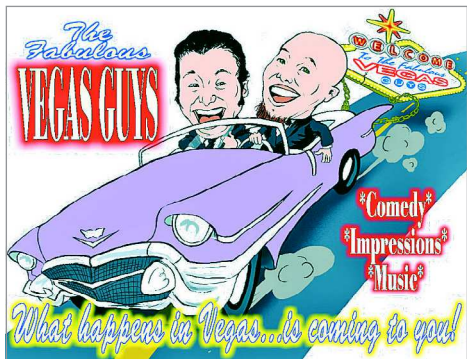


Tour for the Cure
Event set for Saturday

A9



Left, right, left, right
Walk aims to eliminate hunger

A3



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A young archer sets his eye on a target Saturday during Youth Day, sponsored by the Trail's End Chapter of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association. About 160 kids attend the second annual event held at the Moonlight Rock Archery Range. To see more photos, turn to page B10.

A DAY FOR THE YOUTH

County officials pleased with how flood was handled

Effort is still ongoing three months after the waters rose

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer



Rob Ecklund



Sheriff Brian Jespersen

Just as the sun came up on June 12, Koochiching County Board Chairman Rob Ecklund took his dog for a walk. Knowing the water of area lakes and rivers were already high and seeing extensive rain in the forecast, Ecklund said he returned from his morning excursion and knew he better make a call to Sheriff Brian Jespersen should matters get worse.

"I called the sheriff about 6 (a.m.) and by 11 (a.m.), we had a plan started and in action," he said. "Five hours later, we were ready to go. We were filling sandbags by 2 (p.m.) that afternoon."

The early-summer flood that made its way along the shores of many Borderland bodies of water may have settled, but for the two county officials, who among others stood on the forefront of the disaster, the event is still very much on their radar. Last week, Jespersen and Ecklund met with other local officials to discuss what went well, what needs to be improved and how to be more prepared should there be a next time.

County to A7 >

Bakk, Dill: State heading in the right direction

State lawmakers discuss economy at luncheon

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

Minnesota Sen. Tom Bakk and Rep. David Dill met with community members Monday to provide an overview of issues affecting the Borderland economy and business climate.

The 2013-2014 legislative session concluded May 16, and the 2015 session is scheduled to convene Jan. 6. The state officials took part in a luncheon sponsored by International Falls and the International Falls Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Borderland lawmakers said the accomplishments of the past session that have improved the health of the state's economy will be built upon in the coming session.

"The state is dramatically changing," Dill said. "We've taken a turn we think is for the better. The economic opportunities are hopefully going to start coming our way."

Dill, who represents House District 3A, which is made up of 15,800 square miles, said he'd met that day with local entrepreneurs who have projects in the works that could help provide a more stable local economic base.

House District 3 is larger than eight states; Bakk represents Senate District 3, which is larger than nine states, Dill said.

"Geographically, (representing the area is) quite a project and it has a very diverse economy," Dill said.

Some areas of the districts' resource-based economy are dependent on tourism, other areas depend on iron ore mining, and yet other areas, including Borderland, rely on timber, he said. "We have the opportunity to

Bill to A7 >

The second annual youth day hosted by the Trail's End Chapter of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association drew about 160 kids, many parents and almost perfect weather reports Bobbi Bernath, Trail's End president.

Conducted at the Moonlight Rock Archery Range, kids moved through 10 stations where volunteer instructors provided lessons on archery, gun handling and safety, orienteering, what to do in a lost scenario, skeet shooting and wildlife habitat among others.

The day was made possible by Boise Paper, a Packing Corporation of America company employee safety dollars and other community donations. Bernath reported new members joined the chapter during the day, which is expected to continue as an annual event with the hope it grows.

"A lot of people use this as a family day," Bernath said of the event. "You can tell everyone really enjoyed themselves."



Above: Adyson and Gage Wallander plug their ears as Kerry Meyers shoots a gun during a demonstration.

Right: Minnesota Conservation Officer Darrin Kittelson shows Elizabeth Jantzen how to safely climb into a tree stand.



Permits pending for power line project

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

The Koochiching County Board Tuesday heard an update on the Great Northern Transmission Line project, which is in the middle of the review and permit process.

David Moeller from Minnesota Power updated the board on the project, and said the company expects decisions on the project's regulatory review process to come by late 2015.

The project requires a certificate of need and route permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, and final decisions on those items are expected in late 2015. It also requires a Presidential Permit from the

U.S. Department of Energy, as it crosses the U.S.-Canada border. All three items have been filed, Moeller said, and the government agencies have begun reviewing the applications.

The state and federal review organizations will also conduct one environmental impact statement, Moeller said, which will save time.

"They're going to do one joint environmental impact statement, which hopefully saves time, streamlines it, and also makes it easier for the public, agencies and others to understand how

that part of the process works," Moeller said.

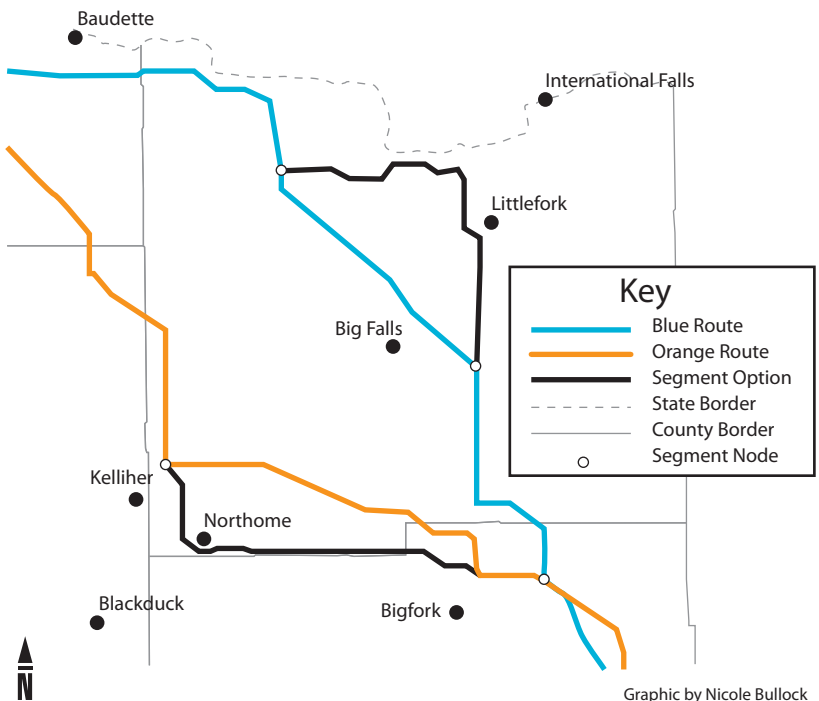
Six scoping meetings in July in Roseau, Baudette, Littlefork, International Falls, Kelliher, Grand Rapids and Bigfork on the environmental impact statement allowed the public to provide input, Moeller said. There was a light turnout at those meetings, he said, probably due to all the previous open houses and meetings Minnesota Power has held in the area, in order to keep the public informed.

There are two main proposed routes for the transmission line, both of which run through Koochiching County. Both of the lines try to follow existing corridors as



Wayne Skoe

Proposed Route Alternatives



Graphic by Nicole Bullock

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