

OPINION

OUR VIEW

Project offers opportunities

We’ve heard of the win-win situation. But Friday’s action by the Koochiching Economic Development Authority could be a win-win-win-win scenario.

Kudos to all involved in bringing a project to the KEDA table that should result in establishing a rail spur from the Minnesota Dakota and Western Railway line across Highway 332 to Rainy Lake Oil and Bergstrom Wood Products.

The project should improve efficiency and allow for growth by streamlining operations and lowering costs at the businesses. It will also allow the businesses to handle their products less therefore becoming more competitive.

The private-public effort will involve the KEDA and the businesses, and will also involve Wagner Construction and MD&W.

The project will allow these businesses to more easily provide materials and service to existing and possibly new customers, and provide MD&W with the opportunity to serve these two business and others.

All in all, we could

see greater employment opportunities in our community as a result of this project.

Key to this project, and others, are the relationships members of this community build. In this case, the ties to local people and previous experiences with Bergstrom Wood Products played a role in this project moving forward.

The moral of this story may be to think about the future before reacting to a situation of the present. The words used today in dealings with others may come back to your credit, or to haunt you.

In this case, the positive relationships and experiences with local people and businesses of the past by someone who does not live here are helping to support a project that could benefit us all by diversifying our economy and strengthening existing businesses.

We look forward to this project, and other private-public efforts, opening new opportunities for those involved as well as providing stability and sustainability to our entire community.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Doctor provided more than treatment

To the editor,

Community: So many things go into such a description, but none is more important than it’s citizens. Unfortunately, the International Falls community is losing one of our most prized citizens in a mother, friend, advocate, and doctor. You will be terribly missed, Dr. Reki Lawal.

Dr. Lawal has had an impact on many of us and, most often, in our most desperate times of

need. What will be missed most, however, is not only her medical expertise, but also her passion for helping others, her smile, her humor, positivity and calmness in crisis. Dr. Lawal’s last shift at Rainy Lake Medical Center was Saturday, Aug. 23. So, while the community she loved was enjoying the wonderful festivities that have become the International Falls Bass Championship weekend, Dr. Lawal was standing by

in the Emergency Room in case one of us needed her.

I have brought many patients to her in the ER, ranging in age from 2 to 22. Whether she was helping a crying toddler laugh as she checked her ears or assisting an emotionally distraught, teenage, car crash victim feel safe and cared for, you could always count on Dr. Lawal to go that extra mile beyond triage and diagnosis and truly care for the patient.

Your impact is felt throughout this community and for me personally, it feels like we are losing a core pillar within our community’s support system. I hope you know how special you are to us. Thank you for being there when we needed you the most. Have fun in Texas, but don’t forget us, we will never forget you. You will be missed.

Brad Krasaway
International Falls, MN

A simple event brings the community together

To the editor,

Our family attended the labor union community picnic Monday, and boy was it nice.

Not only did the weather cooperate, it was a beautiful evening, the music was pleasant, the volunteers were friendly, the food was fantastic and everyone around us

seemed to be having a nice time.

We appreciated the meal and enjoyed being able to see others in the community just sitting around visiting. There were people of all ages, and all walks of life. There was no agenda, no program, no ulterior motive we could see.

We brought food for

the food shelf as was requested and we thought it was nice to “pay it forward” since we were getting this free dinner ourselves.

The bottom line of our letter is that it is nice to see such a simple event (from an attendance standpoint, we know how complicated it is to plan something of this

magnitude) that just brings a community together. We sincerely commend the organizers for doing such a nice job again this year.

Robin Bjorkquist
International Falls, MN

Editor’s note: This letter was also signed by Steve Bjorkquist.

Emergency agencies are doing their job very well

To the editor,

Last Thursday at about 6:15 a.m. I had the need to call 911 to ask for help from police, an ambulance and firetruck. There had been an accident which ended up

in my yard.

I must say that I was most pleased with our law enforcement for getting here immediately — just a couple of minutes and did their job without any hesitation.

When you hear someone say that they just ride around or drink coffee — that may be true. But, the riding around is called “patrol our streets.” They are ready to go at all times.

My hats off to all three of the services called as they really and truly know what they’re doing and do it well.

Beverly Stinson
International Falls, MN

How to contact your lawmakers

FEDERAL OFFICES

President Barack Obama
Democrat
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20500
202-456-1111
Website: www.whitehouse.gov
E-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

U.S. Rep. Rick Nolan
2447 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515
202-225-6211
Website: www.nolan.house.gov
Facebook: US Rep Rick Nolan
Twitter: @USRepRickNolan

Duluth Office of
Congressman Rick Nolan
11 East Superior Street
Suite 125
Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: 218-464-5095
Fax: 218-464-5098

Brainerd Office of
Congressman Rick Nolan
Brainerd City Hall
501 Laurel Street
Brainerd, MN 56401
218-454-4078

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar
Democrat
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-3244

Minnesota Office:
1200 Washington Avenue

South, Suite 250
Minneapolis, MN 55415
612-727-5220
Website: www.klobuchar.senate.gov

U.S. Sen. Al Franken
Democrat
Senate Hart Building 320
Washington DC 20510
202-224-5641
Website: www.alfranken.com
E-Mail: info@franken.senate.gov

STATE OFFICES

Gov. Mark Dayton
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN, 55155
800-657-3717
E-mail: Mark.Dayton@state.mn.us

Rep. David Dill
571 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-2190
800-339-0466
rep.david.dill@house.mn
Assistant: Joan Harrison

Sen. Tom Bakke
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Capitol, Room 226
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606
Capitol Office phone: (651) 296-8881
Email: www.senate.mn/senatorbakke@mail

Share your point of view

Make a difference by writing a letter to the editor or contributing to our online discussions. The Journal’s Opinion page is where meaningful community discussions take place.

The Journal welcomes letters from readers

Letters should be limited to 500 words or less. Longer letters may be edited. Letters must be signed and include the telephone number and address of the letter writer. Only the author’s city address will be published.

Mail letters to The Journal, 1602 Highway 71, International Falls 56649. Letters can also be sent by e-mail to laurel@ifallsjournal.com.

Candidate letter policy

The beginning of 2014 brought a new policy to The Journal. A charge of \$30 will be required to publish letters to the editor from candidates or about candidates. The letters must be 500 words or less and the fee must be paid prior to the letter being published. The name and city of the author will be published with the letter. Letters may be emailed to laurel@ifallsjournal.com. The Journal will publish a deadline for publication of paid election letters prior to the Aug. 12 primary and Nov. 4 general elections.