

BCA series returns

Charlie Albright takes the stage Friday

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New looks, fresh food

SuperOne remodel updates store's decor

B4



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Sean Kacik embraces Mary Thydean with a hug before she reads to his kindergarten class. Thydean says her favorite part of reading to L-BF students every week is the hugs they give her.

Loving 'Grandma Mary'

BY EMILY GEDDE Staff Writer

LITTLEFORK – As soon as kindergarten students in Nicole Kennedy’s class returned from lunch Monday, they immediately got in line to give their classroom visitor – Mary Thydean – a big hug. “I’m so excited to see you, grandma Mary,” said one student as she flung her arms around Thydean’s neck. Another student told Thydean he had missed her as he went in for a welcoming embrace. The five minutes of greetings is a Monday ritual in Kennedy’s classroom and has been for quite some time. For the past 10 years, Thydean has been donating her time to read weekly stories to elementary students attending Littlefork-Big Falls School. “I read every Monday to the kindergarten, Tuesday to the first grade, Thursday is third grade and Friday I visit the second graders,” the 85-year-old said. “I absolutely love it.”

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

In 2004, Thydean’s granddaughter attended school in Ollie Paul’s kindergarten class. Paul has since retired, but Thydean recalled Paul asking if she would be interested in reading to the students. Having operated a day-care for several years, Thydean said she missed being around children and because she “didn’t have anything else to do,” she took Paul up on the offer. Ten years later, she can’t picture her life without the weekly visits to the school to read. “This is part of my life,”



Mary Thydean, known to Littlefork-Big Falls students as “grandma Mary,” reads a book about seasons to Nicole Kennedy’s kindergarten classroom Monday afternoon. This marks the 10th year Thydean has been reading to L-BF elementary students.

she said. “I don’t know what I’d do if I didn’t come here every week to do this.” Christopher Bachmeier, L-BF principal, said Thydean is an important part of students’ lives. “Our students not only get the opportunity to hear a story from her, but the students also get the chance to connect with a person from another generation,” he said. “There are too many of our kids that never get the opportunity to have a grandparent and grandma Mary gives our students the opportunity for all of our students to gain a relationship with a person from the older generation.”

Mary to A7 ►



STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

Tom Lynch, center, and other people stack bags of deer feed into a pickup box Saturday during the first distribution day.

Deer feeding attracts many

Effort continues each Saturday

BY LAUREL BEAGER Editor

Prompted by concern for the health of white-tailed deer, 73 people picked up 11,000 pounds of feed Saturday distributed by the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association in Borderland. The distribution at Up North Builders Saturday was the start of an ongoing feeding effort that will continue each Saturday until green up of the area vegetation, said Bobbi Bernath, president of the Trails End Chapter of MDHA. “It was just wonderful,” said Bernath of the effort. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources approved the emergency feeding program after it was requested by MDHA. Bernath, who assisted Saturday recording and identifying DNR approved distribution sites on maps, said 46 people would distribute feed in Permit Area 108; 16 in Permit Area 119 and 1 in Permit Area 168, near Northome. “People were very excited, very happy,” she said. “People were

TO SEE MORE PHOTOS, TURN TO B10.

there early, waiting and standing in line for instructions. People are very excited about helping the deer.” Pickups waited along U.S. Highway 53 for others already loaded with feed to leave the Up North Builders lot. As one pickup truck left with a load of the bagged feed, another took its place. Dave Stavseth collected an orange ticket, showing how much feed to provide each volunteer, which initiated an assembly line of men handing the bags to one another and placing the appropriate amount of feed in each pickup box. Trails End Chapter members were well represented from beginning to end of the process. And Jenny Foley, of the state MDHA was on hand with son Zach, to help. Volunteers picking up feed must sign an agreement pledging to use the feed in the identified sites and in the approved way. Documentation of the effort must be provided to the DNR, Jenny Foley said.

Deer to A7 ►

Legislature focuses on finance bills

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Tax relief may soon be coming to Minnesotans, thanks to finance bills making their way through the Minnesota Legislature. Gov. Mark Dayton Monday released his supplemental budget proposal, which would provide \$616 million in tax relief for middle-class Minnesotans and thousands of businesses, according to a release. The proposal would allocate the remaining half of the state’s \$1.2 billion surplus to the state’s budget reserve, which hasn’t increased since 2001, Matt Swenson, the governor’s press secretary, said. “Our improving economy has greatly improved the state’s budget forecast – giving us the opportunity to put more money in the pockets of Minnesota families and businesses,” Gov. Dayton

said in a release. “I urge members from both parties to work together to pass these tax cuts quickly.”



Gov. Mark Dayton

The Minnesota House of Representatives passed its finance bill Thursday, Swenson said, and the Senate’s finance bill is currently in committee. The governor has asked for a finance bill by Friday, Swenson said, so Minnesotans who still have to file their taxes can take advantage of the tax cuts. Dayton’s plan specifically targets tax relief for married couples, working families, day care, students, small employers, seniors, veterans, teachers, and homeowners, according to a release. Tax

Tax to A7 ►