

BUSINESSNEWS

KEDA: Another successful cold weather testing season

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The addition of a second cold box along with expansion of the testing season into June helped to make the 2012-13 test season extremely strong, according to Paul Nevanen, director of the Koochiching Economic Development Authority and testing coordinator.

“The second cold box represents the evolution of this industry here,” said Nevanen. “We estimate that with the addition of scheduled testing this fall that the economic impact to the community will be well over \$1 million,” said Nevanen.

He added that this number represents nine different test groups — automakers and suppliers — that used the facility as well as additional groups that used private local facilities.

The impact comes in the form of test groups’ spending on hotels, restaurants, fuel, parts, facility rental, airfare, clothing, and car rentals.

“This activity, especially in the winter and spring months, provides a real boost to the local economy,” said Nevanen. “From a community perspective, we’ve got a good reputation for supporting test groups, and providing and improving on what they need. The investments in our facilities continue to allow us to serve our customer’s needs better and translate into more activity here.”

Nevanen also noted that this is a global activity with groups coming from Great Britain, Germany, Korea, and Japan to test here.

“This is a relationship business, and our support team has done a remark-



FILE PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE  
A vehicle drives out of the cold box in December.

able job making this location cost effective, convenient, and comfortable,” he added.

Next season is already filling up, primarily from repeat customers, he said.

The second cold box was completed in December. The city of International Falls and Koochiching County

served as financial partners for the project, with each committing \$250,000 towards the \$644,000 price tag of the cold box. The cost will be repaid by Jaguar Land Rover, the United Kingdom-based company that has a five-year agreement for the building, at 2-percent interest.

Resolute restarts No. 7 machine temporarily

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

A temporary restart this month of Resolute Forest Products’ No. 7 paper machine at its Fort Frances paper mill will call back to work about 40 employees laid off when the machine was idled April 10.

Pierre Choquette, director of Canadian public affairs for Resolute, told The Journal that when the machine was idled, the company indicated it would monitor market conditions and would respond accordingly.

“This restart, albeit temporary, demonstrates good faith re: that commitment,” Choquette said in an email. “It is, however, a temporary restart and this is a clear indication of how competitive the market is and how volatile the demand for these grades is. The com-

pany continues to look at how this site can be repositioned, particularly with regard to the kraft mill.”

The temporary restart will involve roughly 40 employees, mainly in the groundwood and paper machine areas, along with finishing and shipping. It is estimated that the restart will be for two to three months starting in mid-July.

Choquette said “Safety is and will remain the number one priority. Accordingly, timing associated with the recalling of employees will include some hours for safety, job reorientation and, in the limited number of jobs where required, recertification.”

The No. 5 machine has been operating since April and will continue to do so, added Choquette.

Bremer Bank Hunger Campaign donation match exceeded

Contributions reach \$1 million

BREMER STAFF REPORT

During the eighth annual Bremer Bank Hunger Campaign, the \$2-for-\$1 donation match up

to \$30,000, was met and exceeded.

In total, approximately \$103,350 was raised during the two-week campaign for local Feeding America food banks and local food shelves. This total includes an additional \$4,886 donated by

Bremer as a result of a \$1 donation per view of its hunger awareness video featuring senior performance group Alive & Kickin. The Bremer Hunger Campaign all-time donation totals have now surpassed \$1 million dollars raised to end hunger.

During the campaign, Bremer employees raised money by sponsoring bake sales, as well as hosting cook-outs and food drives. They also donated their time and energy to stock local food shelves and prepare food packages in various com-

munities.

“Hunger continues to be an important issue that Bremer employees and communities clearly connect with,” said Mike Turenne, market manager of Bremer Bank International Falls. “It definitely impacts all

of us and I’m so proud that in the eight years Bremer has run this hunger campaign, we have reached the \$1 million mark in total donations. Thank you to everyone who participated in this year’s campaign and in our previous campaigns.”

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