

BUSINESS

Businesses help with relief effort

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

In response to widespread flooding throughout the state of Minnesota, Wells Fargo has made a donation to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief, to support those impacted by the flooding.

The \$60,000 donation is accompanied by Wells Fargo team members who are volunteering and helping with sandbagging and other relief efforts while flooding continues.

“Wells Fargo is committed to helping those affected by flooding to recover,” Dave Kvamme, chief executive officer for Wells Fargo Minnesota said in a release. “We appreciate the hard work and expertise of the Red Cross in assisting affected communities, and we hope our contribution will play an important role in supporting the recovery and rebuilding efforts.”

“Generous donations to Red Cross Disaster Relief, like the one from Wells

Fargo, are helping Minnesotans in need,” Phil Hansen, CEO for the Northern Minnesota Region of the American Red Cross, said in a release. “Recent heavy rainfall has the Red Cross responding across the state supporting weary sandbaggers, sheltering families evacuated from their homes, providing cleanup supplies and sharing food safety and recovery information with the community.”

Locally, about a dozen

Minnesota Power employees from Duluth joined the three employees based in International Falls in helping with the local sandbagging effort.

“We had a number of our employees asking how they could help, as we know how important it is to help out our neighbors and customers in need and community engagement is one of our core values,” Amy Rutledge, corporate communications manager, said.



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KOOTASCA Community Action

is selling the home on a 30 year, 0% interest, Contract for Deed. Eligible applicants must be "at risk", first time home buyers and meet the current income guidelines. The mortgage payment is based on the household's income. Eligible applicants must have sufficient income to support existing debt, the mortgage, insurance, and property taxes. Applicants should have a credit score of 600 or higher.

Income guidelines currently are as follows:

Family Size	Maximum Gross Annual Income
1	\$34,000
2	\$38,850
3	\$43,700
4	\$48,550
5	\$52,450

Applications can be picked up at the KOOTASCA office at 2232 2nd Avenue East, Int'l Falls. For additional information, call Amy Mortenson at (218) 283-9491 or (800) 559-9491 ext. 100. **The application deadline is 4:30 pm on July 7, 2014.**



KARI PAULSON AND CAROL STEGMEIR



Carol Stegmeir, right, recently retired from the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training International Falls office, was given a lifetime achievement award June 12 at a Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development Joint Counselors Conference in Rochester. At left is Kari Paulson, who works in the NMOJT Aitkin office, and was given a counselor of the year award.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

State unemployment rate drops in May

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Minnesota employers added 10,300 jobs in May, according to a report from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

The state has added 45,617 jobs in the past year, for a growth rate of 1.6 percent, compared to the U.S. growth rate of 1.8 percent in the same period. Since January 2011, the state has gained 154,300 jobs.

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate also dropped to 4.6 percent, which compares to the U.S. unemployment rate in May of 6.3 percent.

"Minnesota's unemployment rate is at the lowest level in seven years, which is yet another indicator

of our improving economy," DEED Commissioner Katie Clark Sieben said in a release. "It is also encouraging to see growth occurring in Minnesota's construction and manufacturing sectors, which have each added more than 9,000 jobs in the past year."

In Koochiching County in May, there were 598 unemployed persons from a labor force of 6,553, for an unemployment rate of 9.1 percent, a 1.4 percent drop from April's unemployment rate of 10.5 percent. This compares to May 2013, when



Katie Clark Sieben

there were 569 unemployed persons from a labor force of 6,502, for an unemployment rate of 8.8 percent.

Professional and business services led all sectors in May, with 4,100 added jobs. Construction added 3,800 jobs, manufacturing gained 2,900 jobs, information was up 900 jobs, other services added 500 jobs, and trade, transportation and utilities gained 100 jobs. Logging and mining was unchanged.

Government lost 1,300 jobs in May, as did leisure and hospitality, which lost 500 jobs, financial activities lost 100 jobs, and education and health services lost 100 jobs.

Over the past year, construction added the most jobs and grew at the fastest pace of any industry in the

state. It added 9,447 jobs in the last 12 months, for a growth rate of 9.2 percent, compared to a 3.3 percent growth rate in the U.S. construction industry.

Other growth sectors in the past year were manufacturing, adding 9,404 jobs, education and health gaining 8,917 jobs, professional and business services adding 8,677 jobs, leisure and hospitality gaining 5,736 jobs, government adding 2,158 jobs, trade, transportation and utilities gaining 1,600 jobs, other services adding 541 jobs, information gaining 462 jobs, and logging and mining adding 261 jobs.

Financial activities, with 1,586 job losses, is the only sector to lose jobs in the past year.



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2014 BIG FALLS 4TH OF JULY FESTIVAL

THURSDAY JULY 3, 2014
6:00 p.m. POT LUCK SUPPER AT Community Building
9:00 p.m.- 1:00 a.m. STREET DANCE with "CENTRE-LINE"

FRIDAY JULY 4, 2014
9:00 a.m. COMMUNITY AUCTION at pavilion
10:00 a.m. Olson Memorial HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT, TREASURE HUNT clues posted at Community Building
ART, CRAFT, NOVELTY and FOOD STANDS OPEN
11:00 a.m. KAMIKAZE RUBBER DUCKY RACE
LUNCH starts at Community Building
LIONS BOUNCE HOUSE
12:30 p.m. CHILDREN'S RACES START in front of Community Building
CHILD and ADULT GAMES - meet near Water Tower for Water Balloon Toss, Egg Toss, Sack Races
LOADER CONTEST
DUNK TANK opens
2:00 p.m. SAWDUST PILE
DAVE STADLER'S sawing exhibition & SAWING CONTEST

3:30 p.m. KIDDIE PARADE, Prizes:
1st - \$20.00, 2nd- \$15.00, 3rd- \$10.00
5:00 p.m. MAIN PARADE Line up at 4:00 p.m.
SOFTBALL GAME
8:00 p.m.-1 :00 a.m. STREET DANCE w/ CENTRE-LINE
9:00 p.m. RAFFLE DRAWINGS at Ball Park

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