

LOCALNEWS

Air from Canada to blame for storms, cooler temps

Meteorologist predicts order of ‘exceptional’ weather for Riverfest will be filled

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Along with the occasional rumble of thunder, Borderland Thursday woke to a steady flow of rain and relief from 80-degree temperatures.

According to Kevin Huyck, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Duluth, air from Canada is to blame for pushing a warm front south, and ushering in storms and cooler temps.

“There is a shift in temperatures Thursday from the earlier part of the week,” Huyck told The Journal Thursday morning. Highs Tuesday tipped thermometers at 89 degrees — the warmest day experienced in Borderland this summer.

While much of the Midwest spent last week in a heat wave, Huyck said warm, muggy air filtered through areas around Borderland, but not enough to issue heat warnings.

“The northern part of the state was flirting with a heat advisory, but the criteria didn’t quite make it there,” he said. “Still, when it gets warm like it has been, we remind people to take it easy, pay attention to their bodies and drink plenty of fluids.”

Thursday, meteorologists kept a close eye on radar images that indicated a narrow band of up to almost 3 inches of rain across Koochiching and St. Louis counties. A flood advisory was in effect for the area through the later hours of the morning.

“Radar estimates we’ve seen show between 1 and 2-1/2 inches of rain as of 10 a.m. Thursday,” the meteorologist said.

Huyck continued that forecasters received reports from Borderland residents of flooded ditches and standing water in some yards.

“We’ll continue to see rain through (Thursday) afternoon and into Friday,” he said.

In addition, Huyck said the shift in weather could be accompanied by severe storms, strong winds and golf ball size hail.

WEEKEND FORECAST

Organizers of Riverfest, which is planned for Saturday at the Irvin N. Anderson Amphitheater, previously told The Journal they ordered “exceptional” weather for the concert event and Huyck notes they may get their wish.

“After the front moves through...most of Saturday should stay pretty quiet,” he said. “Sunshine is ex-

pected.”

If all goes as planned, the event will take place just in time with the possibility of showers and isolated thunderstorms returning to the area Sunday.

“When the high pressure sets back in, we could see a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms Sunday,” Huyck said.

SUMMERTIME WEATHER

Huyck reports that with only about a week and a half left in July, the International Falls area is above the monthly average for both temperature and precipitation.

“As far as the temperature goes, International Falls is about 4-1/2 to 5 degrees above the average,” he said.

Same goes for rainfall.

Before Thursday’s rain, Borderland was slightly below normal, but not by much. While the meteorologist didn’t have exact measurements of how much rain had fallen Thursday morning, he said the amount was enough to boost the monthly average.

“We were just under an inch below average before Thursday,” he said. “I can see from the radar that we’ve already surpassed that — and there is more on the way.”

Playground seeks to grow up

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Adults visiting the Ranier Park may soon have an alternative way to burn calories, aside from chasing kids around the playground.

Representatives of the Ranier Recreation Club are working to secure a \$5,000 Koochiching Community Development Association grant to help purchase three pieces of adult, outdoor exercise equipment to install at the park.

Lindsey Goulet, Ranier Rec Club, said she spends many hours at the park with her 2-year-old son, Jasper. With the equipment, she said, she can use her “busy mom time” to stay active with her son.

The Ranier City Council Monday agreed to have Goulet move forward with the grant application. In addition, councilors pledged the \$425 toward the \$8,175 project.

Wagner Construction, Goulet said, is expected to donate \$1,000 to prepare the site for installation.

“The point is to make physical activity fun, easy and accessible, so it’s the normal thing to do,” Gou-

let said. “When it comes to health and fitness, no community in this county should be disadvantaged. It is empowering residents countywide to improve their health.”

Goulet’s proposal outlined the key project elements:

1. Creating a strong community social center by providing space and facilities for family, group and community gatherings.

2. Providing an attractive and inviting public space that enhances the vitality and appeal to the Ranier business district as a place to recreate and participate in community events.

3. Serving as a key visitor contact point, whereby tourists are left with a positive first impression of the community.

4. Serving as an additional bike trailhead location for residents who live east of International Falls with the completion of the Gateway Corridor Project.

In addition, the proposal said, the city of Ranier is “committed to providing facilities, activities, and park lands to enrich the lives of citizens and tourists...including additional park amenities.”

“Our park has very tradi-

tional equipment, so we’ve been trying to come up with a couple different elements for Rainer Park not found at other parks throughout out the county,” said Ranier Mayor Dennis Wagner in the grant proposal.

The equipment would be no cost to its users, and are steel-reinforced stations that can target and strength abs, quadriceps, biceps and other muscles just as effectively as gym equipment. The equipment is designed for young adults through seniors, according to the equipment manufacturer’s website exerSkys.com.

“The whole concept is based on a free place to go exercise,” Wagner said. “Most people don’t have a gym membership or somewhere to go exercise, so we’re opening up to a majority of the population and giving them a free place to go work out.”

Goulet concluded that once the equipment is installed, the Ranier Rec Club plans to form partnerships with local fitness instructors to provide demonstrations for residents on how to safely and correctly use the equipment to improve their fitness.

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