

Fires destroy structures in Dairyland, Solon Springs

By Maria Lockwood
Superior Telegram

DOUGLAS COUNTY — Firefighters battled structure fires in both Solon Springs and Dairyland Sunday, Nov. 20. No injuries were reported, according to Douglas County Sheriff's Office reports.

The Dairyland fire, which destroyed a hunting cabin at 15639 South Swedish Highway, was reported at 2:39 p.m. Sunday. The property owner told Deputy Cory Fossum with the sheriff's office that he could smell something burning and noticed a fire in the wall near the fireplace. The fire quickly spread through the cabin interior, but he was able to get out without injury.

A structure fire at 8375 E. County Road A in Solon Springs was reported at 5:13 p.m. that same day. When the Solon Springs Fire Department arrived on the scene, the home was fully engulfed and both the garage and part of the house were about to collapse, according to Solon Springs Fire Chief Jonathon Brostowitz.

"At this time it's undetermined how the fire started," he said. "This was a hard fire to battle due to how intense the fire was on the interior upon arrival. The structure was a complete loss."

A traveling motorist called in the blaze, Brostowitz said. The man who lived at the home was down the road at his parents' house at the time. When he got a call informing him about the fire, he returned home to find the attached garage on fire, according to a report from Fossum.

"He then broke out a



Contributed / Jonathon Brostowitz
Members of the Solon Springs Fire Department battle a structure fire at 8375 E. County Road A with the help of a backhoe provided by the town of Solon Springs on Nov. 20. Firefighters from Solon Springs, Bennett, Gordon and Hawthorne fought the fire for 6 and a half hours.

basement window and got his cats out," the deputy wrote.

The Solon Springs Fire Department requested mutual aid from Bennett, Gordon and Hawthorne fire departments. Firefighters were on scene for about six and a half hours, Brostowitz said. It took another hour or so at the fire station to clean up, refill air bottles and go through everything to prepare for the next call.

"I can't thank the volunteers enough for assisting in battling this blaze Sunday night," Brostowitz said. "It was a long evening for everyone, but at the end of the night on my way home from the station, I was relieved no one was hurt or killed in this

situation."

Other first responders who were on scene included the sheriff's office and Mayo Ambulance. The Douglas County Highway Department sanded the road to and from the water point and the town of Solon Springs assisted with its backhoe to gain access to the collapsed interior and hot spots.

One person who was displaced is getting help from his family and friends, officials said.

Heating season brings fire risk

The back-to-back fires come as temperatures are dropping in Douglas County and heating season is ramping up. Brostowitz encouraged residents

to make a house cleaning checklist to prevent fires:

- ▶ Keep combustibles away from anything that is a heat source.
- ▶ Have the furnace cleaned and checked by a professional.
- ▶ Keep electric heaters away from anything that's combustible.
- ▶ Clean the chimneys.
- ▶ Have working smoke detectors in the home.

"If you have (smoke detectors) already, check the batteries and test them to make sure they work," the fire chief said. "It wouldn't hurt to check your CO detectors or purchase one as well. Carbon monoxide or CO is an odorless and colorless gas that can kill anyone. Have a CO detector in your home."

Superior invites shoppers to think small

By Maria Lockwood
Superior Telegram

SUPERIOR — Bag holiday shopping deals while boosting the local economy during Small Business Saturday, Nov. 26, and the expanded Shop Small Superior Week, which runs through Dec. 3. Multiple Superior businesses will be participating in the national shopping holiday by offering deals, discounts, samples, customer appreciation activities and more.

Residents can show support for these neighborhood businesses, and find unique gift items, during Shop Small Superior Week. The extended format allows customers the opportunity to shop over the course of a week versus concentrating on just one day. The list of participating businesses, which can be found through the Superior-Douglas County Area Chamber of Commerce and Superior Business Improvement District websites, is being updated regularly.

Specials include a free stemmed wine glass with the purchase of a bottle of wine at Wine Seller Winery, gift certificate drawings at Who's Bar, free artisan jewelry with purchase and T-shirt sales at Cedar Barn, 50% off all clothing at Earth Exchange, a "fill a bag" promotion at Reclaim Creative Reuse, 50% off a level 1 computer system

checkout at discover- pc.NET, refreshments and door prizes at the Lori Ronchi American Family Insurance Agency, and more.

A few special guests will be showing up during Small Business Saturday. Children can paint ornaments with Santa at Shannon's Stained Glassery or get their picture taken with the Grinch and Cindy Lou Who at Empower Superior Nutrition.

Other businesses participating include Angie's Closet, Art on the Planet, Artistic Florals by Leslie, Belknap Liquor and Lounge, Blue Arrow Boutique, East End Power Equipment and Hardware, the Epicurean Factory Store, Games Then and Now, Kindred Stone & Co., Missinne Greenhouse and Landscaping, Northwest Outlet, Nummi Jewelers, Once Again Used and New, Screen Graphics/Hidden Bay Sports Custom Apparel, Serenity Spa & Salon featuring Posh Affair Boutique, SPACES Creative Co-op, Sunkissed Tanning, Superior Cannabis, Superior Impact Nutrition, Superior Inn, Superior Public Museums, Superior Shooters Supply, Superior Waffles, The Pottery Burn Studio, The Shack Restaurant, Bar and Liquor Store, Twisted Pastries Coffeehouse, Video Vision/Superior Tan, White Winter Mead, Cider and Spirits, and Wine Beginnings.

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