

# LOCALNEWS

## Community credited by chamber speakers

BY LAUREL BEAGER  
Editor

The International Falls Area Chamber of Commerce spring gala Thursday brought thanks and gratitude from the two featured speakers.

The event, hosted by Chamber President Faye Whitbeck, drew more than 200 people to Lenard's at the AmericInn, where new "Pillar Awards" were presented to six businesses.

Featured speaker Mark Kowlzan, chief executive officer of Packaging Corporation of America, told the audience the company operates the local paper mill only because mill employees and the Borderland community have allowed it to operate here.

"Thank you for allowing us to be in the community," he said. "We are working to earn the right to be here."

Kowlzan provided a slide-show presentation about the performance of the company, which he said continues to grow shareholder value and maintain a strong balance sheet.

Cynthia Warren accepted in a brief speech the chamber's 2014 Citizen of the Year recognition with a hug and introduction from close friend Stephanie Heinle.

Warren told the audience she was a raging alcoholic and drug addict five years ago. Today, she said, her life has changed and she is living the 12-step's of recovery of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Warren, whose volunteer work in domestic and sexual assault advocacy, with incarcerated women, and the elderly was cited in



Cynthia Warren, left, was presented the chamber's 2014 Citizen of the Year award Thursday. She was introduced by her good friend Stephanie Heinle.



Mark Kowlzan

community who provide food, shelter and clothing to people in need, who provide respite care to care givers and families, and who do other good things.

"There are one million angels out in our community doing all these things," she said. "I applaud you all."

Following a discussion about PCA's performance, Kowlzan said he wanted to talk about his favorite mill — the one in International Falls at which he sought employment in 1988.

"I was only offered the old side of the mill," he said smiling. "I wanted the whole mill and now I've got my way."

The International Falls paper mill and and the other 29 of Boise's facilities were bought last year by Illinois-based Packaging

Corporation of America in a cash deal valued at nearly \$2 billion.

Kowlzan said he's very proud of the employees at the local mill who spent an "enormous amount of effort cleaning, inspecting and repairing" the mill during a recent week-long scheduled maintenance and clean-up shutdown when the company spent \$19 million.

"That's more money spent on an annual shutdown than many can remember," he said.

He said the commitment by employees is strong, and as example, he noted local mill manager Bert Brown and another mill employee had left the evening's gathering to handle a problem at the mill.

"I am so proud of the effort from everyone," Kowlzan said.

## Lunchtime at Backus

BY EMILY GEDDE  
Staff Writer

Backus Community Center will once again feed hungry mouths this summer.

The Summer Food Service Program kicks off Monday and will run through Aug. 29, Monday through Friday, providing meals free of charge to all children ages 1-18.

"The meals are meant to take the place of the school lunch program for kids during the summer months," said Ward Merrill, executive director of Backus. "Having been a teacher for 34 years, educators understand good nutrition goes hand-in-hand with kids' ability to learn."

Lunches will be served from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. and Merrill said there are no income guidelines or eligibility requirements.

"Parents need to keep up on nutritional meals over the summer and that's what this program aims to do," Merrill said.

He added parents are welcome to eat with their children, and if they're able to contribute toward the \$3.60 cost of the meal, it is encouraged but not necessary.

The program is in its fifth year and has seen tremendous growth since its beginning. According to Merrill, the first summer the program was offered served about 3,500 meals. Last year, more than 7,600 meals were provided to the community.

"Every year, it continues to grow," Merrill said.

It is easy, Merrill said, for some community mem-

### More information

For more information, call the Backus office at 285-7225 or visit [www.backusab.org](http://www.backusab.org).

bers to take for granted a warm, nutritious meal. Others, he continued, don't have the means to provide a meal for their family.

"Occasionally, we survey families who eat here and last year, one mother said their budget doesn't allow the family to take special trips to McDonald's," he said. "She told me coming to Backus takes the place of that. It allows time away from home to be with friends and enjoy a good meal."

### Get active

In addition to free meals, Backus will also offer open gym from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday to all ages.

"It's just another thing that goes hand-in-hand with a healthy summer," Merrill said.

He noted two adults will provide supervision in the gym, however, children under the age of 5 must be accompanied by an adult.

"Kids are welcome to come play with their friends, use our equipment and have a good time," Merrill said.

The free activity is funded by the Minnesota Department of Education and the Otto Bremer Foundation and begins Monday, but will be closed June 9 – 13. During the summer months, there will be no Saturday open gym.

# riverfest

INTERNATIONAL FALLS MINNESOTA

Saturday, July 5, 2014

Gates open at 2:30 pm

Irvin N. Anderson Amphitheater

Rainy River Waterfront, Highway 11 East International Falls, MN

Sorry, no personal coolers

**LITTLE RIVER BAND**

**Saturday, July 5**

**7:00 pm**

**Lamont Cranston**

**5:00 pm**

**MIKE URE BAND**

**3:30 pm**

**Advance Tickets: \$30.00**

**Gate Tickets: \$40.00**

**VIP Tickets: \$75.00**

VIPs receive: 5 beer tickets and/or complimentary pop, complimentary snacks, private beer garden & porta potty, private parking in the west lot with shuttle to gate service  
Only 100 VIP-Sold at Backus or online

**TICKET OUTLETS:**

INTERNATIONAL FALLS: KGHS-KSDM Radio | City Drug | Backus Community Center

FORT FRANCES: Betty's of Fort Frances | Northwoods Gallery & Gifts

Buy tickets online at [www.riverfestifalls.com](http://www.riverfestifalls.com) or [www.backusab.org](http://www.backusab.org)

Riverfest is brought to you by:

**BACKUS**  
Community Center

Questions? Call Backus (218) 285-7225

**CharterMedia**

Check out our **BUNDLES!**  
Bundle tickets & beer & save!  
Only available online or at the Backus Office  
[www.riverfestifalls.com](http://www.riverfestifalls.com)

# Summer Entertaining Made Easy

With Fresh Herb Dip & Delicious Cheesecake Mixes From City Drug

## Herb Dip Mixes

Buffalo Chicken & Blue Cheese  
Cucumber Dill • Garlic Tomato Basil  
Horseradish • Lobster Bisque  
Spicy Garlic Dill • Wood Fired Pizza

RECIPES INCLUDED

Perfect for stress-free entertaining, Halladay's Harvest Barn Herb Dip seasonings are an exceptional, all-natural flavor experience that you will want to share! These mixes add a unique zest to dips, or elevate your favorite dishes to tasty new levels!

## Baked Dip & Cheeseball Mixes

Spinach Artichoke  
Caramelized Onion

Perfect served hot, as a cheeseball or a chilled dip. These appetizing blends bring a sophisticated touch to any appetizer!

## Cheesecake Mixes

Amaretto Mudslide  
Double Chocolate  
Key Lime • Lemon Blueberry  
New York Cheesecake  
Tiramisu

"A simple stir creates an elegant cheesecake with no artificial flavors or colors – Perfect for today's busy families!"

# City Drug

283-3061

314 3rd St., Int'l Falls  
Mon - Sat 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. • [www.citydrugstore.com](http://www.citydrugstore.com)