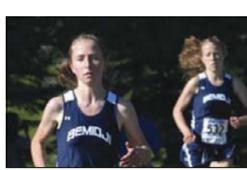


# NY, Washington aware of new terror threat



# BHS cross country teams compete

Saturday  
September 10, 2011

115 Years  
Number 151

# The Bemidji Pioneer

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Informing North Central Minnesota Since 1896

**Today's forecast**  
High **82°** Low **56°**  
See Page A3

## WEATHER We're not in Kansas

By Tom Siemers  
Pioneer Staff Writer

If Dorothy's house landed in Bemidji this week, she could be forgiven for thinking she was in the sunflower state. With highs around 80 and lows in the mid 50s, this week's weather resembled typical September weather in Topeka, Kan.

Blue skies dominated through the week thanks to a ridge of high pressure over the north woods. The result was no rain and warm days combined with cool, dewy mornings.

These conditions could lead to an especially vivid fall color season. As the sun becomes lower in the sky and nights get longer with the change of seasons, trees begin preparing themselves for the onset of winter. As they do this the green chlorophyll begins to disappear from their leaves, exposing the oranges and yellows of autumn.

Cool overnight temperatures combined with warm, sunny days causes glucose leftover after photosynthesis ceases to turn a bright red. Some color is already beginning to appear along the Gunflint Trail and should spread through the area toward the end of the month.

Again chaotic weather harasses parts of the United States. The remnants of Tropical Storm Lee drenched much of the southern and eastern parts of the country this week. Rainfall totals of up to 12 inches were recorded. Every cloud has a silver lining though - the rainfall has done much to mitigate drought conditions that the Dixie states have been suffering through this summer.

Current forecasts call for temperatures to cool significantly across the area early next week as high temperatures struggle to reach 60 and lows average in the low 40s - or hardy northern Minnesota weather for mid September. Showers may dampen your Monday as a cold front moves through the area. However, much of the remainder of the week should be dry.

Tom Siemers is the Pioneer's circulation manager. Email him at [tsiemers@bemidjipioneer.com](mailto:tsiemers@bemidjipioneer.com)

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**Good Morning,**  
Luella Tisdell, Bemidji  
Thank you for subscribing  
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75¢

## DEPUTY CHRIS DEWEY SLAYING

# Fairbanks sentenced

### Judge hands down mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole

By Wendy Reuer  
Forum Communications Co.

MAHNOMEN, Minn. — Thomas Lee Fairbanks stood solemnly, looking down or straight ahead, as District Court Judge Jeff Remick handed down the mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole Friday in the murder of Mahnomen County Sheriff's Deputy Chris Dewey.

Fairbanks was found guilty of first-degree murder on Sept. 1 in Polk County District Court in Crookston. The jury of five women and seven men from Polk County also



Fairbanks

found Fairbanks, who turns 35 on Tuesday, guilty of nine other charges, while acquitting him of two charges of first-degree assault on peace officers.

Fairbanks shot Dewey once in the head and twice in the torso about 7:04 a.m. Feb. 18, 2009. The deputy died in hospice care Aug. 9, 2010. Remick sentenced Fair-

banks on each of the other nine charges, including 10 years each on four counts of first-degree assault on peace officers, a charge that carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years and a maximum of 20 years.

The jury found Fairbanks had fired the same handgun with which he murdered Dewey toward certain law

enforcement officers during a nine-hour standoff. Remick also sentenced him to three years each on two counts of second-degree assault; five years for being a felon with a firearm; two years for failing to assist Dewey after he shot him and two years for trying to steal Dewey's squad car.

Fairbanks: See Page A3

## 2011 WOMEN'S EXPO



Pioneer Photo/Monte Draper

Tricia Krekelberg, an independent consultant with Thirty-One, a purse and tote company, gets a helping hand from Arelle Butler setting up her booth at the fifth annual Bemidji Women's Expo at the Sanford Center on Friday afternoon. Thirty-One is one of 100 vendors to showcase a booth at the expo which will be held today from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

## Cox to provide inspirational presentation

By Molly Miron  
Pioneer Editor

Molly Cox, the keynote speaker for the 2011 Women's Expo, will take her presentation to the Sanford Center Ballroom stage at 12:15 p.m. today for the 2011 Pioneer Women's Expo.

"It's a message of inspiration especially for women - take care of yourself, have fun," she said Friday afternoon after arriving in Bemidji from what she said was a beautiful drive north.

Cox promises plenty of humor drawn from her background in improv in her one-hour presentation. She will also bring in stories about family care giving for her father, who has Alzheimer's disease, and her mother, who had cancer.

She said she feels a special significance to her outreach at the Women's Expo on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

"I think it's a time when people are really pulling together," she said. "Women

have always known how to connect."

Cox recalled programs she presented shortly after Sept. 11, 2001, and said women understood immediately the need for people to support each other. And women's understanding helped men and children, too, she said.

The fifth annual Women's Expo will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. today, Sept. 10.

Cox has been a professional speaker for 18 years, starting with training customer service representatives in hotels.

Ten years ago, she branched out into improvisation and sketch comedy, and is the co-author of the book titled "Improvise This! How to Think on Your Feet so You Don't Fall on Your Face."

Cox combines her background in business and family with her experience in sketch comedy and improvisation to create keynotes.

Expo: See Page A3



Pioneer Photo/Molly Miron

Molly Cox, the keynote presenter for the 2011 Pioneer Women's Expo today, checks out the Sanford Center Ballroom stage where she will speak at 12:15 p.m.

## POSTAL SERVICE

# It will be on the mail

## Park Rapids photographer to be featured on new stamp

By Sarah Smith  
Park Rapids Enterprise

Richard Hamilton Smith's life path hung a changed in 1971 when his college roommate couldn't come up with the rent.

The pre-med student took his roommate's camera in trade for the rent money. A career was born the minute he picked up the gear.

Medicine didn't challenge Smith's artistic side, he said. Photography did.

In October the U.S. Postal Service will unveil the second Smith photograph to appear on a stamp.

His aerial photo of a cherry orchard in Door County, Wis., will be one of 15 photographs issued next month as part of the "Earthscapes" stamp set.

The Hubbard County man is probably most well known locally for the photograph that graced Minnesota's sesquicentennial stamp, a river scene taken in Winona.

That 42-cent stamp commemorating Minnesota's 150th birthday is now part of history itself. The bridge featured closed shortly after the stamp was released in 2008 after a state inspection found corroding gusset plates.

Originally from Massachusetts, Smith moved to Hubbard County in 2000 from Minneapolis and lives with his wife on "a lovely little piece of lake property."

His dozens of professional clients include many big names in Minnesota: IBM, 3M and Honeywell. He's also shot photos for National Geographic, Smithsonian, Red Wing Boots and a multitude of other companies, including Nikon.

He uses Canon gear.

"I was putting together a coffee table picture book on the state of Wisconsin looking for a Wisconsin publisher and had hired a pilot and a plane and had gone over Door County," Smith said.

"I've been shooting professionally since 1978," he added, declining to pose for a photo, but agreeing under pressure to submit one. "I'm

Stamp: See Page A3

**THE BEMIDJI PIONEER**  
5th Annual Women's Expo  
Premier Sponsor SANFORD HEALTH

**FREE EXPO GIFT to 1st 200!**

**TODAY!**

**FREE COFFEE!** to the 1st 200 from Dunn Bros.

**EARLY BIRD DOOR PRIZE DRAWING AT 9:00AM**  
Blue & White Diamond Ring from Riddle's Jewelry. Must be registered by 8:45 to win!

**SANFORD CENTER**  
DOORS OPEN AT 8:00AM

**EARLY BIRD**