

# BUSINESS

9 TO 5  
The Journal welcomes ideas for stories about people in our community who are starting a business or changing an old one.  
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## Lawyer opens new practice

BY SPENSER BICKETT  
Staff Writer

An attorney from another small town in Minnesota has set up shop in International Falls, working out of Lyndon Larsen's office at 438 Third Street.

Jonathan Isenor, from Blooming Prairie, will meet clients from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m.-noon on Saturdays in the spring, summer, and fall at his office at 438 Third Street.

Isenor graduated from the Hamline University School of Law in 2013, with certificates in dispute resolution and international arbitration. He started interning with Larsen in December 2012 while finishing law school, and he said Larsen will remain his mentor while Isenor begins his practice.

Being located downtown close to the Coffee Landing has its perks, he said.

"My office smells amazing when they roast their

coffee," Isenor said.

Isenor's plan wasn't always to be a lawyer, he said. He graduated from Blooming Prairie High School in 2000 and graduated from St. Cloud State University in 2004 with a degree in theater. During the recession in 2009, Isenor said he felt helpless as he saw loved ones lose houses and jobs.



Jonathan Isenor

"I knew that something could be done so I went to law school in an effort to resolve these concerns," Isenor said. "I wanted to put myself in a position where I could help others and fight for them when the time comes."

This led Isenor to focus on resolution and arbitration at law school, as Hamline has a consistently top-ranked dispute resolution program, he

said. According to 2014 U.S. News and World Report, Hamline's dispute resolution program was ranked third in the U.S. He also focused on mediation, negotiation, and conflict theories, as well as taking classes focusing on workers' compensation and creation and dissolution of different business models in Minnesota.

He has a strong interest in workers' compensation, Isenor said, and enjoys working with business and contract law, too.

"I also have an interest in family law," Isenor said. "I am developing long-term plans to establish a family mediation practice in this area."

With roots in another small town in Minnesota, Isenor said he's adapted quickly to International Falls, and has been coaching the speech team at Falls High School this year. The team has competitions on Saturdays in the winter, which is why he won't be able to to see

clients on Saturdays in the winter.

"All year I will make myself available at other times, with adequate notice, since I realize schedules don't always go with peoples' work schedules," Isenor said.

Isenor's wife, Laura, is the Koochiching County assistant attorney, and the couple recently had their first child, Jack Isenor, on March 7. Isenor said he's missed being in a small town since leaving Blooming Prairie, and loves stargazing from the fire pit in his backyard.

"I cannot wait to plant my own vegetables for the first time in over a decade," Isenor said. "I cannot wait to be able to teach my son and his future siblings to hunt in these woods and fish in the lakes of this beautiful area."

Isenor's office is at 438 Third Street, and his office phone number is 218-285-7434. He can also be reached on his cell phone at 218-324-2969.

## Good Sam celebrates occupational therapy

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

If you lost the use of an arm or leg due to illness or injury, how would you adapt? Thanks to occupational therapists, you don't have to work alone when figuring out how to perform everyday life functions following an injury.

Good Samaritan Society-International Falls is recognizing its occupational therapists for the work they do helping patients adapt to everyday activities following an illness such as stroke or surgery.

Occupational therapists work with patients and their other health care providers to develop unique treatment plans considering the extent of their impairment, as well as living and work situations, activities, and hobbies. They begin by looking for difficulties that limit a patient's ability to complete basic daily functions like bathing and eating.

"I enjoy being able to help others stay home as long as possible, as independent and safe as possible, as well as helping reduce caregiver burden," Cassie Bramhall, occupational therapist at Good Samaritan Society-International Falls, said.

In addition to this, they identify challenges patients may have performing complex tasks like money management and meal preparation. Occupational therapists also consider a patient's participation in volunteer, social, or leisure activities.

"Whether it is a physical, cognitive or psychosocial

limitation, we help people of all ages restore, compensate or adapt to regain their independence, be as safe as possible and assist in improving their quality of life," Bramhall said.

The extent and scope of occupational therapy varies from patient to patient. A patient who's had a stroke, but does not have any other medical conditions, may need eight to 12 weeks of occupational therapy, while a patient who's had a hip replacement may need only four weeks.

Occupational therapists work with physical therapists, and, if needed, speech therapists. For most patients, occupational therapy treatment is more intensive at the beginning when it may last for a few hours per day, and tapers off as patients improve.

Along with educating patients, occupational therapy involves educating family members about how much they should be expected to do for their loved one. For example, hip replacement patients should first learn safe ways to perform similar tasks, like standing up or bending to reach something on the floor. Relearning these tasks in occupational therapy can sometimes require the use of adaptive equipment or strengthening to compensate for other body parts.

So many people do not know what occupational therapy is and I have also really enjoyed educating others and sharing what we have to offer," Bramhall said.

## Family Dollar plans to close stores

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Citing various factors, discount retailer Family Dollar Stores announced Thursday plans to close 370 of the chain's 8,100 stores.

No information about the International Falls store was available.

Falling sales blamed on business disruptions and bad winter weather caused

the chain to move forward on cutting jobs, lowering prices on some items, and closing underperforming stores, according to a news release.

"Our second quarter results did not meet our expectations," Chief Executive Officer Howard Levine said in a statement. "The 2013 holiday season was challenged by a more promotional competitive

environment and a more financially constrained consumer."

The changes follow the company management's strategic review, and could generate \$40-45 million in annual operating profit benefit. In order to lower expenses, the company will also slow new store openings beginning in the company's fiscal year 2015.

Net income for the 2014

fiscal second quarter ending March 1, fell 35 percent to \$90.9 million from a year ago, according to a report. Sales were also down 6 percent year-over-year to \$2.7 billion. Store performance was affected by one fewer week of business during the quarter and disrupted merchandise deliveries caused by harsh winter, according to a report.

## USDA announces small rural area development program

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Monday a new \$150 million program designed to provide investment capital to help small agriculture-related start-up business in rural areas with cash needed to expand.

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced in Cedar Rapids the formation of the first Rural Business Investment Company, a for-profit firm licensed by the USDA to invest in businesses that otherwise might not have the capital to increase business opportunities.

The USDA traditionally has offered guaranteed loans or direct loans for rural businesses. The creation of the Rural Business Investment Company is a new way for USDA to establish a licensing procedure that makes Farm Credit bank funds available as investment capital. The banks cannot directly hold ownership stakes in companies through capital investment.

Under the new program the government has created a new business entity, the Rural Business Investment Company, to receive money

from Farm Credit banks and set up an investment capital fund. The money will be managed by Advantage Capital Partners, a New-Orleans-based firm with experience in investing in small rural startup businesses. Advantage Capital will choose the companies in which the new funds will be invested.

The money comes from eight Farm Credit banks. Three in Minnesota include AgStar Financial Services in Mankato, AgriBank of St. Paul, and United Farm Credit Service in Willmar. Two in Texas are Capital

Farm Credit in Bryan and Farm Credit Bank of Texas in Austin. Others are Co-Bank in Denver, Colorado; Farm Credit Services of America in Omaha, Neb.; and Farm Credit Services of Mid-America in Louisville, Kentucky.

In addition to the creation of the first Rural Business Investment Company announced Monday, the USDA is seeking applications for more. The businesses must be newly formed for-profit venture capital companies seeking to be licensed as an RBIC and intending to raise a minimum of \$10 million

in private equity capital.

Vilsack said a second RBIC application is already under review. The USDA intends to accept RBIC applications through 2016.

Vilsack said examples of the types of businesses that could receive money include biotechnology companies, regional food hubs, or companies making ag-related products seeking to expand into the export market.

"This new partnership will allow us to facilitate private investment in businesses working in bio-manufacturing, advanced

energy production, local and regional food systems, improved farming technologies and other cutting-edge fields," he said.

The program is aimed toward established companies that have received enough money to get off the ground but are now in position to increase the business but need additional capital to grow but are not interested in more debt.

"It's designed to fill a very narrow but important piece that's been missing from assistance and help available in rural areas," Vilsack said.



Steve Fields  
Attorney

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## NOTICE OF COUNTY TIMBER AUCTION SALE

ON KOOCHICHING COUNTY TAX-FORFEITED LANDS

INTERMEDIATE AUCTION SALE  
10:00 AM  
Wednesday, May 7, 2014

REGULAR AUCTION SALE  
Immediately following Intermediate Auction  
Wednesday, May 7, 2014

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