



Football

Red River retooling offense, Page 7

Grand Forks Herald

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2020

President Trump accepts nomination

Says he stands as a 'bulwark against the forces of socialism'

By Jeff Mason and Joseph Ax
Reuters

President Donald Trump, accepting the Republican nomination for a second term, said on Thursday that he alone stands as a bulwark against the forces of socialism, anarchy and extremism that

his Democratic rival Joe Biden would champion if elected.

Speaking from the White House South Lawn despite criticism that he was using the executive residence as a political prop, Trump asserted that a Biden victory would only worsen the crises

besieging the country.

"This election will decide whether we save the American dream or whether we allow a socialist agenda to demolish our cherished destiny," Trump said on the final night of the Republican National Convention. "This election will decide whether we protect law-abiding Americans, or whether we give free rein to violent anarchic agitators and criminals who

threaten our citizens."

Despite the coronavirus pandemic, Trump delivered his remarks in front of more than 1,000 people, standing in front of dozens of American flags and basking in chants of "Four more years!"

Though an incumbent seeking a second four-year term, Trump remains a self-styled outsider, an approach

TRUMP: Page A3



REUTERS / Carlos Barria

U.S. President Donald Trump delivers his acceptance speech as the 2020 Republican presidential nominee during the final event of the Republican National Convention on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, August 27.

Naming-rights contract in works at Alerus Center

Herald staff

Grand Forks' publicly owned events center and the facility's longtime local partner are in discussions to renew naming rights for another 10 years.

Alerus, a Grand Forks-based financial institution that has roots in the community dating back to 1879, has been the namesake of the city's convention and events center for two decades. The Alerus Center is host to hundreds of events each year, including UND football, conventions and concerts.

The Alerus Center and Spectra – the company hired by the city to run Alerus Center operations – are now in the process of negotiating a new contract. The current 10-year contract between Alerus and the events center ends in 2021 and stipulates a \$150,000-per-year fee for the naming rights.

"Alerus' roots in Grand Forks run deep. While we have expanded immensely over the last two decades, Grand Forks continues to be our headquarters and we're proud to be a partner in the community can rely on, in certain and uncertain times," Chris Wolf, northern valley market president for Alerus, said in a statement sent to the Herald.

"In 2000, we had an opportunity to support the entire northern valley by becoming a major sponsor for a new event center. For the past 20 years, the Alerus Center has been a destination for event attendees of all types, positively impacting the regional economy and the quality of life for

CONTRACT: Page 5

To get your Herald:

(701) 780-1215
(800) 811-2580

News tips:

(701) 780-1136

Sports:

(701) 780-1120

A FIRST-CLASS OPENING DAY

Midway Public School students, teachers overcome challenges to school instruction

By Ann Bailey
Grand Forks Herald

INKSTER, N.D.

Parents bidding tearful goodbyes to their preschoolers, kindergartners trooping into the school behind their teacher, and high school students nodding to one another on the sidewalk.

If not for the masks, social distancing and a long list of other safety protocols Aug. 27, 2020, was a typical first day of classes at Midway Public School.

Making the first day of school as ordinary as it could be in the midst of a worldwide pandemic was the goal of Midway Public School teachers and administrators, said Jason Keating, Midway Public School high school principal and superintendent.

For Midway sophomore Anya Rose Van Hauen, attending school in the classroom is a welcome change from going to school online as she did in the spring, she said. Meanwhile, in-person school has another advantage over distance learning.

"Being with friends," Van Hauen said.

Months of planning went into making those two things possible for Midway students.

"We spent all summer planning for today," said Keating, dressed in a suit, tie and Minnesota Twins mask. Midway administrators, teachers and support staff



Photo by Eric Hylden/Grand Forks Herald

Pre-schooler Avenleigh Skavlem shares a moment with her dad, Tyler Skavlem, outside Midway Elementary School on the first day of classes Thursday.

made the plans, knowing that they likely would be tweaked.

"It's kind of been a whirlwind of change," Keating said. Adjustments made to the Midway Public School day this year include moving apart classroom desks, installing Plexiglass dividers and staggering bus schedules.

About 100 of the 160 students in preschool through grade 12 who attend Midway ride the bus to school.

The school's location in the middle of a field – Midway Public School is a

consolidated district with students from neighboring towns, including Gilby, Forest River and Ardoch – required figuring out the logistics of busing students, Keating said. The school staff devised a plan in which buses arrive at school, five minutes apart, beginning at 8:05 a.m.

Meanwhile, high school students and parents of students who are able to drive their children to school, are encouraged to do so, Keating said.

The bus piece of the pandemic plan was a

challenge for the rural school, but overall, the small size of the school and its remoteness has more benefits than drawbacks for making and executing a plan to return to school this fall, Keating said. For example, the school doesn't have to limit the number of students who are in school, as some larger schools do.

"We are able to start with all of the kids who want to be here today," said Keating, who is pleased about that.

CLASS: Page 5

University system sees low testing turnout

Education leaders harbor heightened worries about spread of COVID-19

By Sydney Mook
Grand Forks Herald

Low student turnout for coronavirus testing was "troubling," "disappointing" and may mean students are infected but left uncounted, according to North Dakota University System leaders.

"I think the trends are troubling," Joshua Wynne, head of the NDUS Smart Restart task force and dean of the UND



Forum News Service

Workers test participants at a UND event in August in Grand Forks.

medical school, said during a task force meeting Thursday, Aug. 27.

Turnout for testing that

was meant to "try to preclude a major outbreak on one of the campuses" was "disappointing," Wynne said. Esti-

mates show that about 14% of the 41,000 students across the system were tested prior to starting classes this week, Wynne said, noting those numbers vary from campus to campus. UND, for example, has tested about 30% of the student population, President Andrew Armacost said.

"I think it means that many students may be at risk of transmitting the disease because they don't know it, and we don't know it because effective testing has not been done," Wynne said.

It is estimated that 2,000 students across the system could theoretically be infected as the positivity rate in the state is around 5%, Wynne said.

TESTING: Page 5

Unlock digital at
grandforksherald.com/
activate

Inside

Calendar: 2
Classified: 9
Comics: 6

Editorial: 4
Puzzles: 3

Sports: 7
Weather: 2

Year: 141 Issue: 64
Copyright: 2020