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HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS: Where to get spooked **PAGE 8A**

Area's groundwater use meets state sustainability standard

BY DEBRA NEUTKENS
EDITOR

The new Department of Natural Resources study that shows groundwater use is sustainable within a 5-mile radius of White Bear Lake also indicated that use has contributed to lower water levels.

It's a key finding in the scientific analysis that ran, per court order, in last week's Press. That finding indicated current groundwater use has contributed to water levels falling below the protective elevation for White Bear Lake set in 2016 by the DNR to protect

recreational uses.

District Judge Margaret Marrinan ordered the DNR last year to analyze the cumulative impact of its appropriation permits within the radius to determine whether pumping at the maximum rates allowed meets the state's sustainability standard, adopted in 2010. She asked that the analysis be completed within one year of her Aug. 30 order and its results be published in a public newspaper.

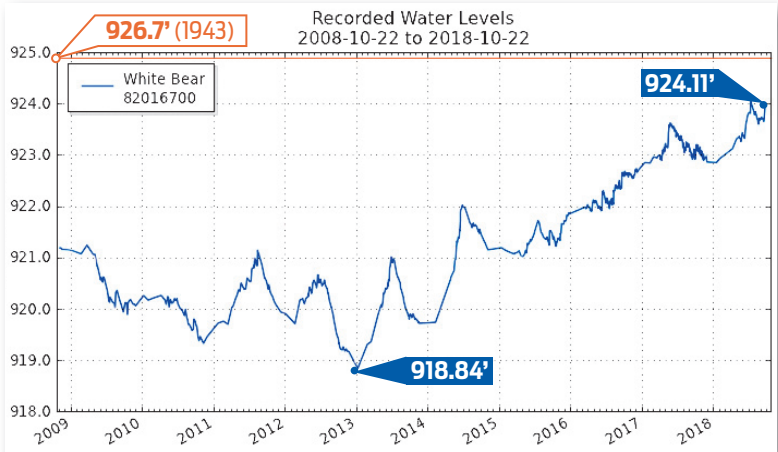
Marrinan's ruling also required the DNR to impose a variety of conditions on existing water permits in the

area, including a residential irrigation ban if the lake is below 923.5 feet in elevation. A moratorium was placed on that ban by the Legislature until July 2019.

The \$250,000 state-of-the-science groundwater flow model was developed by DNR staff and an outside consultant to assess the impacts of pumping on the lake and aquifer. Previous models could not make these kinds of assessments.

According to the analysis, year-round groundwater pumping was estimated to

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Last week, the lake was 924.11 feet, a foot higher than last year at this time and the highest it's been since 2003.



PAUL DOLS | PRESS PUBLICATIONS

Pacifier-powered finish

Erick Jacobson, 2, powers through to the finish line after a sudden snow squall erupted in the middle of the Kids Fun Run that was part of the annual Run for the Apples at Pine Tree Apple Orchard Saturday, Oct. 20. It was the first race for the fourth generation member of the Jacobson family — the owners and operators of the orchard. Find more photos on page 1B.

Township names successor to longtime clerk-treasurer

BY MAGGIE STANWOOD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WHITE BEAR TOWNSHIP — It's official; the township has a new clerk-treasurer.

Well, as of Nov. 13, anyway.

The White Bear Town Board authorized the hiring of Patrick Christopherson to replace retiring Clerk-Treasurer Bill Short and approved an employment agreement. Christopherson is currently Kanabec County coordinator, a job he's held for six years.

Interviews were conducted with three finalists at Heritage Hall Oct. 1, which were whittled down from 34 applicants: Kevin Kress, Clearwater city administrator, Tobin Lay, city administrator of Birchwood Village, and Christopherson. Supervisors decided to offer it to Christopherson.

Town Board Chair Bob Kermes said the process was "very thorough" and "very educational. We are getting an excellent candidate in Patrick Christopherson."

According to an earlier news release, Christopherson has been in his current position as county coordinator/board clerk/personnel director for Kanabec County for six years. Before that, he was the city administrator for Jackson,

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