

# OPINION

## Enjoying the wonders of the Boundary Waters

The Minnesota Historical Society Press's book "Sadie Braves the Wilderness" written by Yvonne Pearson and illustrated by Karen Ritz is our featured book of the week.

Yvonne Pearson is a big fan of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. This book opens up to images of a lighthouse, the Silver Creek Cliff, Betty's Pies along with the BWCA Wilderness sign, all illustrated by Karen Ritz. This book is written from the perspective of the child with a great opening line of "We drove for a hundred hours past a lake called Superior. It was as big as the ocean."

By page two of this book I was giggling because the next line is spot on and again, from the kids point of view. To know the next line, I ask that you take a visit up here to the Henning Public School library and take a look at this book for yourself.

Riding in the car with children for long trips is an adventure in itself. Taking a child canoeing at the Boundary Waters is a whole other expedition. The illustrations in this book are very lifelike and the colors used are so natural. If you are thinking of taking your children or grandchildren on an adventure this summer, you'll want to read this book first. We've taken several trips with our children over the



### Library Happenings

Henning School

years and I always keep a notebook tracking different things. I like to know the miles in between stops, the amount of gas we get as well as the cost per gallon.

On a trip to Disneyland in the car, we left at four in the morning. We were not 25 miles down the road when the first child asked if we were there yet and we still had to cross four more states to get to where we were going. Get outside in Otter Tail County and enjoy the spring. Even though the Henning library will not be open during the summer months due to the construction happening inside the building, we will keep bringing you articles on the new books you'll be able to read starting in the fall.

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## Ensuring properly working trailer lights

Question: I am getting ready for the fishing opener. Do I need working lights on my boat trailer even though the rear lights on my pickup can be seen? It's a small boat and trailer and doesn't block the lights on the back of my pickup.

Answer: Yes, your trailer lights still need to be hooked up and working on the trailer. Every vehicle or trailer that is being drawn at the end of a train of vehicles, registered in this state and manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1960, must be equipped with at least two tail lamps mounted on the rear and on the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable. When lighted, the tail lamps must comply with the provisions of state statutes.

Some general safety reminders when pulling a trailer:

- Check lights before every trip and regularly throughout the trip.
- Adjust rear vision mirrors or use auxiliary rear vision mirrors to optimize rear visibility.
- Reduce your speed when towing.
- Increase following distance. State law requires you to maintain 500 ft. interval in rural areas.



### Ask a Trooper

Sgt. Jesse Grabow

• Be aware of the increased effects of wind gusts and passing vehicles when towing a trailer.

- Secure loads from shifting, falling or leaking.
- Check tires for proper inflation and for defects.
- Service wheel bearings regularly and check often.
- Stop every 100 miles to check trailer, load, and hitch.

A portion of state statutes were used with permission from the Office of the Revisor of Statutes. If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Trp. Jesse Grabow - Minnesota State Patrol at 1000 Highway 10 West, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-2205. (You can follow him on Twitter @MSPPPIO\_NW or reach him at, jesse.grabow@state.mn.us).

## Have your opinion heard

Have an opinion on a topic affecting Henning and the surrounding area? Write a Letter to the Editor to share your thoughts. Deadlines for all Letter's to the Editor is Friday at 12 p.m. Letter's can be emailed to news@henningadvocate.com or dropped off at the Citizen's Advocate office at 412 Douglas Ave.



## Transforming the countryside with horses

For the first time in 25 years, the 15 acres south of the house here on the farm is being plowed. Turned black. Furrows of prairie-grass sod lined up like little roads, stretching back and forth over the hills.

And it's being plowed by horses!

Here's the story: This land has been in Conservation Reserve, planted to a mix of prairie grasses for many years. It's home to pheasants, deer, big and little nesting ducks, geese, and sandhill cranes. That CRP contract expired this spring, so said the person on the phone from the Conservation place, and would I want to extend it?

Sure, said I, as long as I have to do nothing to it. (The last time I extended it, I had to disc down three acres, reseed it to one particular grass, to meet some government requirement. A waste of time and ener-



### The Prairie Spy

Alan "Lindy" Linda

gy, because the Indian and Big and Little Bluestem immediately absorbed it. So.)

Okay, she said. She called back a couple of weeks later and said "We can extend it, but you have to remove the windbreak of blue spruce, caragana, and red splendor crab apple trees that parallel your long, long, long driveway. What?"

I've watched those trees grow for all those years. That windbreak keeps

snow off the driveway. Really? Remove it?

I said to her: "Thank you. You've allowed me to make the easiest decision I've made in several years." And I said "No."

Then I said: "FYI: You are the people who told me to plant that windbreak back when. Just saying."

Silence.

But heck, now I get to watch a four-horse team pulling a single-bottom sulky (one you ride on) plow, right out my house window. As time goes on around here, there are more and more horses around, pulling wagons, carriages, and all kinds of things.

I was born in "44," and I just barely remember dad's horses, which tractors were at that time replacing. I may have been five when dad would put me up on Ned, where I would sit

while Ned walked around and around a corn grinder. Dad would carry bushels of ear corn in and dump them to be ground up, and exchange the now-empty basket for the one full of ground ear corn. Around and around.

I remember how wide and flat and large Ned's back was, as I sprawled up there, hanging onto his harness for dear life, yet feeling pretty pumped about "going for a ride." A vivid memory, one which comes back now that there are horses around.

When we moved here in '73, there were five dairy farms between me and town. That dwindled down until there were none. Now there are three—all Amish, milking either cows or goats. That's quite a trip down memory lane for me.

I'm kind of pumped about it, you know.

## Pre-planning the garden

By Bev Johnson  
Master Gardener

It may be a very dry summer. There are a few tricks gardeners can do to keep their garden flourishing without watering every day.

Start saving liter bottles. Cut out the neck and put it upside down in the bottle. This makes it easier to fill. Poke a few small holes in the bottom and plant the bottle about half-way down next to a plant. Keep it filled with water and add a bit of liquid fertilizer occasionally. A water filled 5-gallon pail with holes in the bottom will keep 3 tomato or potato plants happy all summer. This works great for watering trees and shrubs too. Occasionally you will find a critter drowned in the pail. They attempted to get a drink and fell in. Perhaps they can be dug in for fertilizer? For row crops, leave the cap on and poke holes

in the sides. You will need to pick up the bottle to fill it. There are spiked caps with a hole in the top for liter bottles available. You fill the bottle, put the cap on and poke the spike into the soil beside your plant.

Mulching is a must in any weather, it not only keeps moisture from evaporating in the heat, it keeps the soil cooler and smothers weeds. Start by laying 4 to 6 sheets of damp newspaper or cardboard between the rows, then cover with hay, leaves or leaves and grass mixed. Green grass will heat and stink. Straw can be great, but it also can introduce weeds that you have never seen before and will never get rid of.

A few other tips: tomatoes, potatoes, eggplant and tomatillos are first cousins. Never plant one in the spot a cousin has been in in the last 3 years. And never plant the same plants in the same place each year.

You are just asking for diseases. Have a garden map to avoid this problem.

If you want larger onions that keep well, plant plants. Onion sets are great for onions to use all summer, but they usually don't keep as well as the ones from plants.

If you plan to freeze or can a crop. For tomatoes, plant determinate plants. They bear all at once then stop. Pull them up when they stop producing and plant something else there. Bush beans do pretty much the same thing. For a longer harvest, plant pole beans, indeterminate tomatoes, cabbages, and broccoli. If you cut either of these plants off, they will produce another, smaller head on the stem. Another trick to get a longer growing season of vine crops, buy a plant, like squash or melon. Direct seed the same plant about a week later. The plant will

produce first, then several weeks later, the seeded plant.

Plant lettuce and other leafy vegetables in the shade of corn. Plant beets on the other side of the greens. This will lengthen the time before the greens bolt. Always plant corn in blocks to ensure pollination. The wind does the job for them even if we have a shortage of bees and flies.

Some summer days are just icky, no wind, humid and hot. Even our plants don't like that kind of weather. It leads to sick plants. Don't crowd plants, give them breathing space. Air circulation is important for all plants. It prevents mold and mildew and keeps diseases and disease-carrying insects from hopping from one to another making all of the group sick.

Get out the seed packets and start planning. Planting season will happen.

