

Dreams Begin OCTOBER 26TH

ND-MB District MET Opera Auditions/Concert
Saturday 10/26 | 10:30AM | Hughes Fine Arts Center

Community Foundation | Gate City Bank
Greater Grand Forks | National Council Auditions
Grand Forks | Free Admission

Inexperience undermines UND volleyball effort against Denver
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Grand Forks Herald

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2019

47th Avenue interchange study OK'd

By Joe Bowen

Grand Forks Herald

Grand Forks leaders approved the money they'll need to study a hoped-for interchange at 47th Avenue and Interstate 29.

City Council members voted unanimously to

authorize their share of an "environmental documentation" of that project. The city is responsible for half the cost of that study — or up to \$1.5 million — and the North Dakota Department of Transportation is set to cover the other half.

The study would attempt to determine whether an intersection there is allowed and, if so, what configuration it should be, city staff explained.

That could ensure that Grand Forks can eventually build an interchange there because the city could use

the study to reserve right of way — think of calling "dibs" — at that intersection before it's overtaken by development that would make it difficult to build the interchange. It's the kind of work that some on Monday seemed to believe might have eased long-

standing tensions over a southside bridge across the Red River.

"If we would have done the planning that probably could have been done 30 years ago, that corridor would be prepared and ready to go when the time comes. Now, we're hav-

ing all the issues with the neighborhoods and whatever," said Ken Vein, who represents Grand Forks' central neighborhoods. "This is a way to resolve that early on and have the reservation."

INTERCHANGE: Page A7

Three small towns say documents on the way

Herald staff

Officials from three towns that were mentioned in recent coverage of a records request by the Herald say the records exist and they will be sent.

Representatives from Aneta, N.D., Forest River, N.D., and Middle River, Minn., all confirmed Tuesday they have the records, including past meeting minutes and annual budgets.

The Herald on Sunday reported that the North Dakota communities of Aneta and Forest River, along with the Minnesota towns of Brooks and Middle River, did not respond to repeated requests for public information. Beginning in the summer, the reporting staff of the Herald reached out to 10 of the region's smallest communities to determine if certain records are being properly kept.

The Herald's story said the clerks in Aneta and Brooks told the Herald that they would not be sending the records. The clerks in Forest River and Middle River, the Herald reported, could not be reached or did not respond to numerous calls.

Jaima Curry, a member of the Aneta City Council, called the Herald Tuesday to say there was a misunderstanding between the city's clerk and the council. She said the council there is very open to providing the records and will be sending them in the coming day or two.

Also Tuesday, Forest River City Clerk Susan Paschke called and said she never received any of the requests. Her number, she said, is listed in a section of the Walsh County website and she said she was not contacted. Forest River does not have its own city site on the internet, but it does have a section on the Walsh County website.

SMALL TOWNS: Page A6



Joe Bowen / Grand Forks Herald

Judge Jason McCarthy is one of two who preside over Grand Forks County's domestic violence court, which is the first in North Dakota and has been in operation since August 2018.

Fast accountability

North Dakota's first domestic violence court marks one year

By Joe Bowen

Grand Forks Herald

Grand Forks County's domestic violence court marked more than a year of operation on Tuesday, Oct. 22.

A series of speakers at the county's administrative building outlined how the court works and how well it has been working since it got up and running in August 2018. It's the first court of its kind in North

Dakota.

According to Community Violence Intervention Center staff, the court doesn't necessarily mean fewer repeat offenders, but it makes it easier for offenders to get in — and stay accountable to — "offender programming," such as New Choices, a program that aims to help offenders understand more about domestic abuse, reflect on themselves and use better relationship skills.

"It's just kind of an eye-opener for them," said Judge Jason McCarthy, one of two district judges who preside over domestic violence court. "Because before, they didn't really recognize what they were doing was necessarily wrong, and now ... most of them — 32%, anyway — seem to understand that it's a power struggle that they shouldn't be involved in. They have to have a relationship on equal footing

and respect the wishes of their partner."

Intervention center staff said people who entered the domestic violence program in the past year completed it in 245 days. That's 14.93% lower than the 288-day average recorded in 2017.

Domestic violence court is an addition to the end of the judicial process. After they've been convicted, domestic

COURT: Page A6

Flood emergency opens the tap for state, federal money



National Weather Service photo

Flooding inundates roads in south Grand Forks near Landeco Lane in September.

By Joe Bowen

Grand Forks Herald

After a torrential rainstorm last month, Grand Forks City Council members voted to keep the door open for state and federal aid.

Council members voted unanimously on Monday, Oct. 21, to extend a "declaration of emergency and natural disaster" that Mayor Mike Brown quietly signed on Sept. 26, about five days after thunderstorms dumped five-plus inches of rain on Grand Forks and East Grand Forks.

The declaration gives Brown a set of sometimes-dramatic

powers: He can enact a curfew, shut off utilities or quarantine people or animals, among nearly 30 other mechanisms intended to respond to or recover from a disaster or emergency. Others are more mundane and familiar, such as closing city streets and public spaces, such as the river-side Greenway.

But perhaps the most important is the ability to apply for local, state or federal assistance. One of those windows opened when North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum declared a statewide emergency on Monday. State-wide and federal emergency

EMERGENCY: Page A7

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Fargo meeting addresses farmers' needs

By Ann Bailey
Grand Forks Herald

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America faith leaders from across Minnesota and North Dakota met with agricultural organizations and agencies on Tuesday, Oct. 22, in Fargo to talk about the emotional and financial challenges facing farmers.

About 25 people attended the meeting held at Lutheran Social Services to address the stress that farmers are under and to discuss what kinds of assistance is available to them, said Curt Stofferahn, UND professor emeritus who helped organize the meeting.

Stofferahn said he recalled the stress that farmers, including himself, went through in the 1980s, and wanted to be proactive about talking to agencies and organizations who work with farmers about what worked and didn't work back then.

Stofferahn told Bishop Terry Brandt, of the Eastern North Dakota Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, about his concerns and he convened the meeting, Stofferahn said. Lutheran bishops from North Dakota, southeastern and southwestern Minnesota and representatives of farm agencies and organizations attended the Tuesday meeting.

Those who attended discussed: "How do we provide financial and spiritual help for people who are experiencing financial and mental stress?" Many farmers belong to small, rural congregations, which need to be prepared to assist them, according to Stofferahn.

Farmers are experiencing multiple kinds of stress, including financial, marital and emotional, Stofferahn said. Not only are farmers being challenged by low crop prices, but also wet weather that's resulted in hundreds of

thousands of unharvested acres in North Dakota and Minnesota.

"I have friends and relatives that are going through this on a daily basis, and I know what they're experiencing," he said.

During the meeting, people who work with farmers indicated the number of calls with concerns about emotional, spiritual and financial stress have increased, Stofferahn said.

"We had people there who are dealing with farmers going through these situations," he said.

Meanwhile, people at the meeting also reported that 10,000 pocket cards listing phone numbers for information about how farmers can get help for various kinds of stress have been given out, and plans are to print another 10,000, Stofferahn said.

Stofferahn requested that the representatives of agencies and organizations who attended the

meeting email a link to their resources so he can compile a list of what help is available to farmers.

The people who attended the meeting also talked about the importance of letting others know that farmers aren't the only ones who will be stressed by the situation.

"We need to make it known to the larger community, this is a problem that not only is affecting farmers, but also communities in the state," Stofferahn said. "This is going to reverberate through the whole economy and be felt in multiple ways."

Some ideas discussed at the meeting were to hold a day of prayer, a couple's workshop and farm shop meetings. Brandt also plans to reach out to other faith community leaders and ask for their input on addressing the issue, Stofferahn said.

"The consensus was that this is bigger than the ELCA," he said.

SMALL TOWNS

From Page A1

However, the tab for Forest River does not click through to an actual contact page; Paschke's contact information is found in a separate section in the county site.

"We don't have a webpage, and that's why you don't find us in a (web) search," she said. "I don't even live in town. It's just my job to do the books."

Numerous other Walsh County numbers are listed there, too, including various township government numbers. It's possible, Herald Publisher Korrie Wenzel said, some of the phone calls over the summer may have gone to township numbers. Various reporters began making the calls in July.

The Herald, with guidance via telephone from Paschke, on Tuesday found her number on the site. Wenzel acknowledged the existence of the correct number and said he was happy to have the dialogue with Paschke and Mayor Ivan Muir.

However, Wenzel said "there has to be an easier way than this," which

Paschke acknowledged.

Due to many small towns' staff size and part-time status, Muir and Paschke both suggested the newspaper send future requests by mail. Wenzel agreed that would be a reasonable alternative.

Also Tuesday, the Herald reached out to Lyzette Olson, city auditor at Middle River, Minn. She said she did indeed receive emails and phone calls earlier this summer from a Herald reporter who requested the records, but Olson said she got busy and didn't respond.

"It wasn't the fact that I didn't want to give the information. It's my own fault, it got put on the back burner. ... I'm sorry for that," Olson said.

She planned to email the council minutes and budgets to the Herald on Wednesday when she returned from a work-related trip, she said.

The North Dakota communities of Hoople, Petersburg and Edinburg, and the Minnesota communities of Lake Bronson, Grygla and Beltrami all returned documents prior to last week.

Great Lakes shipping executives float Soo Locks funding ask in St. Paul

By Dana Ferguson
Forum News Service

ST. PAUL — U.S. and International steamship executives, Great Lakes port authority directors and development officials on Tuesday, Oct. 22, traveled to the Minnesota Capitol to highlight the economic value of shipping on the Great Lakes.

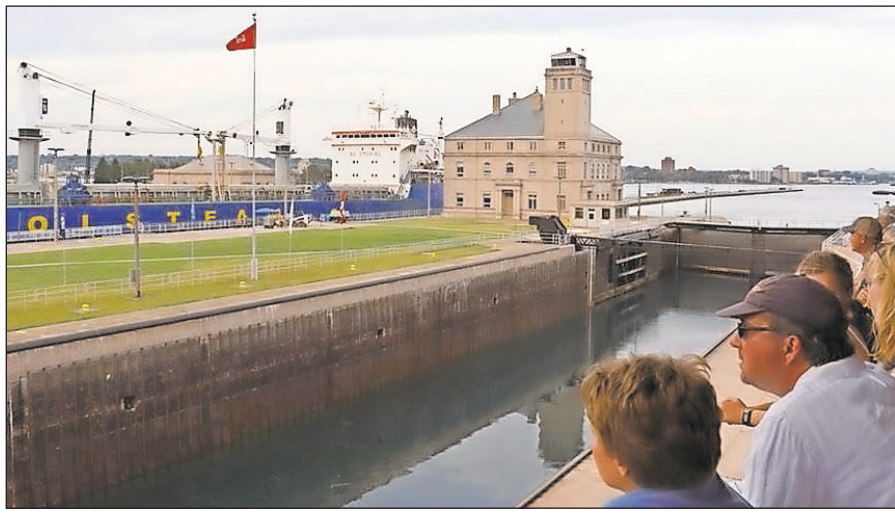
In visits with lawmakers, economic development, transportation and pollution control commissioners as well as with Gov. Tim Walz, the coalition made the case that seaway shipping has a \$1.4 billion economic impact for the state and should be top of mind as state officials weigh policy and state funding decisions.

The visit comes as Great Lakes seaway shipping industry advocates make the case at the federal level that Congress and President Donald Trump should approve funding for a new Soo Lock in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. The locks connect Lake Superior with the other Great Lakes and allow cargo ships to travel between.

Congress has indicated early support for \$75.3 million in funding for the \$1 billion project aimed at adding a second lock to accommodate larger carriers that haul iron ore. And the advocates noted Tuesday that Michigan had made a \$52 million contribution to the project.

"We're not here to lobby for money for the Soo; we're here to inform about how important the Soo is," Craig Middlebrook, deputy administrator at the U.S. Department of Transportation's Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corp., said.

While they didn't ask for additional funding directly, the direc-



File / News Tribune

Spectators watch as the freighter Isa transits the Poe Lock in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., in July 2015, on its way to Lake Superior.

tors and carriers said additional funding could help finish the lock's construction earlier than the seven-year projected time table. And that could mitigate potential lock failures, they said.

Carriers that operate in the Great Lakes emphasized the potential impact of the existing Soo Lock failing. An industry group representing steamship companies has more directly asked states and other stakeholders to chip in to finish the project earlier than projected.

"If that Soo Lock goes down, we have an economic recession greater than '08-'09 that you can't fiscally stimulate your way out of," Mark Barker, president of the Interlake Steamship Co., said. "If we do not have the Soo Locks, the Minnesota Iron Range becomes landlocked."

Deborah DeLuca, Duluth Seaway Port Authority executive director, also stressed the value of Minneso-

ta's ports ahead of a meeting with Walz. More than 30 million metric tons of cargo were transported from the ports last year, of which, 21.5 million tons was iron ore.

"It's incredibly important to the economics of the region, and we cannot state the criticality of the port and all the Minnesota ports to the steelmaking supply chain," DeLuca said.

The Minnesota Legislature is set to take up more than \$5.3 billion in requests for public projects that could receive state funding through bond sales next year. It's unclear if they would consider a project in another state that has an economic benefit to Minnesota as part of that discussion. Lawmakers are set to return to St. Paul for the 2020 legislative session on Feb. 11.

Follow Dana Ferguson on Twitter @bydanaferguson, call 651-290-0707 or email dferguson@forumcomm.com

BRIEFS

The Washington Post

Carson says PC is "going to destroy our nation"

Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson decried political correctness during a congressional hearing Tuesday instead of apologizing for controversial comments he made recently about transgender people.

Asked by Rep. Jen-

nifer Wexton, D-Va., on whether he felt the need to apologize for his remarks about "big, hairy men" trying to infiltrate women's homeless shelters during a meeting with HUD staff in San Francisco last month, Carson declined.

"No," he said, his hands clasped at the table where he had sat for nearly three hours during the House Financial Services hearing about affordable

housing. "I think this whole concept of political correctness — you can say this, you can't say that, you can't repeat what someone said — is total foolishness, and it's going to destroy our nation, and we need to be more mature than that."

Carson explained he was simply relaying the concerns of a women's group from Alaska, whose name he could not recall, during an internal HUD meeting. He clarified

he was not referring to transgender women as "big, hairy men."

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