling machines on loan from Norman and Roseau counties remain in place and can be fired up quickly if needed. He credited the two counties for providing the equipment to Koochiching County and said it added efficiency to the fast-moving sandbagging efforts.

#### The numbers

So far, 3,300 cubic yards of sand have been used for the flood relief efforts, Ecklund said. At \$10 per yard that equals \$33,000, and add to that the purchase of about 500,000 sandbags at a cost of \$75,000.

"The county has a lot of money tied up just in sand and sandbags," he said.

The county must meet a threshold of \$47,000 to qualify for the Minnesota Emergency declaration.

"We're well past that," he said of the approximate \$108,000 spent in a little over two weeks on sand and bags.

County Engineer Joe Sutherland is working with staff of the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration on an assessment of public road and

Flood to A7 ►

## DOER DISCUSSES WIDE RANGE OF BORDER ISSUES

Throws out challenge for Peace Pull 2015

STAFF PHOTOS BY LAUREL BEAGER

Before turning to more serious issues, Doer pledged to make sure Canada wins the next Peace Pull.

BY LAUREL BEAGER  
Editor

Community leaders from both sides of the international border gathered last week to hear about U.S. and Canada border issues from Gary Doer, Canada's ambassador to the United States.

Also attending Thursday's joint meeting hosted by the councils of Fort Frances and International Falls was Jamshed Merchant, Canada's consul general for Minnesota; Member of Parliament John Rafferty, who represents the Rainy River District; state Rep. David Dill; former state Sen. Bob Lessard; and Donnie Fisher, public affairs officer with the Canadian Consulate in Minneapolis.

Doer said he visits the area as much as possible; he'd been in Minneapolis and Grand Rapids earlier and would finish the week by attending a memorial service for the late former 8th District Congressman Jim Oberstar in Duluth Friday.



Area leaders listen Thursday as Doer spoke on a variety of border issues. From the left are Rep. David Dill, Ranier Mayor Dennis Wagner, International Falls Mayor Bob Anderson and Member of Parliament John Rafferty.



Jamshed Merchant, Canada's consul general for Minnesota, just couldn't help but talk Thursday about the Peace Pull, canceled this year because of high water concerns. Merchant vowed Canada would win next year. Area officials have said this year, Rainy River won the Peace Pull.

Border to A7 ►

INSIDE  
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SPORTS/B1

CLASSIFIEDS/B4  
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COMICS/B6

BUSINESS/B9

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NUMBER 53