

Summertime tunes

Orchestra concert set for Friday

B9



Fun at the fair

County fair sees good turnout

A3



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County board continues flood recovery

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

The Koochiching County Board Tuesday approved motions which will allow the county to continue the flood recovery process, and apply for federal and state recovery aid.

The board first approved a motion to provide a survey to private homeowners and businesses to fill out, in order to properly assess the scope of the flood damage.

After Federal Emergency Management Agency officials approved

the county for public assistance after a July visit, County Administrator Teresa Briggs said the county officials realized they needed a survey to record damage private citizens have incurred.

“We should be doing a survey collecting data from the private, if nothing else, just to get the scope of the damage of this year’s flood,” Briggs said.



Rob Ecklund

The only way the county can direct private businesses to relief programs, like low-interest loans from the Small Business Administration, is to do an assessment to find out if there’s enough private damage, Briggs said. Different departments like the county assessor’s office have already collected data on damage to private structures, she said, and the new survey will be the final piece to the damage puzzle the county has to put together.

The survey won’t look at main dwellings, Briggs said, but any

other physical damage a private residence or business may have incurred during the flood. The survey deadline is Sept. 3 because the deadline for applying for the SBA program is Sept. 11, which is 60 days from the end of the flood event, July 11. The link to the survey will be posted on the county’s website, www.co.koochiching.mn.us.

County Assessor Len Peterson said it’s critical people understand they need to take the survey so the county has a complete picture of the flood damage. It’s critical, he

said, because while he assessed property in the county, he didn’t look at property like cribs or docks.

“For some of these programs, it’s crucial to know that damage,” Peterson said. “It’s not the damage I was looking for.”

Board Chairman Rob Ecklund said his only concern was how people without Internet or computer access would complete the survey. Briggs said she would make it known that hard copies would be available in her office.

County Board to A7 ➤



International Falls Mayor Bob Anderson, at left, and CCM students Jake Reber, St. Cloud, and Ellen Fraley, Bemidji, work with 8th District Congressman Rick Nolan to plant a tree along the Rat Root River Saturday. They are assisted by Duane Sjoblom, standing, who said he has the river in his blood.



STAFF PHOTO BY SPENSER BICKETT

The International Falls Fire Department brought a vintage fire truck to the parade Saturday at Ranier Daze.

Ranier Daze in the dog days

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

With temperatures reaching 82 degrees Saturday, locals tried to beat the heat with good friends and good times at Ranier Daze.

Four-legged residents took to the streets at noon for the dog parade, followed by the main

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parade. Historic Ranier was filled with vendors, music, and other activities to entertain crowds.

Collaboration brings more trees to Rat Root River

Second year of reforestation project puts people to work

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

Members of Congress got their hands dirty and worked up a sweat with local community leaders Saturday.

They weren’t in Washington D.C. trying to sway a vote, instead 8th District Congressman Rick Nolan and 4th District Congresswoman Betty McCollum joined in the second year of a Rat Root River shoreline tree planting project intended to improve the walleye stock that swim into Voyageurs National Park.

The effort is a partnership between the Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club, and the National Park Conservation Association, and funded by the Nature Valley Preserve the Parks program.

Representatives of the groups, this year minus Nature Valley, along with students from the Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa,



STAFF PHOTOS BY LAUREL BEAGER

Congresswoman Betty McCollum got a hand from Jack Lang of the Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club as she plants a tree Saturday.

River to A7 ➤

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Filings period for councils, school boards closed

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The filing period for positions on city councils and school districts closed Tuesday.

International Falls City Council has drawn filings from Harley M. Droba and Joe Schwartz for Center Ward councilor; Brian Briggs and Jerry Franzen for East Ward councilor; and Charles C. Lepper, JoAnn Smith, Leon Ditsch and incumbent Cynthia Jaksa for West Ward councilor.

Tom Holt has filed for a position on the Falls School Board.

In Ranier, incumbent Ron Wilcox, as well as JoAnn Kellner, Jeff McHarg and Naomi T. Woods, have filed for a councilor position on the Ranier City Council.

Incumbent Brian Lindvall, incumbent Kevin Sather and Preston Hoy have filed for a councilor position on the Littlefork City Council and incumbent Mike Fort has filed for the mayor position.

Incumbents Keith Knaeble and Mike Imhof, as well as Shelley Williams, have filed for positions on the Littlefork-Big Falls School Board.

In Big Falls, incumbents Leslie Lespisto and Shawn Pritchard, as well as Jeffrey Oehlerking, Heidi Boes-Watson, and Beth Pihlaja,

have filed for a position on the Big Falls City Council. Incumbent Marta Lindemanis, as well as Teckla Brown, have filed for the mayor position.

Cities and schools districts don’t participate in the primary elections and races for positions on city councils and school boards will be decided in the Nov. 4 election.

Ranier City Council

Council positions are for four-year terms

■ Council member, now held by Brenda Bauer

■ Council member, now held by Ron Wilcox, who is finishing the term vacated by Fred Woods.

International Falls City Council

Council positions are four-year terms

■ East Ward councilor, now held by Paul Eklund

■ Center Ward councilor, now held by Gail Rognerud

■ West Ward councilor, now held by Cynthia Jaksa

Littlefork City Council

Council positions are four-year terms; mayor is a two-year term

■ Councilor, now held by Brian Lindvall

Filings to A7 ➤