

BRAINERD DISPATCH

SERVING THE BRAINERD AREA SINCE 1881

CHEERS FOR OKTOBERFEST

VIDEO
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Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch
Lisa Gable, left, Gail Andreas and Gordy Gable enjoy their food and beverages while hanging out with friends Saturday during Oktoberfest at Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort near Deerwood.

Feds approve clean water rule changes

Advocates worry new rule weakens water protection

By Kirsti Marohn
Minnesota Public Radio
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has given a green light to changes to Minnesota's water quality rules that

advocates say will weaken protections for the state's lakes and rivers. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency proposed amending the **WATER:** Page 7



Matt Mikus / MPR News

The St. Louis River at Jay Cooke State Park on Sept. 10. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has given a green light to changes to Minnesota's water quality rules that advocates say will weaken protections for the state's lakes and rivers.

Minnesota project helps to solve conundrum about kestrels' winter homes

By John Myers
Duluth News Tribune
Most American kestrels are winging their way south for winter now, heading from the fields and meadows of Minnesota and Canada down to warmer climes.

Exactly where the little falcons go, however, has remained a mystery. "We know some go farther south and some only go as far as they have to go to find rodents and snakes all winter, maybe **KESTRELS:** Page 8

Shielding feral cats from the cold

Volunteers gather to build outdoor shelters

By Frank Lee
Brainerd Dispatch

Andrea Lambrecht answered the call of the wild — and that call was to build shelters for cats. The former Brainerd Dispatch nature columnist from Backus co-hosted a two-day build starting Saturday to make shelters for feral or semi-feral cats to stay warm in the winter.

"It's primarily for cats that are left out in the winter. ... And they're all distributed locally to cats in need," Lambrecht said.

The environmental biologist invited people to volunteer their time or donate money



Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

Jessica Kirby, left, and her daughter Cora Walsh construct a cat shelter out of a plastic tote, duct tape, insulation and straw Saturday west of Baxter at a storage facility behind the Corner Store.

to construct homemade shelters from plastic totes and coolers, Styrofoam, straw, sand and

duct tape. "There are several colonies of cats in Brainerd," said Lambrecht,

VIDEO
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who retired from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Lambrecht also called for electric heat pads, heated water bowls, cat food and more to be donated in addition to seeking volunteers to make the winter cat shelters and deliver them.

"I got a call two days ago for a cat that people have seen that is just a stray cat that's been around town all summer **SHELTERS:** Page 8

City's 1st railroad bridge collapsed

In 1875, 5 died when train fell

By Frank Lee
Brainerd Dispatch

Brainerd's early history and fortunes were tied to the railroad industry, which made the 1875 collapse of the Northern Pacific Railroad bridge over the Mississippi River a tragedy.

The train's weight on the bridge contributed to the accident on the morning of July 27. The engineer, a fireman and several passengers perished. The engine, near-

ly a dozen cars of merchandise and almost a dozen cars of steel rails went into the river.

The 650-foot Howe-Truss railroad bridge in Brainerd consisted of three spans of 134 feet each with the center span about 60 feet above the water, according to a marker dedicated last month during the city's sesquicentennial celebration and designed in part by Jeremy Jackson.

"We're coming up on the 150th anniversary in 2025 of that and we're trying to organize an event where we're bringing in family members, descendants of these individuals **BRIDGE:** Page 7



Contributed / Crow Wing County Historical Society Museum
Built in 1871, the Northern Pacific Railroad bridge across the Mississippi River in Brainerd collapsed under the weight of a train on July 27, 1875.

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