

LOCALNEWS

Job fair aims for big turnout

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

To help put those looking for work in touch with potential employers, the International Falls WorkForce Center is hosting a job fair.

The job fair is 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday at Rainy River Community College gymnasium.

While the idea for the fair came about in response to the layoffs at the local paper mill, Alysa Hackenmueller stressed the event is open to anyone looking for a job, not just former paper mill employees.

When the news of the layoffs at the local paper mill came out, WorkForce Center staff realized they needed to respond positively, said Tammy Riley of the WorkForce Center.

“To me I thought it made logical sense,” Riley said. “With all the workers laid off from Boise, the WorkForce Center must have a job fair, it’s our responsibility to do that.”

The fair will feature 24 employers, all of which have available positions they’ll be looking to fill, Hackenmueller said. Restaurants such as McDon-

If you go

- Resume writing workshop, 10-11 a.m. Tuesday.
- Creative job search workshop, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Wednesday.
- Interviewing preparation workshop, 10-11 a.m. Thursday.
- Job fair, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday, RRCC gym.
- All of the workshops are at the WorkForce Center office on the RRCC campus.

ald’s and Dairy Queen will be looking for new crew members, while retailers Kmart and Menards will be looking to fill various positions like cashier or morning stockperson.

“It’s fair to say every employer who’s coming has job openings they have posted; they’re looking for workers,” Hackenmueller said.

TruStar Federal Credit Union will have a booth at the fair, and will seek people to fill an open position in its accounting department, Sherri Mannausau, senior vice-president of communications, said.

“We’re a growing institution, and we always have an eye out for great talent,” Mannausau said. “It’s a great opportunity to provide information on us as an organization.”

Not all the businesses are from International Falls; Digi-Key from Thief River Falls will seek to fill sales positions, and Ulland Brothers Inc. in Hibbing will feature skilled labor positions like heavy equipment operators, laborers, welders, and mechanics. Other regional employers represented at the fair include American Crystal Sugar Company from Moorhead, Potlatch Corp. from Bemidji, Select Staffing from Roseau, Knife River Materials from Bemidji, Farmers Union Oil from Warroad, and Magnetation from Grand Rapids.

These out-of-town employers may be doing on-the-spot interviews. WorkForce Center staff Renae Bahr said it’s important for attendees to

be prepared by having multiple copies of their resume ready and dressing appropriately. It’s also helpful to practice interviewing skills beforehand, she said.

“We hate to have employees leave town,” Bahr said. “But for some people (staying in town is) not an option.”

To help prepare for the job fair, the WorkForce Center is hosting multiple workshops during the week of the fair. A resume writing workshop is scheduled for 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, a creative job search workshop is 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, and an interviewing preparation workshop is 10 to 11 a.m. Thursday. All of the workshops are at the WorkForce Center office on the RRCC campus.

The event is free for attendees and businesses, and space is still open if businesses are interested in participating, Hackenmueller said. Contact the WorkForce Center at 283-9427 to sign up.

“We just really want a good turnout,” Hackenmueller said. “That makes it worthwhile for the employers.”

Earlier Sunday liquor time considered

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Looking to get settled at a local bar before the Sunday football games start at noon?

That opportunity may come soon in International Falls with the second reading of a proposed ordinance change that would allow for Sunday liquor sales to start at 10 a.m.

The International Falls City Council is expected to hear Monday the second reading of a proposal to amend two city ordinances that govern when local bars can start to sell liquor on Sundays.

The amendments will allow on-sale establishments to begin serving liquor on Sundays at 10 a.m. — two hours earlier than is now allowed.

The amendments were prompted when a few local bar owners asked city officials to consider allowing liquor sales to begin on Sundays before noon, as is now stated in the ordinances.

State law allows for Sunday liquor sales to begin at 10 a.m.

Joann Smith, owner of the Viking Bar in down-

town International Falls, was among the bar owners seeking the change.

“Normally, a lot of football games are on Sunday and people want to go out and watch them, but they don’t want to go out at noon when the games start, they want to be already comfy in their chair at home because they’ve already started,” said Smith.

With the change, people can come early, have a drink, get settled and ready for the big game at noon, she said.

Sundays are traditionally slow business days at liquor establishments, she said.

“You’ll have a good Sunday here and there, but it would be nice if it were more consistent, especially on football days,” she said.

The earlier serving will also encourage some bars to offer promotions and events leading up to the start of the football games, she said.

“This will give us more opportunity,” she said of the amendments. “I think it’s a good idea for our community, even the bars, if we can get more business on Sundays.”

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