

# LOCALNEWS

## Nine years later, tradition continues

BY EMILY GEDDE  
Staff Writer

What started as an idea to the help the community almost a decade ago, has grown into serving hundreds of people.

The annual Christmas Day dinner, in its ninth year, is set for 2-6 p.m. Dec. 25 at the Roadhouse on Highway 11 East.

“Our goal was to have something on Christmas every year,” said Lee Grim, one of the event’s veteran organizers. “Carl Brown, who owned the Roadhouse, came to me wanting to do something for the community.”

Grim said the dinner has gained a reputation of being a popular gathering place on the holiday. Last year, about 700 people were served.

“When we first started out, we were calling places to donate food and help volunteer,” he said. “Now, they call us.”

Grim stressed the event’s the success is a result of the generosity of businesses that donate food and supplies as well as the volunteers who band together on Christmas.

“Our community is very generous,” he said.

The organizer said when the first community Christmas dinner was served in 2006, a committee was established to nurture the success of the event. Now, however, Grim said people involved in the event no longer meet as a committee.

“Now that we’ve got things pretty much under control, we don’t have to meet,” he said. “It just comes together so nicely.”

The dinner is for anyone and everyone who would like to attend. Circumstances do not designate who is eligible to attend the dinner, Grim said. For those who celebrate Christmas only by attending the community meal, the event is as



LeRoy Winkel, who along with his family, has volunteered at the Community Christmas Day Dinner at the Roadhouse for about four years. He continued the tradition of serving food at the event last year. Winkel said he and his family choose to spend time on Christmas helping others because it is a way to give back to the community and “it is just fun.”

much about fellowship and togetherness as it is about the food.

Just as it has been done in the past, people who would like to attend the meal, but are without transportation to the Roadhouse, can call for a ride free of charge.

Those wishing to reserve a ride should call the Roadhouse at 286-5550 and provide a phone number, address and pick-up time.

And for the community members who are home

bound, but would like a meal, Grim said take-out dinners will once again be organized by the members of Elks Lodge 1599.

“We will have meals on wheels again,” Grim said. “The Elks members will provide that and we are very thankful they do.”

Meals will be delivered from 3-5 p.m. To sign up, call Holy Trinity Episcopal Church at 283-8606 or the Koochiching Senior Center at 283-3737.

The Christmas Day din-

ner is based entirely on volunteers, and Grim said people are still needed to help make it a success. Volunteers are needed to serve food, bus tables, greet people at the door, wash dishes, etc. Anyone interested can call Holy Trinity Episcopal Church at 283-8606 or email the church at holytrinityif@midconetwork.com.

“Our goal is to have something at Christmas every year,” Grim said. “We hope to keep the momentum going.”

## MUZZLELOADER BUCK



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cole Mann harvested this 10-point buck Dec. 7. His proud mom, Kari Gansch, reports it was a “great shot at 175 yards away, open sights with his muzzleloader.” She notes Mann is an avid hunter; if he “isn’t working and going to school, he truly lives and breathes it.”

## VNP TRAIL REPORT

The 2014-15 winter trail season is underway in Voyageurs National Park.

The green trail from Rainy Lake/Frank’s Bay to Kabetogama Lake/Ash River is open and staked.

All other snowmobile trails are closed at this time, but ice checking and overland portage clearing continues. Rangers have placed some thin ice signs in the park, but due to changing temperature conditions and the early nature of the season, anyone traveling onto frozen lake surfaces should use caution.

The snowmobile speed limit within the park is 45 mph on frozen lake surfaces and 25 mph on all overland portages.

Ski trails do not have significant snow accumulation to allow grooming at this time. Snowshoe trails are open, but not packed, and snow accumulation is poor.

To reduce hazards to snowmobile users, all ice blocks are to be immediately chopped up, submerged, or hauled to land. Placement of equipment or any type of structure must more than 50 feet off the edge of all ice roads and 50 feet off the centerline of all snowmobile trails. Written authorization from the park is required for individuals to plow more than 300 feet on any lake surfaces within the park.

The Rainy Lake Visitor Center is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. During business hours, the visitor center offers maps, information, and hot cocoa. Snowshoe loans and cross-country ski rentals have not started for the season.

The most up to date winter trail conditions are available on our website at [www.nps.gov/voya](http://www.nps.gov/voya).

HOUSE CLEANING  
FOR THE  
HOLIDAYS  
OR AS A GIFT  
CERTIFICATE

My Oasis  
218-341-5036

Thanks to the 2014 Flood  
we are flooded with inventory and it's time  
for it to recede.

20% OFF

Camping Supplies, Fishing  
Rods, Fishing Reels, Fishing  
Combos, Tackle Boxes, Boat  
Supplies, Lifejackets,  
Swim Tubes &  
Snowmobile Jackets

30% OFF

all Clothing & Gifts

3202 Hwy 11 East  
218.286.5700

Sale  
Ends  
12/24/14

Koochiching Aging Options wishes to thank the many contributors  
to the success of its December 5 fundraiser, the ...

LOGGING CAMP CHRISTMAS

Our Golden Sponsors

Bergstrom Logging  
Boise  
Robin Monahan/Becky Lucas

Molpus Timberlands Mgmt  
Rainy Lake Medical Center  
Stewarts' SuperOne Foods

Wenberg Transfer  
Ziemba Trucking & Logging

Our Silver Sponsors

Bremer Bank  
DeLack Logging

Dobbs Logging  
Green-Larsen Mortuary

Shermoen Jaksa PLLP  
Whitefish Creek Enterprise

Decorations

No Place Like Home Again

Molpus Timberlands Management

Camp Cooks, Wait-staff, Bull Cooks

Cynthia Warren, Head Cook  
Beth Anderson, bull Cook  
Debbie Marquard, bull Cook  
Ardel Henrickson, bull cook  
Steph Heinle, head cookie  
Tyler Borgen & Co, washer-uppers  
Florence Hervey, bartender

Beth DeLack, bartender  
Steve Earley, bartender  
Eric Earley, spec. assistant  
RRCC Baseball team, cookies  
Chris Hell, cookie  
Jodi Mann, cookie  
Betty Mitchell, cookie

Emma Pullar, cookie  
Jake Piekarski, cookie  
Libby Dix, cookie  
Gavia Yount, cookie/piggy  
Jim Yount, cookie  
Cora Beth Lewis, spec. asst.

Special Guests and Entertainers

Dean Piekarski, Honorary Cook  
Mark Gierszewski, Honorary Cook  
Douglas Skrief, camp poet,  
script/production  
Kimberly Perkins, Marie, ze French cook

Jacob Bishop, Paul Bunyan VII  
Willard Johnson, Trapper John  
Sloughgrass Band  
Jessie Laurion, piano, music director  
Craig Schmidt, drum

Wayne Sampson, Santa's Helper  
Margarete Kostiuik, Mrs. Claus  
Dancin' with Darcie Dancers

Other Thanks

City Drug  
Backus Community Center  
The Journal  
KGHS/KSDM  
City of Int'l Falls  
Chamber of Commerce

The Jug  
County Market Liquors  
Chocolate Moose  
Faith United Church  
Thunderbird Lodge  
Julie & Les Lepisto

Kelly Gordon  
Mac Shafer  
Graham Keeney  
Julie Christenson  
John Faith Lighting  
County Health Staff

Donors

Almost Lindy's  
Andrea Rose Salon  
Irv & Marcia Arnquist  
Ballan Furniture  
Bohman Hairways  
The Bootery  
Borderland Jewelry  
Brady Bruyere  
Mary Casanova  
Cedar Grove Farm  
Chamber of Commerce  
Chocolate Moose  
City Drug  
Coffee Landing Cafe  
Lori Dobbs  
Evolve U Fitness

Falls Lumber Company  
Fisher Petroleum  
Forestland Sales  
Sue Fraik  
Dennis & Sharon Frank  
Donna Frederickson  
Gearhart's Floral  
John Gjertson  
Jackie Glowack  
ItaBelKoo DAC  
J2M Apparel  
Lakeside Gourmet  
Nancy Lee  
Sherrie Lessard  
Larry Lennox  
Jodi Mann

Masons on Main  
Myrna Meadows  
Pam Moss  
Northome Hardware  
Northome Senior Citizens  
Polkinghorne's Hardware  
Randy Pozniak  
Rainy Lake Houseboats  
Rainy Lake Waves Massage  
Rainy River Vet Hospital  
Randy's Discount Auto  
Ranier Municipal Liquor  
Ronnings  
Carol Schumacher  
SEARS  
Shannon's

Marsha Shuff  
Sjoblom's Landscape  
Douglas Skrief  
Sportsman's Service  
Sports Shop  
Spot  
Streiff's Floral  
Stride  
Swanky Sweet Pea  
Thunderbird Lodge  
Unique Photo Works  
Waschke Family GM Center  
Jim West  
Wherley's  
Dianne Wiley  
Mike Williams

THANK YOU to the residents of Koochiching County!  
Best wishes for the Holiday Season!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Ronning's has Gift Certificates for those  
"Hard To Buy For Loved Ones"!

DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> - DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> ONLY!!

20% OFF

Men's, Women's & Kid's  
Winter Footwear, Bibs, Jackets & Snowpants

\*Some exclusions apply. Excludes Bogs, Mucks, Under Armour, FXR Products & The North Face.

Holiday Hours

Dec. 15-20 • 8am – 8pm  
Dec. 21 • 9am – 4pm  
Dec. 22 & 23 • 8am – 8pm  
Christmas Eve • 8am – 4pm  
Christmas CLOSED

RONNING'S

218-283-8877  
Open Mon.-Sat. 8-7 Sunday 9-4  
International Falls, MN