



**Rainy Lake's ice was declared out Tuesday**



# The Journal



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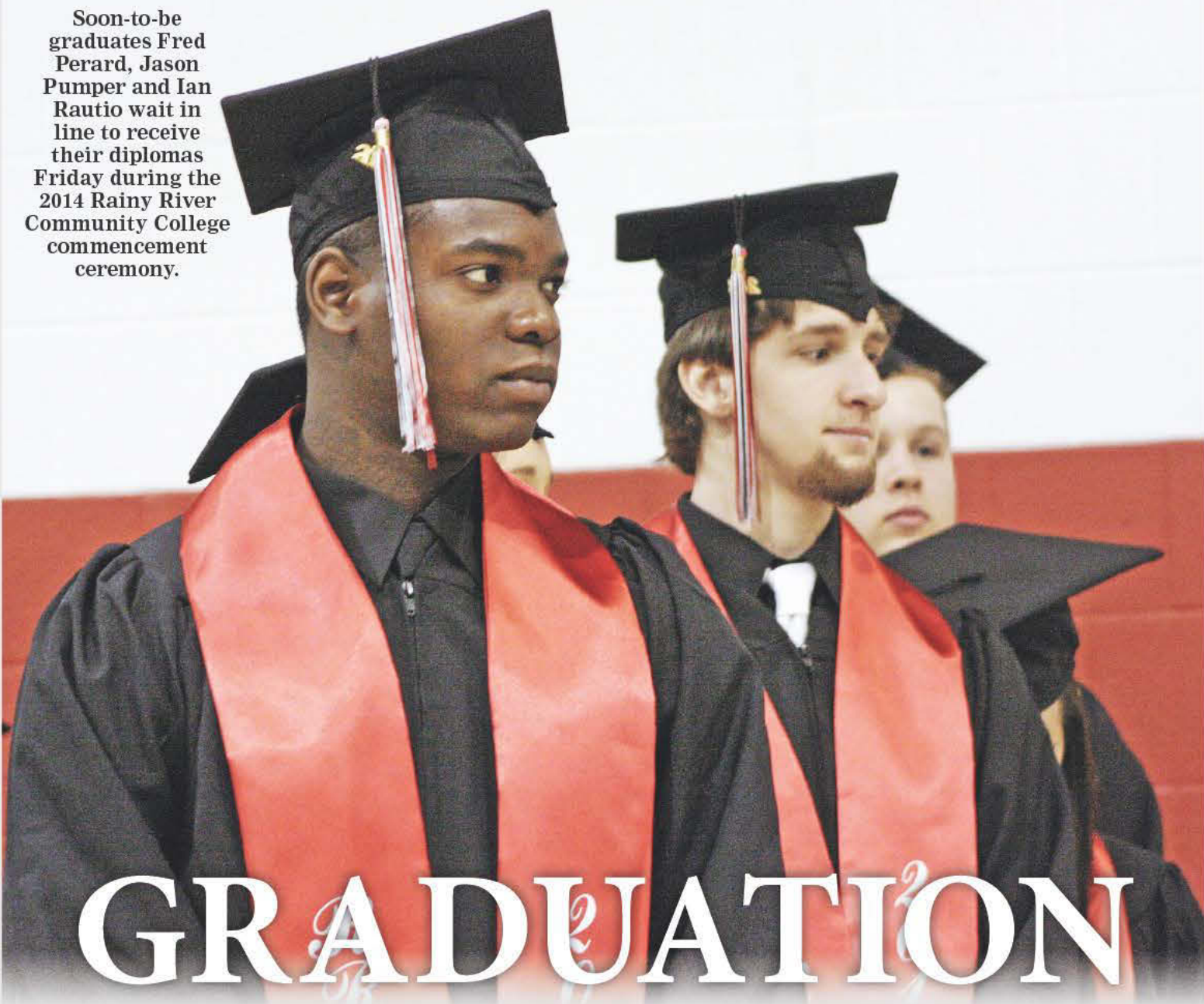
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International Falls, Minnesota

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Soon-to-be graduates Fred Perard, Jason Pumper and Ian Rautio wait in line to receive their diplomas Friday during the 2014 Rainy River Community College commencement ceremony.



## GRADUATION CELEBRATION

**E**lena Favela, interim dean at Rainy River Community College, told graduates last Friday to always use the college as a resource as they venture out into their futures. "Give us a call sometime," she said during the commencement ceremony.

Favela along with Sue Collins, president of the Northeast Higher Education District; and Maria Peluso, Minnesota State College and University Board of Trustees congratulated graduates on their accomplishments and encouraged them to continue their education into the future. The class of 2014 included 91

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students who received a degree, diploma, or certificate during Friday's ceremony.

Jessica Ringhofer poses for a photo with RRCC's Interim Dean Elena Favela.

STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE



## Reduction list cut short

BY EMILY GEDDE  
Staff Writer

A list of cuts for the International Falls School Board to consider was reduced Monday following some good news for the district.

According to Superintendent Nordy Nelson, about 25-30 secondary students will remain at the Falls High School campus next year instead of enrolling in classes at Rainy River Community College through the Post Secondary Enrollment Option, or PSEO, program.

"That's in the ballpark of around \$180,000 in savings," he said.

The superintendent in November began addressing the district's overspending by creating a list containing areas of reduction for board members to consider due to a declining student enrollment.

Originally, a goal of saving the district \$500,000 was set, however, more students than expected sought education elsewhere forcing a revised goal of \$630,000.

In February, the board agreed to offer early retirement to five staff members for a total savings of \$430,000. In addition, another \$50,000 was saved by eliminating a library media position for a remaining balance of \$150,000.

**School board to A7 >**

## City may seek second appraisal

BY LAUREL BEAGER  
Editor

International Falls City Council is expected to consider seeking a second appraisal on 122 acres of land known as the Donahue property.

Should a new appraisal come in at less than \$1.8 million, Mayor Bob Anderson suggested the city ask to renegotiate a contract for the property.

Anderson Monday presented a recommendation to the council calling for city Administrator Ken Anderson to secure two quotes to conduct a new appraisal of the property. He asked that the recommendation be considered at the June 2 council meeting.

The city has two \$15,000 payments remaining, due in July and July 2015, to MJD Enterprises Inc., on the property. The



**Bob Anderson**

## State bonding to fund two local projects

BY SPENSER BICKETT  
Staff Writer

The Koochiching Economic Development Authority Board Monday discussed the recent passage of the omnibus spending bill, which provides funding for two local projects.

The 2014 Capital Investment Omnibus bills passed by the Min-

nesota House and Senate Friday provide funding for expansion of the Falls International Airport terminal and a sewer project that includes the Island View area.

The sewer project was funded at \$8.5 million, which was the full request, KEDA Director Paul Nevanen said. The project will extend sewer service to Island View and other communities

surrounding Voyageur National Park. The airport terminal project was funded at \$2.2 million, which will completely renovate the current terminal to help it meet growing needs.

"There's no question about it, we did good," KEDA member Wade Pavleck said.



**Wade Pavleck**



**Paul Nevanen**

**KEDA to A7 >**

**City to A7 >**

**INSIDE  
TO REACH US**

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OPINION/A8

SPORTS/B1

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