

More monitors and
extra education

Bill would increase carbon
monoxide education

A3



Cool your
jets

VNP snowmobile
trails not yet open

B9



The Journal

Saturday,
December 14, 2013

International Falls, Minnesota

www.ifallsjournal.com

\$1

Conditions tough,
but logging continues

Loggers wish cold
would have come
before the snow

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

Borderland loggers say ideally the cold snap experienced this week would have come before the dump of snow that fell just after Thanksgiving. Handling the snow and cold costs more money and time, but timber harvests continue as snow is plowed and/or tramped down on winter roads into sites.

Wayne Skoe, logger and Koochiching County commissioner, said some areas of the county received more than the 16-inches reported in International Falls. “It’s nice because it insulates septic lines, but also everything else and that’s not good,” he said. “Nothing has frozen down in the woods and we have to work our way into everything.” Gordon Dobbs, Dobbs Logging Inc., Littlefork, said Thursday the cold temperatures have helped the conditions, which are changing fast. “It takes more work to get the

Logging to A7 ➤



STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

Trucks loaded with wood wait in line in International Falls to be weighed at the local paper mill’s scale.



STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

Kendra Schmidt performs a flute solo Wednesday as the Falls junior high band plays “Christmas Concerto.”

Holiday tunes

Junior high band and choir members performed a medley of holiday songs Wednesday for friends, family and community members. The six-member choir performed under the direction of Tamara Koenig and the 66-member band is directed by Michelle Boelk.



Above: From left, Rabecka Salo, Annalise Silvers, Shelby Layman, Aijah Meyer, Kerry Meyers and Amelia Stewart perform under the direction of Tamara Koenig. Erin Lundin, not pictured, served as the accompanist for the choir.

Left: Members of the junior high band end Wednesday’s concert with “Carol of the Bells.”

City accepts
grant and
commits funds

Jaksa wonders if
studies are enough to
recover from job loss

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

The International Falls City Council accepted a \$200,000 federal grant intended to assist the community in recovering from the permanent loss of 265 jobs at the local paper mill.



Cynthia
Jaksa

The council met in special session Wednesday, when it also approved a letter to the United States Economic Development Administration committing \$138,750 as a local match. The Koochiching County Board last week adopted a similar resolution.

The three funding sources together will provide \$477,500 toward administration and implementation of plans developed by economic response teams created in July after the May announcement of the job cuts by the mill’s then owner, Boise Inc. Since then, Boise and all of its facilities, including the local paper mill, have been purchased by Packaging Corporation of America.

The county and city together sought a \$277,000 federal economic adjustment investment grant. The reduction in the anticipated grant will require a slight reduction in a couple areas of the plans, Falls Mayor Bob Anderson and Councilor Pete Kalar said. Anderson and Kalar serve with two county commissioners on a lead response team.

County and city officials agreed to commit the \$138,750 pledged prior to the grant reduction and said it’s important to follow through with the additional money.

A Dec. 13 deadline for acceptance of the grant brought the issue to the council this week.

Anderson and Kalar said the reduction in funding for the plans will involve a couple areas. They said a few less businesses will be assisted, and a work force skills

Council to A7 ➤