

Have a safe
and happy
Fourth of July



The Journal

Wednesday,
July 3, 2013

International Falls, Minnesota www.ifallsjournal.com \$1

Council pays Donahue property brokerage fee

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

An attempt to delay the fourth \$15,000 payment in brokerage fees involved in a 2009 donation of land to the city was rejected by the International Falls City Council Monday.

Mayor Bob Anderson asked that a \$15,000 payment to MJD

Enterprises, a company headed by Matt Donahue, be removed from general claims and set aside for discussion and individual action by the council.

Anderson said he would vote against payment, saying again that he does not believe the city needs the 125 acres of undeveloped property provided to the city under a 17-point agreement with

the Donahue Family Trust.

“I don’t know that it’s a value for the citizens,” he said, noting the agreement calls for the city to create a “first-class” trail and monument to the Donahue family on the property.

“This was to be a gift to the city, but we are paying for what will be more than \$100,000 for this gift,” said Anderson. “Whoever

set this up did a fine job of trying to bury it.”

Anderson said paying the money to MJD Enterprises makes it difficult to determine what the payment is and to whom it is going.

The \$15,000 payment is the fourth of six annual installments set out in the agreement.

Councilor Gail Rognerud said

the previously seated council voted to pay the brokerage fee and noted that local media outlets covered the council’s action.

“It’s a value to the city even with the \$100,000,” she said. “I don’t believe there was an effort to hide it. It was talked about openly.”

Fee to A7 ►

Something to celebrate

Tyler Kostiuk says he looks forward to spending the Fourth of July in his hometown with family and friends

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

It has been 237 years since the United States gained independence from Great Britain in 1776. But even more than two centuries later, military men and women continue to make sacrifices to ensure the safety and freedom of their country.

Tyler Kostiuk is one of those people.

The 2005 Falls High School graduate enlisted in the U.S. Army fresh out of high school and has since been deployed twice to Iraq and once to Afghanistan.

And for first time in seven years, Kostiuk will return to his hometown to celebrate the Fourth of July with his family.

“It is one of my favorite holidays,” Kostiuk said of the Fourth. “I’m really looking forward to coming home for it.”

It makes sense that the patriotic holiday is a favorite of Kostiuk’s, he said.

“I’ve always wanted to join the military and serve,” he said. “It seemed right.”

Now, with three deployments under his belt, Kostiuk said he is hanging up the hat on active duty and joining the Minnesota National



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Tyler Kostiuk poses for a photo during one of his deployments with the U.S. Army.

Guard, which will allow him to spend more time with his wife, Andrea, and daughter, Anna. But the memories and knowledge he gained in the past eight years, he said is something he’ll continue to apply to his civilian life.

Kostiuk to A7 ►



STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

Falls City Councilor Pete Kalar, front, and former Viking Frank Youso, help pull Team USA’s celebrity team to a victory against Canada’s team Tuesday during the Pulling for Peace: International Tug-of-War.

Tug-of-peace

Strong and strongly motivated Borderland residents, along with help from a few well-known folks, held up their end of American pride by taking part in Tuesday’s Pulling for Peace: International Tug-of-War across the Rainy River. Team USA took the victory in all three of the event’s pulls, which featured a friendly competition between the sister cities of International Falls and Fort Frances. See Saturday’s edition for results and a full story.



Canadian Consul General Jamshed Merchant, left, and former Viking Greg Coleman argue which country will win the friendly Pulling for Peace event.



U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar pulls with all her might to lead Team USA to a victory.



Anna, Andrea and Tyler Kostiuk spend time together as a family last week.

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VOLUME 4
NUMBER 53