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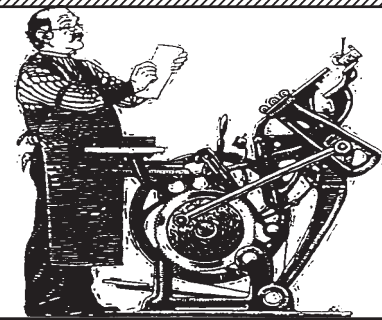
Cook News-Herald

" Celebrating serving NE MN for 100 years "

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Serving Northern St. Louis County



Tim Olson nominated by Independence Party to challenge Rep. Oberstar



Pictured are IP candidate Tim Olson with his wife of 25 years, Lori. Olson told the nominating convention, "We need change and not the kind from the last election."

Tim Olson of Orr was nominated by the Independence Party of Minnesota at their 8th District Convention in Hinckley, at Tobie's Restaurant, to challenge Rep. Jim Oberstar (D) in the upcoming No-

vember election.

Oberstar has faced little opposition in his 30 plus years in office, but this year could be different. Olson could be a tough opponent as he is well-known in

logging circles, having been a logger most of his life and the owner of Olson Logging, and Olson Sawmill. He employed up to 25 people during that time. Olson is also well-known in sporting circles, having been a star on the Orr Braves teams that went to state in 1976 and 1978. He came back and brought the Orr Braves back to power as a coach. He almost made it to state in 2006-2007 when the eighth seeded Braves were barely eliminated in the finals.

At the nominating convention Tim Olson gave the following speech to the delegates:

Thank you for allowing me to address your convention and ask for your endorsement today.

I'm running for Congress because we need change, but not the kind that came by the last election. We need change that will restore control of your life, your money, and your health care to you, to the citizens of our country.

This country belongs to the people, not to the government. I'm running for this office because I believe that I can effect the kind of change that will restore character, integrity and respect back to the public offices that were established to serve the American people, not the other way around.

*I will be fiscally responsible and socially responsive because it *is* about the money.*

Last week, White House economic advisor Paul Volker said that the United States ought to consider imposing a European-style value-added tax (VAT) to get the deficit under control. Essentially, this amounts to a national sales tax which would be added to existing state sales taxes. If we don't stop this now, our current leadership will continue to blame us for their out-of-control spending.

I believe we have to stop spending what we don't have. I believe we have to get out from under the tax burdens already in place. I'm ready to stand in the gap and say, "No." I'm ready to bring common sense representation back to this district. I'm ready to help bring about the change we need.

I thank you again for your time today, as well as your consideration of my candidacy.

Olson will be joined in challenging Oberstar by Republican Candidate Chip Cravaack of Lindstrom who beat out three other challengers at the Republican Convention last Saturday in Cambridge. Cravaack is a Navy veteran who flew fighter jets.

This could be an interesting election.

Chip will give Jimmy O. a run.

Then, to make matters worse for this elderly gentleman from Washington, D.C., who does have an address in Chisholm, though no one has ever seen him there, the IP (Independence Party) came up with a REAL candidate this past Sunday in Hinckley at Tobie's. Tim Olson from Orr was selected to run against Oberstar. Tim is a well-known figure in the sports world, having been on the Orr teams who went to state in 1976 and '78 and took consolation in '76. He was also a runner-up for Minnesota's Mr. Basketball. He came back to take over as coach of the Orr Braves and built them into a powerhouse that almost went to state, even though they were seeded eighth in that tournament. Olson is also well-known to loggers, having operated Olson Logging and Olson Sawmill for years. He has fought for loggers over the years.

Olson could take a lot of long-time

DFL votes from Oberstar. His speech at the convention, which is reprinted in the story in this paper about his nomination, is very good and says what many of us think.

It should be a good election and not another one-man race. Heck, we will see if Congressman Jimmy remembers any of his campaign ideas. He hasn't had to campaign for so long.


Can Chip knock out Oberstar? He just could, especially if Tim takes a lot of DFL votes from Jimmy.

Olson could pull off a huge surprise, too. He is well-known, a local man and he has a good message. The fact that Oberstar snubbed the Northland on the health care bill and didn't even come up here to talk, could help the challengers.

This election could be a fun one for us journalists.

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With the great weather we have been having, you have to have a good week.



**Notes from
all over**
by GDA

Don't be surprised if you see an elderly stranger walking around northeastern Minnesota in the months to come. No, this person isn't a newcomer. In fact, he is a lifelong citizen of this area, but he just seems to have disappeared from the scene.

This white haired citizen happens to be Jim Oberstar. Yeah, he is the same Oberstar who has been representing District 8 for over 30 years. He has had his job assured for so long that the only time we see him is when there is a photo op-

portunity or a 4th of July parade.

Well, the upcoming election in November will not be a shoo-in for Rep. Jimmy. The Republicans have come out with a charismatic, ex-Navy pilot named Chip Cravaack of Lindstrom. He beat out three other candidates at the Republicans' 8th District Convention. Now, Chip isn't like the past Republicans who ran against Oberstar. He is a real candidate who will be out campaigning. Many of the past candidates have just had their name on the ballot.