OUTDOORS

CALL OF THE WILD

The Journal welcomes ideas for stories about people in our community who have a unique hunting, fishing or outdoors tale.

Call the Journal at 285-7411

VNP offers volunteer opportunities

VNS STAFF REPORT

Volunteers at Voyageurs National Park donate nearly 10,000 hours ever year.

The park greatly benefits from its dedicated supporters. Volunteers operate visitor centers, tend the ethnobotanical garden, and help with many other projects. The park is seeking area residents to assist with the following opportunities:

Immediate needs:

■ Rainy Lake Visitor Center Volunteer (Rainy Lake) — meet visitors, provide information, and assist with staffing a visitor center.

■ Headquarters Volunteer (International Falls) — assist with different projects from data entry, to information requests, to brochures.

■ Website Assistant (International Falls) — assist with updating web information, layout design, and page development.

Summer 2014 needs:

■ Kabetogama Lake or Ash River Visitor Center Volunteers — meet visitors, provide information, and assist with staffing a visitor center.

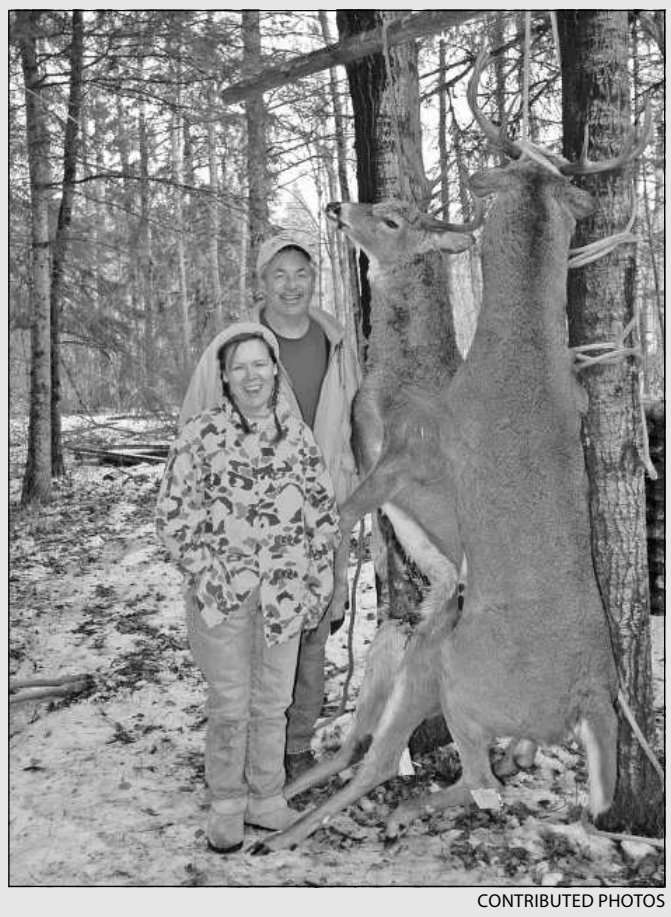
■ Voyageur Tour Boat Deckhand Volunteer (Rainy Lake) — help run the park's 49-passenger vessel, the Voyageur, a USCS approved tour boat vessel: prepare boat for tours, secure lines during docking and undocking, be trained on boat safety procedures.

■ Ethno-Botanical Garden Volunteer (Rainy Lake) — learn local botany, tend native plants, and remove invasive weeds.

Training will be provided for all opportunities. Positions with public contact are required to wear a uniform. Hours are flexible, generally a few hours a week. Some positions require a background check for government clearance. More detailed information can be found on the park's website: http://www.nps.gov/voya/supportyourpark/

Interested people are encouraged to contact Chris Amidon, the park's volunteer program coordinator at 283-6636.

Home for the hunting



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Former International Falls residents Harry Swendsen and Margo Walter shared these photos of their hunt in Borderland. The couple, who now reside in North Carolina, returned to the area to hunt with Harry's family, Frank and Doreen Swendsen and their daughter Carlie at the family shack in southwest Koochiching County. On opening day, Walter shot a 10 point, 206 pound (field dressed) buck. The next day Harry Swendsen shot an eight point, 191 pound buck from the same stand — within three feet of where Walter shot her deer. The couple was party hunting and Walter reports that she had the trifecta: "first, biggest and most. Also, my spike bucks were the first two buck double for the shack, and while my big buck doesn't have the most points, I believe it holds the record for the largest deer shot at our shack. I'm pretty unpopular with the Swendsens these days."

Firearms deer harvest down 6 percent from 2012

DNR STAFF REPORT

Minnesota hunters harvested 128,814 deer through the second weekend of the 2013 firearms season, according to preliminary numbers announced Nov. 20 by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The season ended Sunday, Nov. 17, for all but 100-series permit areas in the northeastern part of the state, where the season concludes on Sunday, Nov. 24. A late 3B firearm season in southeastern Minnesota begins Saturday, Nov. 23, and concludes Sunday, Dec. 1.

Firearm harvest to date is down 6 percent from last year at this time. Overall, antlered buck harvest is down 7 percent and antlerless harvest is down 5 percent.

"Based on our population estimates, the decrease in buck harvest was not anticipated and may reflect hunting conditions more than population," said Leslie McInenly, DNR big game program leader. "Based on the preliminary numbers, our opening and second weekend harvests from Saturday to Monday were down 4 and 13 percent, respectively, and we experienced windy conditions the first weekend and both wind and rain the second weekend."

Weekend harvests, particularly opening weekend, drive the total harvest numbers. McInenly stressed that these numbers are preliminary.

Much of the change in statewide antlerless harvest can be attributed to decreased harvest in the northeastern portion of the state, where antlerless harvest is currently down 25 percent.

Much of northern Minnesota experienced an extended, moderate-to-severe 2012-2013 winter, likely impacting overwinter survival and fawn numbers this summer. In response, the DNR reduced bag limits and the number of either-sex permits available in many northern permit areas. Also, antlerless harvest continues to be reduced around the former bovine tuberculosis management zone in far northwestern Minnesota to allow the deer population in that area to rebuild.

Ample hunting opportunities remain. In addition to the continuing firearms season in northeastern Minnesota and the late firearms season in southeastern Minnesota, the statewide muzzleloader season runs from Saturday, Nov. 30, through Sunday, Dec. 15. The archery season closes on Tuesday, Dec. 31.

Hunters are reminded that deer must be registered online, via telephone or through an in-person visit to a big game registration station within 48 hours of harvest.

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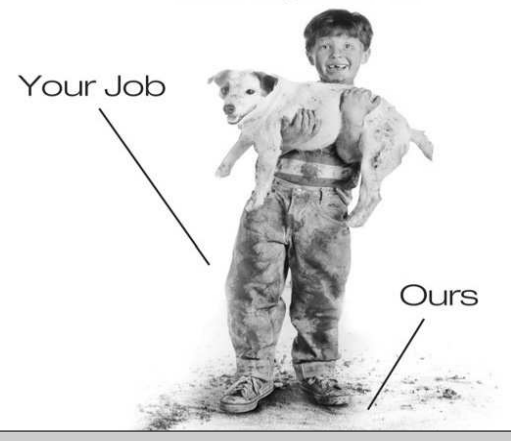

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be conducted by the Koochiching County Board of Adjustment relative to the following item on **Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 4:30 p.m.** in the County Board Room, Koochiching County Courthouse, International Falls, Minnesota.

A variance application received **by Eric Knutson & Brandon Amundson** requesting a deviation from the required 75ft setback from the ordinary high water level (OHWL) of Rainy Lake in order to construct a new 24 x 40ft cabin. The proposed structure will be located approx. 60ft from the OHWL. The parcel is located along County Road 96 and is described as the West 100ft of the W 1/2 E 1/2 S 1/2 NW SE, Sec. 5, Twp 70N, Rge 22W, Koochiching County, Minnesota.

All interested parties are invited to attend the said hearing to be heard. If more information is desired, please contact the Koochiching County Environmental Services, ph.(218)283-1158.

November 18, 2013

Dale Olson
Zoning Administrator
Koochiching County

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 150

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A FRANCHISE TO MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS ("MIDCONTINENT") TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A CABLE SYSTEM IN THE CITY OF RANIER, MINNESOTA SETTING FORTH CONDITIONS ACCOMPANYING THE GRANT OF THE FRANCHISE; PROVIDING FOR REGULATION AND USE OF THE SYSTEM AND THE PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY; AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF THE PROVISIONS HEREIN.

On November 18th , 2013, the City of Ranier, Minnesota ("City") adopted an Ordinance granting a Cable Television Franchise to Midcontinent. The Ordinance serves two purposes. First, it is intended to provide for and specify the means to attain the best possible cable service for the public by providing requirements for cable with respect to technical standards, customer service obligations, and related matters. Second, it grants a non-exclusive cable franchise to Midcontinent to operate, construct and maintain a cable system within the City and contains specific requirements for Midcontinent to do so.

The Ordinance includes the following: 1) establishes a franchise term of ten (10) years; 2) provides a list of three (3) public buildings entitled to receive complimentary cable service; 3) requires Midcontinent to reserve a channel for public, educational and governmental programming; 4) provides an annual capital payment; 5) mandates customer service standards regarding Midcontinent's provision of cable services; and 6) requires Midcontinent to maintain adequate insurance during the term of the franchise.

It is hereby determined that publication of this title and summary will clearly inform the public of the intent and effect of Ordinance_. A copy of the entire Ordinance shall be posted at the Ranier City Clerk's Office.

It is hereby directed that only the above title and summary of Ordinance 150 be published, conforming to Minn. Stat. §331A.01, with the following:

NOTICE:

Persons interested in reviewing a complete copy of the Ordinance may do so at the City Clerk's Office located at 2099 Spruce Street, Ranier, MN 56668, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. and Noon on Friday.

	Yes	No
Mayor Dennis Wagner	X	_____
Councilmember Todd Coulombe	X	_____
Councilmember Tony Cole	X	_____
Councilmember Brenda Bauer	X	_____
Councilmember Fred Woods Sr.	X	_____

Passed by the Ranier City Council this 18th day of November 2013.

Dennis Wagner, Mayor

ATTEST:
Kimberley K Nuthak, City Administrator

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