

LOGGING

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frost down when you have the snow,” he said. “It takes a lot of plowing and tramping, but that’s all part of it in the wintertime.”

He said the rough start to the winter logging season is not a huge setback for the logging community.

Ray Killmer, Killmer Bros. Inc., Big Falls, said he agreed conditions aren’t ideal.

“You need the snow to build roads, but enough is enough,” he said.

He said the cold weather is needed after the snow to firm up the ground, but it adds costs to production because of the need to use more fuel to warm machines and trucks, and plow and

tramp, but “it’s just one of those things. Costs go up and production goes down.”

Killmer said the heating oil in diesel fuel turns to wax and plugs filters in frigid temperatures. “You have to pay more attention to fueling operations than you would otherwise,” he said.

Ideally, snow would have come after the cold, and temperatures would hover around zero, he said.

“It’s the initial shock of it coming and until you get all the bugs worked out, then even if it gets colder, you still operate,” he said.

Ray Higgins, of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association, said Borderland loggers are echoing other loggers in the region: The early season’s weather conditions will make log-

ging time-consuming and expensive.

On a good day diesel prices are spendy, making profit margins tighter, he said. “But now, they spend more time plowing and getting snow off the roads and more diesel is burning, making it more difficult to make ends meet,” he said.

When loggers are plowing and tramping snow, they’re not cutting wood or delivering it to mills, Higgins said.

“The better loggers are better at dealing with adversity and there is plenty of adversity to deal with,” he said.

Loggers, he said, are known optimists and problem solvers. “We’ll make it happen, but it’s difficult and we’re not looking for more problems,” said Higgins. “We’re happy when there is

less to worry about.”

Wood is getting to the paper mill in International Falls, said Lori Lyman, public affairs manager for Boise Paper, a Packaging Corporation of America company.

“The supply of wood coming to the mill is close to normal,” she said in an email. “The cold and weather has had some impact.”

Koochiching Land Commissioner Dennis Hummitch said cold and snow came a bit earlier than anticipated, but the recent series of very cold days should help improve conditions in the woods.

“It’s not that unusual,” he said. “In a perfect world you want the cold snap before the snow, but when does that happen?”

Hummitch compared logging to farming. “You

always have something to battle,” he said.

Coming early in the season gives loggers plenty of time for the winter harvest, they said. Hummitch said spruce harvest sites, many of which are located in low, wet areas, aren’t usually active until January and by then, the cold weather should have helped settle the frost deep into the ground making access easier.

County foresters told Hummitch earlier loggers had reported difficulty in accessing wood in low areas with lots of vegetation. They also said some loggers were having difficulty getting semi trucks into sites because of the snow and weight of the trucks on ground that has not frozen deeply.

Skoe said the snow and lack of frost in the ground has delayed his logging a bit and he said he hoped Mother Nature wouldn’t send much more snow in the next couple weeks to let the ground freeze deeply.

“All we can do is keep going at it,” he said. “The weather will moderate.”

Meanwhile, Killmer, who has been logging since 1967 or ‘68, said other than the weather causing a few problems, operations are going well.

“Every time ownership changes, things will change,” he said of the recent purchase of the local mill. “Nothing surprises me anymore... I am ready to go to the shrink to see why I am still trying to do this.”

SHOPPING WITH KIDS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2948 and the Ladies Auxiliary to the Post assisted local children in Christmas gift shopping Dec. 7 at Kmart. Each child was able to pick out gifts, wrapping included, have a photo taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and enjoy a snack. Every year the men and women of the Post fund the costs to insure Borderland children can have a Merry Christmas. Taking part in the recent event were, bottom row, left, Irene Anderson, Santa (Wayne Sampson), Mrs. Claus (Margarete Kostiuik) and Shelle Walkoviak; middle row, Pat DeLapp, Lynde Mettler, Beth Johnson, Tina Hofius and Alysa Hackenmueller; back row, Terry Randolph, Warren Bahr, Dennis Walkoviak, Phillip Cairns and Ginger Romosz.

COUNCIL

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profile and tracking system will be added to information already being collected about the Arrowhead Region by other agencies.

Councilor Cynthia Jaksa said she’s grateful for the grant and applauded what she called a calm and methodical response by the teams.

But while she acknowledged the plans are a necessary first step, she said she wondered whether creating plans would be enough to help the community recover from the permanent job loss.

“We do need all those facts, but I was hoping we’d get marketing, too,” she said. “Frankly, it seems like a lot of money just for planning.”

She said it’s important to involve consultants who have contacts and business leads to bring business to the area.

Kalar said the plans are needed to help determine available resources, as well as find out whether displaced workers are finding employment in the area or leaving Borderland for work.

Anderson said some of the mill workers leaving the area will serve as resources.

In addition, he said Northspan Group, which is facilitating the team meetings, and the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, which helped in the grant application and will serve as grant fiscal agent, will steer business prospects toward Borderland.

Jaksa said a recent conference she attended stressed the value of relationships in economic development. “We need to know the people who know the people,” she said.

She said officials from cities successful in recovering from large job losses said at the conference they hired lead consultants and site selectors to draw additional businesses to their communities.

Kalar said the information gained does not preclude the two local economic development directors from marketing the area at the same time the plans are being carried out.

The study and research the teams will conduct will be provided to the community via a website being developed, said Anderson.

LOOKING BACK

25 YEARS AGO

Littlefork-Big Falls music students Heidi E. Runyon and Erin J. Heep will appear in the 1989 edition of “Who’s Who in Music” as being among the country’s most outstanding musicians.

Dale Mitchell Olson, Lisa L. Riley, David Lee Vohler, Luann Donita Dahl, Ramona Lea Dreher, Tammy Marie Harmening, Melissa Ann Kuryla and Michelle Ann Rissanen were named to the dean’s list at Bemidji State University.

40 YEARS AGO

Steve Ross, backbone of the Green Bay Bobcats hockey team, is sidelined for the remainder of the year due to a knee injury.

Falls High School debaters Peggy Kirk, Debbie Ellison, Carmen Remillard and Kathy Hultman took third place honors in Detroit Lakes over the weekend.

50 YEARS AGO

Four city recreation rinks are open to general skating, it is announced by director Bill Howard. Caretakers of

the rinks are Bob Piekarski, Eighth Street; Frank Utter, Carson-Lupie; Wally Herman, Eleventh Street; Bob Demuth, Band Shell. Spare caretaker is Richard Prozinski.

Army PFC. Leroy A. Grover, son of Mrs. Ruth A. Grover, 241 Second St., is among the 1,000 American military personnel who have received orders to return home from duties in the Republic of Vietnam.

A girl was born today at Falls Memorial Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. John Napper,

7 pounds, 8 1/2 ounces.

Over 151 years of service to one employer, Minnesota and Ontario Paper Company, were tallied upon the recent retirement of four employees. Retiring were: Jack W. Johnson, guard; Murry D. Borden, utility man; William Mirka, fireman; and Malcolm F. Mattson, safety supervisor.

60 YEARS AGO

A daughter was born today at Falls Memorial Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Eino Rinne, 1029 Seventh St.; weight, 7 pounds, 5 ounces.

Miss Shirley Ryan of the Falls, student nurse at Glenwood Hills Hospital, Minneapolis, received her nurse’s cap at the candlelight exercises Saturday at the hospital.

Mrs. Henry Hanson of South International Falls was honored Saturday afternoon on her 84th birthday anniversary when friends and neighbors called at her home for a surprise party.

Dear Santa — My little brother, Jerry, would like a pair of skates, a holster set, a mask, cowboy suit and hat and tractor. My little sister,

Jodelle, would like a rocking chair, phone and tricycle. I would like a pair of skates, baton, jewelry or sewing set. — Sandy Sullivan.

70 YEARS AGO

Pvt. Glen Napper at Fort D. A. Russell, Texas, is now on maneuvers. He likes the Army but doesn’t enjoy waking up to find a rattlesnake in bed with him.

E.H. Zimmerman, 56, border city pioneer and businessman, died this morning at his home, 927 Riverside Drive, following a two-year illness.

**“Henry Boucha, Ojibwa, Native American Olympian”**

**Book Signing with Henry Boucha**

**Thursday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> 3-7pm**

Born in Warroad, Minnesota, Henry Boucha is a retired Native American professional ice hockey centerman who played 6 seasons in the National Hockey League for the Detroit Red Wings, Minnesota North Stars, Kansas City Scouts and Colorado Rockies. He is considered to be one of the best players to ever play Minnesota high school hockey. Boucha was inducted into the United States Hockey Hall of Fame in 1995 and was a member of the 1972 United States Olympic hockey team that received the silver medal.

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