

LOCALNEWS

United Way: Efforts critical to Koochiching County

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

An old adage says that when times get tough, you learn who you can count on. Elizabeth Johnson, development and communications director of United Way of Northeastern Minnesota, said the adage is especially true when it comes to United Way and Koochiching County.

With the community in a state of flux following the announcement of the Boise Inc. job eliminations, Johnson told The Journal that support from entities like United Way

of Northeastern Minnesota is more important than ever. United Way has been present in Koochiching County for more than 20 years and remains a committed partner in the community. All funds that are raised in Koochiching County, stay in Koochiching County to benefit local agencies and community members.

The beauty of United Way giving is the ability to donate through payroll deduction, according to Johnson. It is often difficult to write out a check for \$100, \$250 or \$500 to one nonprofit organization.

Giving to United Way allows an individual to spread their giving out over the year to local non-profits, with a small amount taken out each paycheck; it adds up over the year to a significant amount. It is through these small donations, collectively with others in the community, that a large impact is made, she said.

In addition, giving through United Way puts into place a mechanism that provides oversight to ensure these organizations are accountable and operating well according to the highest standards, said

Johnson. United Way examines its financials, measures the impact of its programs within Koochiching County and makes sure they are serving the population in the most efficient manner, she said.

In 2013, 13 nonprofit organizations received funding from the United Way, according to Johnson. "This funding is critically important to these agencies, allowing them to comfort the sick, educate the children, care for the elderly and feed the hungry, as well as providing many other services in the

community," she said in a statement to The Journal.

United Way also provides three initiatives to help children of Koochiching County learn, grow and thrive: Buddy Backpacks, Imagination Library and Smiles Across Minnesota dental program. Recently, United Way was granted funds from the Otto Bremer Foundation to help expand the Buddy Backpack program to reach children in need of food over the week-ends during the school year. In addition, the United Way provides assistance to support many of the small fund-

raisers in town to help those who are ill with medical expenses. These donations are authorized by the United Way Koochiching County Advisory Board.

Over the next couple of months, The Journal will feature a column to share the impact of United Way on the community through the voices of local nonprofits, advisory board members and community members. "With our community need heightened, it is good to know that United Way is here, helping us all to LIVE UNITED," said Johnson.

FAIR PROJECTS



A group of Koochiching County Fairgoers examine a table of veggie creatures Sunday morning in Northome. The annual fair, which was held Aug. 9-11, featured a parade, talent show, grandstand entertainment, fireworks and several contests. Prizes were awarded for best floats in the parade, winning flower bouquet, winning vegetable creature, best garden display, the big ten vegetable competition, photography in three age groups and the farm market produce competition.

Gas prices fall in time for last-minute summer vacations

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Average retail gasoline prices in Minnesota have fallen 7.6 cents in the past week, averaging \$3.49 per gallon Thursday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 2,856 gas outlets in Minnesota. This compares with the national average that has decreased 5 cents per gallon in the last week to \$3.58 per gallon, according to gasoline price website MinnesotaGasPrices.com.

Prices in International Falls Sunday ranged from \$3.57 to \$3.64 per gallon, according to the website.

Including the change in gas prices in Minnesota during the past week, prices Sunday were 25.8 cents per gallon lower compared to the same day one year ago and are 5.9 cents per gallon lower than a month ago. The national average has decreased 1.2 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 9.1 cents per gallon lower than

this day one year ago.

"While gas prices in Anderson, S.C., have hit \$2.99 per gallon in the last week, nationally, pump prices have also seen drops amounting to an average drop of a nickel per gallon," said GasBuddy.com Senior Petroleum Analyst Patrick DeHaan. "Prices finally have dropped under their year ago values, just in time for those last minute vacations before school starts. The rest of the summer will likely see prices flirting with where they stand today, but more significant relief will arrive around mid-September, when prices nationally could be 10-25 cents per gallon lower than where they are today," DeHaan said.

GasBuddy operates MinnesotaGasPrices.com and over 250 similar websites that track gasoline prices at more than 140,000 gasoline stations in the United States and Canada.

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LEAGUE MEETING SCHEDULE

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	218-373-(BOWL) FAMILY FUN CENTER INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF BOWLING	Border League Aug. 22 • 7:00	Can/Am League Aug. 26 • 7:00
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