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STAFF PHOTOS BY LAUREL BEAGER

Koochiching County Commissioner Rob Ecklund shows Sen. Amy Klobuchar the damage rising waters have caused at Thunderbird Lodge and Rainy Lake Houseboats Wednesday during Klobuchar's visit to the area.

Klobuchar hears call for rule curve change

Views flooded businesses, roads

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

On the day Rainy Lake may have peaked, U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar toured flooded businesses, viewed submerged roads and heard a call to return to the 1970 rule curves governing lake levels.

Klobuchar stopped in International Falls Wednesday to discuss the flood and the damage it has caused with Koochiching County Board Chairman Rob Ecklund, Sheriff Brian Jespersen and International Falls Mayor Bob Anderson.

The group headed east on Highway 11, slowing to view roads underwater and stopped at Thunderbird



Sen. Amy Klobuchar receives some information on the Rainy Lake rule curve from Rainy Lake Houseboats owner Tom Dougherty at Thunderbird Lodge Wednesday.

Klobuchar to A7 ►

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STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

Kevin Grover took over as superintendent of Independent School District No. 361 Tuesday.

Grover settles in as superintendent

Former dean of students has plans to improve communication district wide

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Displaying Bronco pride and a welcoming smile, it appeared Kevin Grover was ready to report to duty Tuesday.

On the first official day of his new position as superintendent of Independent School District No. 361, Grover said he was "ready to hit the ground running."

"I'm excited," he said. "I'm very hopeful we'll have a great upcoming school year."

Construction going on at Falls High School left the new superintendent without a permanent office, but that doesn't seem to stop the former dean of students and athletic director from encouraging an open-door policy.

"I will be approachable," he said of his new role. "I'll talk with anyone. I'm open to suggestions, recommendations, ideas – that's how we get better."

The Falls School Board in

May appointed Grover, who has worked in the district for 16 years, to the position vacated Monday by Nordy Nelson. Some board members wanted Grover in the position because of his commitment to the district. The lead administrator position has a track record of a two-year turnover and board members expressed the desire to retain some stability in the district and help achieve long-term goals.

And, according to Grover, he's in it for the long haul.

"I plan on retiring from this position," he said. "Granted all goes well."

Familiar territory

While the position is new to Grover, it is not unfamiliar to him. He served as assistant superintendent under Don Langen for a portion of the 2009-2010 school year, he said.

"When he resigned, I finished out his contract," he added.

Grover to A7 ►



Community members from International Falls and Fort Frances gather together Wednesday at the Pat Roche Landing for an international picnic.

Celebration goes on

The river may be the winner of this year's Pulling for Peace: International Tug of War, also known as the peace pull, but the party still goes on. Because a strong river current canceled the tug, an International Community Picnic and Peace Party was held Wednesday at the Pat Roche Landing. The celebration brought sunny weather, a kiddie pull, live entertainment, and the joining of both the Fort Frances and International Falls communities.



STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

The winning team of the first ever kiddie pull prepare to pull their way to victory Wednesday at the International Community Picnic and Peace Party.

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