

Painting Sparky, Party Animals



Above, Zander Cain was in deep concentration painting his shark party animal different shades of blue. At right, Karen Moyer read the book *Joe and Sparky, Party Animals* to the kids before they started painting a party animal of their own on July 20 as part of the Verndale School's summer community education.

Verndale School Board

Reports heard, back to school creeping up fast

by Trinity Gruenberg
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The Verndale School Board held their regular meeting on August 1. Chair Bill Blaha was absent and Member Shyla Hess attended virtually. Member Scott Veronen was acting chair.

Administrative Reports

Greg Johnson, dean of students and activities director, shared practice for fall sports begins on August 15. They will once again implement the online registration system for extracurricular activities.

Principal Katie Bolland attended the Sourcwell HRS leadership meeting, AVID summer institute with more

training to follow. The AVID program, a college and career readiness program, will be piloted by the third and fourth grade and eventually the high school.

The leadership team discussed attendance and digital citizenship. There was discussion about having student leaders curb online bullying with more teacher resources.

They still need to fill several staff positions.

The new teacher workshop will be held on August 23, with fall workshop days to be August 29-September 1. Back to school open house will be held on August 31. First day of school for K-7 and grade 12 will be September 6,

and all students on September 7.

Jeannie Mayer, the new superintendent, is getting settled in.

Enrollment is currently at 503, with 250 in elementary and 253 in secondary. They previously projected 510.

There are some delays with the construction at this time. The roof units are scheduled to arrive sometime between mid-September to mid-October.

They discussed working on two classrooms at a time, instead of one, to complete construction quicker during the school year. The teachers are willing to be flexible and Mayer thought it could be fun for the classes to combine and teachers to team teach.

The contingency funds are doing well, sitting at approximately \$13,000. The engineers found a deduction of \$20,000 so they are sitting in a good place.

They are also in need of bus drivers. Plans are to have the back to school newsletter out by August 15. It will be sent electronically.

Mayer is working on a contract that will be used to sign students up for Pirate Care in an effort to mediate items such as late pick up. She has seen other schools charge \$5-\$15 per minute a person is late for pick up.

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Wadena County Commissioners

Park cleanup, dwelling units and sticker shock

by Trinity Gruenberg
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The Wadena County Commissioners held their regular meeting on August 2.

Old Wadena Park Cleanup

The DNR conducted a state sale on the timber cleanup. A company out of Clarissa and one from Menahga will conduct the work. The cleanup has not started yet.

Old Wadena is part of the national register and they had to go through the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for restoration and expansion proposals. SHPO gave them the okay for cleanup and to restore what was on site. Any expansion

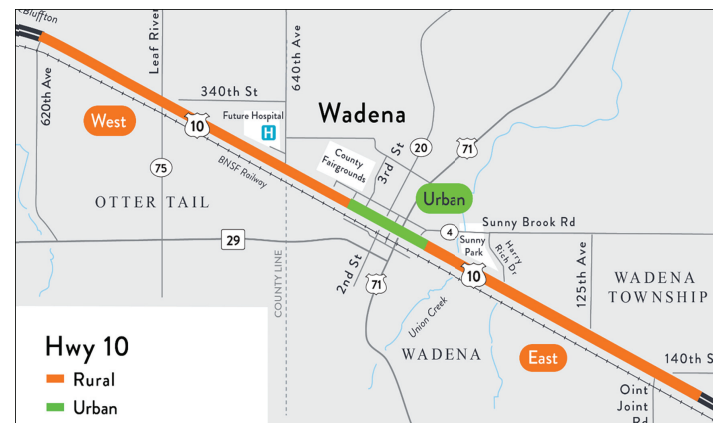
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Striping the new pavement



Road repairs in Verndale continued on Tuesday, August 2, as Traffic Marking Services was busy painting lines and other road markings on the newly paved roads. The crew worked quickly to paint and spread a reflective glass bead on the wet paint to make the lines reflective.

Wadena community invited to participate in future Highway 10 project



Travelers who drive, ride, walk or do business on Highway 10 in the Wadena area are invited to take the Minnesota Department of Transportation's survey and/or visit with the project team at a meet-and-greet to be held on August 25 for a future

transportation project.

Public participation is needed to assist in planning the future needs of Highway 10. The study is being conducted in collaboration with the city of Wadena.

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Football camp fun

The Redeye River Football Camp, a free event, was held in Sebeka on Wednesday, July 27, and in Verndale on Thursday, July 28, and ended in a scrimmage on Friday. Over 70 kids registered for the camp. Former Viking Chuck Foreman encouraged the children and taught them a thing or two about football. Foreman shared with the kids that a good football team is a smart team. Don't be afraid to ask questions and learn. He also shared they should listen to their coaches and remember to have a good time. The event was planned by Kim and Austen Rife with the help of the Sebeka football coaches, players and family members assisted on the field. The kids were divided into age groups: 5-7, 8-10 and 11 and 12. The groups learned game basics, tackling (with flags), throwing and receiving and just had a great time at Mahlen Field.

