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PROVIDED

PEANUT GALLERY: Pat and Jean Connelly, owners of Dairyland in Fergus Falls, recently purchased five statues of classic "Peanuts" characters to put in front of the drive-in.

IT'S DAIRYLAND CHARLIE BROWN

'Peanuts' characters statues outside local drive-in

By Brian Hansel
 The Daily Journal

Pat and Jean Connelly have been running their Dairyland drive-in on the north side of Union Avenue for 24 years. Over that time one of the annual challenges they have dealt with is lining up employees to help with all the work.

This past week the Connellys were able to bring in five famous characters who not only work for "peanuts" but have also been tickling Dairyland customers both young and old.

Statues of five beloved comic-page characters - Charlie Brown, Snoopy (and his doghouse), Woodstock, Lucy and Linus - recently joined the gang at Dairyland's North Union Avenue location.

The characters were all created by Minnesota



PROVIDED

DOGHOUSE: A statue of Snoopy and Woodstock sits next to Dairyland in Fergus Falls. The statues originally tell a story of Minnesota.

SEE PEANUTS A2

Polarizing speaker addresses FF crowd

By Johanna Armstrong
 The Daily Journal

Ron Branstner stood in front of a small group gathered in the community room at the Fergus Falls Public Library on Thursday, May 30, speaking about laws, legislators and organizations that he believes are involved in a widespread conspiracy to illegally bring a large number of immigrants and refugees into the United States under the guise of "welcoming," "inclusivity" and "equity" initiatives. He spoke for three hours straight, even after the library closed at 8 p.m. and the lights automatically turned off at 8:15 p.m.



Branstner

Branstner, a speaker who has been called "anti-Muslim" by the Star Tribune, is a St. Cloud car salesman who has been doing a circuit around small cities and towns in Minnesota to voice his concerns about immigration, both legal and illegal.

He was invited to Fergus Falls by a group calling itself Concerned Citizens of Fergus Falls. "We're looking out for the Constitution and for the First Amendment," says Cathy Colling, one of the organizers of the event.

Branstner's message was one of fear and anger: It's in the interest of companies like Hormel to bring in undocumented immigrants and refugees because it keeps labor costs down; it's in the interest of the Minnesota government to harbor undocumented immigrants to boost population numbers as a way of preventing the loss of an electoral vote; our tax money is being taken and used in grants which are given to Muslims to stop them from robbing us.

"In Minnesota they want to bring in as many people as they can (by using sanctuary cities) because they don't want to lose this electoral vote, because if they lose it they lose money. So how do you compete against California, Florida and Texas?" he asks. "You get as many people in here as you possibly can to stop this; destroy our land, destroy our property, destroy our water rights, destroy everything — our school systems, our health-care systems, all because this guy right here (Colling

SEE SPEAKER A3

Music teachers closing out swan song year

By Zach Stich
 The Daily Journal

When students walked out of school doors Thursday, they were leaving behind a year of classwork, grades, social interactions and organization. With teachers still finishing up the year, two music teachers used this year as their own personal swan songs from education — GERALYN Lyseng and EVERETT Jacobson.

With a combined 77 years in education, the music duo stepped away after the 2018-19

school year.

Lyseng, who has taught for 35 years, last 27 in Fergus Falls, nearly called it quits a few years ago due to health issues, but now is setting her sights on being with family as she makes the move to Montana.

"I began thinking about retirement a few years ago when my health became jeopardized because of an intolerance to gluten, although that issue was easy to fix once it was

SEE TEACHERS A2



ZACH STICH | DAILY JOURNAL

HOLDING A NOTE:

Fergus Falls music teacher GERALYN Lyseng conducts a group of kindergarteners during a spring performance. Lyseng and colleague EVERETT Jacobson both retired from the music department after this school year.

OBITUARIES

IN TODAY'S JOURNAL, PAGE 2

- David Swedberg
- Judith Godwin

IN TUESDAY'S DAILY JOURNAL



DAILY JOURNAL

WINNERS: See results from the 2019 Lake Region Run

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SPEAKER: Immigration subject of discussion

Continued from page A1

Peterson), he just wants to save his butt." The receptive crowd of about 22 people nodded in agreement.

With regard to grants like the "Building Community Cohesiveness through Fanka (Art)," which is a grant meant to build community cohesiveness between the Somali-American community and the general public with monthly art workshops, and "Connecting to Our Past - Moving Into the Future," which seeks to hold art expos and educational forums and create videos of Somali community members sharing their stories, Branstner says: "Dave Baker of Willmar said, 'I'm so tired of what's happening in Willmar, they will not assimilate, they will not become part of the culture, and we don't know what to do other than give them money to try and keep them off the streets. ... Where else, at what other time did we give the Muslims money to keep them from robbing us?'" he asks. "The Barbary Coast," responds an audience member.

Very few things were safe from Branstner's critical gaze: 501 (c)(3) organizations, Agenda 21, Green Steps, the Blandin Foundation, the League of Cities, the

McKnight Foundation, One MN, even our own downtown here in Fergus Falls wasn't safe.

He explains that city governments want residents to donate their closed down, empty, downtown buildings to the city, "And then they donate it to a minority, because they're trying to get people from the inner-city out there to where they all feel inclusive. What they do is, they say, 'OK we've got this building that's vacant, we're going to make it into an artsy store.' You're going to start noticing downtown being an eclectic arts place here in the next few years."

"It already is," say some members of the crowd.

However, for all the problems that Branstner points out in our federal, state and city governments and in corporations that use undocumented immigrant labor, he stops short of recommending any kind of action. "He's trying to just educate and say, 'At least take a look at what's going,'" says Debbie, another organizer and attendant of the meeting. Branstner isn't advocating for any kind of action, "He just wants people to ask questions."



JOHANNA ARMSTRONG

HUDDLED MASSES: Branstner shows images of immigrant caravans in South America and Europe, saying that the fact they choose to fly their home countries' flags is proof they do not want to be Americans.

Concerned Citizens of Fergus Falls, however, wants people to do more than just ask questions and handed out a small flyer with suggestions on actions to take now, including attending city council and county commission meetings, becoming

election judges and poll watchers, auditing your child or grandchild's K-12 and MN State classes for "radical/unconstitutional agendas," serving on education and curriculum committees, help organize events and host study groups.

POLICE REPORT

Pedestrian reports being hit in crosswalk

A caller notified the Fergus Falls Police Department Thursday she had been struck by a vehicle at North Cascade Street and East Lincoln Avenue May 29 while in a crosswalk.

The caller was only tapped by the vehicle and was not injured. The vehicle was not damaged.

Bait truck, trailer arouses suspicions

A person from the Pelican Rapids area called law enforcement Thursday to report a bait company pickup and trailer parked in an approach two days in a row. A county deputy checked on the situation. No illegal activity was taking place. It was believed to be just a coincidence.

Perham Fire Department quenches fire

The Perham Fire Department responded to a grass fire at 6:42 p.m. Thursday on North Boedigheimer Drive near Perham.

A person with an acti-

vated burning permit lost control of a fire and saw it spread into an untilled field and grassland.

The fire resulted in no loss of property.

Two juveniles ejected on North Dakota highway

Two juveniles were ejected from a 2005 GMC Yukon at 1:30 p.m. Thursday when the driver lost control on Richland County Highway 1, six miles southeast of Hankinson, North Dakota.

According to the Richland County Sheriff's Office, the one-vehicle rollover of the northbound pickup sent both juveniles to Sanford Hospital in Fargo with nonlife-threatening injuries.

The crash remains under investigation.

Joining the Richland County Sheriff's Office in response was the North Dakota State Patrol, the Breckenridge Ambulance, the Hankinson Ambulance and Hankinson Fire.

K-9 search leads to controlled substance arrest

A deputy stopped a vehi-

cle near County Road 5 and 227th Street for having an expired registration at 4:09 a.m. Friday.

After a K-9 search of the exterior 27-year-old Spencer Bugbee of Underwood was arrested on a fifth-degree controlled substance charge.

Dalton caller reports fire, draws response

When a Dalton caller complained about a neighbor's fire at 7:35 p.m. Thursday they were informed the neighbor had a DNR burn permit. The caller still insisted on talking with a deputy.

A deputy investigated and found the burning was being carried out within regulations. The haze from the smoke was noticeable but not severe and the fire itself was small. The deputy also talked to the permit holder who told him about being harassed for other things as well. The permit holder invited the complainant to stay off the property and mind their own business.

Briefs compiled by Brian Hansel



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Stay clear of downed power lines

NEVER TOUCH A DOWNED POWER LINE.
Always assume it is energized and call 911 immediately.

POWERFUL STORMS can damage power lines. If you see a downed power line:

- Stay at least 50 feet away from it and assume it is energized. The ground may also be energized making the entire area extremely dangerous.
- Never touch anything that is touching a downed power line. It is as dangerous as the line itself.
- If a power line falls on your vehicle while you are in it, stay inside your vehicle until help arrives.

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