

# LOCALNEWS

## Labor assembly endorses in local races

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Koochiching Area Labor Assembly this week endorsed candidates seeking election to several local positions in the Nov. 4 election.

Mike Holden, assembly president, said a group of assembly members interviewed candidates interested in the assembly endorsement.

The group later discussed the interviews and voted Tuesday to endorse the following candidates:

- County sheriff — Brian Jespersen
- County Commissioner District 4 — Rob Ecklund
- ISD School Board — Tom Holt, Heather McBride, Toni Korpi
- International Falls City Council West Ward — Cynthia Jaksa
- International Falls City Council Center Ward — Joe Schwartz

Holden said the group did not endorse candidates in the races for the Koochiching County Commissioner District 1 and International Falls City Council East Ward because the candidates did not respond to surveys the group sent and did not attend interviews.

The assembly's other officers are Steve Blair, vice president, and Ranae Whitbeck, secretary-treasurer.

The Koochiching Area Labor Assembly was organized after the AFL-CIO, the umbrella group of all unions, restructured. The effort unified the Koochiching Area Labor Assembly, the Duluth Central Labor Assembly, the Iron Range Labor Assembly and the Carlton County Central Labor Body under one organization, the North East Area Labor Council, which represents more than 40,000 workers.

The following unions working in Koochiching County are represented by the assembly:

- American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees 510 working for the city of International Falls.
- Education Minnesota 331, teachers working in the Falls school district.
- United Steelworkers 159 working at Boise.
- International Association of Machinists W33 working at Boise.
- International Association of Machinists 760 working at Boise.
- National Conference of Firemen and Oilers 937 working at Boise.
- United Association of Plumbers and Fitters 771 working at Boise and in the construction trades.
- International Union of Operating Engineers 49 working for the city of International Falls, Koochiching County and in the construction trades.
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 294 working in the construction trades.
- United Food and Commercial Workers 1189 working at Super One and various bars and liquor stores in International Falls.

## Local resident appointed to state board

BY SPENSER BICKETT  
Staff Writer

A Borderland resident with a passion for community service is making a return to a state regulatory board after an appointment by the governor.

Gov. Mark Dayton has appointed Allen Rasmussen to serve on the Board of Medical Practice, which is a regulatory board which oversees the state's licensed health care professionals.

Rasmussen has served two four-year terms on the board before, he said, as he was appointed to his first term by Gov. Jesse Ventura and to the second term by Gov. Tim Pawlenty. It's been six years since he's served on the board, during which time he's served

on the Minnesota Board of Dentistry.

When it comes down to it, the state regulatory boards are there to protect the public, Rasmussen said.

"It's about protecting the public from bad doctors," Rasmussen said. "All doctors make mistakes, but if there's a repeated pattern, then you have to discipline them."

Rasmussen sought out the appointment after encouragement from other members of the board, he said. There's been some changeover in the board since he's been on it, he said, but he's still very familiar with the board's staff and some of the members.

The state regulatory boards are independent, Rasmussen said, which is important to ensuring they operate correctly.

"It has to be, in order to make judgements and dole out fair discipline that's not politically motivated," Rasmussen said.

The board meets every other month, Rasmussen said, unless there's a contested case. If a doctor contests a discipline ruling from the board, there's a hearing before the full board, so members will be called to session more often. The members also meet in committee once a month to review patient complaints, he said.

"I live 300 miles away and I never miss a meeting," Rasmussen joked.

Rasmussen's rural location means he represents the interests of rural doctors, he said, and can relate to the challenges they face.

Doctors in the Twin Cities have ready access to specialists, he said, while rural doctors don't, which can make their job more difficult.

"It's hard to attract people to your area if there isn't adequate health care available," Rasmussen said.

Contrary to most people, Rasmussen said he enjoys serving on boards, and doesn't mind the travel involved. Recent renovations to U.S. Highway 53 have made the drive to St. Paul more enjoyable, he said, and makes a lot of difference.

"It takes time, and if you're a good member, you spend time with it," Rasmussen said. "It's not just going to meetings, it's time spent reviewing the materials as well."

## Koochiching among 18 counties designated as primary disaster area

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The USDA's Farm Service Agency has designated 18 counties as primary natural disaster areas and 31 as contiguous disaster areas, making farmers and ranchers in those counties eligible to be considered for emergency loans to help recover and rebuild from the damage caused by heavy precipitation and flooding.

Thirty-one additional counties were designated as contiguous disaster areas, and producers in those counties will also be eligible for emergency credit.

The following counties have been designated as primary natural disaster areas: Aitkin, Anoka, Benton, Carver, Chisago, Grant, Hennepin, Isanti, Kanabec, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Le Sueur, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pennington, Pine, Todd, and Wright.

The following counties

have been designated as contiguous disaster counties: Beltrami, Blue Earth, Carlton, Cass, Clearwater, Crow Wing, St. Louis, Douglas, Itasca, McLeod, Marshall, Meeker, Nicollet, Polk, Pope, Ramsey, Red Lake, Rice, Roseau, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Stearns, Stevens, Dakota, Traverse, Wadena, Waseca, Washington, Wilkin, and Otter Tail.

In July, the USDA declared Rock County as a primary natural disaster area and Murray, Nobles and Pipestone counties as contiguous disaster areas.

All counties listed above were designated natural disaster areas on Sept. 24, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency, provided eligibility requirements are met.

Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

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**ORDINANCE #959**

**AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING LOW BID IN THE AMOUNT OF \$339,700.00 AND AWARDING CONTRACT TO HD SUPPLY WATERWORKS, LTD., 15800 WEST 79TH STREET, EDEN PRAIRIE, MN 55344 FOR AN AUTOMATIC METER READING SYSTEM FOR THE CITY OF INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MINNESOTA.**

The City Council of the City of International Falls, Minnesota, does ordain as follows:

**SECTION I.** The advertisement for bids for the furnishing of all labor, materials and equipment for Automatic Meter Reading System for the City of International Falls, Minnesota, has been published, and all other acts required by law performed, and that in reply thereto, bids were received and, after due consideration, the City Council deemed the low bid of HD Supply Waterworks, Ltd., 15800 West 79<sup>th</sup> Street, Eden Prairie, MN 55344, in the amount of \$339,700.00 being the most favorable bid, and said bid was duly accepted subject to passing of this Ordinance.

**SECTION II.** The Mayor and City Administrator are hereby authorized to enter into contract with HD Supply Waterworks, Ltd., 15800 West 79<sup>th</sup> Street, Eden Prairie, MN 55344 for the furnishing of all labor, materials and equipment for an Automatic Meter Reading System for the City of International Falls, Minnesota, in accordance with approved specifications, and the filing of a performance bond for the faithful performance of this contract, said low bid being on file in the Office of the City Administrator.

**SECTION III.** This Ordinance shall be in effect after publication.

Passed its first reading this 15th day of September 2014.  
Passed its second and final reading this 22nd day of September 2014.

Robert W. Anderson, Mayor

Attest:

Kenneth R. Anderson, Administrator

Published: Saturday, September 27, 2014



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Wed.	French Toast w/eggs & sausage or bacon
Thurs.	Blueberry Pancakes w/eggs & sausage or bacon
Fri.	Biscuits & Gravy w/eggs & hashbrowns
Sat.	Cinnamon Swirl French Toast with ham & eggs
Sun.	Blueberry Cream Cheese Crepes with eggs & ham

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Mon.	Half Chicken Dinner	\$10.99
Tues.	Full Rack of BBQ Ribs	\$17.99
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