

OPINION

OUR VIEW

Cheers to a new year

New Year’s Day offers everyone the chance to review the actions of the past year and consider how to best move forward into the next year. Accepting our failures, cheering our accomplishments and embracing our challenges are how we can set the goals and directions of a new year. With that reflection in mind, we’d like to share a few resolutions we’d like to see made in 2014.

We ask all our elected leaders to resolve to be transparent in their motives and actions.

Pres. Barack Obama and Congress must resolve to: have the strength to do what’s right, the sense to seek advice from their constituents, and the forethought to consider the consequences of their actions.

We’d like to see Gov. Mark Dayton and the Minnesota Legislature resolve to have a renewed sense of cooperation as they plan to sell bonds to help provide jobs and improve the state’s infrastructure. And we ask them to resolve to support including in the bonding bill local projects, including the Falls International Airport, the Voyageurs National Park sewer extension projects, and Renewable Energy Clean Air Project. Funding these projects will provide far-reaching benefits.

We’d like state lawmakers Sen. Tom Bakk and Rep. David Dill resolve to continue to represent Borderland with an understanding of our economy and our lifestyles.

We ask our local leaders to resolve to seek insight and understanding into the motives and directions of one another and to have a desire to compromise and cooperate for the better of us all.

We ask Koochiching County and Coronal LLC officials to resolve to bring information and education to area residents as they attempt to lead our

community toward development of a next-generation biomass facility, the RECAP, which could provide jobs, save our county money and treat our environment better, as well as serve as a showcase for the technology into the future.

We ask the members of the teams formed in response to job cuts at the local paper mill to resolve to give their best effort to diversify and improve the local economy and to do all in their power to meet their goals.

We ask Packaging Corporation of America to seek success for the corporation, this paper mill and this community.

Local residents ought to resolve to buy locally when possible, assisting our businesses in maintaining and increasing their employment, offerings and services. These are the businesses and business owners we rely on for our immediate needs and the donations to the fundraisers held in this community that help the needy as well as provide needed opportunities for our youngsters.

We ask all who make Borderland their home, or home away from home, resolve to invest in the community in the coming year by giving of their time, expertise, or money to help move toward a brighter future.

We ask we all resolve to live a healthier life by taking advantage of expanded and improved walking and biking opportunities, as we all consider other healthy changes to our lives.

And we urge all who can to resolve to support friends, family and neighbors in need, whether by making a donation to assist hungry and homeless people and pets, or to continue to provide the opportunities for people to seek knowledge and spiritual growth.

Cheers to 2013, and here’s to a healthier, happier and more prosperous new year for us all.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Beware of the bait and switch

To the editor,
Bait and switch:an illegal advertising gimmick in the retail world; but, in politics bait and switch has become the way of life, the new normal. For example: Obama campaigned for the Democratic Party’s nomination telling everyone, everywhere he went, he was for a single-payer universal health care system like they have in Canada; this was the bait -once elected, Obama pulled a switch and delivered Obamacare/ Romneycare or as it should be known, the “health insurance and pharmaceutical industry bailout and profit maximization act of 2010.” Another example: Minnesota Democratic Farmer-Labor Party Gov. Mark Dayton campaigned for office saying

he would raise the minimum wage to a real living wage — this was the bait; once elected, Dayton, a multi-billionaire, is now pushing a miserly increase in the minimum wage which would keep the minimum wage a poverty wage — the switch. Buyer (voter) beware of bait and switch. In the retail world bait and switch is illegal; it is time to tell the politicians we aren’t going to be sucked in by bait and switch. The Minnesota Democratic Farmer-Labor Party has a super-majority. Republicans have no say about anything; all they can do is cry. We should at least be able to get a real living minimum wage out of these Democrats corresponding to actual cost-of-living factors as tracked

and monitored by the United States Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics — the minimum wage should also be indexed to inflation with periodic increases to improve the living standards of working people. Working people are entitled to this in return for their votes; especially from a political party which makes the claim that it is for labor. If there are any obstacles the Democrats are encountering that would prevent them from implementing a real living — non-poverty — minimum wage I would like to hear what the impediment is. **Alan L. Maki**
director of organizing,
Midwest Casino Workers
Organizing Council
Warroad, MN

GUEST COLUMN

The top 10 comedic news stories of 2013

Be still, your beating hearts. As we exultantly find ourselves in this festive place once again. The most wonderful time of the year. When squealing children race home from school to check and recheck their favorite news websites. Husbands and wives fight for possession of the living room tablet. Grandparents double up on their meds. Relax, everybody. It’s finally here. Yes, you may consider the Top 10 Comedic News Stories of 2013 officially released.

Some years make it darn near impossible from which to strain a few meager laughs. As amusing as a broken crutch on the edge of a toxic waste dump. But enough about Detroit. Because in terms of funny comedy humor; this year was lush and fecund like a tropical rain forest. Horsemeat discovered to be a major component of IKEA’s meatballs. And the teachable moment here could be not to look to Swedish furniture manufacturers for our nutritional needs.

It is pivotal to understand that the Top 10 Comedic News Stories of 2013 are in no way to be confused with the Top 10 Legitimate News Stories of 2013. No. No. No. They are as different as soy beans and lug nuts. Bluetooth and dental floss. Palm fronds and those weird, cone-shaped collars that dogs wear to keep from chewing their butts.

These are the stories and events of the year thus far, that most lent themselves to



Will DURST
RAGING MODERATE

mocking and scoffing and taunting, as determined by the executive council of the Comics, Clowns, Jesters & Satirists Union. Which, as you probably have already guessed, is... me. No. 10. The president becomes a lame duck four months into his second term. Beyond lame duck. More of a quadriplegic platypus. Barack Obama Leadership Skills. Like saying Fukushima sushi. Paula Deen at the Apollo. 9. Former New York Congressman Anthony Weiner attempts a comeback. And he proves once again that his name is also the source of most of his problems. 8. Pope Francis turns out to be a liberal Democrat while Pope Benedict stays busy updating his Christian Mingle profile. 7. To escape government persecution, world class leaker Edward Snowden runs first to China and then to Russia. Which is like joining the army because “you’re tired of people

telling you what to do.” 6. Ted Cruz rallies fellow Tea Partiers by reading “Green Eggs and Ham” on the floor of the Senate, then misinterprets the moral of a book aimed at kindergarteners. 5. Toronto Mayor Rob Ford admits using crack during one of his “drunken stupors.” Yes, plural. Subsequently sees his approval rating shoot up 5 points. Not saying Obama should replicate this strategy, but if the big, fat shoe fits... 4. Spying revelations shock America. Turns out the only way to keep the NSA from following our every move is by becoming one of their employees. 3. Dennis Rodman becomes a roving ambassador. Ambassador Worm. What’s next? Mike Tyson, Poet Laureate. Kim Kardashian, Molecular Chemistry Consultant. Tim Tebow, NFL QB. 2. Government shutdown. America comes excruciatingly close to defaulting. Again. And you know what happens then. We have to move back in with Britain. 1. Affordable Care Act website debacle. Most people decide it would be easier to let the NSA handle the whole thing. After all, they have all our information and probably know which plan best fits. **Durst distributed by the Cagle Cartoons Inc. syndicate. Check out his rooftop comedy minutes at: http://www.rooftopcomedy.com/shows/BurstOfDurst.**

How to contact your lawmakers

FEDERAL OFFICES

President Barack Obama
Democrat
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20500
202-456-1111
Website:
www.whitehouse.gov
E-mail:
president@whitehouse.gov

U.S. Rep. Rick Nolan
2447 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515
202-225-6211
Website: www.nolan.house.gov
Facebook: US Rep Rick Nolan
Twitter: @USRepRickNolan

Duluth Office of Congressman Rick Nolan
11 East Superior Street
Suite 125
Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: 218-464-5095
Fax: 218-464-5098

Brainerd Office of Congressman Rick Nolan
Brainerd City Hall
501 Laurel Street
Brainerd, MN 56401
218-454-4078

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar
Democrat
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-3244

Minnesota Office:
1200 Washington Avenue

South, Suite 250
Minneapolis, MN 55415
612-727-5220
Website:
www.klobuchar.senate.gov

U.S. Sen. Al Franken
Democrat
Senate Hart Building 320
Washington DC 20510
202-224-5641
Website:
www.alfranken.com
E-Mail:
info@franken.senate.gov

STATE OFFICES

Gov. Mark Dayton
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN, 55155
800-657-3717
E-mail:
Mark.Dayton@state.mn.us

Rep. David Dill
571 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-2190
800-339-0466
rep.david.dill@house.mn
Assistant: Joan Harrison

Sen. Tom Bakk
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Capitol, Room 226
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606
Capitol Office phone:
(651) 296-8881
Email:
www.senate.mn/
senatorbakkemail

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