FRANKEN

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he said at the conclusion of the meeting. "It's been great for a long, long time and it will be for a long time after that. I don't want to see this derail us, but inspire us to do greater things."

Dan Toivonen, Boise Inc. woodlands manager, told Franken that the termination of jobs is an effort to stabilize the remaining 580 jobs at the mill and to become more competitive.

He said the company's immediate focus is to support the displaced workers through state and federal resources.

And No. 2 focus for the company, he said, is to lower the cost of the mill's operations so it can compete with overseas paper manufacturers. He said the highest costs for the mill are in chemicals, energy and fiber. He asked Franken to ensure that national forests in the state, a key provider of fiber for the mill, provide as much timber as is sustainable, which means providing more wood for cutting.

Toivonen told Franken the mill cannot pass those rising costs onto customers and remain a viable operation.

Koochiching County Commissioner Rob Ecklund told Franken that the Boise job loss resulting from a customer moving its business off shore points to a need to reconsider trade laws.

"We don't need free trade," he said. "We need fair trade to make the U.S. more competitive."

Franken pointed to several measures he has supported that are intended to keep America's workers from being at a disadvantage when compared to nations where labor costs are a fraction of U.S. labor.

Rainy River Community College Interim Dean Elena Favela discussed the role the two-year college can play in helping to provide training for other jobs, as well as encouraging more local entrepreneurship.

Franken encouraged the college to create a partnership with industry to supply the skilled workers needed for manufacturing. He pointed to a robotics program at many Minnesota high schools that lead students toward math, science, technology and engineering and said he hears from employers that they are also seeking employees that work as a team and use critical and creative thinking processes.

County Commissioner Brian McBride discussed opportunities for biomass in the community, given restrictions because of the community's proximity to a national park.

Franken said biomass offers "enormous" opportunities and he said he wants to scale up the use of biomass to provide energy. He pointed to the use of biomass to produce heat for buildings in St. Paul and noted that paper mills often use their biomass waste for heat and fuel, which said should be a model for northern Minnesota.

CONSULATE GENERAL

Prior to the meeting, Franken met privately with Jamshed Merchant, consulate general of Canada, to discuss issues in common with the two nations. During the later meeting, Franken said he wished that he had met with Merchant after the group meeting because of some of the issues raised.

During the group meeting, county Commissioner Wade Pavleck pointed to how Borderland residents living just a few blocks from one another, but across the border, cannot use medical facilities, including dialysis and MRIs, in each other's communities, forcing people to travel long distances to other communities within their own nations.

Meanwhile, Franken and Merchant reported to local media that issues discussed were based simplifying border crossings for people and goods. Merchant said the relationship between Fort Frances and International Falls exemplifies the the connection between the two countries.

Franken said that Canada and the United States are each other's largest trade partner and so it makes sense to continue a great relationship. Both men noted that they opposed not only a fee to cross into the United States, but also a study about the proposed fee.

Franken said the immigration bill passed by the Senate Thursday included measures from Canada border senators to treat the Canadian border differently than the U.S. border with Mexico.

Merchant noted that U.S. Pres. Barack Obama and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper signed the Beyond the Borders pact intended to maintain a secure border but at the same time minimizes red tape for goods and people crossing the border. The pact includes measures to bring manufacturing regulations on both sides of the border more in line with one another.

For example, he said items approved for entry from Asia by inspection at Vancouver, Canada, should be approved for entry into the U.S. without another inspection at the U.S. border.

"It's working together to make sure that the standards are the same and there is an agreement of trust, if you like, that what we do in Canada is good enough for U.S. people and vice versa, and I think that's what makes the relationship between the countries really unique," Merchant said.

The two also joked about the American's win of the Pulling for Peace: International Tug of War Tuesday, saying they hoped the relationship between the two border nations were not impacted.

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, prior to her competition in the tug of war, met Tuesday with Merchant and officials from Fort Frances and the Falls to discuss border issues. Minnesota Senate Majority Leader Tom Bakk was also a part of the discussion.

"This meeting was an opportunity to discuss efforts to boost International Falls' economy and build on the strong cross-border relationship with Canada that is essential to the success of local businesses," Klobuchar told The Journal. "I have been working to prevent measures that would harm cross-border travel and tourism, such as the proposed land border crossing fee, and I will continue to fight to cut red tape and promote policies that boost economic development and allow businesses to grow."

STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

Franken and Merchant, following a briefing with local media representatives Wednesday, joked about whether the victory by the U.S. in Tuesday's tug of war would impact the relationship between the two nations. Merchant pulled for the Canadian team and Sen. Amy Klobuchar for the U.S. team.

MS TRAM

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processing TRAM's request to begin the annual ride from International Falls. A handful of local leaders and the city of International Falls stepped forward to handle the coordination of park preparation, entertainment, food vending, printing needs, unloading and loading, shuttling and information stations.

Set ups in Smokey Bear Park will include food service offered by Lenard's Restaurant and the Lions Club, as well as a beer garden and live entertainment in the Pete Peterson Band Shell by Sloughgrass Band and Faith & the Believers. A welcome message and other remarks will be offered in the park by Falls Mayor Bob Anderson and TRAM officials.

Some of the bicyclists are enlisted to take one of two 45-minute Rainy Lake boat tours offered aboard the 49-passenger Voyageur by Voyageurs National Park. Schultz and Whitbeck said they hope this sampling of Borderland's stunning lake-scape will bring vacationing families back to the area.

A central information booth will be stationed in Smokey Bear Park where area information, cellphone charging, drinking water stations and other assistance will be offered throughout the visit. Portable toilets, a shower truck and other rider amenities will also be stationed in the park. Local citizens should note that parking around Smokey Bear Park will be reserved.

Shuttle service will be offered throughout the evening and on the morning of July 15 when the cyclists begin The Ride Across Minnesota. Coordinated signage will mark the community.

A printed schedule of information for the event, produced by Voyageurs National Park, will be available. More information on the MS TRAM is available at the Chamber or CVB, 283-9400.

Kerby Olestad said
"Everyone Should Play Golf"
July is Family Golf Month
Play Golf America
Let's Celebrate Kerby's Way
Go to the Golf Course this season and you'll realize that playing golf, even in your home town, may be the perfect vacation. Families are encouraged to play golf together.
The hole is the goal
SWING • SWING • SWING
Ready, Set...Go Golf
Bring yourself and a desire to have fun!
Sat., July 20
FREE Green Fees & Cart Fees for Families after Noon
GREEN FEE COUPON
$50.00 Green Fees for Two plus Cart
Reg. $98.00 • Valid thru Aug. 30, 2013
Golf clubs can be provided if needed.
Falls Country Club
On Scenic Rainy River
218-283-4491
www.fallscc.com

This is Northwoods Eating
Breakfast Specials
Mon.-Sat. $6.29 • Sunday $7.29
Mon. Big Moose Skillet with hashbrowns
Tues. Breakfast Sandwich with hashbrowns
Wed. French Toast w/eggs & sausage or bacon
Thurs. Blueberry Pancakes w/eggs & sausage or bacon
Fri. Biscuits & Gravy w/eggs & hashbrowns
Sat. Cinnamon Swirl French Toast with ham & eggs
Sun. Blueberry Cream Cheese Crepes with eggs & ham
Dinner Specials
Mon. Half Chicken Dinner $10.99
Tues. Full Rack of BBQ Ribs $17.99
Wed. Pan Fried Walleye $14.99
Thurs. Mozzarella Girasole w/Marinara Sauce $10.99
Fri. Fishermen's Catch $16.99
Sat. Rib Eye Steak $17.99
Sun. Chicken Kiev $11.99
Dinners include choice of potato & salad. Choice of soup for $1.00
Canadian Money at par!
Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner
Chocolate Moose Restaurant Company
Hwy 53 & Memorial Drive - Open 6 a.m.-10 p.m.
218-283-8888 • chocolatemooserestaurant.com

AGENDA

City Council
Monday, July 8, 2013
4:30 P.M.
Council Chamber

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

MINUTES
- Approve minutes of the Monday, July 1, 2013 regular City Council meeting

SPECIAL ACTION CLAIMS

TRANSFERS
To: **From:**

AUDIENCE

OPENING BIDS AND/OR QUOTES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS
1. 2012 Audit Presentation – Don Zierke, Miller McDonald, Inc
2. KCC-TV by-laws and operating agreement
3. Resolution # -13 temporary 1-4 day on sale license and use of city beach- Moose Lodge
4. Any other business

PUBLIC HEARING

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATOR, ATTORNEY, AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

REPORTS OF MAYOR, COUNCIL COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

AUDIENCE – 2nd CALL

CORRESPONDENCE

REMINDERS
- Next regular Council meeting is Monday, July 15, 2013 at 4:30 PM

The City of International Falls complies with the ADA. Individuals with disabilities requiring special aids should contact the City Administrator, 600 Fourth Street, International Falls, MN, 56649, 218-283-9484, 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

FIND DEALS
in The Journal Classifieds