

## HIGHWAY COSTS

As for the four John Deere mowers, the budget was \$22,000 but the actual cost will be \$18,029.

These dollar figures were announced Feb. 12 when the County Board Finance Committee met with County Engineer Chuck Grotte regarding highway department capital improvements.

Capital outlays include costs or expenditures required or incurred in acquiring assets for the citi-

zens of Otter Tail County.

Outlays on equipment include the purchase price and taxes, delivery charges, installation and startup costs,

"We as a highway department do our best to keep costs down while at the same time serving the needs of people here in Otter Tail County," Grotte said.

County Public Works Director Rick West says the backbone of the highway

continued from 1

system in Otter Tail County requires lots of financial investment.

"Residents throughout the county who have attended public meetings in previous months have expressed their desire for their roadways to be maintained at the highest level," West said.

Otter Tail County is larger in size than the state of Rhode Island and paved roads total 1,062 miles.

## SHARING A HEART OF SNOW

an otherwise mundane pile of snow into a heart the size of a large hill. He spent four hours on Wednesday pushing snow into a hill, shaping a heart and adding a splash of pink paint to create a custom-made masterpiece for his wife Karen. When she got home from work, Frazee said his wife was surprised and happy to see his loving gesture.

"I just wanted to do something different. Anyone can

take their wife out to dinner," he said. "She was really surprised. She said you didn't have to do anything."

Unfortunately, a snowfall and wind on Wednesday night and Thursday morning nearly ruined his pink heart. So like any loving husband, Frazee spent his Thursday morning, Valentine's Day nonetheless, recreating his heart on a hill.

Frazee said it was important to show his wife of 26

continued from 1

years how much he loved her "because she is really special."

And like many great ideas, Frazee's came on a whim as he was planning his chores Wednesday morning.

"It was something I thought about yesterday morning," he said on Valentine's Day.

Frazee's home is located just off of Highway 210 east of Vining.

## NEVER FORGETTING 'CITY BOY'

Hornets fans packing the gym and another important part of their team watching down on them from above.

Nearly two years after a car accident claimed the life of Jacob Quam, one doesn't have to go far without being reminded of the importance of the teenager affectionately known as "City Boy" still has on the team. He would be a senior this year, and even as just a sophomore, he was already an integral part of the Hornets success.

Just as she had for every parent's night for football and basketball, Quam's mom Angela was presented a special bouquet of flowers. A large photo box with this picture is near the entrance of the gym, and near the locker room there is a plaque commemorating the life of a teenager that continues to be a part of the Henning community.

When the starting line up is introduced, Quam's jersey is neatly placed near the end of the bench—just as it has been for every game and captain meeting for the past two years.

"He's still a part of the team," said Henning senior forward Dylan Trana of the

importance of bringing the jersey along to every game.

Jacob's mom Angela said having the team continue to include Jacob and herself with their pregame rituals, which include saying "City" in a huddle before going on the court for warm ups, means a lot to her even today.

"It means that he really is still a part of their lives and a part of the team, even though he is not here," she said. "It is amazing, those kids at that age, know how much it means to me and it must mean a lot to them."

Head Coach Randy Misegades said he is not sure who came up with the idea of bringing the jersey along to every game, but suspects it was Trana who had a large part in the moving gesture.

"He brings the jersey to and from all the games and also is the guy who brings it to captains meetings before the game," said Misegades. "It is just one more way to honor and remember Jacob. It is a small gesture, but important to us all."

Quam was killed on the morning of April 13, 2017 when a delivery truck driv-



Sam Fisher, Adam Lange, Dylan Trana and Jack Bjorklund display the jersey of Jacob Quam who was killed in a vehicle accident in April of 2017. Quam would have been a senior on this year's Henning basketball team.

Photo by Doug Lange

en by Jason Michael Vadner, of Wheaton, Minn., crossed the center line and struck the Quam's car head on. Quam was just a few miles away from his home in Vining and was on his way to workout to improve his strength and conditioning for not only basketball, but football as well.

Vadner was eventually found guilty of both vehicular homicide and careless driving and was sentenced to 50 months in jail in August 2018. A police report filed after the accident determined Vadner was driving too fast for the foggy conditions that morning. A report by KARE 11 in the Twin Cities discovered Vadner had his drivers license suspended or revoked seven times over 18 years.

On the night of Quam's death, the community gathered for a candlelight vigil at the Henning baseball field where the community mourned the loss of a teen that died much too young. In addition to the vigil, several hundred people attended a funeral for Quam that was held in the same Henning High School gym he had dominated in the paint just a few months earlier.

As part of the funeral, the basketball team laid a wreath near the location of the accident that claimed his life and continue to include the Quam family with pregame meals and plans even today. There were birthday parties held in his honor in August 2017 and a JO volleyball tournament that was organized to benefit the Quam family shortly after his death.

"It really means the world to me that the short time he was here he is still affecting them and obviously they are still thinking about him too," said Angela. "It's amazing, it's like they are all my kids every single one of them."

All of the gestures have helped not only the boys basketball team, but the community in its healing process over the years.

"I think it has been a part of the healing process," said Misegades. "I don't think we will ever truly be over

it or healed. We are doing our best to remember all the great times we had with Jacob."

When the Hornets took the court for their first game without Quam in the winter of 2017, ironically perhaps, against the very team in Norman County East/Ulen-Hitterdal that ended Henning's season the year before, the Hornets didn't send someone out to midcourt for the tip. It was Quam's job to get the opening tip in the Hornets favor, and sending anyone else to do his job just didn't feel right for Misegades and the rest of the Henning team.

Prior to the start of the game, the team presented Quam's mom with a gift in his honor to commemorate his impact on the team. As part of the presentation, Misegades shared several thoughts about the life of Quam, as well as the Henning community following the accident.

"We know we have an extra player on our team this year. We've sort of made 6 on 5 our motto for the season...a message that Jacob's uncle Andy shared with our guys last spring," he said during his speech before Henning's home opener during the 2017-18 season. "Jacob will always be our teammate and our captain. Jacob his family, this school, and his team mean a great deal to the community of Henning. Let's honor his legacy by the way we play, by the way we root for one another, and by the way we treat other people."

Senior forward Adam Lange said the team has embraced the saying of 6 on 5 as a way to remember Quam's presence and contributions to the team.

In many ways, the presence of Quam continues to reign over the Hornets as they feel like there is a higher power helping to give them a little extra push in the middle of the paint.

"He for sure is with us, we all feel that connection. We have our own angel watching over our team," said Misegades.

In addition to bringing his jersey with the team to ev-



Senior forward Adam Lange gives Angela Quam a hug during parent's night on Thursday in Henning. Lange said the team has embraced the saying "6 on 5" to remember the importance that Jacob Quam still has on the team and community.

Photo by Grace Weller

ery game, the Hornets make sure Quam's jersey is front and center of every picture with the team. Following his death, the Hornets received new orange jerseys in his honor.

"The orange jerseys were his favorite ones," said Trana.

Though the Hornets did not have orange jerseys at the time, Quam's mom purchased the jerseys in his honor. They also have his initials stitched on the back.

"We break almost every huddle with 'City'. We've had many small gestures along the way," said Misegades. "The jersey is great because those people who don't know the story often ask about 33 and then we get to share his memory."

In addition to his impact on the basketball team, Quam also brought a face to Henning area teens about the importance of organ donation. The 16-year-old was an organ donor, something he didn't even share with his mother prior to his death. When people learned of his organ donation, he became the subject, and in some ways, the face of organ donation in the Henning and Vining communities. In fact,

when Quam's classmates Kayla Sweno and Brittney Suchy painted a large Hornet mural near the entrance of the school last year, they included an armband on the Hornet about organ donation.

This week the undefeated Hornets, who are 22-0 and ranked seventh in the state, will once again bring their angel in the front court, and friend along for the ride, as they look to wrap up a perfect regular season. Or perhaps it is Quam, still watching over his friends in orange, who is leading the charge for the Hornets in the final two weeks of the regular season.

While the Hornets have not been to state in over 50 years, back when there was only one class in high school basketball and the Peterson twins were dominating the paint, they have a little extra something on the court this season to help them along the way. And if the team has any say about it, Quam's jersey will find its seat on the bench of both Williams Arena and the Target Center at the state basketball tournament.

## Service Directory Call (218) 548-5585

For local, professional, friendly service



**Frederick Plumbing**  
Vining, MN  
218-769-4564 218-770-0768  
Call Brian Frederick, Owner/Operator  
Service • Remodeling • New Construction



• NEW CONSTRUCTION  
• REMODELING

**Todd Volden**  
Henning MN • (218) 583-2942  
Lic. # BC492959

The Difference is in the Details

**PRIDE CONSTRUCTION INC.**  
General Contractors  
Design/Build  
(218) 583-2210 • www.prideconmn.com  
rick@pridecon.com  
304 Industrial Drive • Henning, MN

**TNT REPAIR INC.**  
300 Industrial Drive  
Henning, MN 56551  
IN-STORE TIRE SALES  
See us for your Heavy Truck & Equipment Repairs  
218-583-4545