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# The Daily Journal

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2019 | FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

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# CARING IN THE COMMUNITY

## United Way lends a helping hand to celebrate Day of Caring

**By Johanna Armstrong**  
The Daily Journal

Last summer, a fire started in the basement of Diane Johnson's home. Johnson and her husband, were upstairs when it began, got out of the house safely, but the damage was extensive. "We were out of here most of last summer," she says. When they returned to

their home and turned the water back on, all of the pipes broke. Her yard had to be dug up, as deep as 10 feet to replace all the pipes.

With the fire and pipe problems, Johnson's large and beautiful garden went neglected. "I'm now over 80, my husband is 85, and we can't

SEE CARING A3



JOHANNA ARMSTRONG | DAILY JOURNAL

**LENDING A HAND:** Jamie and Brent volunteered to help needy community members with yard work for United Way's Day of Caring on June 18.

# USDA leader sits down with farm groups

By Forum News Service

ST. PAUL — Minnesota farm and food industry groups on Tuesday, June 18 pressed U.S. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Steve Censky for answers about a possible end to ongoing trade fights between the United States and China, as well as Canada and Mexico.

And while he offered possible paths out of the tumultuous trade negotiations, Censky didn't have a clear answer for the dozens of agricultural leaders.

Censky's visit came the same day the United State and China said they'd again attempt to resolve a costly trade dispute next week at a conference in Japan and after President Donald Trump threatened to impose tariffs on Mexican goods if the country doesn't slow the flow of immigrants traveling to the U.S.

"We recognize that it is serious," Censky told attendees at the AgriGrowth roundtable. "We know how important (trade) is for the wellbeing of agriculture overall and individual farming and ranching operations. We are very much committed to getting good trade deals, to resolving this, the trade barriers we have so we can succeed."

SEE TALKS A3



MATHEW HOLDING EAGLE | DAILY JOURNAL

**VIKINGS CAMP:** The Minnesota Vikings organization hosted its traveling Vikings Football Camp at Otters Stadium Tuesday (June 18) with a follow-up camp scheduled for Wednesday (June 19).

# Roers works as public address announcer for RedHawks

**By Tom Hintgen**  
For the Journal

Bob Roers, a 1981 graduate of Fergus Falls High School, relishes his role as public address announcer for the Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks baseball team. He has held this job since 2014.

"Baseball has always been a huge part of my family," Roers says. "Growing up with my three brothers, playing baseball is how we spent our summers. My dad, Dennis Roers, coached us and my mom, Irma, was always in the stands or in a lawn chair watching us."

The family moved from La Crosse, Wisconsin, to Fergus Falls in 1979, the high school sophomore year for Roers.

They previously lived in Alexandria.

He was a three-year baseball letter winner for the Otters, later graduating from St. Cloud State University. Over the years, while working in sales in Seattle, Minneapolis and St. Cloud, he had an opportunity to keep himself close to sports media as a freelancer in production and play-by-play.

He moved to Fargo-Moorhead in 2001.

Roers, in addition to his RedHawks duties, is a territory manager for Dakota Supply Group's waterworks division in Fargo. He and his family reside in Moorhead.

"My wife, Patty, was a RedHawks season ticket holder their first season back in the mid-1990s," Roers said. "We at-

tended many baseball games at Newman Outdoor Field over the years, loving the atmosphere."

Roers began his professional career as a television sportscaster at WAOW-TV in Wausau, Wisconsin. He gained experience as a public address announcer for the Fargo Force junior hockey team starting in 2010.

"I had friends at Scheels Arena, where the Fargo Force play, who worked as part of the in-house production crew," he said. "They had those same duties with the RedHawks and I was contacted to fill in a few times during RedHawks games."

He took over as Red Hawks public

SEE ANNOUNCER A3



ZACH STICH | DAILY JOURNAL

**TURNED OVER:** A conventional tandem truck overturned on Highway 59 Monday evening. The driver of the vehicle was taken to a medical facility with nonlife-threatening injuries.

# Parkers Prairie man injured when truck overturns

**By Brian Hansel**  
The Daily Journal

A Parkers Prairie man was injured Monday night when the westbound 2001 Peterbilt he was driving flipped over into a ditch on U.S. Highway 59; 5 miles west of Dalton.

According to the Minnesota State Patrol, 61-year-old David John Vogt was westbound on County Highway 82 in his conventional tandem truck when he crossed the Highway 59 intersection and overturned.

County Highway 82 dead ends at Highway

SEE REPORT A3

# OBITUARIES

IN TODAY'S JOURNAL, PAGE 2

• Lorraine Lien

# IN THURSDAY'S DAILY JOURNAL



BRIAN HANSEL | DAILY JOURNAL

**CELEBRATION:** Read about the 150th anniversary of Tumuli Township.

## HOW DO FOLKS Play IN LAKES COUNTRY?

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CARING: *It's in the spirit of helping people in the community...*

Continued from page A1

keep up with it.”

Enter Alison Francis of United Way and their annual Day of Caring; With nine volunteers helping clear out weeds, overgrowth and debris in her yard and garden, Johnson can finally make use of her elevated planter beds and bring ducks back to her pond.

“Our group heard about it and just thought it would be a great way to give back to the community,” said volunteer Becky Schwarzhoff. “Just knowing that when you help others you get something out of it as well.” Her group of nine had been at Johnson’s since around 9 a.m. and would be there until lunch time. If they finish early, they might move onto another location to help someone else who needs a hand.

Day of Caring is organized by United Way and sets groups of volunteers up with people in the community who need an extra hand doing yardwork like raking lawns, garden cleaning, hedge and tree trimming and window washing. This year, 10 volunteer groups went out to assist 11 private residences throughout Fergus Falls, as well as



JOHANNA ARMSTRONG | DAILY JOURNAL

**VOLUNTEERING:** Tanya Tommerdahl (left) and Becky Schwarzhoff volunteered to help needy community members with yard work for United Way’s Day of Caring on June 18.

public facilities Mud Pie Park, Someplace Safe Parenting Time Center and the community garden. Francis, who helped organize volunteers, says they’ve been doing Day of Caring, “for longer than we can remember,” but she guesses about 12 years.

“It’s in the spirit of helping people in the community and helping people who just need an extra

hand,” she says. That includes senior citizens, military veterans and people with special circumstances, such as a recent illness or injury, that has made it difficult for them to do more strenuous outdoor chores. Some of the people they’re helping, who are dealing with temporary setbacks, may feel inspired to pay it forward next year.

Looking over her

cleaned-up yard, Johnson’s eyes well up with tears. “You don’t know how horrible it was. It was just so beyond me that I thought, ‘What am I going to do?’ Now I can get into redoing it.”

Day of Caring 2019 banked a total of about 225 volunteer hours from people like Schwarzhoff and her gracious group of volunteers. “They’re my angels,” said Johnson.

ANNOUNCER: *Roers entertains as public address announcer*

Continued from page A1

address announcer halfway through the 2014 season when the full-time PA person took a new job out of state.

“I’ve had the position ever since,” Roers said. “I believe the RedHawks appreciate my radio voice and also my knowledge of the game.”

He played two years of baseball at St. Cloud State, umpired and in 1982 helped restart the Fergus Falls VFW baseball program. That first year Fergus Falls qualified for the state tournament.

“I coached the VFW kids for three years,” he said, “and still run into those players on occasion and share great memories from those days on the baseball diamond.”

Roers says that public address announcing for the F-M RedHawks is much more than just introducing batters as they walk to home plate.

“We have many entertainment and advertising opportunities at Newman Outdoor Field,” he said. “Much of this is tied to our large videoboard out in left



PROVIDED

**TALKING BASEBALL:** Fergus Falls High School alumnus Bob Roers works in the Scott Miller Press Box as public address announcer for the Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks baseball team.

field. There’s a lot going on during a game, behind the scenes to make this a fun experience for the fans.”

The team owner and chairman, Bruce Thom, also has ties to Fergus Falls. His son, Brad Thom, is team president and CEO for the RedHawks.

The father of Roers, Dennis Roers, worked for Bruce Thom at Mid-States Development in the mid-1990s. He previously was in the banking business.

“This is not a bad way to spend the summer,” Roers

says. “Thankfully I have a very understanding wife. This is a summer-long commitment with many evenings and weekends at the ballpark.”

Roers appreciates when his daughter can join him in the press box to watch the Red Hawks home games. Family members and friends also reach out to him during home games.

“It’s been great to reconnect with old friends and classmates from Fergus Falls, people who I haven’t seen for several years,” he

REPORT: *Stolen property also in report*

Continued from page A1

59 and traffic must travel either north or south. Heavy skid marks at the scene indicated Vogt attempted to brake.

Vogt was trapped in his truck when the Fergus Falls Fire Department arrived according to Fergus Falls Fire Chief Ryan Muchow. The Dalton Fire and Rescue unit was in the process of extricating Vogt from the truck at that time. Muchow said Fergus firefighters assisted in the rescue effort. A medical helicopter was called for and Vogt was transported to Sanford Medical Center in Fargo with nonlife-threatening injuries.

Muchow reported there were no bulk hazardous materials on the truck when it overturned.

Vogt was belted at the time of the crash.

**Underwood man injured on County Highway 52**

Christian John Howard Koenen of Underwood was injured Monday morn-

ing when his vehicle left County Highway 52 approximately 9-miles east of Ottertail.

According to the Otter Tail County Sheriff’s Office, the 20-year-old driver was eastbound when he was either distracted or fell asleep. His 1999 Oldsmobile Alero left the highway, struck an approach, went airborne, landed and rolled, coming to rest on the driver’s side. The vehicle was left partially submerged in water.

Koenen was helped out of his vehicle by a passerby. He was transported by Tri-County Ambulance personnel to Perham Health.

The deputy responding to the accident issued Koenen a citation.

**John Deere stolen from Highway 210 business**

The theft of a 2016 John Deere tractor with a box blade and a front-loader attachment was reported

at 12:51 p.m. Monday from a The Rental Store on State Highway 210.

The officer assigned to the call found the tractor was a Model 3038E and had an approximate value of \$23,237.

The complainant said the tractor had been taken sometime between 4 p.m. Saturday and 6:30 a.m. Monday.

**Identity theft suspected in \$14,000 case of fraud**

A resident of Jacobs Beach Road reported receiving two postcards with his address. Charges had been made to one of his credit cards and he believed the two incidents were related to each other.

A spokesman for the sheriff’s office believed that it was a case of identity theft. The complainant’s credit card information had been fraudulently used for purchases close to \$14,000. The case is still under investigation.

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