

Student success

STRIVE program completes another year

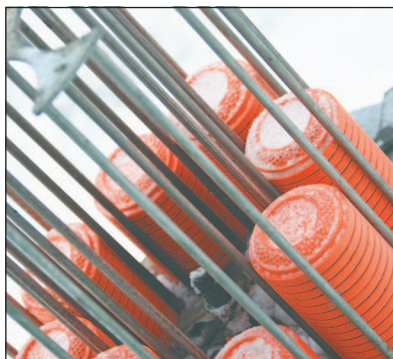
A9



New program

School board endorses clay target league

A10



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Bank sends soldiers slice of home

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

Military personnel stationed overseas often feel homesick, and look forward to getting mail and care packages from back home. One local business has made sure locals stationed far from home receive a little slice of home from time to time.

Border State Bank has been sending care packages once a month to four local military personnel stationed overseas, and one recipient recently stopped by the bank to say thank you.

Lt. Cmdr. Amy Lindahl has been in the United States Navy for 14 years, and she said receiving mail and care packages is a very important part of any soldier's time in service.

"One of the joys of being from a small town, you get packages

from a bank," she said.

The bank throws potlucks to raise money for the care packages, Marilyn Hansen said. Staff all bring in dishes, sell tickets, and use the proceeds to purchase things soldiers stationed overseas might need. They also get in contact with family members to find out what the specific person likes, so they add a more personal touch, she said.

"Magazines were so great to get, because you can't get them over there," Lindahl said. "You don't realize you miss the small things like that until you can't get them."

Lindahl would often receive things like toothpaste, body wash, and other toiletries. If she had a surplus, she'd share them with her team, she said. It got to the point where her team members were looking forward to her care

packages as much as she was.

"They'd see the Border State Bank logo, and everyone would start saying, 'Oh, I wonder what we're going to get this time,'" she said.

On the occasion the bank would send Girl Scout cookies, Lindahl would find herself the source of attention for quite some time.

"When they sent me some Girl Scout cookies, I was really popular that day," she said.

While it feels good to give back and support the troops, Hansen said bank staff still keep what they're doing in perspective.

"We're doing a little job, not the big job," she said. "The soldiers are the ones doing the big job."

Lindahl ended up with her job because of a crossroads she found herself at when she was 26. She



STAFF PHOTO BY SPENSER BICKETT

U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Amy Lindahl shows the cake Border State Bank got for her, welcoming her back to International Falls.

Soldiers to A7 ►

Response teams continue to develop

Teams organizing, developing goals

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

Economic response teams developed to address concerns brought by the downsizing of the labor force at Boise Inc.'s paper mill in International Falls continue to meet and organize.

Boise officials said in May that they will terminate 265 jobs and reconfigure the local mill by October to help make the company more competitive and stabilize the remaining 580 jobs.

International Falls Mayor Bob Anderson and Koochiching County Commissioner Rob Ecklund said members of the three teams are organizing, developing clear and specific mission statements, and planning to set goals that can be considered in the next 18 to 24 months.

Anderson and Ecklund, along with Falls Councilor Pete Kalar and Commission Wade Pavleck, are serving on an committee to assist the other teams.



Rob Ecklund



Bob Anderson

"What I am seeing is they are still are kind of getting to know each other, but throwing good ideas around," said Ecklund this week.

"We're trying a different approach with greater citizen involvement and have a mix of local citizens and some folks from the region involved," said Anderson of the teams. "We're trying to stay away from being all elected officials. To do things the same way you have always done them, you'll get the same results you've always gotten."

Anderson also said he's pleased that city and county officials are working together in the joint effort.

Teams to A7 ►

Community seeks support in cross-border efforts

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

A variety of efforts that link Borderland with its Canadian counterparts as well as areas in the region may be supported by an effort to make the region more familiar to Canadian and U.S. ambassadors.

The International Falls City Council this month agreed to invite Gary Doer, Canadian ambassador to the United States, to visit the Falls and its sister city Fort Frances.

Earlier this summer, Jamshed Merchant, consulate general of Canada, took part in festivities on



Cynthia Jaksa

both sides of the border for Fourth of July and Canada Day.

Falls Councilor Cynthia Jaksa said an effort is also underway to bring Consul General of the United States Jim Dickmeyer to visit the area.

Jaksa said the larger region of the border could benefit by sharing resources and bringing officials from both sides of the border to visit the area may help reach that goal.

"The reality is we need to band together to get access to different things between each other," she said of the two communities.

Jaksa said several people have discussed breaking down barriers between the two nations with the U.S. Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken and Congress-

Jaksa to A7 ►



STAFF PHOTOS BY SPENSER BICKETT

Arts and crafts vendors line the south side of Third Street, across from Smokey Bear Park, ready to sell their wares.

Not built in a day

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

The International Falls Bass Championship, like Rome, wasn't built in a day. Instead, it started taking shape on Wednesday, and the finishing touches were put on Thursday before the festivities started.

The IFBC has taken over Smokey Bear Park, with the massive main weigh-in tent drawing the most attention. Smaller registration and information tents, as well as food vendor trucks fill out the rest of the green space on the north side of Third Street.

On the other side of the street, arts and crafts vendors have set up their tents, ready to hawk their wares to the masses who've come to find out which anglers will take home the title. Jewelry, clothing, blankets, and wood-carved pictures are among the variety of items available to attendees.

For complete IFBC coverage, see next Wednesday's edition of The Journal.



Faith from GaGa Gourmet sets up her booth of tasty dips and treats on Thursday.



A vendor sets up her booth Thursday afternoon, preparing for the weekend rush of visitors.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON B8.