

Family Matters

See insert for a special edition in today's Journal



The dangers of drugs

Drug Court helps addicts kick the habit

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PCA plans to buy Boise and facilities

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

The International Falls paper mill and the other 29 of Boise's facilities are being bought by Packaging Corporation of America in a cash deal valued at nearly \$2 billion.

The Illinois-based PCA announced the purchase in a joint statement and teleconference Monday morning.

PCA Executive Chairman Paul Stecho said the acquisition of Boise is an excellent fit, both geographically and strategically, with unique substantial synergies.

Stecho pointed to the containerboard that PCA needs to support its corrugated products growth and said Boise's DeRidder, La., containerboard mill is low cost, located in a very good wood basket and, provides almost 1 million tons of primarily lightweight containerboard.

"The combined company is expected to pay down debt as well as to continue to return value to our shareholder," he said.

The deal, expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of the year, comes with Boise's \$714 million of outstanding indebtedness. Should the acquisition move forward with shareholder and regu-

latory approvals, the combined companies would generate \$5.5 billion in annual revenues, \$879 million in profits and cut about \$105 million in annual costs, which the news release calls "expected synergies" over three years.

A call to PCA's Chief Financial Officer Rick West about how the sale of Boise will impact the International Falls mill was not returned in time for this publication.

Boise Chief Executive Officer Alexander Toeldte said PCA's desire to acquire Boise is a "testament to the performance delivered and dedication shown by our

employees in our five years as a public company, and the value we have created in a very challenging economic environment."

Toeldte said the sale will enhance opportunities for even stronger customer service.

Virginia Aulin, Boise vice president of human resources and corporate affairs in Boise, Id., said the operation of the local mill after Monday's announcement to the closing of the deal will continue to be "business as usual."

While she said she could not speculate on any changes to the local mill after it is owned by PCA, she said PCA officials have said the paper unit is a part of

their strategic business unit.

"They will be largely a packaging company, but they said they will need our talent," she said. "In the conference call with shareholders, they talked about being papermakers themselves in their careers and are looking forward to working with Boise on the paper side of the business."

Boise has been moving toward more packaging and has recently purchased a number of smaller packaging units, which some have said may be attractive to PCA.

Headquartered in Lake Forest,

Boise to A7 ➤



STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

The Falls High School homecoming royalty were crowned Monday afternoon in the FHS gymnasium. From left are junior royalty Gary Harala and Teagan Anderson, senior royalty Jake Piekarski and Keanna Carlson, sophomore royalty Madison Truty and Ethan Phung and freshman royalty Ben Everson and Lexi Erickson.

Tradition celebrated

The tradition of homecoming continued Monday at Falls High School with the annual coronation and pep rally. Students in grades nine through 12 were crowned the 2013 homecoming king and queen. Freshman winners are Ben Everson and Lexi Erickson, sophomore royalty is Ethan Phung and Madison Truty, the junior king and queen are Gary Harala and Teagan Anderson and the senior royalty are Jake Piekarski and Keanna Carlson. In addition to handing out crowns, Monday's festivities included recognition of each fall sports team and its senior athletes.



Members of the Bronco football team huddle up before being announced at Monday's pep rally. The team is celebrating its 100th year of Bronco football. See more photos on Pages A12 and B10.

Federal grant sought for community

Council moves to add two EDA directors to economic response team

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

International Falls and Koochiching County officials will find out in six to eight weeks if the community is awarded \$555,000 from the United States Economic Development Administration.

The Economic Adjustment Investment grant, for which the city and county jointly applied, would be used to support the efforts and plans of three teams developed to address the needs of the community resulting from the elimination of 265 jobs by Oct. 1 at the Boise Inc. paper mill in International Falls.

Both entities agreed to split a required match of half of the grant funds sought, totaling \$138,000 each.

Koochiching County Board last week approved a resolution supporting the application for the grant, and the International Falls City Council took similar action Monday. To receive the funds this year, the application had to be submitted by last Friday's deadline.

The three teams are being led by an economic response team made up of International Falls Mayor Bob Anderson, Falls Councilor Pete Kalar, and Koochiching County Commissioners Rob

Grant to A7 ➤

Search for girls hoops assistant coach continues

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

The Bronco girls basketball team is still without an assistant coach for the upcoming season after the Falls School Board Monday agreed to remove a recommendation to rehire Jay Boyle

from the agenda.

On a 5-1 vote, with board member Mike Holden voting no, the board agreed to remove from its agenda the recommendation to rehire Boyle for the position because another applicant wasn't given an interview. The position will be reposted with interviews

to follow.

"It has been brought to my attention that there was another applicant," board member Will Kostiuik said.

Holden said he understood that application was turned in after the deadline, but Kostiuik said he was told by the applicant that it

was turned in on time.

"I think it would be fair to give (the applicant) a chance to interview," Kostiuik continued. "If he delivered it and it was lost...to be fair, why not interview him?"

When contacted by Journal staff last week, athletic director Kevin Grover said no other appli-

cants had applied for the assistant coaching position.

The original recommendation to rehire Boyle as the Bronco girls assistant basketball coach was tabled by the board three months ago when concern was raised re-

Basketball to A7 ➤

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