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TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2019 | FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA USA CENTS | FERGUSFALLSJOURNAL.COM

FF School Board continues 2019-20 prep

By Zach Stich The Daily Journal

The Fergus Falls School Board met Monday morning in a quick meeting to approve a few agenda items, announce staff resignations and hires, and to hear briefs from several committees.

To open the meeting, the board heard reports from the multiple committees that each member is on. Many of the groups had yet to meet this month or will not meet until closer to the new school year. Board member Kirby Anderson updated the group on upcoming 544 Educa-



Drake

tion Foundation events and mentioned the school's current financials, while Matthew Lemke discussed a few aspects of a meeting by the Minnesota State High School League. Superintendent Jeff Drake gave his report mentioning that he is meeting with several civic groups in the area and is getting to know

SEE **BOARD** A3

Stolen vehicle recovered in FF



JOHANNA ARMSTRONG | DAILY JOURNAL

AWARD RECEIVED: Josh Keilan receives his award from Tony Oliva (left) at Saturday's Minnesota Twins game. Scott Buchanon (in red) received the reward on behalf of the Veterans Home from Brian Turbeville (right), owner of Wallace Carlson Printing.

DIAMOND AND HEART

Keilan, Vets Home receive award

By Johanna Armstrong



By Brian Hansel The Daily Journal

The Fergus Falls Police Department was alerted at 12:52 a.m. Saturday about the possibility of a stolen vehicle on its way to Fergus Falls from Benton County.

Hunter Daniel Johnson, 21, Fergus Falls, was taken into custody without incident when he was discovered traveling near Cavour Avenue and Second Street.

Local law enforcement arrested Johnson for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and a warrant for theft. A police spokesman said the vehicle theft charge would be brought

SEE REPORT A3

The Daily Journal

The Minnesota Twins game on Saturday, Aug. 10 finished in a home team win 4-1 against Cleveland, but viewers may have noticed some trophies being handed out at the start of the game: Josh Keilan and the Minnesota Veterans Home in Fergus Falls won the Harmon's Heart of Baseball Award which honors a person with disabilities who works in community-based employment and always gives it their all, is kind, positive, helpful and inspiring.

Keilan, a dietary associate at the Veterans Home, was out on the field for a pregame onfield award ceremony where he was presented his trophy by Twins legend Tony Oliva. Scott

SEE **HEART** A3

JOHANNA ARMSTRONG | DAILY JOURNAL

MASCOT TALK: Josh Keilan poses with Twins' mascot T.C. Bear and the ball that he threw the first pitch with on Saturday at Target Field.

BRIAN HANSEL | DAILY JOURNAL

A LITTLE HELP: Soybeans are one of the staple crops planted by west-central Minnesota farmers. A late planting season, low prices and a trade war between the United States and China have all combined to create trouble for soybean growers.



Local crops need a frost-free September

By Brian Hansel The Daily Journal

Farmers already walking a tightrope before 2019's late spring planting season began, found out this week that China, the world's largest buyer of soybeans, is planning to stop purchasing U.S. agricultural products.

China took the position after President Donald Trump announced new tariffs Aug. 1 on Chinese goods of approximately \$300 billion. Trump took his position after China failed to live up to a promise to buy a copious amount of farm products from the U.S.

An added concern for local crop producers, primarily due to the late planting season, is the prospect of an early frost cutting into the growing season.

"We aren't home free," Elbow Lake Grain general manager Al Mashek said Thursday. "We need pretty much all of September to

SEE **CROP** A7

OBITUARIES

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IN WEDNESDAY'S DAILY JOURNAL



DAILY JOURNAL **GETTING BIGGER:** Read about the expansion of Phelps Mill Park.







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HEART: 'They need to know that these people are an important part of the community' Continued from page A1

Buchanon of the Veterans Home was also there, accepting the award on behalf of the Veterans Home. The ceremony was shown on the jumbotron, including a video about Keilan made by local production company AMS Digital Productions. Keilan then threw out the first pitch, a great throw right into T.C. Bear's glove. Before the game, Fergus Falls-based groups Cornerstone Lodge and Birak Shrine Club hosted a tailgate party at the Zuhrah Shrine Center in Minnetonka. "We had hot dogs, chips, beanbag throwing, DJ, a Lightning McQueen car, I think we had 900 people," said Ron Wilcox, president of the Birak Shrine Club. This is their second year helping with the tailgate party.

Stittsworth Meats out of Bemidji donated hot dogs and brats and the Stittsworth family, Myke, Danielle, and their children, were there serving them out. Gina and John Christopherson of G'Mariecee Portrait Studios were at the party, too, taking free photos of guests with a variety of baseball-based props.

Unfortunately, clouds that had been looming for most of the day finally turned to rain toward the end of the party, driving the crowd under tents or indoors. It didn't let up for another three hours, causing a rain delay at the baseball game, but the celebratory mood of guests and Keilan himself never diminished.

Eighteen buses and two vans drove people to the tailgate party, and from the tailgate party to the game, with more supporters meeting the group at the game, adding up to about 1,200 tickets for people supporting Harmon's Heart of Baseball from all over Minnesota. "It's amazing seeing all these people coming together to support Harmon's Heart of Baseball, and really encouraging and cheering for



JOHANNA ARMSTRONG | DAILY JOURNAL

FIRST PITCH: Josh Keilan throws the first pitch at Saturday's Twins game in Target Field, accompanied by head of Productive Alternatives, Steven Skauge.

people with disabilities," said Productive Alternatives director of development, Tammy Anderson. "It's been amazing." Harmon's Heart and the award are projects from Productive Alternatives, which is a nonprofit social services agency.

The Fergus Falls Veterans Home Choir was also out on the field on Saturday, singing the national anthem before the game during a break in the rain. Keilan and his coterie, who had to wait inside the Third Base Lounge for the rain to subside and for the water to be cleaned off the field, were able to watch them on TV, delighted to see them but a little disappointed they couldn't be out there together.

They'd been ushered into the lounge, which only had a few chairs, around 5:15 p.m. and didn't get out onto the field until around 7:45 p.m. People asked Keilan if he was nervous about his pitch, but he said he wasn't really feeling nervous. "This morning I was," he said, adding, "I bet you I'll get one more spat of nerves once I get into the stadium."

Jim Arvidson, who was waiting with Keilan in the lounge and has been with Harmon's Heart since the beginning, said, "We need to let people know how important it is to help people with special needs and disabilities. They need to know that these people are an important part of the community and can give something back."

After the ceremony, Keilan and his father, Steven, rejoined the 1,200 Harmon's Heart supporters in the stands and enjoyed the game, a fun and relaxing cap to a long, busy and rainy day.

REPORT: Copper wire stolen, trespassers at RTC

port it.

Continued from page A1

against Johnson by Benton County authorities.

Trespassing trio ticketed at RTC

A 23-year-old and two 19-year-olds were cited for before it bit someone. a citation for theft. The caller was advised

Search carried out for electronic devices

An Otter Tail County resident suspected electronic bugs in their home near Ottertail.

The value of the copper wire was estimated at between \$800 and \$1,200.

Alternatives to gunfire A caller reported their

BOARD: Food bid approved

Continued from page A1

those in the community.

With no old business to discuss, the board moved on to the four agenda items in new business.

The first agenda item was the approval of the 2019-20 Fergus Falls School District Goals. Board president Lemke stated that the goals are students entering kindergarten meet school readiness goals, achieving grade-level literacy with all third-grade students, closing the achievement gap among all ethnic and socioeconomic groups of students, attain college- and before career-readiness graduating from high school for all students, having all students graduate from high school, and establishing an effective two-way communication with parents/ guardians in the community. These goals are the same goals established last year.

The second agenda item was the approval of the school district's membership with Lakes Country Service Cooperative for the 2020 school year. There was no discussion on this item and followed with an approval for the school district PD4Me agreement with LCSC for the school year. PD4Me is a professional online development tool used by staff at the school.

The last new business item was the acceptance of a food bid for the 2019-20 school year. Fergus Falls School District business manager Mark Masten stated that they sent out bids to five different vendors with two responding. After analysis, the bid was awarded to U.S. Foods, the school's provider for the last three to four years according to Masten. The acceptance was approved unanimously.

Earlier in the meeting, several general consent items were acknowledged.

General consent items

Personnel resignations: • Tiffany Hanson special

education paraprofessional. • Kayla Wersinger, special

education paraprofessional. • Heather Schmidt, spe-

cial education paraprofessional.

• Samantha Johnson, special education paraprofessional.

• Jennifer Carlson, student services coordinator.

• Theresa Stoa, ECFE aide. • Sabrina Noon, ECFE aide.

Head coach resignations:

• Samantha VanWechel-Meyer, Nordic ski head coach.

Support staff hires:

• Ashley Olson, special education paraprofessional.

• Rebecca Krueger, special education paraprofessional.

• Joshua Price, special education paraprofessional.

• Susan Thorsen, special education paraprofessional. • Rebecca Thole, ECFE aide.

• Amanda Stach, preschool aid.

Head coach hire:

• Dane Froiland, one act play director.

The school board ended the meeting and went into a work session to discuss staffing, an overview of the school year and the former Target building. The next school board meeting will be Monday, Aug. 26 at 5:15 p.m., a time change from the original schedule.

MEEKER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

trespassing inside the Regional Treatment Center at 11 a.m. Saturday. All three were from outside Otter Tail County.

FF resident asks police to remove bat

When a Fergus Falls resident found an injured bat in her yard on the 700 block of East Fir Avenue at 3:47 p.m. Saturday she asked that it be removed

NOTICES

Adults use minor to steal merchandise

that law enforcement had

no way to care for the an-

imal and would not trans-

Two adults were charged with misdemeanors at 5:20 p.m. Saturday after soliciting a minor's help in shoplifting from the Walmart Superstore in Fergus Falls.

The trio were identified with the help of the Minnesota State Patrol and the Wilkin and Otter Tail County sheriff's office.

The juvenile was issued

Friday and requested that a search of the property be carried out by the sheriff's office. A deputy investigated but found nothing suspicious.

Copper wire stolen near Ottertail

The theft of 200 feet of copper wire was reported Sunday from a Valley irrigator near County Road 54 neighbor had been shooting at geese Saturday evening near Underwood. When contacted by law enforcement the neighbor said he knew people were on the water but did not feel he had placed anyone in danger. He added that a conservation officer had told him he could shoot near the geese as a form of pest control. The deputy suggested alternatives.

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NEWS TO



Charles Grabarkewitz

Charles Grabarkewitz, 91, died Saturday, August 10, 2019, at the MN Veterans Home in Fergus Falls.

Service will be Sunday, August 18, 2019, at 2 p.m. at the Olson Funeral Home in Fergus Falls. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service.

The Rev. Brad Soenksen will officiate.

Arrangements are provided by the Olson Funeral Home in Fergus Falls.

Online condolences may be sent to www.olsonfuneralhome.com.

WELLS FARGO

Rhoda Stinar

Memorial services will be held for Rhoda Stinar, age 90, of Verndale, on Wednesday, August 14, 2019, at 11 a.m. at St. John Lutheran Church in Wadena. A gathering of family and friends will be held from 9 a.m. until the time of the service at the church.

Please visit www.karvonenfuneralhome.com to send Rhoda's family a message of comfort and support.

Arrangements are provided by Karvonen Funeral and Cremation Services of Wadena.

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