

Visual reminder

Project includes one of Borderland's own

A4



Operative orange

Blaze orange recommended by DNR

A10



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\$1

Dayton encourages creative thinking

Governor, DEED commish hear about response to Boise job loss

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

Gov. Mark Dayton encouraged Borderland residents to “think out of the box” as they work to address the needs of the community left by the recent elimination of 265 jobs at the Boise Inc. paper mill.

Dayton and Department of Employment and Economic Development Commissioner Katie Clark Sieben met Wednesday with local leaders and members of the public about the community’s response to the downsizing by one-third of the Falls mill’s workforce, leaving about 580 workers at the end of September.

Led by International Falls Mayor Bob Anderson, and city and county members of a lead response team, the meeting introduced Dayton and Clark Sieben to the three action response teams created after Boise Inc. announced it would eliminate the jobs and shut down three machines. The company said the reconfiguration was an effort to remain competitive and stabilize the paper mill. Last month, Packaging Corporation of America announced it would acquire by the end of the year all of Boise Inc.’s operations, including the Falls mill.

Dayton and Clark Sieben pledged to assist the community

in diversifying its economy. Dayton said today’s technology allows businesses to operate anywhere in the world, which should benefit the Falls.

And he said considering unique ways to create jobs here is what led to the establishment of an office by United Health Group shortly after Boise’s Insulite shut down in 1984 putting 500 people out of work.

“I encourage that kind of thinking,” he said.

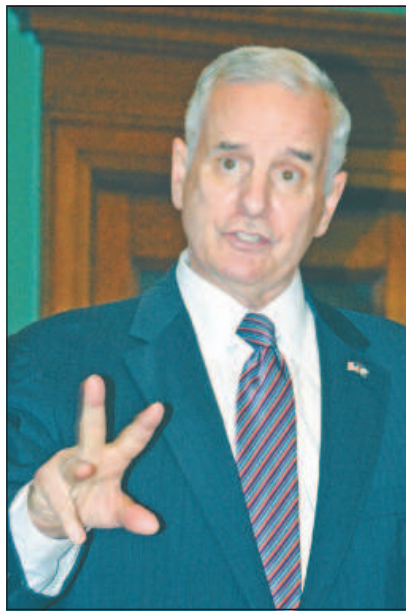
Dayton said he was here to listen and told the group later that he was impressed with the way the community has reacted to the job loss by creating the response teams.

“I am here with you,” said Dayton of the situation, later providing his telephone number, through which he said he gets a lot of information “that I wouldn’t get going through the bureaucratic channels.”

Dayton said the community has shown “strength in the face of adversity and is a wealth of really good ideas.”

But, he added, change doesn’t happen overnight. “It happens with good dedicated people like you who will make it happen,” he said.

Anderson noted that Dayton,



Dayton to A7 ► Gov. Mark Dayton



STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

International Falls Mayor Bob Anderson escorts Falls Elementary students to school Wednesday in honor of Walk to School Day, a national effort to promote children’s fitness.

Walk to School Day

About 570 Falls and West End elementary students gathered at Kerry Park Wednesday to make about a one mile walk to school to celebrate Walk to School Day, a national initiative to promote children’s fitness. The local effort, organized by Independent School District No. 361 officials and the Koochiching County Health Department/Statewide Health Improvement Program, included Gail Rasmussen dressed as The Cat in the Hat, International Falls Mayor Bob Anderson, the International Falls firefighters and police, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol officers and many other volunteers escorting the group to school. Students were greeted at their destination by the Falls High band performing the school’s fight song.



Students wave to supporters as they near Falls Elementary school.

Students appear excited to take part in the walk-to-school effort.



STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

Ownership of the Northome Health Care Facility is being transferred to the city of Northome from its previous management company, Tealwood Care Centers.

Nursing home for Northome

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

The Northome Health Care Center is vacant right now, but that may soon change, thanks to the city of Northome.

Northome is working with the center’s former management company, Tealwood Care Centers, to transfer the ownership of the facility back to the city, Koochiching Economic Development Association Director Paul Nevanen said. The title transfer process is complete, he said,

now the Northome City Council needs to accept the transfer.

Next, an assessment needs to be done on the facility to determine how much work needs to be done in order to get it ready for occupancy, Nevanen said.

“We toured it last spring, and it had been maintained well,” he said. “An assessment would indicate what other work, minimally, would need to be done.”

The city is working with interested parties to occupy the

Northome to A7 ►

Mayor: exec respects mill

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

International Falls Mayor Bob Anderson said this week that the chief executive officer of the company purchasing Boise is an “old papermaker.”

Anderson told the International Falls City Council and Koochiching County Board this week that he was writing a letter of welcome to Packaging Corporation of America CEO Mark W. Kowlzan when Kowlzan called him and left a message.

The International Falls paper mill and the other 29 of Boise’s facilities are being bought by Packaging Corporation of Ameri-

ca in a cash deal valued at nearly \$2 billion, it was announced in September.

Anderson said his return call to Kowlzan was answered. Anderson said Kowlzan provided no details of plans for the local mill, but said he has 15 years with International Paper, and as a former competitor of Boise, he has great respect for the Falls mill and is looking forward to owning it.

Anderson said that Kowlzan has visited the Falls several times and looks forward to returning. After the sale closes, expected by the end of this year, Kowlzan said he wants to meet with mill

Mill to A7 ►

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