

OUTDOORS

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Harsh winter’s effect on deer

BY PENNY BACKMAN

The harsh winter of 2013-2014 has finally faded for the season. The deeper than average snow and cold was surely a test of endurance for even the most hardened northland residents and that includes the resident wildlife. However, we need to remember that our local wildlife populations have adapted to surviving harsh winters. If they hadn’t, they simply wouldn’t exist here as this is not the first harsh winter that the region has endured and it definitely won’t be the last. All wildlife species that live in areas with the potential for deep snow and extreme cold exhibit adaptations that help them deal with harsh winters. These adaptations by no means ensure that all individuals will survive, and in some instances, populations can be significantly reduced due to winter mortality. However, they do allow sufficient numbers of individuals to survive to maintain the species and re-build the

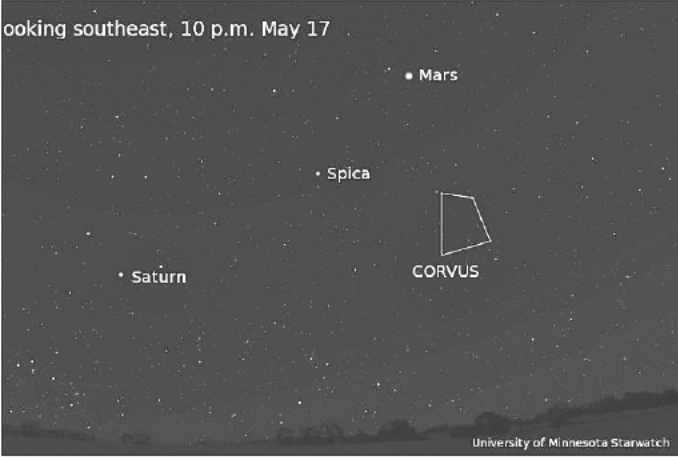
populations once conditions have moderated. An excellent example of this is the white-tailed deer, which has generated a considerable amount of public concern this winter. Deer grow heavy winter coats with long hollow hair that helps them trap body heat to keep warm. They also gain extra fat in the late summer/early fall to help offset declines in the availability and quality of winter foods. Their behavior also changes during the winter and metabolism slows. They reduce their activity levels and often move to good quality thermal cover to help reduce the amount of food they need to maintain themselves. The movement to winter cover is very important as the shallower snow depths that often occur underneath larger stands of mature conifer trees allows for better mobility, and the trees can act as insulation that can keep localized temperatures a bit warmer. The heavy canopy also protects the animals from heat-robbing winds. Unfortunately, in severe

winters the struggle to maintain body weight, especially for young fawns and older bucks rundown by the rut, can become too great and they begin to succumb to starvation or increased levels of predation. Prime-aged healthy animals are much stronger and these are the animals that are most likely to survive. They also have highest reproductive potential of any segment of the population and are the key to rebuilding any losses during subsequent breeding seasons. There is no question that this winter was far harsher than usual. It is likely that significant numbers of individual deer did not survive. However, the survivors are the healthiest and strongest deer in the population. Deer are resilient and rebound quickly. Following the two consecutive severe winters of the late 1990s, the deer population rebounded to preserve winter levels within years, and was at near record levels within five to six years. With any luck, the upcoming winters will be milder and they should recover their numbers within a few years’ time. Backman is the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources assistant wildlife manager in Orr.

Earth overtakes Saturn in May

BY DEANE MORRISON
University of Minnesota

Last month Earth caught up to Mars in the orbital race. In May, it’s Saturn’s turn to be overtaken. We lap the ringed planet on the 10th, when the sun, Earth and Saturn line up and Saturn is at opposition, or opposite the sun from our point of view. Like a full moon, the planet will rise in the southeast at sunset and be up all night, shining from the rather dim constellation Libra. In mid-evening, after skies darken, we’ll be treated to the sight of all three of the outer planets visible to the naked eye, and all will be bright. Jupiter, the brightest, will be up in the west-northwest; Mars in the south, just northwest of the bright star Spica, in Virgo; and Saturn in the east. If you have any trouble spotting Saturn, it’ll be the bright object above the rising moon on the 14th. Besides its lovely rings, which are now tilted at a favorable angle of 22 degrees from horizontal, Saturn has the distinction of having a very low density. The planet is lighter than water and would float in an ocean, even a freshwater one, if any were big enough. Saturn’s orbit keeps it between about 9 and 10 times as far from the sun as Earth’s average distance, and it takes 29.5 years to complete an orbit. Speaking of rings, astronomers have just discovered



Saturn will be the bright object above the rising moon on May 14.

the first asteroid—and the smallest known object—with rings. It’s a rock called Chariklo, just 155 miles in diameter, orbiting between Saturn and Uranus. Its double ring is thought to come from the debris of a collision. Above Spica, see if you can make out the kite-shaped form of Bootes, the herdsman. The kite extends northeastward from the brilliant star Arcturus, the brightest star in the northern dome of sky. Arcturus is also a bit of a maverick: Instead of orbiting around the disk of the Milky Way like our sun and most other stars, it is slicing down through the disk, and at great speed. In the morning sky, Venus rises almost two hours ahead of the sun. Our sister planet is receding as it heads toward the far side of the sun, but it will be with us for a few more months. May’s full moon, known to many Algonquin Indians as the full flower moon, arrives at 2:16 p.m. on the 14th. We’ll have to wait till around sunset to see it, but as it rises against a pale sky, what’s not to love? The University of Minnesota offers public viewings of the night sky at its Duluth and Twin Cities campuses. For more information and viewing schedules, see: ■ Duluth, Marshall W. Alworth Planetarium: www.d.umn.edu/planet ■ Twin Cities, Minnesota Institute for Astrophysics (during fall and spring semesters): www.astro.umn.edu/outreach/pubnight Check out the astronomy programs at the University of Minnesota’s Bell Museum ExploraDome: www.bellmuseum.umn.edu/ForGroups/ExploraDome/index.htm Find U of M astronomers and links to the world of astronomy at http://www.astro.umn.edu.

Independent School District #361
Koochiching County International Falls, MN
Mission Statement: *To prepare all learners for a changing world by developing their potential within a climate of mutual respect and trust.*

AGENDA
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, April 28, 2014
Falls High School Library
3:45 p.m.

PRELIMINARIES:
1.0 CALL TO ORDER:
2.0 ROLL CALL
Gordon Dault _____ Darrell Wagner _____
Michelle Hebnar _____ Dena Wenberg _____
Michael Holden _____
Willi Kostjuk _____
3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4.0 PREVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
Moved _____ second _____ carried/failed

NEW BUSINESS: Superintendent Interviews
4.1 3:45 – 4:30 Gwen Carmen
4.2 4:30 – 5:15 Kevin Grover
4.3 5:15 – 6:00 Beth Sherman
5.0 Set secondary class sections for 2014-15.

OLD BUSINESS:
6.0 Cost Reductions
Original Goal: \$500,000 (based on 70 student drop since 5/31/13)
Revised Goal: \$630,000 (based on 86 student drop since 5/31/13)
Adjustments made to Date: \$430,000 (Teacher incentive savings)
Library Media position: \$50,000
Balance remaining: \$150,000

Items removed from consideration:
Two athletic teams \$24,000
ELL (second language) \$8,600
Paraprofessional positions \$125,000
Elementary/secondary staff \$370,000
Layoff referendum \$300,000
Hall monitor \$21,000 (moved from reduction list)
Alternate physics/chemistry \$8,600 (moved from reduction list)
Community Ed. Office/sec \$35,000 (moved from reduction list)

Items remaining on reduction list for consideration/action:
6.1 Contract yearbook \$8,600 Moved Second carried/failed
6.2 Half time secretary \$18,000 Moved Second carried/failed
6.3 Drop remedial 7/8 classes \$42,000 Moved Second carried/failed
6.4 Curriculum cycle (phy-ed) \$75,000 Moved Second carried/failed
6.5 *Reduce Dean to 1/2 time \$38,000 (May meeting)
6.6 *Non-renew Alex Ringhofer \$43,214 (May meeting)

Options for future consideration:
Assign Superintendent as 5/8 Principal
Layoff referendum for facility costs \$200,000
*new to list **reinstated to list

ADJOURNMENT: Moved _____ Second _____ carried/failed

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Karsyn Wendt Fundraiser
Karsyn Wendt, Daughter of Ken and Sheila Wendt, is 1 of 100 people selected among thousands to tour with Up with People, a non-profit organization, which provides community service, teaches leadership, and uses the performing arts to deliver messages of hope and goodwill throughout the world.

Saturday, April 26th
5:00pm – 8:00pm
Littlefork Lutheran Church

Sloppy Joe, Chips, Beans, Pickles Beverage and Dessert
Free Will Offering

Raffles
Baked Goods
Fresh Homemade Lefse

For More Info. Call 218-278-4557

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Koochiching County International Falls, MN
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AGENDA
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Wednesday, April 30, 2014
Falls High School Cafeteria
5:00 p.m.

PRELIMINARIES:
1.0 CALL TO ORDER:
2.0 ROLL CALL
Gordon Dault _____ Darrell Wagner _____
Michelle Hebnar _____ Dena Wenberg _____
Michael Holden _____
Willi Kostjuk _____
3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4.0 PREVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
Moved _____ second _____ carried/failed

OLD BUSINESS:
5.0 Complete rating matrix for superintendent candidates and determination of final candidate. Moved _____
Second _____ to offer _____ the position of Superintendent for a two-year contract term of 2014-15 and 2015-16. Carried/failed

ADJOURNMENT: Moved _____ Second _____ carried/failed

This is Northwoods Eating

Breakfast Specials
Mon.-Sat. \$6.29 • Sunday \$7.29

Mon. Big Moose Skillet with hashbrowns
Tues. Breakfast Sandwich with hashbrowns
Wed. French Toast w/eggs & sausage or bacon
Thurs. Blueberry Pancakes w/eggs & sausage or bacon
Fri. Biscuits & Gravy w/eggs & hashbrowns
Sat. Cinnamon Swirl French Toast with ham & eggs
Sun. Blueberry Cream Cheese Crepes with eggs & ham

Dinner Specials

Mon.	Half Chicken Dinner	\$10.99
Tues.	Full Rack of BBQ Ribs	\$17.99
Wed.	Pan Fried Walleye	\$14.99
Thurs.	Mozzarella Girsale w/Marinara Sauce	\$10.99
Fri.	Fishermen’s Catch	\$16.99
Sat.	Rib Eye Steak	\$17.99
Sun.	Chicken Kiev	\$11.99

Dinners include choice of potato & salad. Choice of soup for \$1.00
Canadian Money at par!

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The Bronco Boys and Girls Track & Field teams and the Track Booster Club would like to thank the following sponsors for their support this season on our annual Placemat Fundraiser. Thank you for making our fundraiser a success!

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MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO PRESENTS
WALKIN’ SHOES TOUR 2014 starring KEVIN KLING and DAN CHOUINARD
MAY 2
7 P.M., BACKUS COMMUNITY CENTER INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MINN.

Join these acclaimed performers for funny, surprising stories and songs from the roads they’ve strolled.

Ticket Outlets:
Backus Office Adults: \$12.00
City Drug Students: \$6.00
Betty’s In Fort Frances Family: \$25.00

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