



**Struggles on the diamond**

River Ridge Baseball, Lancaster Softball see losses  
 SEE SPORTS

**Not funny money**

Angeli explores the fiscal past of the county  
 SEE PAGE 4A

# Cleanup to begin after flood waters recede

Two homes lost due to high water, volunteers wanted in Bagley & Cassville

**BNY DAVID TIMMERMAN**  
 NEWSEEDITOR@TDS.NET

“What are the next steps, now that the waters are receding?” That is the principle question Grant County Emergency Management Director Steve Braun is answering as the Mississippi River recedes to its banks after one of the worst floods in the past 100 years has come and gone.

Friday, the river crested in the basins that Grant County borders, coming in just below the projected crest. At a preliminary height of 22.91 ft. in the McGregor basin, the river level was the third highest on record, only being exceeded by the 1965 flood (25.38 ft.) and 2001 flood (23.75 ft.).

That was a day early, and lower than what the projections had been, which were closer to the 2001 event.

While all of the damage will not be known until the waters fully recede, and crews get into homes and business, as well as inspecting the infrastructure, it appears that this flood will not cause the damage either of those historic

floods created. Overall, the preliminary report has that two primary residences were lost to the flooding, both of which were in the River of Lakes area of Bagley. Another 20 homes in both Bagley and Cassville had

some damage or flooding due to the high water. Braun said that he does not have a full count of how many cabins or vacation homes were also impacted by the flooding at this time.

“If it would have come in at the forecast level, there would have been more homes underwater,” Braun said of the levels.

A number of families were temporarily displaced from their homes due to high water cutting off access, but not one person utilized the emergency shelter set up by the American Red Cross in the Bagley Storm Shelter, instead staying with family or friends during the flood event.

“The communities have really come together; Braun said of the efforts, not only to house, but also to prepare for the flooding.

Emergency responders and volunteers created more than 30,000 sandbags for this event, putting a dent in the 50,000 the county had in reserve.

“We had great response,” said Bagley Village President Chris Trautsch of the assistance from the Grant County Emergency Management office, as well as from volunteers who made thousands of sandbags for the community leading up to the flood.

Having been part of the community since 2006, Trautsch noted that for many in the community, dealing with flooding is not unfamiliar, and residents know how to deal or mitigate the damage.

“Everybody is kind of prepared,” Trautsch said of his neighbors.

Trautsch recalled his own first flood in 2007 - one that was caused by heavy rains being collected on the other side of the railroad tracks, and how those floods do not give you the ability to prepare like this one did. “It is a night and day difference,” Trautsch stated, noting for those the only thing they can do is make sure the outlets for the runoff are clear of debris.

However, waiting for the waters to rise can bring its own anxiety, he remarked.

Trautsch is hopeful the damage will be minimal, but they have to wait and see if there has been any impact to the wastewater sewer system, or if the base of roadways has not been compromised.

### Volunteers needed Friday & Saturday

For Bagley, cleanup is being planned for Friday and Saturday, with a call for volunteers to meet at the storm shelter across from the village hall/fire department starting at 9 a.m.

Braun said for volunteers, they should make sure they have gloves and eye protection. Braun also said that those with leaf rakes, if you brought those, you can help deal with cornstalks that seem to be a real issue in the River of Lakes area.

Volunteers will be helping remove and empty sandbags, as well as giving general assistance to residents with cleaning up their homes.

The county has already dispatched cleaning kits to Bagley for assistance.



Water, water everywhere - You could find images everywhere up and down the Mississippi River Friday showing the impact of the spring flooding. At Eagles Roost Resort in Cassville, Travis VanWyk points out ways the location prepared for the flooding. MIDDLE - Crossing the tracks into River of Lakes in Bagley and you were instantly greeted with high water. BOTTOM - The Wisconsin Emergency Management Agency conducted aerial photography during the crest.

## Man dies after in river

Was out checking his property after the flooding

A 68-year-old Bagley man has died after he was found in the Mississippi River Monday, where he was believed to have been on his way to check out property he has that was hit by the recent flooding.

Michael Coon was pronounced deceased at Crossing Rivers Health Center in Prairie du Chien Monday, where he had been taken by West Grant EMS.

According to the Wisconsin DNR, Coon had told individuals he was planning to check out property he had along the Mississippi River which had been impacted by flooding.

At 2:55 p.m. the Grant County Sheriff's Office received a 9-1-1 call where an individual has seen a boat floating in the water and there was no one in the boat.

A follow up call to the dispatch center reported that a male had fallen out of the boat, was brought to shore, and CPR was in progress.

A witness reported having seen Coon in the boat and another witness later saw him appearing to be swimming after the boat, which was floating away from him.

The bystanders noticed him appearing to struggle in the water so they found a canoe and went out to help him. He was located, unconscious in the water, and taken to shore where they attempted life saving measures until emergency personnel arrived.

Bagley First Responders, and Glen Haven First Responders, along with a deputy from the Grant County Sheriff's Office had also responded to the scene.

Coon was not wearing a personal flotation device at the time. The Grant County Coroner's Office has ruled Coon's death as being accidental.

Flood | SEE 7A



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# Flood

FROM PAGE 1A

Troy Moris, Environmental Health Coordinator for Grant-Iowa-Lafayette-Richland-Vernon counties will be on the ground during the cleanup in Bagley and Cassville, and he noted a few things that residents and volunteers should think about when tackling the cleanup.

“You should have protective footwear,” Moris said, noting that rubber boots would be good in dealing with wet areas. For all those still having N95 masks from the pandemic, it's time to redeploy them as well.

“Protect yourself as there can be some nasty things out there,” Moris continued.

As for homeowners, Moris said that when items sit, saturated, there is little hope in saving things like drywall or carpeting with padding underneath. Attempting to save them may just allow mold to grow.

Unlike being in a moist situation, like a shower or something that got wet for a moment, pads under carpet prevent the space from drying out before mold can start growing, and mold will also hide behind drywall.

The department has a moisture meter that they can use to inspect homes

to see what may need to be removed.

For those with wells, Moris states that if that well was covered completely by water during this flood, the best thing to do is get it tested as there may have been contaminants that might have gotten into those wells during that time.

Most bacteria entering the ground surface along with rainwater or snowmelt are filtered out as the water seeps through the soil.

Several strains of bacteria can survive a long time and find their way into the groundwater by moving through coarse soils, shallow fractured bedrock, quarries, sinkholes, inadequately grouted wells or cracks in the well casing. Insects or small rodents can also carry bacteria into wells with inadequate caps or seals.

Bacteria are only one of several contaminants that can affect your well water. It is good news if the results of both the total coliform and E. coli bacteria tests are negative, because this means there are no bacterial contaminants in the water. However, these negative results do not necessarily mean your water is free of chemical contamination, like nitrate or pesticides.

Meanwhile over in Cassville, planning is still going on for cleanup in that community.

During the height of the water on Friday, it looked

like things would go mostly unscathed, at least on the surface, as sandbags and pumps seemed to hold at locations along Jack Oak Road, including the Eagles Roost Resort. At the resort, the pumps for different buildings around the facility were being checked every two hours by Travis Van Wyk, who has been a part of the resort for the past three years, joining his wife's family who have run the resort for the past four decades. Van Wyk said that they had more than 3,000 sandbags around the five-room building, and that other than some water coming in through the drains, the water was being held back. To show the demand for their facilities, the cabins at the Eagles Roost have patrons staying, including some hunters who are staying in cabins that are only accessible via boat.

Van Wyk joked that he is used to the lack of sleep, with younger children, so checking the pumps is a simple enough task, making sure silt or other debris are not blocking the pumps, nor affecting the floats. First going around in waders, Van Wyk has started using a canoe, finding the scene peaceful.

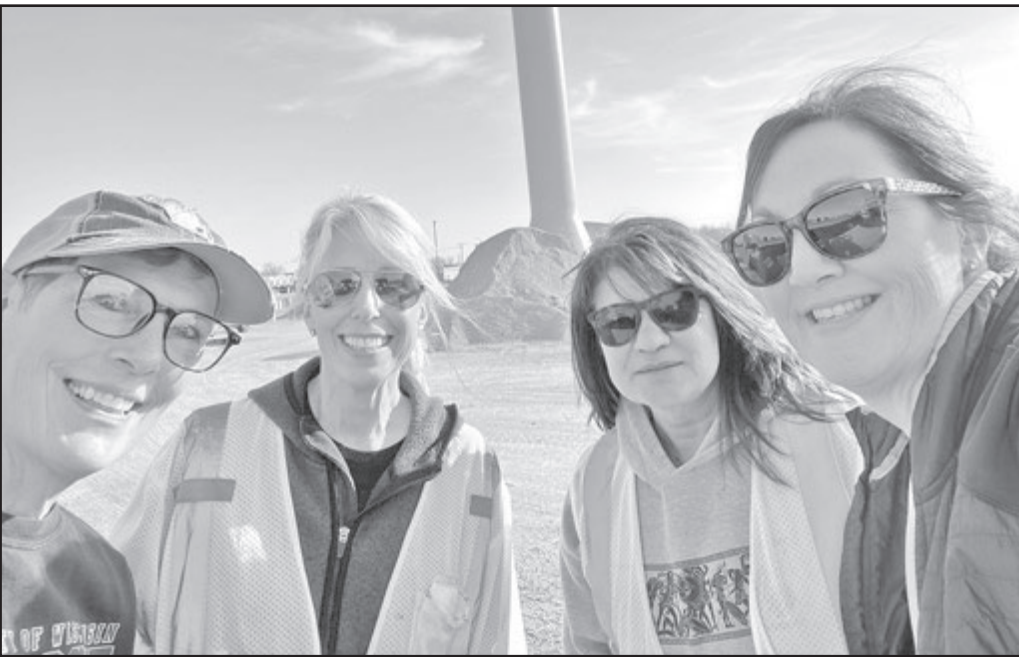
Go to [SWNEWS4U.com](http://SWNEWS4U.com) to see video around Cassville and the Eagles Roost Resort.



The Grant County Emergency Services Association held our annual fire prevention poster awards at the Dickeyville Fire Station on April 26. The contest is open to students from kindergarten thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Each fire department judges the posters at the local level. The first place poster in each grade then goes to Grant County Emergency Services Association and then on to the state contest. The top three poster winners at the county in each grade were presented certificates and a cash prize at the awards ceremony.

fifth grade Platteville Middle School, Emily Koeller 1st place eighth grade St Joseph Hazel Green, Missing from picture: Veda Rasmussen 1<sup>st</sup> place kindergarten St Clement Lancaster, Ipek Uludag 2<sup>nd</sup> place kindergarten Neil Wilkins Platteville, Zayn Kirschbaum 2nd place first grade Cassville, Ada Schnering 1<sup>st</sup> place second grade Westview Platteville, Serenity Kimbler 3<sup>rd</sup> place second grade Cassville Elementary, Hayden Kaiser 2<sup>nd</sup> place third grade HGIC Kieler, Leah Jensen 3<sup>rd</sup> place third grade St Clement Lancaster, Blakely Klaas 2<sup>nd</sup> place fourth grade St Clement Lancaster, Deegan Harbaugh 2<sup>nd</sup> place fifth grade Cassville Elementary, Layla Rosenthal 3<sup>rd</sup> place fifth grade St Joseph Hazel Green, Kenlinn Bjl 1st place sixth grade St Clement Lancaster, Carsyn Jones 2<sup>nd</sup> place sixth grade River ridge Bloomington, Lexus Steffens 3<sup>rd</sup> place sixth grade St Joseph Hazel Green, Elise Sheehan 1<sup>st</sup> place seventh grade St Joseph Hazel Green, Ava Neis 3<sup>rd</sup> place seventh grade River Ridge Bloomington, Mabal Droessler 2<sup>nd</sup> place eighth grade HGIC Kieler.

Those that placed at the state contest are: Kristy Cogan 2<sup>nd</sup>, Rihanna Peters 3<sup>rd</sup>, Kenlinn Bjl 1<sup>st</sup>, Ava Neis 1<sup>st</sup>, Emily Koeller 3<sup>rd</sup>.



To recognize Earth Day, Lancaster Lions did highway cleanup April 25 and 27 as part of the Keep Lancaster Beautiful street and highway cleanup project. Left to Right in photo: Lynn Knutson, Kim Veech, Julie Rebecca, Stacy Martin. Not pictured Kathy Larsen and Vickie Burgraf.



# KIDS IN AG Spotlight

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Volunteers converged on Bagley April 23, including members of the Hazel Green Fire, Lancaster EMS, Fennimore EMS to help make and deploy sandbags for the community. Images like these on the Bagley Fire Department Facebook page show a bunch of the people involved.



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We wish Terry and his family the very best.



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**Herald 12A  
Independent**

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023

There were many easy points of reference to show how high the water was this past weekend. Jon Reiten sent us the image of the way into Potosi Point which was only navigable by watercraft. Courier Press Editor Melissa Collum shows the very high water impacting Prairie du Chien's St. Feriole Island, which was completely underwater. CTH C was underwater in several places, and closed to traffic. The Wyalusing Bud Biefer Boat Landing and beach were also completely underwater at the Mississippi's crest, as was Riverside Park in Cassville.

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