

OPINION

OUR VIEW

Welcome PCA to Borderland

No one likes change. Most of us like the comfort of the known.

But like it or not, life brings with it changes and that brings the unknown.

Monday’s announcement Packaging Corporation of America has agreed to buy Boise, along with the paper mill in International Falls, brings with it change and the unknown.

Minnesota Rep. David Dill told The Journal this week only the driver of the change likes change. And Borderland must be a driver of its own change by continuing on the path forward being built in response to May’s announcement the mill would cut 265 jobs.

We urge the community to share optimism this purchase will help stabilize the local paper mill and remaining jobs and perhaps even see value added to the products made here.

The response to the job cuts have brought development of teams of community members who are working to develop and search for ways to: diversify this the local economy; attract new and retain existing businesses and jobs; and establish a long-term vision and strategy for the local economy.

In just this past week, International Falls and

Koochiching County officials supported an application for a \$555,000 federal grant to assess and analyze the community as well as search for potential clients who can use our amenities such as the foreign trade zone, multimodal district, and area business and industrial parks.

Clearly, we must enlist our state and federal officials in an effort to ensure this new owner of our paper mill can compete with mills in other states and nations by keeping operating and supply costs as low as possible.

We encourage all our elected leaders to reach out to PCA officials to tell them we want them to continue a presence here and are willing to help them in just about any way possible.

As local people may recall, this paper mill has already experienced ownership changes, downsizes, and machine and facility shutdowns, as well as expansions.

Like we said in May, Borderland and this paper mill are survivors. This purchase isn’t the end of the world, but another bump along road to economic health and stability for this area.

That said, we welcome Packaging Corporation of America to our community.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Falls does not need economic directors

**To the editor,**

Mr. Koeneman, that was an excellent letter to the editor, and all the truth.

So when the town has spoiled kids in grown bodies that don’t get their way, this is the outcome.

When Mr. (Bob) Anderson became mayor, that ruined their plans to conquer and divide between themselves. And now they’re mad and throwing a tantrum. So now

they can’t scheme and scam behind closed doors like they’re used to doing.

There is no reason for these (directors of) economic developers in this huge metropolitan city of International Falls.

You see what happened in Colorado when elected officials don’t listen to the voters – they’re thrown out of office.

I will give credit where credit is due. These three city

council members have wasted more of the taxpayers money than any council members in the history of the town of International Falls put together. And now the Donahue thing.

Time has come — out with the old, in with the new.

Government doesn’t run the people; people run the government.

**Darren Wallen**  
International Falls, MN

GUEST COLUMN

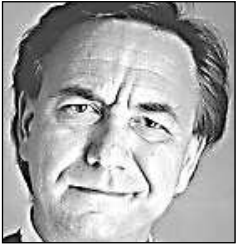
The world’s policeman stops for a donut

Well, this is odd. The heck with an exit strategy. We can’t even work out an admittance maneuver. The automatic door-opener that proved so reliable for presidents past has short-circuited and keeps slamming shut whenever Barack Obama tries to enter the war store with his empty shopping cart.

Or maybe he’s angling to be known as the architect of the modern war. A new kind with intermissions. So he augmented the fast lane with a flashing red. We got ourselves a chief executive more comfortable hitting the pause button than fast-forward. The world’s policeman stopped for a donut. And he might just linger at the counter to flirt with the waitress.

Intent on bringing experience as father of two young girls to the international stage, the president is punishing Syrian President Bashar al-Assad by giving him a time-out. Yeah, that’ll send a message. “Use chemical weapons on your own people and no more milk and cookies for you. And if I hear one more word about human shields, mister, you are grounded for eternity plus two weeks.”

To all the people accusing the president of sending mixed messages, so sorry for the rain delay in your regularly scheduled war. Hope the postponement of the cessation of human life hasn’t



**Will DURST**  
RAGING MODERATE

inconvenienced you. But you have a point. First he calls for targeted punitive strikes against the Assad government. Then, not so much. He zigs. He zags. Instead of shock and awe, we get talk and law. How dare Obama stop and think before he bombs? Clearly he’s conflicted by the concept of conflict.

Must be what all those liberals refer to as... diplomacy. As alien as methane rain. Some sort of socialist stunt. Which we red blooded Americans find disconcerting. The Bushes were resolute. Once their minds were set, they stayed set. Like concrete. Even Clinton was rather lunkish. This guy, however, is limber and fluid. Much like a strawberry smoothie. Deliberation before liberation. Could set a troubling precedent.

Meanwhile, the public is confused. Exactly why are we

sticking our noses up more Mideast skirts? Again. Don’t we already have enough going on over here? And there? Of course, you think we’re war-weary, you should talk to the Syrians. The rebels aren’t just fighting the government, they’re forced to fend off other rebels as well. 3-D civil war from both ends. Squared.

It doesn’t help that everything we know is wrong. Dennis Rodman is flourishing as a Goodwill Ambassador. And Vladimir Putin is now a Peace Advocate. What’s next: Kim Kardashian, the Molecular Chemistry Consultant? Mike Tyson — Poet Laureate? Tim Tebow — NFL Quarterback?

Putin offering to help is as suspicious as the wet spot on a veterinary couch. But at least we can trust Russia to tell the rest of the world whether Assad is lying about the strength and size of his chemical weapons cache. After all, they sold him the stuff.

Meanwhile, Congress slipped off the decision hook like a floppy floppy flounder. For one brief shining moment, they can stop worrying about being nailed down on “support a strike” or “not support a strike” and get back to the important business of this country... voting to repeal Obamacare. Again.

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