

LOCALNEWS

Destruction to the south

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

When Phil Hart woke up Thursday morning, the docks at his Lake Kabetogama resort were in place. Already high water levels caused boats tied to the anchored structures to rattle around, but for the most part, it wasn't quite 6 a.m. and everything seemed fine.



Phil Hart, owner of Pine Tree Cove Resort, stands in front of his dock harbor destroyed by last Thursday's high winds.

Then the wind picked up. Gusting up to 45 miles per hour, Mother Nature sent winds out of the north with a straight shot to Pine Tree Cove Resort, carrying heavy debris and wiping out most of the docks in her path. "It felt like a hurricane," Hart said. "It's weather we don't normally see up here." Hart and his wife, Ellen, have owned the resort

nestled along the northwest corner of the lake for 27 years. This is the first time he recalls seeing lake levels as high as they are. "We know how to prepare our docks and cabins for high waters, but combined with that wind, it's unlike I've ever seen." Sunny skies and light winds Friday made it seem like Thursday's storm never existed – until glancing at the destruction left behind. Docks once fastened together floated around loosely, bumping against each other and blocking the resort's only access ramp. The damage, Hart said shaking his head, is "catastrophic." "June is our busiest month," he said. "We have a lot of loyal customers, but some are calling it quits because they don't want to take their boats in and out everyday." Hart predicts rebuilding efforts will carry a price tag of more than \$50,000. With a small resort, he said it's a



STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

George Town, left, watches as Rick Oveson operates a backhoe to remove a piece of dock from the water at Pine Tree Cove Resort in Kabetogama. The resort, owned by Phil Hart and his wife, Ellen, lost its docks to last week's powerful winds and rising waters.

Three cheers for volunteers

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

When a natural disaster strikes, a community's true colors can really show. As the waters of area lakes and rivers continue to rise, Tony Guerra said Borderland has gone above and beyond the call of duty. Guerra has been in International Falls for the past several days leading an on-the-ground effort with the American Red Cross, helping those impacted by the flood. "Neighbors are helping neighbors," he said. "I really get the feel of community up here." Red Cross vehicles pulled

into town over the weekend providing assistance and delivering food to those in need. "We're not only offering physical help, but mental help, too," Guerra said. "We are seeing a lot of anxiety. Folks are worried." Volunteers are nearly working around the clock filling sandbags at City Beach and stacking them at homes and businesses impacted by rapidly rising waters. "It's hard work," said Beverly Mayfield, envoy of the local Salvation Army. "We need to make sure we keep these people fed." Starting around 6 a.m. each morning, Mayfield said



STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

Red Cross volunteers visit with Gov. Mark Dayton, who toured the area Tuesday.

Salvation Army volunteers prepare meals three times a day at City Beach to hand out to volunteers or have the Red Cross deliver to outer areas. "During a disaster like this, this is when we come in

and serve meals," she said. "There is a need out there." Volunteers have shown their dedication and sometimes need to be reminded to take advantage of relief efforts offered by the two

agencies. As the sun beat down Monday morning, a machine that fills 12 sandbags at once was temporarily shut off to allow volunteers to take a break. Still, as soon as power was

cut to the machine, people grabbed shovels and began filling the bags by hand. "We just can't stop," one volunteer said as he carried a roughly 40-pound bag of sand to be hauled away. "If they don't eat and don't drink, they're not going to be out there for very long," Mayfield said of volunteers. Guerra agreed. "They just work, work, work," he said. "The help is constant." Local officials expect water levels will continue to rise and Guerra assured the community the Red Cross will stay as long as its needed. "We're here until it's over," he said. "We won't leave until we're no longer needed." Both Mayfield and Guerra extended their thanks to volunteers as well as local businesses that have donated food to relief efforts. "It's all so amazing to see everyone come together," Mayfield said.

Kick-Off to Summer Sale

June 18
9 am – 5 pm

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International Falls

4th of JULY CELEBRATION!

BOOTHS

If you wish to have a booth in Smokey Bear Park the afternoon of July 3 and all day July 4, please contact:
**Becky Roeder
Rotary Club
218-341-0880**
and remit a fee of:
\$100 per booth for non-profit organization
\$175 per booth for individuals and businesses \$25 Arts & Crafts table
(Fee covers the event and must be paid in advance)

MAIN
PARADE

If you wish to have a float, vehicle or marching unit in the July 4th Main Parade, please contact:
**Kevin Adee
283-2035
or
218-244-0684**

KIDDIE
PARADE

If you wish to be in the Kiddies' Parade, please contact:
**Nancy Rognerud
Rotary Club
Call 218-324-2543**
Prizes for every child that participates.
Entries are welcome on July 4th.

CHILDREN'S
KARAOKE

July 3rd at 4:00 p.m.
Bandshell
Ages 11 years & under
12-16 years
If you wish to participate in Karaoke please contact:
**John Streiff
King of the Road
218-324-0216**
1st, 2nd & 3rd place prizes in both age brackets.

2014 BRONCO
5K RUN/WALK
AND
KIDS FUN RUN

Friday, July 4th
8:00 a.m. - 5K Run/Walk
Cost \$20
9:00 a.m. - Kids Run
FREE
Falls High School Track
If you wish to participate please call:
**Jen Erickson
218-324-0221**
Registration forms available at:
www.northlandrunner.com
Community Ed Office

2014 July 4th Celebration and Parade Theme:

Honoring our Iraq and
Afghanistan Veterans on the 200th
Anniversary of the writing of the Star Spangled Banner

International Falls July 4th Commission