

[EXTRAS]



Heavy rain could cause a run on rowboats

**Allen Dommer
 Hammond**

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A recent commentary stimulated a review of my observation of what has occurred as a result of heavy rains in my 57 years in this area.

The heaviest rainfall I can remember was seven inches, which our Little Calumet could not contain, resulting in vast areas of Munster and South Hammond being inundated. Schleicher Subdivision resembled that of the lower 9th Ward of New Orleans.

Levees were built shortly after in an attempt to contain the run-off should a relentless heavy rain recur.

At some future date, this effort could amount to, an exercise in futility. In recent history, a 20-inch rainfall occurred in a southern state, resulting in damages in the millions of dollars. Could it happen here? Absolutely.

Since these situations are unpredictable, all residents can do is pray it doesn't happen. If it does, even Cabela's would be vulnerable to flooding, as was Woodmar Country Club when Schleicher Subdivision was inundated. If you doubt what I am saying, speak with any of the survivors who chose to not move after that flood.

Could that narrow Little Calumet contain the run-off of a potential 20-inch rainfall? I'm certain the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would not hesitate to say absolutely not. Nor do I believe the Little Calumet could contain a 10-inch rainfall.

If a 10-, 15- or 20-inch rain does occur, Cabela's could have a big run on rowboats.

Allen Dommer, Hammond

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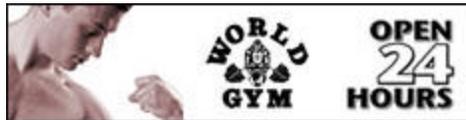
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