

OBERSTAR

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Pavleck also spoke of Oberstar's ability to bring together Democrats and Republicans by treating everyone with respect. He served as a mentor to many on both sides of the political aisle.

And while Pavleck said Oberstar's senior position on committees allowed him to support Borderland efforts, he and Oberstar didn't agree on everything. With the amount of wetlands in Koochiching County making development difficult, Oberstar took the lead to protect wetlands in the nation. But Pavleck said Oberstar helped him see the big picture and explained that as congressman he had to consider five states without protection laws.

"In his role, he had to look at it nationally, but at least I could understand where he was coming from," said Pavleck.

Pavleck said Oberstar's service came from a genuine desire to help people. And, he said, he truly liked people.

"He had the unique ability to make you feel like you were the most important person in the room," said Pavleck, a sentiment echoed by others in the community. "There was nobody like him. He had so much energy. He was a tireless worker for this district and the nation."

"He was as good as it could get," said Joe Boyle, a

personal friend, local DFL Party chairman and former International Falls city attorney. "He sure was incredible."

Boyle said he could talk for hours on the good things Oberstar has done for this community.

He, too, credited Oberstar with the safety improvements on Highway 53, and said Oberstar assisted the city in setting up a lease agreement with the federal government for the park headquarters that will provide \$1 million per year to the city after bonds are paid off.

"He found an oil well for our community which will reduce tax dollars," he said.

But, said Boyle, the most remarkable thing about Oberstar is that he "practiced his faith as he did the public good. He really was a public servant. He not only took pride in it, but did it with incredible vigor and he enjoyed it. He was no phony... He really was a good guy."

Boyle has many stories of traveling and meeting with Oberstar. He called Oberstar and former Gov. Rudy Perpich "the poor man's John F. Kennedy. Hopefully other people will follow in their footsteps." Boyle said Oberstar should serve as a role model for anyone interested in government.

Even after Oberstar was devastated by his election loss in 2011, Boyle said he continued to assist northern Minnesota. "He was going to make a difference, he was

going to help people," he said. "He was always there, always available. He was incredible."

Shawn Mason, former Falls mayor and International Falls Economic Development Authority director, called Oberstar "an exemplary public servant, and a faithful friend to our community. He operated with the highest level of character, integrity and honesty, and led by including and empowering others. His leadership style was very effective, and a model for how we all should serve. He was instrumental in helping evolve the relationship between the National Park Service and our gateway community to one that is collaborative and productive. And, of course, his leadership in transportation was stellar and will be the shining star of his legacy. God bless him."

In a statement, Senate Majority Leader Tom Bakk, DFL-Cook, said few had made a more lasting and positive impact on the Iron Range and the Arrowhead Region than Jim Oberstar in the four decades of his service as congressman.

"A miner's son, Congressman Oberstar's life in public service was devoted to bringing economic opportunity to families in northern Minnesota. Again and again, Congressman Oberstar delivered for his constituents and his legacy is evident in the quality of life we enjoy today. Jim Oberstar was a friend and

mentor, and I join so many others from the 8th District and across the state in mourning the loss of a great Minnesotan."

8th District Congressman Rick Nolan called Oberstar "a giant of a man who devoted himself to serving others - most especially as a voice and champion for the forgotten and left behind in our society."

Nolan said when Oberstar visited the U.S. House floor last year, "he was spied walking into that historic place, Democrats and Republicans alike stood up and cheered for a great bipartisan leader and friend."

With expertise unmatched in all the intricacies of programs and policies affecting hundreds of billions of dollars for highways, roads, bridges, railroads, airports, harbors, and public transit systems, he still rode his bicycle to work every day," said Nolan.

"No one worked harder than Jim Oberstar," stated Nolan. "He was always the first person in the office every morning - and after everyone else had left in the evening, there would still be a light on in Jim's office."

"Jim Oberstar was my friend, my mentor, and my hero. Our nation is truly a better, more decent, more compassionate place for every day Jim served so selflessly, with such honor, dignity, and good humor. We loved him dearly. We will miss him terribly. And we will do our best to carry on his great work."

PROM

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"Crystallize" by Lindsey Stirling and Pachelbel's "Canon in D" set the mood for an elegant evening.

Prom participants walked through a pathway to the music of "Happy" by Pharrell Williams during the grand march, with seniors leading the way through the path, followed by juniors, sophomores, freshmen, and guests. Each person was announced by Indus staff member Heather Brown. Next, couples made their entrance, followed by random groups of prom participants performing antics.

During the march, prom coordinator Marilyn Napper announced the prom royalty, which were senior prom king Damien Reed,

senior prom queen Licia Cress, junior prom prince Ted Nelson, and junior prom princess Alexandra Knoff.

Following the grand march, a formal dinner was served at the school, with music provided by Gary Hooker. The meal was prepared and served by a team led by Judith Nelson-Olesen and Bill Anderson.

After the dinner, a dance was held until midnight with music by Ntertainment.

A post-prom was held until 5 a.m. featuring games and activities including "glow-in-the-dark" mat ball, movies, a dress-up contest won by Russian exchange student Gosha Kolesnikov, a hot chocolate and s'mores bar with bonfire and various gift drawings and games. Junior class advisers are Lisa Simon and Chelsey Reinarz.

RELAY

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Hanson said she's been taking part in the local relay since Alfred's death and this year her team surpassed its goal of raising \$1,000 for the event.

"I do it every year so hopefully some day another family won't have to go through what we did," she said of her son's illness and death. "It's tough to do, but if we don't get the word out, people won't know what to look for."

Saturday's Relay for Life of Koochiching County drew eight teams, and many volunteers and survivors to Rainy River Community College.

Survivor Bruce Englund helped recruit members of the Falls High School baseball team to take part in the celebrity pie contest, which features a pie in the face for an incorrect answer to a question about cancer.

Englund survived prostate cancer and said raising awareness of cancer and money for research is a valuable effort. He encouraged people to be aware of changes in their bodies and to check about those changes with a doctor.

"Early detection is so important," he said. "If you're feeling different, get it checked out. I probably waited too long."

He said many people, including himself, must travel to other communities for treatment and local fundraisers that provide gas cards to cancer pa-

tients are very important.

Loren Tveit was one of the survivors that attended the many events surrounding the Relay for Life. He and his wife, Marlys, got involved when it was a 10th grade project for their granddaughter, Rachel.

"I am a survivor - eight years, I think," he said. "I came to support the cause and look at some of the friends I have lost."

The couple carried a luminary to be placed among the hundreds created by family and friends lining the floor in the RRCC gymnasium. Marlys said the cause is near and dear to them, as both Loren's parents died of cancer. She takes part in a summer golf tournament for the cause. Support from the community meant a great deal to Loren and the family when he was being treated, she said.

Marlys said many improvements in cancer treatment have been made as a result of research and research requires money.

"Some people say 'Why can't they find a cure, we're giving all this money.' What they don't realize is the many different types of cancer there are," she said. "It's staggering to think about."

Loren said he draws the line at taking a pie in the face for the cause, "unless I could eat it," he said smiling.

The Tveits urged people not to smoke, as one way to help curb the disease, and to maintain a healthy lifestyle that will assist in recovering from cancer.

COUNCIL

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The process outlined by Anderson calls for securing maps, names and addresses of property owners within 200 feet of the area considered for annexation; setting a date for a public information meeting and notification of property owners; conducting a public information meeting to learn of concern or interest in the annexation; recommending to the county board and city council on whether to annex.

Councilor Gail Rognerud asked Anderson to reconsider appointment of Kalar to the committee. She said she believed Kalar would do a good job, but said it would be more appropriate to appoint Councilor Cynthia Jaksa, who represents the area considered for annexation and who is a member of

the city's Legislation and Land Use Committee.

Rognerud said Anderson has shown a pattern of appointing Kalar to more external committees than other councilors. "I am asking you to be more fair-minded," she said.

Jaksa, too, said Anderson is excluding the majority of councilors from social and official city functions. "I impeach you to be more inclusive," she said.

Anderson said he and Kalar serve with Ecklund and Pavleck on a economic recovery team and have a good working relationship and communication process already in place.

Anderson ruled out of order a motion by Rognerud to appoint Jaksa. City Attorney Steve Shermoen said the first motion should involve accepting or rejecting Anderson's appointment.

After the vote, Anderson ruled a second motion to

appoint Jaksa out of order and said he would take time to think about the appointment and discuss committee makeup with the county board and make another recommendation to the council.

Jaksa reminded the council annexation is guided by state law and the process Anderson described is not necessary. Instead, she said, the city could file a petition for annexation, however she said she did not advocate for that. She recalled annexation several years ago by Ranier of land within International Falls limits, which she said came as a surprise to International Falls officials.

Shermoen said the idea to explore annexation came from the Economic Development Authority Advisory Board in a larger plan for the property, and the EDA recommended the city council accept the

plan, which it did. The idea to move forward on annexation now came from the council when someone voiced interest to a councilor about developing housing on the Donahue property.

In addition, Shermoen said the process outlined by Anderson was a good one and he recommended using it.

Annexation, he said, can be a "polarizing, ugly and expensive" process and he encouraged the council to meet with adjacent property owners to discuss property use and annexation.

Kalar said he would serve on the committee, if appointed, and said he would like the city to be a good neighbor in the process. Kalar has told the council he would not favor annexation unless the property owners supported it.

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