

Calling all dancers

Workshops held for all skill levels

B6



Picket party

RLMC nurses deliver message

A3



The Journal



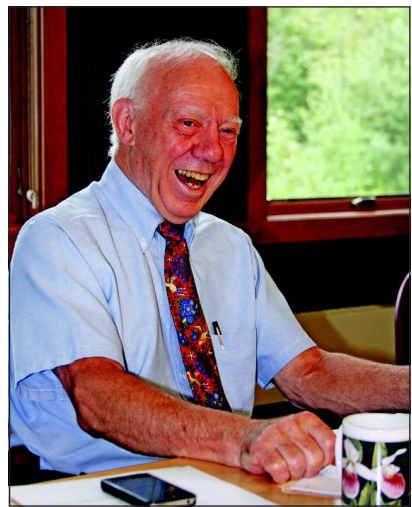
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Oberstar recalled as strong, brilliant gentleman



FILE PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

Former Congressman Jim Oberstar met in July with local officials to discuss ways to move development in the area. The meeting took place in the complex named after him.

Former congressman dies at 79 Saturday

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

Former 8th District Congressman Jim Oberstar is recalled as a strong representative for Borderland and the nation and a brilliant gentleman.

Oberstar, 79, died in his sleep Saturday. He is Minnesota's longest serving congressman.

Oberstar went to work for his predecessor, John Blatnik, in 1963 and succeeded him in the election of 1974. He rose to be chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in 2006.

The son of an underground miner from Chisholm, he never forgot his roots. He was grounded in the hard work, community and

family loyalty of the Iron Range region, said his family in a statement.

He is survived by his wife Jean, six children (Ted, Noelle, Annie, Monica, Lindy and Charlie) and eight grandchildren.

After graduating from Chisholm High School in 1952, he worked in the mines to pay for his education at the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, where he majored in French and political science. He received a master's degree in European studies in 1957 from the College of Europe in Belgium.

The International Falls City Council meeting Monday began with a moment of silence in honor of Oberstar.

In recognition of his assistance

and representation, International Falls named its development along the east part of Rainy River, where Voyageurs National Park headquarters sits, the James Oberstar Complex.

Falls Mayor Bob Anderson in an email Monday to members of the Highway 53 Improvement Task Force wrote of the death of "our friend and mentor Congressman Jim Oberstar."

"The projects that we have been so fortunate to see constructed would never have happened had it not been for Jim and his staff," wrote Anderson, who serves as chairman of the task force. "We in northern Minnesota were blessed to have Jim Oberstar represent us. My thought was to have Jim back this summer for a ribbon

cutting as the four-lane work was completed to Cook. Today the best we can do is to carry on with the work of transportation in his memory. May he rest in peace."

Long-time Koochiching County Commissioner Wade Pavleck said he had many stories about Oberstar that he holds dear.

"His legacy will outlast all of us," said Pavleck Tuesday. "We were lucky to have him... He had a huge impact in this nation, there is no question."

Pavleck commented on Oberstar's sincerity and brilliance, and said he always made time for local officials who traveled to Washington, D.C. for Borderland business. He recalled his ability to remember names and situations and his fluency with foreign languages.

Oberstar to A7 >

Relay raises money, awareness

Many attending follow theme 'Dream Big, Hope Big and Relay Big'

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

John Cann took a pie in the face, Danielle Taylor walked with four children under the age of 3, and Ryne Glover blew up a balloon all for the sake of raising awareness of and money for the need to find a cure for cancer.

"Dream Big, Hope Big and Relay Big" was the theme of Saturday's American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Koochiching County at Rainy River Community College.

This year's event was especially difficult and at the same time full of pride for Team Alfred's captain Deanna Hanson. The team is named after her son, Alfred, who she said would have graduated from high school this year had he not died at age 7 in 2003 of a rare form of cancer that also afflicted two other children in the community at that time.

Relay to A7 >



STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

A relay all on their own, Danielle Taylor, left, pushes sons Nathan, 3, Bently, 2, while friend Kriss Foss pushes Taylor's twins, Luke and Marshall, who will turn 1 at the end of this month. The group took laps at RRCC Saturday as a part of the Relay for Life of Koochiching County.

FOR MORE RELAY FOR LIFE PHOTOS, SEE PAGE 10B.

City to consider appointment

Council moves on installing utilities to multimodal district

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

More discussion with Koochiching County commissioners about the makeup of a committee to explore annexation by International Falls of 122 acres of city property known as the Donahue property is expected to result in a second recommendation to the council.

Appointment by International Falls Mayor Bob Anderson of Councilor Pete Kalar to a committee to explore with Koochiching County Commissioners Rob Ecklund and Wade Pavleck

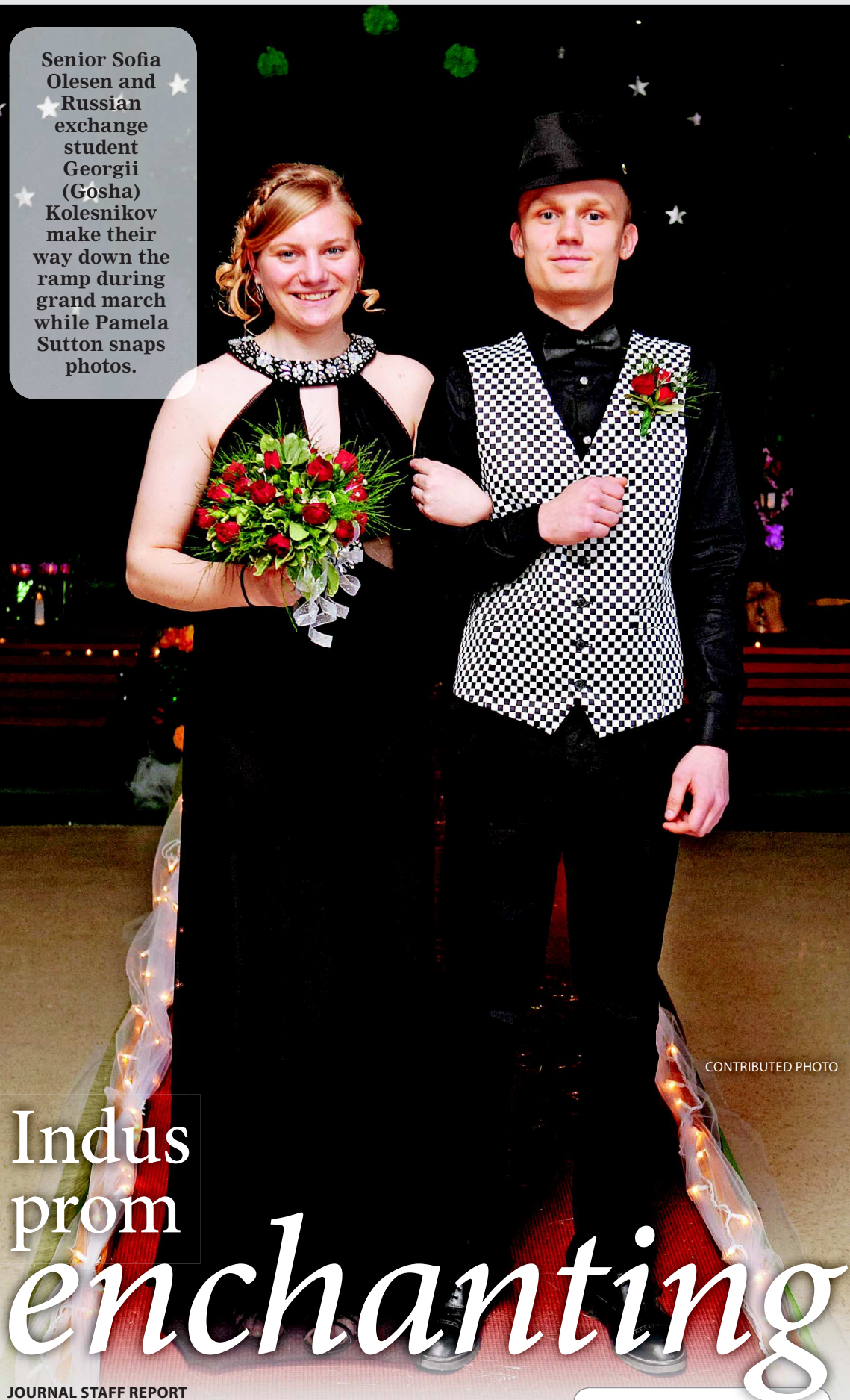
was rejected by the council on a 3-2 vote Monday. Under city charter, the mayor makes appointments, which are approved by the council.

Anderson offered a draft of a process for considering annexation of the Donahue property, west of the city limits adjacent to the Falls Golf Course and Rainy River. He stressed the committee is simply to define a process, not to determine whether the property should be annexed. That discussion and decision would come later, he said.

Council to A7 >



Cynthia Jaksa



Senior Sofia Olesen and Russian exchange student Georgii (Gosha) Kolesnikov make their way down the ramp during grand march while Pamela Sutton snaps photos.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Indus prom enchanting

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Indus School junior-senior prom unfolded in an "Enchanted Forest" at the school on Saturday as guests arrived for the Grand March.

The music of "Moonlight Sonata" by Beethoven,

Prom to A7 >

FOR MORE PHOTOS OF INDUS SCHOOL PROM, SEE PAGE A10.