



Beavers rack up the yards in senior-day win Sports, B1

The Bemidji Pioneer

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

All of this and more at bemidjipioneer.com

100 AND COUNTING

Bemidji man reflects on prolific deer hunting career

By Dennis Doeden
ddoeden@bemidjipioneer.com

I took three years for Owen Hall to shoot his first white-tail deer. He had some chances as a 12- and 13-year-old, but his shots missed their targets.

There haven't been many misses since then. The 90-year-old Bemidji man will be back in the woods this weekend, hoping to bag his 101st deer.

"What an inspiration," said Greg Hall, the oldest son of Owen and wife Helen. "If we could be that fortunate ourselves to be able to hunt at that age it would be phenomenal."

All of Owen's deer hunting has taken place in Eckles Township northwest of Bemidji, near the farm where he was raised. It all started before he was old enough to get a license, when Owen was allowed to join his father and others in the "Hall Gang" for the fall hunt. When he finally reached the age of 12 and no longer was just a spectator, it was the beginning of a 78-year hunting career. He only missed two seasons that were cancelled because of fire danger or low deer population.

Owen remembers that first successful shot like it was yesterday.

"It was a forked-horn buck," he said. "Two

HALL: Page A9



Owen Hall of Bemidji bagged his 100th deer last season. The 90-year-old retired math teacher will go after No. 101 starting this weekend. Submitted photo

Over the Rainbow in Grand Rapids

TRIP ON A TANKFUL

Judy Garland museum reawakens childhood memories

Even after Judy Garland was whisked over the Technicolor rainbow by a house-hoisting twister and landed in the magical land of Hollywood, a small northern Minnesota town continued to be her one and only Kansas.

For Judy, there was no place like home but along the Mesabi Iron Range in rural Grand Rapids, Minn.



BRIA BARTON

"I do remember it was terribly happy — and possibly the only kind of normal, carefree time in my life," she once said of her early childhood there.

And although her time in the town was short lived, the memory of her beginnings remain there — encapsulated in a museum dedicated to a globally renowned icon whose life extinguished prematurely but whose illustrious performances run through the veins of pop culture.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the legend's untimely death in 1969 as well as the release of the film "Judy," a biopic of the actress-singer's troubled final days.

It's also been a year since an original pair of Ruby Slippers from "The Wizard of Oz" film were recovered after their theft from the museum catapulted the world into a 13-year-long mystery of their whereabouts and put the tiny town of Grand Rapids on the map.

'There is no place like home'
Plumes of white smoke welcome visitors to the close-knit paper mill community of Grand Rapids, and along a busy street farther into town, the Judy Garland Museum can be

MUSEUM: Page A7



Bria Barton | Bemidji Pioneer
A replica pair of the Ruby Slippers from "The Wizard of Oz" film is on display in the Judy Garland Museum after a theft of the original pair in 2005. Investigators say the theft took 45 seconds or less, and although the shoes were recovered, they remain part of an ongoing police investigation.

A good year for deer, officials say

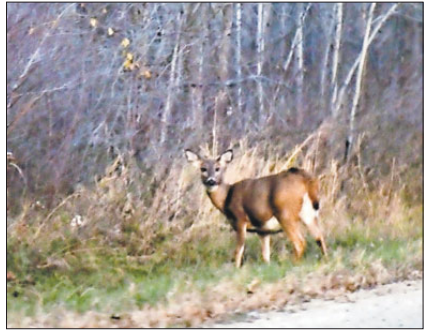
Deer population grows in Bemidji area

By Pat Miller
Special to the Pioneer

BEMIDJI — Firearms deer hunters in the Bemidji area should experience a productive season this fall as the deer population continues to thrive because of relatively mild winters and the animals' ability to expand their numbers when the conditions are favorable.

"Because we've had two nice winters in a row, there should be lots of yearlings and 2-year-olds," said Bemidji area Department of Natural Resources wildlife supervisor Dave Rave. "And I've also talked with many people who have seen nice bucks in their field cameras."

The continued expansion of the deer population is a result of many factors but leading the way is back-to-back mild



Annalise Braught | Bemidji Pioneer
A deer is spotted near Lake Avenue Northeast during the Ward 5 survey on Oct. 28.

winters, at least from the deer's perspective.

"Last winter we had our share of snow and cold but none of it arrived until after Jan. 1," Rave said. "We had a Winter Severity Index of 4 going into January, which means that the deer were in fantastic shape going into the new year. And we also were fortunate that the winter

broke in mid-March. It's the years that we have winter extend into May that are tough on the deer."

DNR officials measure the winter's potential impact on a deer population through the Winter Severity Index (WSI), which adds a point for every day with at least 15 inches of snow on the ground and another point for every day

INSIDE
CWD fears force officials to ban attractants — PAGE A10
Zones around Leech Lake can vary in deer population — PAGE A11
Facts and figures for the 2019 Opener — PAGE A12

that sees a temperature of 0 degrees or colder.

"If you do the math, we need a WSI between 160 and 180 to have a harsh winter," Rave said. "Last year in the Bemidji area the WSI was 128 and we didn't feel that the winter was a significant event at all. The bucks were in very good shape going into the winter and we think they did fine. We also feel that the does came out of the winter in very good shape and (from a population standpoint) it is the does that we are most worried about."

"Some of the most vulnerable deer might die after a WSI of 100 and we, maybe, lost a few of the late fawns last winter," Rave continued. "But, typically, we don't think of a bad winter with a high percentage of

PREVIEW: Page A9



150
123 Years Number 177
Copyright 2019

www.bemidjipioneer.com
218-333-9200
news@bemidjipioneer.com

Informing the Bemidji area and North Central Minnesota since 1896

SPORTS.....B1-4 CLASSIFIEDS...B4-7 UPCOMING EVENTS.....A2
OBITUARIES.....A8 OUTDOORS.....B8 ATHLETES OF THE WEEK...B2
OPINION.....A5 WEATHER.....A2 PUZZLES.....B7

50% Off Home Decor

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Friday & Saturday, November 8th & 9th, and 15th & 16th

Christmas Shopping at its Finest.

- Gifts • Books • Food • Much, Much More!

McKenzie Place

7 Days A Week Mon.-Sat. 9:30-6 Sunday 11-5

802 Paul Bunyan Dr. South, Bemidji • 755-8009

COUPON

20%

off single item of your choice

Limit 1 per customer. Excludes sale items. Expires 11/18/19 with coupon



Photos by Bria Barton | Bemidji Pioneer

Judy Garland spent her early childhood in a late 19th-century white clapboard house in Grand Rapids, Minn. The house has since been moved from its original location and undergone an extensive restoration. It's now a part of the Judy Garland Museum.



The Judy Garland Museum in Grand Rapids, Minn. pays homage to the legendary late actress and singer who was a native of the northern Minnesota town. Garland is primarily known for her iconic role as Dorothy in the classic 1939 film "The Wizard of Oz."

MUSEUM

From Page A1

spotted across from an Applebees and Home Depot.

A nonconforming entity, the two-story white clapboard house rests along this modernized strip of consumerism and commercial real estate — as if the twister that blew Judy into the Hollywood spotlight also misplaced her early childhood home.

The late 19th Century house, which was purposely moved from its original location, sits connected by an enclosed walkway to an unassuming building overflowing with memorabilia and artifacts tied to the star's public and private life.

I arrived at the museum amid this renewed interest and commotion surrounding Judy to find a parking lot full and a ruby red sign perched against the building's exterior near the entrance. It inquired in bold white letters: Who stole the Ruby Slippers?

As I paid for my ticket, I was instructed to begin my tour in the museum's showcase-filled main room, which houses an array of Judy's personal belongings and props from "The Wizard of Oz" film.

And, of course, the Ruby Slippers too. Well, a replica of the red, sequined kitten heels.

With a police investigation still ongoing, the shoes remain evidence and are locked away from the public. But nowadays, the thievery is more an enduring question of whodunit and occasionally still lures the wannabe crime sleuth to town.

Although intrigued by the crime, I intended to leave the sleuthing to the professionals for this trip. I was far more interested in discovering the life of a woman whose iconic role as Dorothy Gale inspired my childhood self and millions (perhaps billions) of other children — and even adults — to think beyond the rainbow.



Once owned by Abraham Lincoln during his presidency, the Civil War-era carriage featured in "The Wizard of Oz" resides in the Judy Garland Museum in Grand Rapids, Minn. In the 1939 film, the carriage is debuted when Dorothy and her entourage arrive to the Emerald City. Many may remember it was pulled by a red horse called the Horse of a Different Color.



For a video tour of the museum, visit bemidjipioneer.com

IF YOU GO

What: Judy Garland Museum
Where: 2727 S Pokegama Ave, Grand Rapids
When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Fridays & Saturdays: Oct. 1 to May 15
 Daily: May 16 to Sept. 30
 To donate to the restoration: Information is on GoFundMe

I ventured farther into the room to discover an antique carriage once owned by Abraham Lincoln during his presidency, which was used in the film to cart Dorothy and her friends to the Wash and Brush Up Co. before meeting the Wizard of Oz. Many may remember that it was pulled by a white horse that magically turned red.

It's funny how nostalgia is triggered despite years of not thinking of that particular memory, but upon seeing the carriage, I felt an abundance of it. As a child, I was awestruck by the Horse of a Different Color (I just recently learned it was covered in a Jell-O powder paste, which explains the licking) and seeing the prop recaptured a memory I had for a time forgotten.

A tour through Judy Garland's childhood home

I continued on down a yellow (brick road) path, which led into Judy's childhood home. The house was restored 25-years-ago and was decorated in a traditional 1920s design and according to those who remembered the interior while the toddler lived there. Currently, the home is showing serious signs of wear and tear from age and weather, so there is a GoFundMe set up for another planned restoration.

As I began to wrap up my tour of the Judy Garland Museum — there is also a Children's Discovery Museum on the opposite side, but I felt I exceeded the target age — a little girl dashed through the entrance with her grandfather trailing behind her — attempting to keep up with her fervor to enter

the enclosed world of Judy Garland.

"We're back again," the grandfather excitedly told the lady at the front desk. "This is where she wants to come every time she visits."

In "The Wizard of Oz's" ending, Dorothy wakes up from a concussed fantastical dream and learns the Land of Oz was only delusion. Yet despite Hollywood's attempt to bring fantasy back to reality, people have still continued to believe Dorothy's experience was real.

And so did Judy. "I've always taken "The Wizard of Oz's" very seriously, you know. I believe in the idea of the rainbow. And I've spent my entire life trying to get over it."

So, when a grandfather and granddaughter both eagerly race into a museum they've frequented many times before, it's a special sign that the magic and imagination inspired by Judy has others continuing their search for their own rainbow.

Bria Barton is a Travel and Tourism reporter for the Bemidji Pioneer and Forum Communications Co. She can be reached at (218) 333-9798.

FREE

In-person help to choose the right health plan.

When it comes to choosing health insurance, EVERYONE in Minnesota has free access to professional help. Allen Zutz can help you compare plans to figure out the best health or dental coverage — and see if you qualify for an exclusive tax credit by enrolling through MNSure. Last year 60% of MNSure enrollees qualified, with an average credit of over \$5,500 a year.

Open enrollment is happening now, so call or visit Allen Zutz today.

8147 Hwy 2 NW
 Bemidji, MN 56601
 218-444-0202

Where you choose health coverage

Licensed by the State of Minnesota and certified by MNSure.

VISIT US AT BEMIDJIPIONEER.COM/ACTIVATE

Subscribers

DON'T WAIT -- ACTIVATE YOUR DIGITAL ACCESS!

ACCESSING YOUR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS IS AS EASY AS ACTIVATING YOUR ACCOUNT. HERE'S HOW:

If you subscribe to the paper, you are one step away from membership rewards, including:

- NEWS from across 30+ sites
- ACCESS to news archives & e-papers
- PERSONALIZED E-NEWSLETTERS with content that matters to you
- BREAKING NEWS ALERTS delivered to your inbox
- EXCLUSIVE members-only discounts & events

Get even more of the award-winning, local journalism on your favorite topics, plus the benefits of membership. Thank you for supporting local news!

STEP ONE

Go online to bemidjipioneer.com/activate & click on the "Activate Now" button.

STEP TWO

Register with active Google or Facebook accounts or, enter your email address & a password to use with your account. Then, check the appropriate boxes and click "Register."

STEP THREE

Fill out the requested information so we can locate your account & activate your membership.

SUCCESS!

You have activated your digital access & unlocked your exclusive members-only benefits.