



(SUN PHOTOS BY JAY MORGAN)

LEFT: A male and female osprey make their home on top of Highway 12 sign that was set to be replaced.

RIGHT: The female osprey watches over Highway 12 as her mate incubates their eggs.

Ospreys get 'birds eye view' of Highway 12 construction

Sign replacement
postponed until
fall due to nest

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The Highway 12 construction has some watchful eyes over it as two ospreys have made their home on the westbound Highway 12 Exit 152 sign

for the 10th year in a row.

While plans to replace the sign were on the construction schedule for this summer, the replacement has been delayed to when nesting season is over in the fall as the female osprey has now laid eggs.

"Nothing is being delayed or changed with the road construction and primary work. The sign

removal is one small blip so the construction schedule can still move along. It's not a super important part of the construction process," Minnesota Department of Transportation communications and engagement specialist Nathan Bowie said.

Over the past 10 years, the two ospreys have come back to the area to

build their nest. While construction on Highway 12 began April 20, MnDOT was informed of the osprey nest in February. By March, they received a permit from the Department of Natural Resources to take the nest down as the ospreys had not laid eggs yet.

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Students conquer Cool School Plunge in support of Special Olympics Minnesota

More than
\$29,000 raised
by students, staff
and supporters

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Over 250 students and staff at Minnetonka Middle School West recently jumped into frigid waters for the Cool School Mobile Plunge. The May 7 event raised more than \$29,000 to support both Special Olympics Minnesota and the school's Best Buddies and Unified programs.

Special Olympics Minnesota hosts the annual plunge event to encourage schools to "rally around inclusion" and celebrate all abilities while participating in a fun and unique fundraiser, according to plungemn.org. At Minnetonka Middle School West, each student had to raise a minimum of \$50 to participate in the plunging experience.

"[The Plunge] brings all the kids together," said Kristen Spilane, a special education teacher at the school. "You get to watch the friendships grow and the kids love it. It's fun for everyone. It gets the staff involved, it gets our administrators involved, brings in, obviously, the community as well."

The event marked the middle school's second year participating in the fundraiser. A custom-designed mobile plunge pool known as the Plungester was set up on the school campus for students and staff to jump into while dressed in their most creative costumes.

Participants also had the chance to win Cool School-themed prizes based on their fundraising totals. Students fundraised to win a T-shirt at \$50, a T-shirt and scarf at \$100, a T-shirt and hat at \$250, and a T-shirt and

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