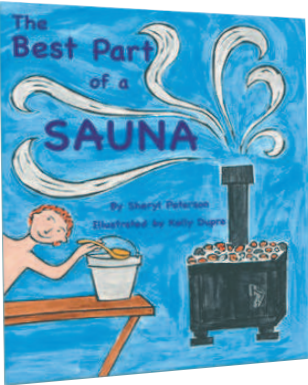


Something to
be proud of

Local author releases
children's book

B11



Pumpkin patch
playtime

Event features
fall fun

A4



The Journal

Wednesday,
October 2, 2013

International Falls, Minnesota

www.ifallsjournal.com

\$1

VNP hit by federal shutdown

Thirty-five workers
sent home Tuesday

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

About 35 National Park Service employees came to their work sites at Voyageurs National Park Tuesday to shut down computers and

set phone messages to tell callers they are not at their jobs because of a federal government shutdown.

The VNP workers and other federal employees were furloughed without pay Tuesday.

The shutdown occurred when Congress failed to reach agreement by a midnight deadline. At issue is the GOP-led U.S. House of Representatives' efforts to defund

or delay the healthcare-reform law known as the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, a condition of passing a funding bill. Those efforts have stalled in the Democratic-controlled Senate, and President Obama has pledged to veto them even if they passed. The federal government shutdown is the first in 17 years.

There are about 18,000 federal

government employees living and working in Minnesota, and on Tuesday, many were temporarily furloughed without pay. About half that number are considered essential employees and would continue to work.

Among those essential employees are those that work for U.S. Customs and Border Protection Services and five enforcement

rangers at Voyageurs National Park, who will remain on the job and can be notified of an emergency by calling 9-1-1.

Voyageur National Park Superintendent Mike Ward said VNP staff had about four hours to tie up loose ends Tuesday before heading home.

Shutdown to A7 ►



STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

The 2013 Littlefork-Big Falls homecoming queen and king Alli Fairchild and Taylor DeLack, along with junior royalty Olivia Spry and Emet Erickson, lead Friday's parade.

Viking pride

Students at Littlefork-Big Falls School participated in the annual homecoming parade Friday. Black and orange took over Main Street as the parade made its way through town spreading Viking pride.

FOR MORE
PHOTOS, SEE B12



A group of mini cheerleaders entertain crowds with cheers.

Organizers planning for bigger, better Riverfest

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Many lessons, good and bad were learned, and organizers of Riverfest are already back at the table generating ideas to make next year's event bigger and better.

This year's third annual concert event, which took place July 20 at Irvin N. Anderson Amphitheater, marked the first year that the concert was presented in a new partnership between the International Falls Rotary Club and the Backus Community Center. The two previous events were presented by the International Falls Economic Development Authority.

"We're trying to build a better event for those who attended as well as those who didn't," said Ward Merrill, executive director of Backus.

This year's concert brought four tribute bands to the venue and organizers said about 1,000 people attended the event.

In a letter distributed to sponsors of this year's event, organizers said plans for next summer's concert include:

- Securing a big name band..
- Beginning the planning process immediately
- Engaging the assistance of an experienced music agent/producer.
- Selecting July 5 as the concert date.
- Linking Riverfest to another community event.
- Considering another financial partner.
- Shortening the length of the event.
- Including more vendors.

Merrill said when Backus

Riverfest to A7 ►

Boise shuts down machines

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

The local Boise Inc. paper mill shut down three machines this weekend, and the layoff of 265 employees took effect Oct. 1.

The off-machine-coater shut down Saturday. I4 paper machine shut down Sunday morning. I2 paper machine ceased production Monday morning. The paper machines produce approximately 330 tons of paper per day, according to Boise public Affairs Manager Lori Lyman. Closing the machines will reduce net capacity by approximately 115,000 tons per year.



Boise Inc. Public Affairs Manager Lori Lyman talks with employee Joel Fults Friday. Fults is one of the 265 employees laid off by Boise starting Oct. 1.



STAFF PHOTOS BY SPENSER BICKETT

As paper machines two and four at the local Boise Inc. mill are shut down this weekend, and 265 employees are being laid off, cake and ice cream were had as employees said goodbye to their fellow co-workers.

INSIDE
TO REACH US

OBITUARIES/A6
PHONE: (218) 285-7411

OPINION/A8
FAX: (218) 285-7206

BUSINESS/A9

SPORTS/B1

CLASSIFIEDS/B4

COMICS/B8

ONLINE: IFALLSJOURNAL.COM OR FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

VOLUME 4
NUMBER 79