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New FHS graduates Jacob Forsythe and Levi Skogstad pose for a photo following graduation Sunday.

FALLS GRADUATES REFLECT AND MOVE FORWARD

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Falls High School seniors entered the gymnasium as students one last time Sunday, and emerged as members of the 105th class of graduates from FHS.

Cory Netland represented the senior class as their speaker, and touched the different feelings the students had on their big day. Using quotes from different Disney movies to illustrate his point, Netland told his classmates not to dwell on their mistakes, but to learn from them and

move forward.

Referencing the films "The Lion King," "Ratatouille," and others, Netland implored his classmates to move forward and look to achieve their dreams, while also remembering where they came from.

The senior class song, "Tattoos on This Town," by Gram-

my-nominated recording artist Jason Aldean, played as the class recessed following the program. The song is sung from the perspective of a man reflecting on his hometown and the people he grew up with, and the effect they had on him, as well as the effect they had on the town.

STAFF PHOTOS BY SPENSER BICKETT



Breanna Shofner embraces Falls School Board member Michelle Hebner after she receives her diploma Sunday at graduation.



Above: Members of the FHS class of 2014 throw their hats into the air following commencement Sunday.

Right: Kariann Arnold leads her fellow classmates into the gymnasium Sunday at graduation.



City to get cost of second appraisal

Value of Donahue property may be reevaluated

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

The International Falls City Council Monday agreed to secure quotes on the cost of a second appraisal of 122 acres of land west of the city known as the Donahue Property.



Cynthia Jaksa

The council on a 4-1 vote agreed to obtain quotes and then decide whether to obtain a second appraisal on land that has stirred controversy within the community since it was provided to the city in 2009. An agreement made at the time called for the city to accepted the property in exchange for \$90,000 in brokerage fees paid to MJD Enterprises, owned by Matt Donahue. The brokerage fees were based on 5 percent of the appraised value of \$1.8 million.

Councilor Cynthia Jaksa voted against the motion saying "you can't repeat history," explaining the economic conditions in the community have changed since the original appraisal, which means a second one will come in at a different value.

Jaksa, who again said she questioned the first appraised value at the time, said she still believes the 122 acres of land is a good value at a cost of \$90,000, which she said is 27 percent of the assessed value of \$386,000 set by Koochiching County.

City Council to A7 ►

Heavy rain causes lake levels to rise

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

A rainy end to May leading into the start of June has water levels at Rainy and Namakan lakes much higher than normal.

According to data from that National Weather Service in Duluth, International Falls saw 2.74 inches of rain from Friday to Monday, resulting in an increase in the water levels of area rivers and lakes.

Lee Grim, a member of the International Rainy Lake Board of Control, said the water level at Rainy Lake rose 5 inches due to the rainfall, and the water level at Namakan Lake rose 8 inches. The



Lee Grim

Water to A7 ►

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