WILLMAR, MINN.

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2019 SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2019



Minnesota Highway 67 closed southeast of Granite Falls

By Tom Cherveny tcherveny@wctrib.com

Upper Sioux Agency State Parkf you're looking for a place to stand your ground, don't pick this portion of Minnesota Highway 67 near the Upper Sioux Agency State Park, southeast of Granite Falls.

The ground is moving, with costly implications for the Minnesota Department of Transportation and possibly the

state park. Movement that is occurring many feet below the road surface has caused the pavement to fracture, with jagged fissures and as much as two-feet of grade separation.

"Like an earthquake zone," one

observer described it.

MnDOT has closed this portion of the road, from a short distance east of the main entrance to the state park to the bridge over the Yellow Medicine River, since late in March.

The movement is affecting a broader area. It's causing fissures and shifting that is affecting trails and a gravel road to the state park's campground along the Yellow Medicine River.

"Unfortunately, we don't have a lot of answers right now the fix will be or how long it will take," said Cody Brand, a materials engineer with MnDOT in Willmar.

MnDOT needs to determine where the underground fault

plane causing the movement is before it can develop a plan to address it, and that will take some time, he explained.

MnDOT is in the process of drilling three bore holes. Each will hold sensors able to record the amount of movement occurring, and at what depth. The first boring is about 90 feet

The department has also conducted electrical resistivity studies to identify the properties of the subsurface materials.

The movement in this area has been occurring for years. Wet conditions in the past year likely accelerated it, as well as

HWY 67: Page A2



The Minnesota Department of Transportation is in the process of boring electronic sensors into the subsurface at three sites along the shifting earth under state Highway 67 east of the Upper Sioux Agency State Park entrance.



Submitted by Bolton and Menk / Hoffman Construction Two roundabouts are being proposed for the new section of U.S. Highway 12 that will be constructed as part of the Willmar Wye project. Bolton and Menk, part of the Hoffman Team designing and constructing the road portion of the wye project, presented these designs to the Willmar City Council and Kandiyohi County Board on the roundabouts.

New Highway 12 roundabouts approved by Willmar and Kandiyohi County

Roundabouts are part of updated design of Willmar Wye project

> By Shelby Lindrud slindrud@wctrib.com

www.prairiesedgecasino.com

Willmar Wye project will have two roundabouts on the new a bit of cylindrical route once construction is completed.

Bolton and Menk, part of the Hoffman Team hired by WILLMAR - Travelers who of Transportation to design the city and county did. Both will use the redesigned U.S. and build the road portion the Willmar City Council and Highway 12 on the west side of the Willmar Wye project, of Willmar as part of the has proposed constructing WYE: Page A2

section of Highway 12, both as a cost savings and safety measure.

MnDOT conditionally the Minnesota Department approved the plan as long as

Kids take center stage leading up to Governor's Fishing Opener

By Steve Hoffman Forum News Service

ALBERT LEA — On Saturday, May 11, the focus on Fountain Lake will be the Governor's Fishing Opener. But on Friday, the lake belonged to

"Who knows what kind of fish that is," Brandon Eder asked a group of area fifth graders as he pointed to black crappie swimming in an acrylic aquarium. Several hands shot up and the students began to chatter about the various fish species they have caught.

Eder is the Assistant Fisheries Supervisor in the Waterville Area for the Minnesota DNR. His aquarium contained a mix of crappies, sunfish, bass and pike sampled from area lakes.

He also showed the kids a wading pool that contained an assortment of bullheads, bass and a lone bowfin. "See how different their skin feels?" Eder asked. "The bullheads are smooth because they don't have scales, but bass and sunfish do."

At the next station, DNR Area Fisheries Supervisor Craig Soupir explained how fisheries personnel use nets to sample fish from lakes

"Once we're able to establish how many fish are in a lake, we can make decisions about how to improve the population," he said. "Most of the time, that means stocking small fish that will one day be big enough for you to catch.'

A DNR stocking truck arrived carrying precious cargo: more than 50,000 walleye fry and approximately 1,000 fingerlings. DNR Fisheries Specialist Sky Wigen scooped the fingerlings from a large holding tank then passed the net to excited students. His volunteers hurried down to the fishing pier to release the young fish into Fountain Lake.

"We usually only stock walleye fingerlings in the fall on this lake," Wigen said. "You guys are really helping us out."

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HWY 67

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the freeze-thaw cycle, said Brand.

The movement is essentially a slow-motion landslide of the face of the river bluff down to the river, which itself is meandering and could be cutting into the bluff, according to Dr. Carrie Jennings, a geologist who has examined the glacial deposits exposed along the Yellow Medicine River in the state park. The

bluff is very steep, and nearly a couple hundred feet in elevation. Gravity doesn't like vertical slopes, and wants it to relax and slump a little, said Jennings.

The road was cut into the bluff when it was built, which is problematic in itself, she noted.

Brand said the first test bore has shown movement at about 45 feet below the road surface. But he cautioned that much more time is needed to know if there are other failure planes and areas of movement.

Gov. Tim Walz:

"Whereas: Fishing is an import-

people of all ages to our lakes, riv-

our waters swimable and fishable

through Minnesota Department of

Natural Resources and fishing and

'Whereas: The interactions of stu-

dents, teachers and volunteers, in

partnership with the many sponsors

of the 2019 Minnesota Governor's

Fishing Opener in the Albert Lea Area

and the Minnesota Department of

Natural Resources, work together to

aquatic resources curriculum; and

resources and conservation; and

"We haven't pinpointed a weak area," said Brand. "We haven't found anything that really has been identified as an extremely weak layer where we can say, 'oh yes, this is where the failure plane is happening.'

Until more is known, MnDOT cannot develop a fix for it, he noted. Some of the possible options include sinking pilings into the area and reducing the weight of the road bed on the slope.

MnDOT has no way to anticipate problems such as this. There are some

studies underway that may help the department identify potential problem sites like this in the future, said Brand. For now, MnDOT has the worry of figuring out where to find funding for a fix when it is unable to estimate the cost or even time frame for the work.

Brand said MnDOT is working with the state park, Prairie's Edge Casino and the Upper Sioux Community, all of which are affected by the road closure. Long-term detour signs will be installed soon to advise motorists.



Steve Hoffman / Forum News Service Fifth graders took over the fishing pier at Edgewater Park on Fountain

not only in the Albert Lea area but throughout the state.

"Now, therefore, I, Tim Walz, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Friday, May 10, 2019, as Fishing Education Day."

Then it was back to fishing.

Reach Hoffman at shoffman@forumcomm.com.

OPENER

From Page A1

Then they gathered on the edge of the shoreline to watch Wigen release the tiny fry. "These baby fish probably hatched yesterday or even this morning," Wigen said. "But someday they'll be big enough for you to

After lunch, volunteers from the Albert Lea Anglers youth fishing club arrived to teach the fifth-grade students how to rig a rod and reel. After a bit of casting practice in a field at the park, it was time to fish.

The students chucked red and white bobbers around the perimeter of the fishing pier, and it wasn't long before some were shouting, "fish on!"

Alex Henschel, a sophomore at Albert Lea Senior High School, has been an Albert Lea Anglers member for two years. He moved quickly from Lakes, Explore Minnesota Tourism one end of the pier to the other, baiting hooks, freeing snags and removing tangles. "Fishing with kids is a create the next generation of Minlot of work," he said.

create the next generation of Minnesota conservationists and anglers

WYE From Page A1

the Kandiyohi Board of Commissioners unanapproved the imously updated design this week.

The first roundabout will be located at the new intersection of Highway 12 and County Road 5, which will be located approximately 650 feet south of the current intersection.

Instead of putting in a large traffic signal intersection, Bolton and Menk thought a roundabout made much more sense. This option removes the costs of the traffic signal and any future maintenance on the signal.

"There is a significant costs reduction associated with this," Wardford said. "We are not spending a quarter of a million dollars on a traffic signal.

The second proposed roundabout to be constructed is at the new intersection of Highway 12 and 1st Avenue. A roundabout here will help Willmar Industrial Park traffic, including trucks, to enter Highway 12 without having to worry about merging into traffic going 60 to 70 mph. The original design called for only a stop sign and a truck acceleration lane, but Wardford said there were still concerns about safety.
Both of these round-

abouts will be large, at least 146 feet in diameter. Regular-sized tractor trailers will be able to navigate them, Wardorf said. Even larger vehicles, including trucks carrying wind turbine pieces or bigger, will be able to get through

"We had to demonstrate to MnDOT that larger vehicles can access all routes through these roundabouts," Wardford said.

Roundabouts have been shown to increase safety on roads and reduce fatal and severe-injury crashes.

"Most of the reason for that is speed reduction. You cannot navigate a roundabout at high speed, they are not designed for that," Wardford said.

This will be an added benefit for the new Highway 12 section which goes through land that in the future could be developed as part of the Willmar Industrial Park. The

roundabouts will keep vehicle speeds down in that

"I see that as a pretty significant safety benefit," Wardford said.

He said the design team also took a look at how the Highway 12 and Coun-

nesota conservationists and anglers ty Road 5 intersection as well, Wardford said. would work when a train is blocking the crossing. If a Willmar Wye project, train is blocking the crossing for more than eight el between the Morris minutes during the regu- and Marshal subdivision lar work day, traffic could tracks without having to back up all the way into the roundabout. Wardford said the lane size of the reduce how often trains circle, 24-feet wide, would make it possible for drivers needing to navigate the circle to do so, even if a

line of cars are stopped on

The main goal of the to allow trains to travturn engines around in downtown Willmar, could are blocking the road crossing.

"The biggest driver of delay at the railyard are trains that come in and the right-hand side. Sig- need to switch," Wardford nage could help with this said. "They won't have ford said.

that conflict anymore."

Construction on the Highway 12 and County Road 5 roundabout is scheduled to begin this year. This project does have the chance of overlapping with the county's roundabout project on County Roads 5 and 15. Both projects will have detours.

"We have to get out there this summer. We don't want to lose a year of construction," Ward-





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Willmar 5-Day Forecast Morning

Partly sunny, showers

around

SSE at 8-16 mph

Tomorrow

58° 44°

Some sun with a brief shower

or two

NW at 6-12 mph

Almanac

Temperature

Precipitation

Willmar through 5 p.m. yesterday

High/low

Normal high/low 67°/45°

Record high 91° in 1987

Record low 24° in 1945

24 hrs to 5 p.m. yest. 0.05"

Year to date 7.53"

Normal year to date 6.39"

Afternoon

Mostly cloudy,

showers around

S at 12-25 mph

Evening

Mostly cloudy, showers around

S at 8-16 mph

Wednesday Tuesday Monday

Times of clouds

73° 46° Rather cloudy

68° Mostly sunny

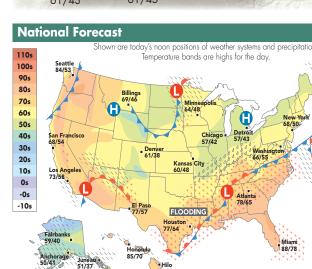
and delightful

W at 7-14 mph

NNW at 6-12 mph Sun and Moon Sunrise 8:38 p.m. 5:56 a.m. 5:55 a.m. 8:39 p.m. Moonrise Moonset Today 12:06 p.m. 2:21 a.m. 1:19 p.m. 3:01 a.m. Sun. Full Last

May 11 May 18 May 26 Jun 3

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Fairmont

National Summary: A wedge of cool, but dry air will keep much of the Northeast free of rain today. However, a large swath of wet weather is in store from southeastern Texas to the Ohio Valley and the lower mid-Atlantic coast. Enough rain can fall to aggravate ongoing flooding problems in parts of Texas and the lower Mississippi Valley. Urban flooding can occur in parts of the Midwest and Southeast. Meanwhile, areas from southwestern Florida to the southern Atlantic coast can expect dry weather to linger. A batch of showers and storms will drop across the

northern Plains and the Upper Midwest. Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2019

TODAY'S INFO

If any corrections are nec-

Winning numbers drawn

essary, they will be published

Lottery results

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Northstar Cash:6-14-16-18-23

Mega Millions: 3-16-21-61-62

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Friday night are:

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