Region's loggers facing challenges in 2022

Demand stable; parts, labor, and fuel costs concern timber producers

In 43 years of logging, Jim Scheff has never seen anything like it. A summer drought and a freeze reported in March for timber combined to create good conditions for northeastern Minnesota timber producers, he said.

However, inflation combined with parts and labor shortages, is triggering major challenges. “It was a nice dry summer. Mind you, markets were very good,” Scheff of Hi-Point Logging said. “It started out really good and then in April lines went up by 40 percent. It’s a time and fuel. Since May, everything has been raised on us.”

Good news for loggers came during portions of this year. In June, Huber Engineered Woods of Chatsworth, N.C., announced plans to build a $440 million oriented strand board mill in Cassopolis, Michigan. The extended summertime drought created dry ground and easy access to timber. The massive Green-Wood Fire, which broke out in mid-August near Isabella, kept some loggers in work for weeks, building fire lines. Demand for paper increased as students across the nation returned to in-school learning in the fall and some workers returned to offices that had been closed.

In December, Hibbing Public Utilities re-fired a biomass boiler to produce steam and electricity for customers, reversing the use of wood chips produced in northeastern Minnesota. For 2022, the wood market again looks solid, according to industry officials. Right now and so far, everybody has been able to keep buying wood, Mike Foreman, see shopping.

Virginia Police investigating alleged shooting incident

Some locally owned businesses reported a uptick in holiday shopping this year, when compared to 2020.

Craig Bender, owner of Bender’s Shoes in Hibbing, Grand Rapids and Duluth said business has really been great this holiday season. “Ever since Black Friday we’ve ever had — business has really responded well,” Bender said.

Bender’s Shoes is a family run business that got its start in 1973 in Grand Rapids. Mark Marcell, said. “It started over the 4th of July weekend, a residence on the 500 block of 12th Street South. When someone was sitting in the living room area of the residence to the company’s website.

Some of the main

Local businesses weigh in on 2021 holiday shopping season

VIRGINIA — Virginia Police are investigating an alleged shooting incident Wednesday morning on the 500 block of 12th Street South.

According to a press release, at 7:41 a.m., local law enforcement were notified that an adult male had been dropped off at the Essentia Health Hospital to receive treatment. He was taken to the hospital with a gunshot wound.

Virginia police officials believe this is an isolated incident and not part of a gang-related crime.

The gun shot victim was not immediately available.

The incident is still under investigation.

Residents are asked to please contact the Virginia Police Department with any potential information.

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