

Summertime skating

Club wraps up week of perfecting skills

A10



Dino dissection

Kids learn about fossils

B10



The Journal

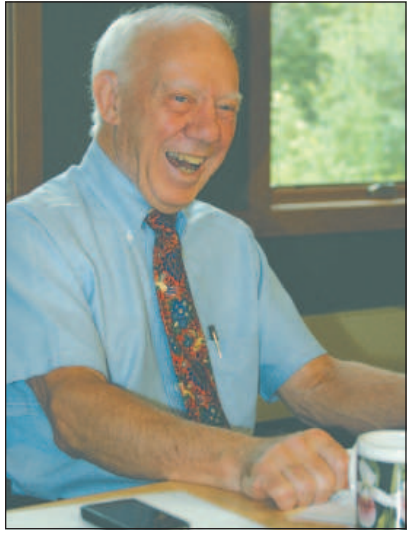
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Oberstar offers advice on growth



STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

Former Congressman Jim Oberstar met Friday with local officials to discuss ways to move development of the multimodal district and FTZ forward.

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

A handful of local officials met Friday with former Congressman Jim Oberstar to tap his expertise in transportation.

Oberstar was invited to meet in International Falls by the city's Economic Development Authority to get his views on how local officials can move forward development of the city's multimodal district and the foreign trade zone, jointly owned by the city and Koochiching County.

Oberstar, now a transportation consultant, was pleased to hear that the International Falls City Council has asked the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission to submit an application for a United States Economic Adjustment Assistance grant.

The council approved asking

ARDC, which serves as the planning organization for the area, to apply for the grant which could range from \$50,000 to \$150,000, at its July 15 meeting. The grant is being sought to assist the community in addressing the economic distress expected to result with the termination of 265 jobs at the Boise Inc. paper mill in International Falls.

Oberstar said the grant would allow the community to develop a strategic plan that would include goals that could help the community leverage resources. During that process, he said, local matches of funding should also be identified.

Providing at times historical views of different transportation modes in the nation, Oberstar gave examples of the activities other communities have employed in drawing businesses and jobs.

Oberstar encouraged the officials to consider the larger community when establishing the plan. He urged the group to consider how it could include the Ash River neutrino plant, area bicycle trails and the Minnesota Chipewewa Tribe in its plans.

The FTZ and district, said Oberstar are "gems, real treasures" with rail lines and roads nearby. The sites could be made more attractive, he said, relatively inexpensively.

He later encouraged the group to consider investing in the two sites to provide amenities that clients would immediately want.

"You've got an asset. Nothing will happen until we have something to offer," he said. "We have to build on what we have. If you don't make any investment, you don't have anything to sell. If something suddenly happens, you've got to

be ready."

Oberstar said the community is at a fork in the road offering two options: "Don't do anything different and wait; or create a baseline and have something to sell. You have to have a package ready to go, to have the facilities to offer. (Companies) won't wait for you to build it for them. They will go somewhere that is ready to go."

Oberstar said investing in the sites could lead to an anchor tenant which would draw other companies that would compliment one another to the site.

Oberstar provided examples of other Minnesota communities that faced similar challenges, but invested in business parks or industrial parks and drew employers that brought jobs to the community.

Oberstar to A7 ➤

Unique program comes to RRCC

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

National security has become a much-discussed issue, and Rainy River Community College is adapting to the need for more knowledge when it comes to advanced security measures.

This fall, RRCC will partner with Itasca Community College to offer a strategic security studies program, which will focus on security issues, and train students to identify and solve security issues in a variety of fields.

The two-year program is composed of courses already offered at RRCC under the general education program, RRCC Director of Marketing and Instructional Services Tammy Cook said.

"The degree is conferred from Itasca, but you can take all the courses at Rainy, so you don't have to travel," she said.

Core classes will be offered online, and courses will also be available in person at both campuses. This program is designed for students to transfer to another institution to earn a four-year degree in criminal justice, criminology, homeland security, terrorism studies, intelligence studies, or emergency management.

The program will cover multiple topics, including surveillance detection, building and environment vulnerability and protective services.

Instructor Steve Kovacic said the course covers a large amount of topics, but the overall goal is clear.

"This is all about preparing students for security work, so they can find a job in the fast-growing security field," he said.

Students taking the course will benefit from the experience of their instructors, who use their assorted backgrounds to share their expertise with the students, Kovacic said. Kovacic and Pat Sergott will be the main instructors, but will call upon outside help if and when it can benefit the students.

"I may call in someone to teach a chapter on surveillance cameras, because he's the one doing it right now at his job

with the state," he said.

The other instructors in the course come from a wide variety of backgrounds, he said, but do have a shared experience in either SWAT or special operations forces.

The decision to offer this course at RRCC is part of the school's overarching approach to its courses and community, Cook said.

"We're always trying to enhance our community and the experiences of our students, and to give them more options," she said.

Students who wish to join the program must first submit to a background check. This is to the student's benefit, as having a felony, or a different black mark, on your record prohibits you from getting a job in the security field, Kovacic said.

"We don't want you to get done and say, 'I can't get a job because I have a felony and no one told me this,'" he said. "We don't want them to accidentally waste three years doing this."

The target student for this course, Kovacic said, is anyone over age 18 who's looking to start in the security field. However, he said they have been seeing much more interest from non-traditional students.

"It could be someone looking for a job change, or they've been displaced," he said. "Right now, there's about 51,000 jobs that relate to the topics we cover in the program, so you've got a growing industry looking to hire."

There are only five other colleges in the United States that have security programs, Kovacic said, but this one is unique because of the scope of the different topics within the field that are covered.

Currently, a degree in security is not a prerequisite for employment, Kovacic said, but a degree in the field will help students get a leg up on other people looking for a job in the security field.



Steve Kovacic

FORT FRANCES CANADIAN BASS CHAMPIONSHIP



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Jeff Gustafson, left, and John Peterson, hoist the Fort Frances Canadian Bass Championship trophy in the air Saturday after they captured the 2013 tournament title. Gustafson along with partner Scott Dingwall won the International Falls Bass Championship in 2011 and Peterson along with his brother, Duane, won the IFBC last year.

'Gussy,' Peterson win title

BY LUCAS PUNKARI
The Fort Frances Times

After five straight years of finishing in the top 10, which included a trifecta of third place finishes, Kenora's Jeff Gustafson and Bemidji's John Peterson were finally able to nab the top spot on the podium at the Fort Frances Canadian Bass Championship.

The pair, who have fished in the tournament together since 2007, hoisted the FFCBC trophy inside the big tent at the Sorting Gap Marina on Saturday, after they caught 55.42 pounds of Rainy Lake bass over the course of three days.

"We're both fired up right now," Gustafson enthused.

"It's extremely hard to win one of these tournaments, and



Jason Pavleck and Bill Walls held up their 15.50-pound bass that they caught out on Rainy Lake on Saturday during the weigh-ins inside the tent at the Sorting Gap Marina. The pair would finish the tournament in 13th place in Division II.

this one here is really prestigious.

"It's special to us and we are going to enjoy it, that's for sure," he added.

Gustafson and Peterson start-

ed the tournament in first place with a weight of 19.17 pounds on Thursday, but dropped to fourth in the standings after

Bass to A7 ➤