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Wednesday,
January 15, 2014

International Falls, Minnesota

www.ifallsjournal.com

\$1

Resolute halts production at Fort Frances mill

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

About 150 employees will be impacted by a market-related outage by Resolute Forest Products' No. 5 paper machine at its Fort Frances paper mill.

Tuesday's announcement said the length of the outage has not yet been determined. The affected employees were notified Tuesday.

The No. 5 machine was the last machine in operation at the mill, Xavier Van Chau, director of Communications and Corporate Social Responsibility, said. Currently, RFP does not intend to provide notice to salaried employees, stationary engineers, certain maintenance employees, and woodlands employees.

Plans call for production to cease Jan. 31. In the meantime, wood and chemical inventories will be used up, and any remaining chemical inventories will be removed and transported to other Resolute locations or disposed of in an environmentally responsible way.

The employees who aren't notified will remain working at the mill, Van Chau said. Stationary engineers will evaluate the equipment in place and maintenance employees will protect assets in place and keep them functioning, in case of a restart. The remaining salaried employee will evaluate the mill, and consider different repositioning opportunities, he said.

Paper to A7 ➤

Nolan: Making headway for the 8th District

Congressman said amendment process allows impact

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

Eighth District Congressman Rick Nolan said he's frustrated his first session in Congress since his return in 2013 is being ranked as the most closed, unaccomplished Congress in history.

But, he added, he's been able to accomplish some work of value and importance to the nation and the 8th District.

"I'm feeling good about that," he told The Journal, adding of the 56 bills approved by the 535 members, two were his.

One bill assisted small airplane manufacturers across the nation and the other involved a land exchange between the Fond du Lac Band of Chippewa and Carlton County.

He also said he's feeling good about a mention in Time Magazine, which cites "yours truly as playing a lead role in keeping us from getting involved in the war on Syria."



Rick Nolan

Nolan said he's also been able to have an impact on legislation through the amendment process, citing an amendment involving the water resources development bill. He said he spearheaded the effort to shut down the lock and dam at St. Anthony Falls in Minneapolis.

While Minneapolis may seem a long way from northern Minnesota's lakes and rivers, valued for sportfishing and tourism, Nolan said Asian carp are a threat and without action could continue to move north.

Nolan to A7 ➤

Dill hears pre-session briefing

County board meets with Dill on local, state issues

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

With a visit to the Koochiching County Board Tuesday by Minnesota Rep. David Dill, both of Borderland's state lawmakers should be familiar with issues of importance to Borderland for the upcoming legislative session.

Dill met for a lengthy discussion in committee with commissioners and county staff on a variety of issues prior to the start of regular meetings of the Koochiching Development Authority Board and county board.

Dill's visit follows a Jan. 3 county board committee session with Sen. Tom Bakk. The Minnesota Legislature is set to convene Feb. 25.

Discussion of the issues mirrored Bakk's session, with Dill noting he and Bakk work closely with one another. For example, he said he received a text from Bakk following the Jan. 3 session asking about pay and mileage reimbursement for jury duty.

Commissioners have asked lawmakers to change the law to allow for more reimbursement. They note jurors from Northome must travel about 70 miles to International Falls for jury duty, for which they receive a \$10 stipend and 25-cent mileage reimbursement.

Dill to A7 ➤



STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

A team of dogs owned by musher Blake Freking, of Findland, Minn., take off down the starting chute in Saturday's Voyageur Classic Sled Dog Race in Northome. Freking took eighth place in the 8 Dog Pro class of the third annual race.

Anderson takes fourth in Voyageurs Classic

20-degree weather welcomed by spectators, not as much by mushers

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Ear-piercing yips and yelps from about 300 anxious dogs filled the air Saturday in Northome minutes before the Voyageur Classic Sled Dog Race began.

The excitement of the four-legged athletes was contagious as bundled-up spectators cheered from the snow-packed sidelines of the starting line at Northome School.

Mushers and their teams traveled from all over Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and Ontario, Canada to compete in the third-annual event which consisted of an 8-Dog Pro and a Trophy Class race.

Local musher Ryan Anderson of Ray participated in the 83-mile 8-Dog Pro class and finished fourth out of 14 teams. He was on the trail for 7 hours, 56 minutes and 4 seconds.

Joanna Oberg of Ignace, Ontario, edged Frank Holmberg of Newberry, Mich., by just four seconds to win the title. Oberg's time was 7:31:50, Holmberg finished in 7:31:54, followed by Chad Schouweiller of Irma, Wis., in third place with 7:49:19.

"It was a lot of fun," Anderson said of the race formerly known as the White Oak Sled Dog Race.

Tony Mai of Big Falls also participated in the event,

Race to A7 ➤



Ryan Anderson of Ray runs with a team of younger dogs with less racing experience in Saturday's race. Anderson took eighth place out of 14 teams that finished the 8 Dog Pro class of the event. Anderson's total trail time was 7 hours, 56 minutes and 4 seconds.

Amy Flakne of Albertville, gives her lead dogs some loving attention minutes before the team began the Voyageur Classic Sled Dog Race. Flakne finished in 14th place with a time of 10 hours, 55 minutes and 10 seconds.



FOR MORE VOYAGEURS CLASSIC PHOTOS, TURN TO PAGE B10.

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