

Victorious
outcome

Team USA pulls for
a peaceful win

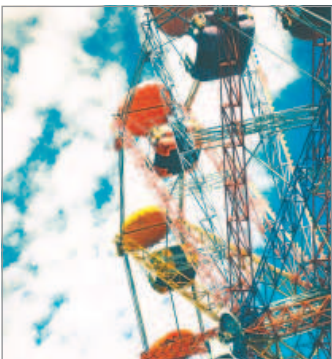
A3



Let the
fun begin

Northern Minnesota District
Fair set for July 12-14

A3



The Journal

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International Falls, Minnesota

www.ifallsjournal.com

\$1

Franken pledges assistance in job loss



U.S. Sen. Al Franken, with International Falls Mayor Bob Anderson, pledged his support as the community attempts to find ways to diversify its economy following the May 2 announcement that by October 265 jobs will be eliminated at the Boise Inc. paper mill in International Falls. Franken met with area leaders Wednesday to listen to their concerns.

STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

Franken, Klobuchar meet earlier with consulate general of Canada on issues of value to both sides of the border

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

Area officials met Wednesday with U.S. Sen. Al Franken in response to concerns about the effect on the local economy with the termination by October of 265 jobs at Boise Inc.'s paper mill in International Falls.

Representatives of communities in Koochiching County, as well as officials from Rainy River Community College and area economic development agencies, attended the meeting to seek support from Franken as the community moves forward after the job termination.

A variety of issues were discussed ranging from U.S. jobs, rail crossing issues, a need for a healthy airport, long-term care solutions in rural communities and a need for the federal government to partner with local communities on projects such as extending sewer service to areas around Voyageurs National Park.

Franken spoke about a number of measures involving those issues that he was moving forward in the U.S. Senate intended to create a better life for rural Americans.

"I am here in listening mode," Franken told the group, pledging to support the community in

diversifying its economy and to find ways to train mill workers for new careers that will hopefully be sited in the area.

"In the meantime, I am here to give you my assistance and offer to do all I can to help with this transition," he said.

Franken told the group that he had sent a letter of support that day for federal Trade Adjustment Assistance for the displaced workers at the mill. He said the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development has applied for the assistance.

"This is a great community,"

Franken to A7 ➤



STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

Members of the Falls High School Class of 1968 show their alma mater pride during the International Falls Fourth of July parade Thursday. Turn to B6 to see more photos.



Wyatt Randal gets ready to spray water on the crowd during the kiddie parade.

Fun on the Fourth

Hundreds gathered in International Falls Thursday bringing with them red, white, blue and community spirit, too, as they celebrated the Fourth of July. Hot, sunny weather was welcomed by all as they participated in Independence Day festivities in Smokey Bear Park.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A float makes its way down Highway 71 during "America's Parade" in Birchdale Thursday.

Officials: Prepare for 1,000 trammers

The Ride Across Minnesota leaves International Falls July 14

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

With their destination a world free of multiple sclerosis, about 800 riders of The Ride Across Minnesota, known as the MS TRAM, will descend on International Falls the afternoon of July 14 and spend the night.

With an entourage of at least 200, the community should plan to host about 1,000 people before all embark the next morning on a 280-mile journey from the Canadian border through northern Minnesota's evergreens and along the North Shore of Lake Superior to Duluth.

International Falls Chamber of Commerce President Faye Whitbeck advises that Borderland shop owners may want to consider being open that Sunday when hundreds of riders with a median age of 51 reportedly will spend a collective \$45,000 in each of their host communities along the way: International Falls, Orr, Chisholm, Biwabik, Two Harbors and Duluth. Likewise, management at area restaurants should take notice they could be very busy and may need extra staff that Sunday, she added.

Arriving to the Falls by bus from Duluth, about half of the cyclists will be camping in Smokey Bear Park and the other half will use local lodging. The TRAMMERS' "wheels" will arrive separately via semi-truck to be unloaded by local musclemen in an assigned area of the park.

Notified earlier this year by MS Event Coordinator Aaron Briner, Pete Schultz of the area's Convention and Visitors Bureau and Whitbeck have since been

MS TRAM to A7 ➤

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