

FRAZEE-VERGAS FORUM

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Above: Amber, Calegh, Jamie, Claire, Carley and Dennis Pausch display their maple syrup goods during the open house at Summers Construction Design Center in Vergas during the weekend of the Maple Syrup Festival. Below: Carley Pausch carries a pair of buckets of maple sap to be processed into syrup and other goods.

Summers open multiple businesses in Vergas

By Robert Williams
Editor

Mike and Joy Summers, along with daughter Kayla Mayer and designer Angela Lindsey, have taken over a hot corner of the Vergas business sector with a full-service home business at the new Summers Construction Design Center and the RE/MAX Vergas real estate office next door on Railway Ave.

The businesses celebrated a grand opening and open house on Saturday, April 9, and are up and running with a few signs and sounds of construction still going on as they put the finishing touches on their new spaces.

The need for space came from running the family construction business out of their home for two decades. They were literally

SUMMERS OPEN NEW BUSINESSES
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MAPLE SYRUP IS A TRADITION FOR PAUSCH FAMILY

Vergas family turns local sap into maple syrup

By Robert Williams
Editor

Dennis Pausch is the patriarch of a Vergas family that is synonymous with maple syrup production and a distinct collection of products. The history of that production goes back generations. † The family has been making maple syrup, and more recently candies and lollipops, since 1964, but the process was handed down by earlier generations dating back to the settlement days of Vergas. † Pausch's first recollection of tapping maple trees goes back to the 1960's when handmade sumac sprouts were used in tapping, before a move to aluminum and the now plastic. It was a learning experience in the beginning. † "We had some maples on the property and started cooking," he said. "One of the first years that I can remember, my dad tapped some trees and brought some sap and started boiling it in the house. After about the third day the wallpaper fell off the walls."

Sap is boiled down at a ratio of 40-to-1. For example, to make one gallon of syrup one must get rid of 39 gallons of steam onto the walls or somewhere.

"He was not allowed to do that again," Pausch laughed. It was common in the 1960's and before to use cast iron pots. Sap would burn on the side and create a dark syrup.

"We used what we could at the time," he said. Later, the family used a flat pan, six-feet wide, that fit on top of a stock tank, which allowed for a fire in the tank to evaporate the sap. Large fuel barrels were also used.

Current systems have evolved to include using reverse osmosis for purification

A FAMILY TRADITION
continued on 2



OTC seeks input on new county districts

By Chad Koenen
Publisher

Do you want to have a voice in how the Otter Tail County Commissioner Districts are shaped for the next 10 years? Well, if that's the case, you are in a bit of luck.

During a recent meeting in New York Mills, Otter Tail County District 1 Commissioner Dan Bucholz spoke about four different plans being discussed by the county commissioners. The plans would essentially reshape the county's five districts to stay in line with state guidelines.

It is also likely all five commissioners will need to run for reelection this November under the new district's, because more than 5 percent of the voters will have changed districts during the reorganization. Otter Tail County did not change its district lines 10 years ago when the last census was taken, because the current map at the time was within the 10 percent margin of residents per district. However, that isn't the case this time around.

With a county population of

NEW OTC DISTRICT MAP
continued on 5



After a two-year hiatus, the Frazee Firefighters Relief Association Auction is back and will be held at the Frazee Event Center Saturday, April 23, from 5-9 p.m.

FFD Relief Association Auction returns April 23

Fundraiser to be held at event center on Saturday

By Robert Williams
Editor

After two years of working around the pandemic and not holding a full event,

the Frazee Firefighters Relief Association Auction returns in full this year to the Frazee Event Center. The event will be held on Satur-

day April 23, from 5-9 p.m. The event did not happen at all last year, forcing the association to raise money in other formats.

"Three or four years ago,

FRAZEE FIRE RELIEF AUCTION
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A new book entitled "Let's Go!" highlights some adventures people can take in West Central Minnesota.

New book highlights local adventures

Free copies of WCI's book are now available

West Central Initiative's Director of Early Childhood, Nancy Jost, was inspired to create Let's Go! after being shown a children's book about Minnesota.

"The book was beautiful," said Jost. "But it didn't represent our region of Minnesota—our beautiful lakes, trees, cultures, and communities. So, I shared the idea of creating a similar chil-

NEW ADVENTURES IN WCI BOOK
continued on 5

A FAMILY TRADITION

purposes and preheaters to help evaporate faster.

While equipment has definitely changed over the years, the process is relatively the same.

"It hasn't changed much," Pausch said. "You're still doing exactly the same thing that the Native Americans did. You get rid of the moisture."

The Pausch family uses a wood-fired pan with dividers that allows continual heat as the sap enters one end of the 10-foot long pan and travels through the pan's dividers. The liquid evaporates along the way under exhaust hoods that vent steam to ultimately become syrup at the other end of the pan.

This system has been in place for the past five years and can boil off an amazing 60 gallons per hour.

So far, the weather has hampered production. Mother Nature needs to produce specific conditions to make for ideal harvests.

"We've only cooked once," said Pausch. "A season will run anywhere from February to May. The earlier your season starts the better chance you have. We've collected twice and cooked once. As the season gets later into April, the chance of it just warming up and then they'll be done."

The key to running sap is it has to freeze at night and then get warm during the day. Those conditions can also allow for sap to run in the fall, according to Pausch.

"You never know," he said. "If it's 40 degrees and the sun is shining, it'll

"It hasn't changed much. You're still doing exactly the same thing that the Native Americans did. You get rid of the moisture."

- Dennis Pausch on the process of turning sap into maple syrup

probably run real good. If it's 45, cloudy and the wind is blowing it might not run. Sunshine is big. The trees do feel the effect of wind and it will make a difference on the trees.

"It's a lot like farming," he continued. "You go out and put your taps in, in the spring, you don't know what kind of crop you're going to get."

A short season is not all bad. It's all about watching the sap and the conditions.

"We're hoping we're going to have some good weather yet," said Pausch. "Last year, the season was really short also, but we had some days when it really ran good."

The Pausch's had only four or five collections in 2021, but got maximum production from the trees.

"We had a really good year because when the trees ran they really, really ran," he said.

Freezing temperatures are critical.

"When it gets up to 50 degrees and doesn't freeze at night the trees are done," said Pausch. "It has to freeze."

When the work needs to get done it takes the help of the entire Pausch family. Dennis has been training in the next generation of helpers after he had twin

grandsons recently leave for college.

"They were a really good crew, but now their sisters and brother have taken over the brunt of the work. You have to have good help and everybody gets into it," he said.

Passing on the family knowledge to the kids is important. Sometimes it takes a while for them to appreciate the effort it takes to make the syrup.

"Some of them like it. Some of them, it's a little too much work," he said. "Most of them really enjoy it. They drill the holes, collect the sap and cook it. For some of them, it's really become part of what they do."

There is also a habit-forming element to working with sap.

"It's a strange thing, but once you are in a sap sack and you get the steam in your system it's worse than heroin," said Pausch. "It's so addictive. Why would anybody go out in the woods, stumble through the brush and carry heavy buckets? And they do it every year. It's got to be an addictive thing. It is fascinating."

It is also relative to the area as Otter Tail County sits on the very western edge of the maple forest in

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the United States.

"If you go west of Otter Tail County it's rare to find a maple tree," Pausch said.

Maple trees make this area part of the great mystery that is sap and syrup. A number of legends exist on its initial discovery.

Pausch related a legend about it starting from a randomly placed hatchet.

Legend has it that a Native American came home from hunting and just whacked his hatchet into a maple tree and forgot about it. The next day his wife was going to cook something and noticed something like water in a pot underneath the hatchet. Rather than go down to the river to get water for cooking, she used what was in the pot and it was really sweet. That's how they figured out maple syrup."

Despite working with maple trees for half a century, the magic of the process is not lost on Dennis.

"Who, but God, could figure out that you take a maple tree and drill a hole in it and you get something like maple syrup?" he said. "Incredible."

The family's goods are sold under the brand name Papa's Maple Syrup and can be purchased directly from the family, at Otter Coffee and Ice Cream and Vergas Hardware in Vergas. Around the region, they can also be purchased at Lakes Processing in Detroit Lakes and Heart O' Lakes Quality Meats in Pelican Rapids.

Find out more on Facebook at facebook.com/papasmaplesyrup

SUMMERS OPEN NEW BUSINESSES

selling flooring out of their living room and never got to use their garage for personal use. It was time for the business to move elsewhere.

"We wanted to get away from home," said Mike. "Let's just get a place for storage and then it kind of turned into more of a design center with the storage."

The space saves time for both their clients and themselves.

"Anytime we did a project with a person, it took a full day to meet with the client and figure out what we were doing," he said.

Determining what clients wanted involved multiple trips to different stores to pick out anything from appliances to paint colors, lighting and flooring.

"We had all these stops to get everything picked out and now we can come here and design it, pick out everything here: paint color, blinds, fireplaces, furniture, security systems, anything to build a house," he said. "I'm hoping other contractors will come down and use our facility as well."

The design center offers samples of nearly everything one needs to build a home.

"It has definitely evolved over the last year of planning and I think it will continue to evolve as we get into projects," Joy said. "If there's a need for something and it makes sense for us to carry it and offer it to people, we're going to add it."

Lindsey manages the center and designs. She grew up in a family of builders and



Joy Summers, Mike Summers and Angela Lindsey pose in the kitchen area of the Summers Construction Design Center in Vergas the week of the company's grand opening.

Joy and Angela are childhood friends.

"I know her talent and style so when we started talking about doing this, I didn't know she was open to joining us," said Joy. "As soon as she said she was, it was kind of a no-brainer."

Lindsey ran her own hair

business for 18 years.

"I threw it out there I was looking for something maybe part-time, and that's how it all came about," she said.

According to the Summers, Angela is the glue that holds everything together. The trio combine for an even democracy of three when it comes to decision-making for the business and their clients.

"It really is," said Mike. "It helps to have one more perspective."

Summers Construction itself had a unique beginning, mainly, the family needed a home and Mike had a hammer in his possession and little else.

"I had never built anything before," he said. "I didn't even own a saw or anything."

With nuptials on the horizon, the couple were in search of their first home and coming up empty.

"We were getting married and shopping for houses and nothing fit exactly what we wanted," said Joy.

The couple decided it was something they were going

to have to do themselves.

"I went and bought a nail gun, a compressor and a saw and I started building a house," said Mike.

He purchased a book on electrical work to complete that part of the house and utilized his local plumbers at Hanson's Plumbing to help draw out a plan for that aspect.

"They got all the parts for me and had them in boxes. That was no good. They took me in the back room and laid it all on the floor and I numbered all the pieces and then I went home and put it together," said Mike. "I learned as I went. Joy and I did it and we had friends and family, people from church, come over and help us do stuff and there you have it."

The Summers turned that initiative into a full-service business from the floor plan up, which is key to how they operate.

"I think it starts from the floor plan," said Joy. "We love helping people hone in on what works best for them between the real estate and construction. We see a lot of

houses and can help people perfect their plan."

Mike, Joy and daughter Kayla are licensed real estate agents in the new RE/MAX office next door to the design center.

"We sell in a large radius, but it's really nice to have an office right here," said Mike.

The real estate side completes the full lifecycle business with construction and design that even includes a cleaning service.

"If it's something to do with a house, I think we have you covered," Mike said.

The business also joins a long legacy given Joy's family history in Vergas.

She is the great-granddaughter of Edmund Pausch and Wm Sauer, two of the original signers to petition Otter Tail County to change the town name from Altona to Vergas in 1905.

The family lineage includes Peter Meyer, who built many of the original homes in Vergas and co-owned the Stangness & Meyer hardware store in 1907, which was across the

street from where the design center sits today. Family connections also include Fankhanel and Pausch Saloon, now Billy's Bar, which is across the street from the Summers' RE/MAX office.

It is fitting that the Summers' businesses are built in their exact locations and being a part of the Vergas business community was a priority for the family.

"We never would have considered doing it anywhere else but Vergas," Joy said. "Vergas is literally our friends and family. We love it here and to see that the economic situation is healthy and we're happy to be a part of that. It's been really fun to see how many people are excited to have another opportunity to keep money in Vergas."

For more information visit www.summersconstructiondesign.com, facebook.com/summersconstructiondesign, facebook.com/summersremaxconnection, or call (218) 841-4569 for the design center and (218) 841-4569 for the Vergas RE/MAX office.

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Frazee discusses match mentor program

Summer meals program uncertain due to campus construction projects

By Robert Williams
Editor

The return and success of the Match Mentoring Program at Frazee-Vergas School, along with the summer rec program and summer meals, were discussed at the school board meeting Monday, April 11.

Match program leads Heather Perrine and Sara Jacobson, along with three students, updated the school board on the success of matching high school students with elementary students.

Both Perrine and Jacobson approached elementary principal Travis Nagel about bringing the program back a year ago.

"We've been going

through the program and had a lot of positive experiences with it," said Nagel.

There are 57 students involved in the program. Individual high school students visit the elementary once to twice per week to join one to two elementary students with an emphasis on building relationships, helping with homework and creating bonds.

The program has received positive feedback from teachers at both schools, along with the kids involved.

The program emphasizes quality over quantity. There is also an on-line tracking system being discussed, thanks to assistance from elementary sec-

retary Cindy Wischnak. Matching the right students with each other on both ends is also a priority. "Next year we will have an idea what kids have done well and others who might not need it as much," said Jacobson.

The program received positive responses from the board, including Clerk Daneele Shipman," she said.

"I was so excited to see this program come back."

The efforts of the high school students, 41 in total, were recognized as making the program a success.

"I was so, so impressed to see how great our high school kids are," said Jacobson. "The way they care about these kids and take part out of their day, donating their time. It was awesome to see at such a young age."

MATCH MENTORS
continued on 4



File photo

Frazee High School saw its graduation rate slip just under 5 percent last year.

Local high school see statewide graduation rates dropping

Frazee graduating 10 percent less than average

Frazee-Vergas high school graduation rates fell by just under 5 percent in 2021, mirroring a trend statewide that was certainly affected by the pandemic and the differing formats of the education models during that time.

The Frazee-Vergas graduation rate dropped by 4.6 percent from the previous year; 82.9 percent to 78.3 percent, which is 10 percent below the state average.

Enrollment was also down locally with 830 total students, 440 at the elementary school and 390 at the high school.

Another interesting number, according to Superintendent Terry Karger, is 46 percent of Frazee graduates enrolled in a

four-year post-secondary school. Karger noted that the student body is made up of a wide variety of graduates with more opportunities elsewhere, making that number less important that it appears at face value.

"I think today's landscape of where kids should and could want to go is really different than where it was 10-12 years ago," Karger said. "The amount of job opportunities in tech and trade is immense. The nice part of going into those fields is they're not as long and you don't come out with as much debt. While we are below the state average of kids going to a four-year school, I don't see that as much of a bad thing. We have a lot of kids that will

do very well in a tech or trade program."

Statewide, 62 percent of graduates enrolled in a four-year college or university, 44 percent (26,474) in Minnesota and 18 percent (11,022) out of state.

Data was not available immediately for students attending two-year programs out of his school.

The statewide graduation rate for the class of 2021 was 83.3 percent (57,137 students), which represents a 0.5 percentage point decrease in the four-year graduation rate compared to the class of 2020. The small decrease in graduation rate is driven by a 0.3 percentage point increase in the dropout rate and 0.2 percentage point increase in the unknown rate.

GRADUATION RATES DROPPING
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St. Paul's drive-thru meatball supper April 30

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Evergreen will hold a meatball and gravy drive-thru supper Saturday, April 30.

The event begins at 4:30 p.m. and runs until the food is gone.

On the menu will be the main course of meatballs and gravy, along with

mashed potatoes, cole slaw, bread, a vegetable and dessert.

There is no charge for the meals, in lieu of a free will offering.

Local delivery is available if scheduled ahead of time. Reserve by calling 218-334-8125 by 4 p.m., the day of the event.

A bake sale will also be held. Both the supper and bake sale will support missions and other church projects.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church is located at 13130 County Highway 39, 10 miles east of Frazee at the corner of highways 87 and 39.

FHS School 3rd Quarter HONOR ROLL

* Denotes 4.0 GPA

Grade 9

A Honor Roll

Blaine, Asher
Fales, Gracie
Hamm, Hope
Jacobson, Lainey
Ketter, Emma
Maijala, Onalea
Nagel, Cade
Olson, Hailee
Pihlaja, Faith
Simon, Gavin
Sonnenberg, Carter
Strand, Sophia
Wallin, Annalynn
Wilkowski, Mason
Wiseman, Emma
Wothe, Olivia

A-Honor Roll

Adams, Lillian
Funk, Diamond

B Honor Roll

Beimert, Emma
Blauert, Alissa
Doll, Grace
Hilde, Alexis
Mitchell, Gr
Peichel, Bailey
Perala, Ella
Potter, Ariel
Sandberg, Baylei
Sonnenberg, Sebastian
Suedel, Payton
Ullrich, Chandler
Yliniemi, Noah

Grade 10

A Honor Roll

Beck, Amanda
Berg, Emily
Boyer, Joshua
Brekke, Logan
Breun, Nevaeh
Eckert, Rivan
Kilde, Madelyn
Ratz, Elsie
Sandberg, Rylea
Schwendeman, Rylie
Selly, Hailey
St Germain, Kylee
Stockstrom, Samuel
Wischnak, Ashley

A-Honor Roll

Anderson, Cassidy

Helmert, Alexander
Zitzow, Derek

B Honor Roll

Anderson, Lily
Anderson, Zachary
Badar, Maari
Borah, Brady
Crabtree, Brady
DeGroat, Anna-Mae
Disserud, Anicia
Fulmer, Morgan
Gondringer, Madison
Hofer, Jason
Kuhn, Taelor
Litzau, Mercedes
Longfors, Nathan
Malikowski, Ashley
Mayfield, Preston
Mekalson, Andrew
Mingo, Ariel
Moe, Tyler
Moore, Tanyen
Olson, William
Price, Rebecca
Schermmerhorn, Kodian
Solberg, Taylor
Turcotte, Mollie
Wegscheid, Joshuwa
Wilson, Makayla

Grade 11

A Honor Roll

Danielson, Amanda
George, Marcella
Graham, Daniel
Hamm, Faith
Hiemenz, Autumn
Justnes, Melody
Kern, Madison
Larsen, Bailey
Longfors, Zachary
Mickelson, Alexa
Petron, Olivia
Vigen, Kate

A-Honor Roll

Maneval, Carson
Nagel, Jake
Olson, Madison
Ovsak, Kale
Walker, Taylor

B Honor Roll

Aldridge, Aidan
Aschnewitz, Emily
Berg, Samantha
Bessler, Allyson

Frank, Caden
Halverson, Krysten
Heaton, Alexis
Heinz, Bailey
Hermanson, Annette
Jarozewski, Mark
Jepson, Allison
Johnson, Samantha
Kieffer, Alexander
Lyman, Hunter
Matejka, Max
Mayfield, Kaidence
Nolan, Isabelle
Post, Gage
Rodeman, Sydney
Rue, Maxim
Slevin, Alma
Stiegel, Anthony
Trieglaff, Karsen
Wothe, Heath

Grade 12

A Honor Roll

Engel, Paige
Flynn, George
Johannsen, Nathan
Kropuenske, Harley
Mahoney, Malena
Matejka, Madeline
Putnam, Daniel
Reieron, Annika
Riewer, Braylee
Ullrich, Makayla
Wake, McKenzie
Wothe, Payton

A-Honor Roll

Hofer, Chelsy
Keeping, Jayden

B Honor Roll

Drewes, Anna
Fletcher, Timothy
Fulmer, Makenna
Karger, Kiley
Lawrence, Tiffany
Mack, Alexis
Moore, Rylee
Nelson, Sophie
Pulis, Sierra
Schaefer, Katelyn
Schaefer, Riley
Selly, Dylan
Smith, Bryson
Splonskowski, McKenna
St Germain, Kirsten
Turcotte, Rylee
Wilkowski, Kathryn
Woody, Logan

April is National Safe Digging month

Before starting a home improvement project, call 811 before you digging

In observance of National Safe Digging Month in April, Great Plains Natural Gas announced results from a recent national survey revealing that 49 percent of homeowners who plan to dig this year will put themselves and their communities at risk by digging without contacting 811 beforehand to learn the approximate location of underground utilities.

Additionally, 58 percent of homeowners reported experiencing a utility service interruption in the last 12 months, a direct result of damaging an underground utility line.

Digging without knowing the approximate location of underground utilities can result in serious injuries, service disruptions and costly repairs at the expense of the homeowner when natural gas, electric,

communications, water and sewer lines are damaged. Installing a mailbox, building a deck, planting a tree, laying a patio and pounding stakes are some examples of digging projects that require contacting 811 before starting.

As part of National Safe Digging Month, homeowners are encouraged to take the following steps when planning a digging project this spring:

- Always contact 811 a few days before digging, regardless of depth or familiarity of the property.
- If a contractor has been hired, confirm that the contractor has contacted 811. Don't allow work to begin until an 811 locate ticket has been completed.
- Confirm that all utilities listed on your 811 locate ticket

request have been marked or cleared - in any area you plan to dig - before digging.

• Contact the utility listed on the locate ticket if they have not responded by the due date listed on your ticket.

• Consider moving the location of your project if it is near marked utility lines.

• Carefully hand dig within two feet of the marked lines and visually determine the exact location of the utility line before proceeding if your dig project is next to a marked line.

• Do not build structures (sheds, shops, decks, etc.) over utility lines, as this restricts access to the utility lines and can result in a dangerous situation.

• Remember that damaging a utility line is dangerous and can result in expensive repair bills.

• Visit www.call811.com for complete information.

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SALE ON .25CENT TOMATO PLANTS STARTS ON MAY 12TH

OTC to receive youth skills training grant

Eleven partnerships across Minnesota, including Otter Tail County, will receive funding to develop and implement programs to offer meaningful career exposure and paid work experience for students 16 years of age and older.

The grants are part of a Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry's (DLI's) Youth Skills Training program that was signed into law in 2017 with bipartisan support to create and provide employment training for student learners ages 16 and older in high-growth, high-demand occupations.

"Working with these partners gives us the opportunity to support workforce development in a unique and specific way that meets the community and employers' needs," said Roslyn Robertson, DLI commissioner.

Youth Skills Training grants will be awarded to the following 11 partnerships, which will receive and split \$1 million in funding. The partnerships will offer safe, meaningful work experience in advanced manufacturing, agriculture, automotive, health

care and information technology.

- Bemidji Career Academies
- Chisago Lakes High School
- East Grand Forks High School
- Forest Lake Area High School
- Genesys Works Twin Cities
- Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
- Mankato Area Public Schools
- Milaca High School
- Otter Tail County
- Roseville Area High School
- Spark-Y Youth Action Labs

Grants can be used to create programs, recruit students and employers, provide training, transport students and pay for student certifications.

Thirty-two local partnerships throughout the state applied for this fifth round of grants; a sixth round of grant applications will open in winter 2022.

For more information about Youth Skills Training, contact Rich Wessels, program manager, at 651-284-5184 or rich.wessels@state.mn.us.

MATCH MENTORS

Electives

Regarding elective classes at the junior high and high school levels, Karger stressed the need to find balance with offered classes.

"We want to have good, quality electives, good classes for our kids to take," he said.

Currently, between the junior and senior high grades, there are 20 classes that have an average class size of just six students.

Specifically, in seventh and eighth grade electives, six classes have student enrollments of 10 or less with a class average of 7.

In freshman through senior electives, 14 classes have student enrollments of 10 or less with a class average of 5.

"We need to figure out a way to bring some balance to what we offer and when we offer it so we get those class sizes to 12-15 at a minimum," said Karger. "We

have some work to do there on electives."

The school board discussed a rotation plan at the March meeting with a potential determination coming after gathering input from students before the next school year.

College credit available courses are also on the decline. Policy changes passed down from the higher education board, have made offering in-person, college courses in the high school more difficult.

Instructors need to have a specific master's degree related to the coursework to provide the instruction. Funding has also been an issue.

Summer meals program

The summer meals program is under discussion with some changes coming in a few months. The program itself may be paused given the breadth

of upcoming construction projects planned for the campus and added labor on kitchen staff.

As it stands, school-age students can still eat free this summer, but they have to eat in the cafeteria. Last year, the program was available to kids from birth through 18-years-old and was run as a drive-thru.

According to Karger, construction is the main issue. Secondly, having kids mandated to eat in the cafeteria creates more work for staff.

Karger and Food Services Manager Cheryl Neyens have had preliminary discussions on the stress of the program over the past year on staff and the potential need for more time off, if not a complete pause of the program.

"Right now, and I've been asked to look at other options and I surely will, we're leaning to taking the

summer off for those various reasons," said Karger.

Other options are doing the program offsite. Karger is going to complete more research before making a final decision on the program.

The Summer Food Nutrition Program has been funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A separate program aided in breakfast and lunch meals at school this year.

Most food programs are related to the number of free and reduced lunch applicants. More information and the application is available on the school and district website.

Next year, when school begins the former reduced lunch model will return where the district will be charging for meals.

School Board member Tyler Trieglaff clarified that every student will eat regardless of their status.

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GRADUATION RATES DROPPING

In 2021, 3,594 students from earlier classes earned their diplomas, graduating five, six or seven years after beginning high school.

"The class of 2021 faced incredibly difficult circumstances in their final years of high school," said Minnesota Department of Education Deputy Commissioner Dr. Heather Mueller. "I am extremely proud of our 2021 graduates and the educators, leaders, staff and families who helped them make it to graduation. The slight decrease in our graduation rate reinforces how challenging the pandemic has been on our students. We remain committed to ensuring every single Minnesota student graduates from high school, whether that is in four years, five years, six years or more."

Over the last several years, Minnesota's four-year graduation rate has been trending upward, rising from 82.5 for the class of 2016 to 83.8 for the class

of 2020, and dropout rates have decreased in recent years. This year's graduation rate dip underscores the importance of ensuring Minnesota public schools have the funding and resources necessary to support all students.

Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan's Budget to Move Minnesota Forward aims to stabilize education funding by investing an additional 2 percent on the general education formula, which is the most flexible funding public schools receive and allows school leaders to meet local needs with local solutions.

The budget also invests in targeted efforts and programs that have been shown to increase graduation rates, such as the Minnesota Multi-tiered System of Supports, Full-Service Community Schools and additional support personnel to help students with a variety of needs, including

those who may be at risk of falling behind.

New this year is the addition of the state definition of American Indian to the graduation report. The state definition allows students to be reported as American Indian even if they also belong to other racial and ethnic groups. Under the federal definition of American Indian or Alaska Native, these students would fall under "Hispanic/Latino" or "two or more races" and would not be counted as American Indian or Alaska Native in reporting. The four-year graduation rate for American Indian students (state definition) saw an increase from 58.4 percent to 58.5 percent between 2020 and 2021.

In addition to American Indian students (state definition), two more student groups saw increases in the class of 2021's four-year graduation rate compared

to the class of 2020: Black students (+1.2) and students identifying as two or more races (+1.1). English learners and students receiving special education services saw decreases of 1.5 and 1.0 percentage points, respectively, highlighting the urgency to reduce the English learner and special education funding cross-subsidies.

"We will continue to work for our students and we need support from the legislature," said Commissioner Mueller. "Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan's Due North Education plan outlines our goals and the Governor's proposed education budget will help provide the resources to ensure that every student is seen, valued, heard and represented throughout their educational experience and is supported all the way through high school graduation."

continued from 3

What're they looking at?
GO FIND OUT.

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MARVIN
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NEW OTC DISTRICT MAP

continued from 1

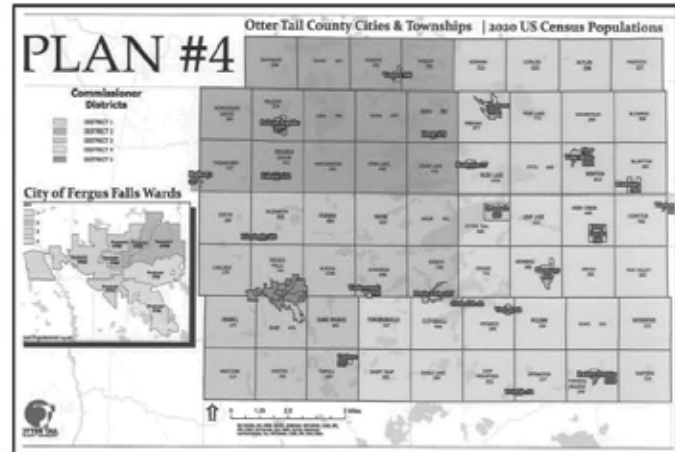
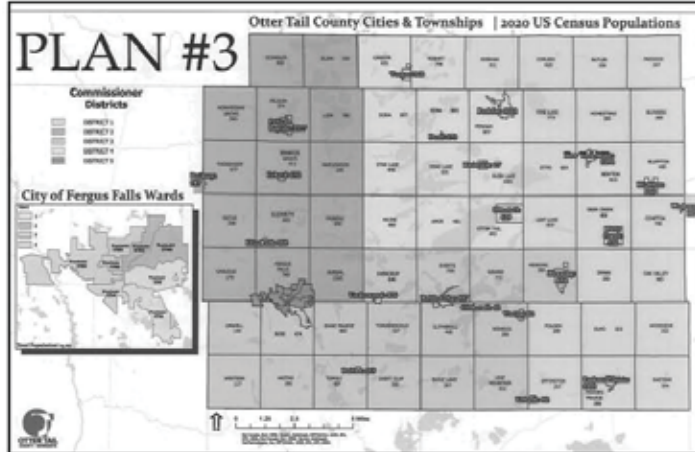
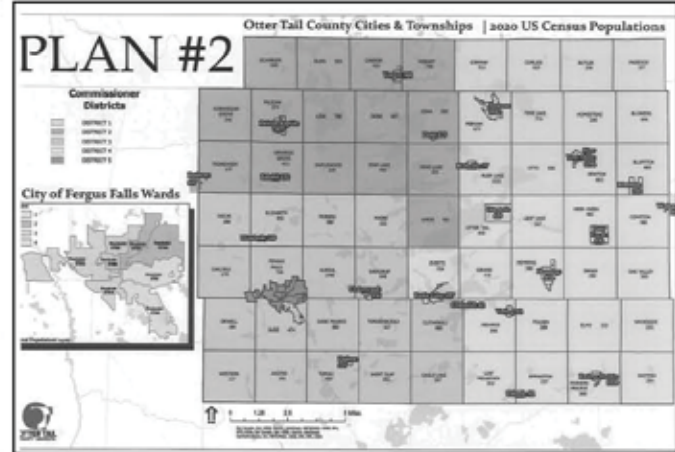
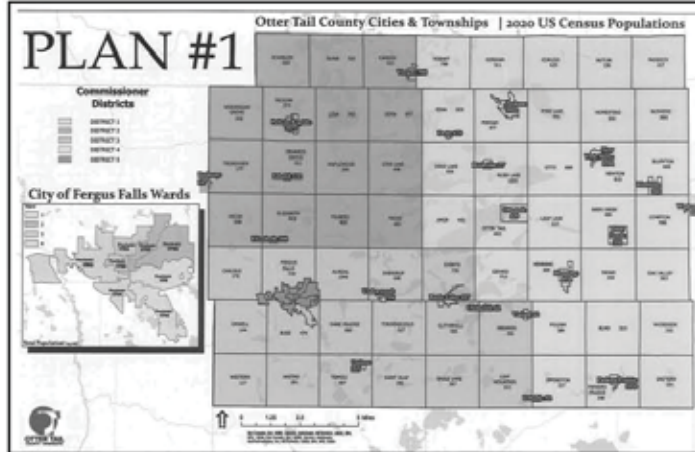
just over 60,000 today, the goal was to have the districts be as close to the average size of 12,000 as possible.

Much of that growth has taken place in District 1, currently served by Bucholz. The first-term county commissioner said District 1 has grown by about 11.2 percent over the past 10 years. The district currently includes the cities of Perham and New York Mills, as well as much of the central and north east portion of Otter Tail County.

District 3, which is represented by Commissioner Kurt Mortenson in the southwest part of the county, now has too few of residents according to state statutes.

Otter Tail County Commissioners are currently discussing four different plans for redistricting each of the five districts. There are four plans being discussed and a plan could be approved during a public hearing on Tuesday, April 26 at 10 a.m. in Fergus Falls.

Contributed photos
Otter Tail County Commissioners are currently discussing four potential redistricting plans to reshape the county as a whole. The plans will be discussed at a public hearing on April 26.



NEW ADVENTURES IN WCI BOOK

continued from 2

dren's book, but specific to our region with our team, including our Early Childhood Initiative Coordinators."

Fast forward three years, and 7,000 hard-cover copies of Let's Go! Ten Adventures Through West Central Minnesota are ready for distribution.

"Our Early Childhood Initiative Coordinators partnered with their communities to develop themes that represent our region," said Jost. "We took special care to ensure the book was true to the people and places of west central Minnesota."

Visit www.wcif.org to view opportunities through-

out west central Minnesota where families can receive copies of the book. The organization's goal is to distribute one book per family with young children.

"Some children were lucky enough to get a sneak peek of the book," said West Central Initiative Early Childhood Specialist Marsha Erickson. "They were inspired to play outside, explore their surroundings,

and wanted to learn more about other cultures. That was our hope. Mission accomplished."

About West Central Initiative
West Central Initiative

(WCI) is a regional community foundation and an economic development organization serving the nine west central Minnesota counties of Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, and Wilkin and a portion of White Earth Nation. Through philanthropy and planning, WCI fuels insight and action for the benefit of our region and our world. Since 1966, WCI has provided more than \$55 million in loans and \$65 million in grants to businesses and organizations.

For more information about the organization, visit WCI online at www.wcif.org.

FRAZEE FIRE RELIEF AUCTION

continued from 1

we started the calendar fundraiser, so we did that," fire chief Nathan Matejka said.

Along with the Frazee Demo Derby fundraiser, an online raffle and a pancake feed, the association managed to raise funds, but the auction is by far the department's biggest fundraiser.

"The last two years have been down years for our fundraisers," said firefighter Bricker Ware. "We've done alright with our other fundraisers, but not having our big one affects retention, recruitment and retirement."

Recruiting new firefighters is equally as important as equipment.

"We're always looking for new recruits," said Ware.

"Even if you don't live in the Frazee area, join your local fire department," Matejka said.

In the past, items like a Fortuna inflatable boat for ice rescues and rescue jacks have been purchased with the funds. Rescue jacks run around \$15,000, the boat around \$5,000.

"Sometimes there are things that come up, like equipment, which we haven't budgeted for," Matejka said. "You can choose to wait, bite the bullet, or use our fundraiser money for it."

A need on the list this year are air bags, used to lift, or support a car and move heavy objects off accident victims.

"It's not a matter of wanting to wait until it's budgeted with the city," Matejka said. "Ours are old and they have to be replaced."

Money from the auction goes directly to a fire department fund, rather than through the city.

The city budget requires

"Sometimes there are things that come up, like equipment, which we haven't budgeted for. You can choose to wait, bite the bullet, or use our fundraiser money for it."

- Frazee Fire Chief Nathan Matejka on the importance of the fireman's auction

approvals and time, where the department is able to make decisions immediately based on needs from fundraiser monies.

"No matter what your budget is, you always need more," said Ware.

Personal gear for firefighters, like coats and pants alone cost \$2,500, add another thousand for a complete set, something that is in this year's budget.

"The city has been really good working with us the past couple years," Matejka said.

Another specified need is to replace a leaky hose reel. The unit is used to spray off trucks after calls and clean gear. A replacement or two will help with efficiency and time-saving, something that is important to the volunteer crew to complete calls. Each firefighter has a job or family to get back to after completing an emergency run.

Retention is a major key to keeping the all-volunteer crew staffed. A small portion of the funds go to group activities to build camaraderie and reward the efforts of the firefighters with needed activities to boost morale.

All three firefighters expressed the importance of the brother and sisterhood the volunteers have created and keep in the department.

"You're not doing this for money," said Ware.

"You're doing it to help people and your community," retired firefighter Shawn Ohman said.

Ohman has been essential in organizing the fundraiser, according to Chief Matejka.

"Shawn has been our head guy for the auction," said Ware. "A credit to Shawn for heading up the auction and doing the vast majority of the work for us. It's a lot of work."

Food from Ketter's Meat Market will be served by the Ladies Auxiliary thanks to a donation to by Nate Woodard from Thrivent Financial, one of many auction sponsors.

"Thank you to all the sponsors out there and everybody giving donations," said Matejka. "We wouldn't have this without sponsors and donations. A huge thank you to them."

Donations can be made up to and including the day of the event on Saturday, which will include a live auction, silent auction, charitable gambling, horse races, games, raffles, guns, wine, tub of booze, tool packages, outdoor gear, patio stuff, events, gift certificates, sports paraphernalia, spin the wheel, drawings, heads and tails, free stuff and more.

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Time to check off another item on the bucket list

A recent trip to my snowy mailbox down at the end of the driveway produced a letter from the Jury Summons Processing Center for this county. Oh for joy: A summons for jury duty. I've never served on a jury.



The Prairie Spy
Alan "Lindy" Linda

I know without being told that jury duty is nothing like you see on tv; it's maybe weeks of first being herded in and out with a couple of hundred other people, all of'em sneezing and coughing and walking around with asymptomatic Covid or who-knows-what contagious flu or cold. And for sure, bad attitudes.

And then, being on call for the actual membership in a jury.

The thing is: I've managed to reach this advanced age, you know. It brings with it a nasty amount of physical decrepitude which takes a lot of attention to hold at bay. Common sense seems then to avoid contagious germs every chance I get. Meaning: crowds.

Luckily, advanced age is reason enough to be excused. I don't have to bring up stuff like common sense and large crowds in the midst of an epidemic.

But should I not be this old, here are some reasons other people have used to try to get out of jury duty. (Yes, there are valid reasons. What I've shown here are reasons other people have tried.)

One juror with a geography issue said simply, "My planet does not believe in the jury system."

FYI: to get away with this takes some documentation. You should say you're booked on a flight to Mars. Bring some tickets. Print up a brochure, too, show them all the sights to see on the planet. Tell them you're from Mars, so it's just a visit to see the old home place. Oh, did you mention: Mars doesn't believe in the judicial system we have here. Make up some special words, like Bork, or Grankj.

Another prospective juror was excused when she said: "I have a tapeworm. Does he get a say in this defendant's case? He talks to me, you know." And that pretty much did it for having her in the juror box.

Here's another winner: One man showed up for this interrogation phase in a dog collar, chewing on milk bones out of a Tuffy bag, barking every once in a while when he tried to sniff.....well, never mind.. That got him out.

One prospective juror brought a couple of rocks. When asked about this, she said that the "old ways were the best, don't you think?" Hmmm. I suspect this got her home early.

When all else fails, look at the defendant and say: "Remember me? It was a cold night. I wore red, you wore blue, we went back to your place and you never called me back. Now! We'll see who has the last laugh!"

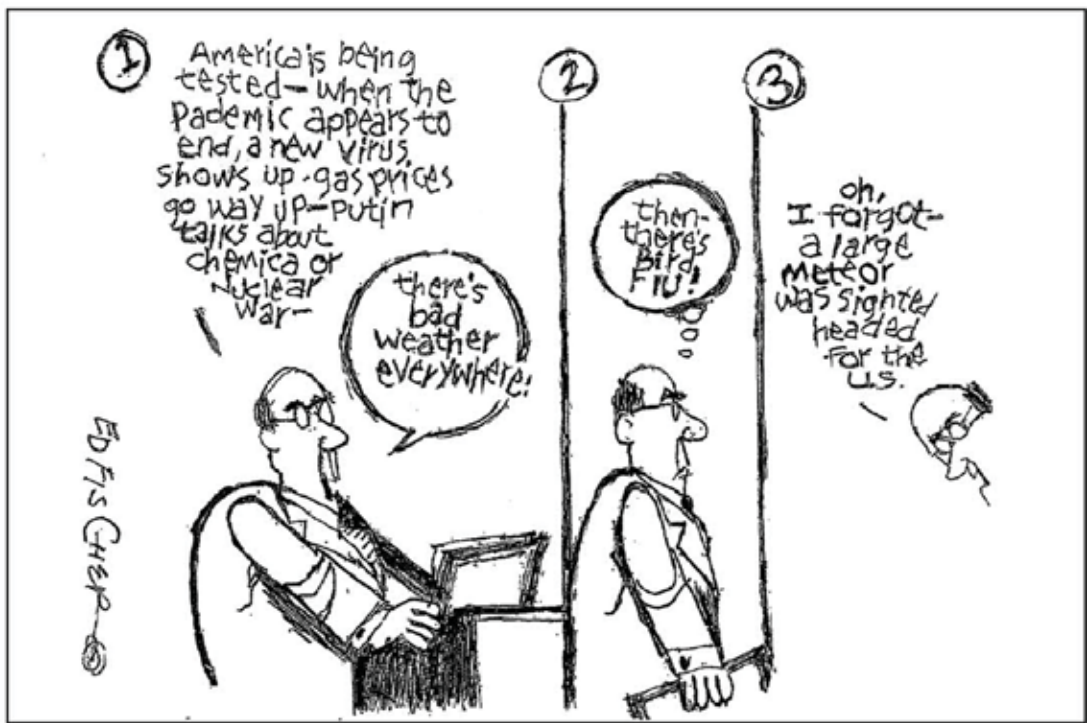
There are several valid reasons not to be able to serve on jury duty.

But they're not so interesting. If you need them, you can find them on the Internet.

Have your opinion heard

Have an opinion on a topic affecting the area? Write a Letter to the Editor to share your thoughts.

Deadline for all Letters to the Editor is Friday at 12 p.m. Email letters to news1@loretel.net or dropped off at the Frazee-Vergas Forum office at 112 West Main Ave. in Frazee.



Easter egg hunts are made for TV

If riding a bull is the most exciting 8 seconds in sports—Easter egg hunts could be the most exciting 5 minutes of the spring.

On Saturday, Dani, the girls and I attended three different Easter egg hunts in the area for the newspaper. It's our annual Saturday of Easter tradition and one that we keep marked down on our calendar each year. The egg hunts are a fun way to kick off the busy weekend, while also touching base with some people on a nice spring morning. Well, you can cross off the latter part of that statement this year as we were greeted with cold weather, snow and a wind that reminded me of Christmas and not Easter.

What I always find entertaining during the egg hunts is listening to the parents talk to their children about how they should get the most eggs in their basket as possible. Some parents tell their children to run to the opposite side of the field, while others tell them to be ruthless and take no prisoners as they criss cross a playground in search of colorful Easter eggs.

After hearing the strategies given to children and grand children at a number of the different Easter egg hunts in the area, I truly want to know whether you



Publisher's Perspective
Chad Koenen

should get the eggs closest to you, or run to the opposite side of the field and work your way back.

To see the smiles on the children's faces as they walk back to the starting line with a bucket full of plastic eggs and endless wonders inside you can't help but smile yourself. It takes a lot of time and work to fill all of the Easter eggs so even though the event itself is over in the blink of an eye, the work going into the event starts weeks in advance. We do appreciate all of the work of the volunteers who make these events possible.

Now, even though I like watching the egg hunts each Easter I do have one idea I would like to see in the future—extreme adult Easter egg hunting.

I'm serious about this, have you ever wanted to see an adult act like a child? Throw a bunch of plastic Easter eggs in the middle of a yard and watch the chaos

ensue. I'm sure it would be made for TV and could even make for a new reality show where seven strangers stab each other in the back each week to see who could get the most candy in their bags before all of the eggs were found. It could be like the show Survivor, but without all of the insect consumption.

There would be shoving, teamwork and even some name calling as the parents act like children in search for those special eggs. It would be a blast to see and I think even the kids would enjoy watching their parents let loose for a little bit. While I enjoy the egg hunts for our kids, I always feel a little guilty when I eat their "good" candy from the candy jar on our counter. If adults had their own egg hunt we wouldn't feel quite so bad when we open up a bite size Snickers we cracked open in an egg.

In addition to finding some candy, RetailMeNot recently released the top Easter candy for 2022.

The survey found that Reese's mini peanut butter eggs were the top choice with 35 percent of people stating it was their favorite Easter candy. Cadbury eggs came in second place at 21 percent, while chocolate bunnies were in third with 19 percent, Jellybeans were fourth at 13 percent and

Peeps were in last place at just 9 percent.

While I love Reese's mini peanut butter eggs I am a bit disappointed in Peeps being in last place. There is nothing better each Easter than opening a sleeve of Peeps and shoving them in your mouth one right after another.

The only possible explanation I can come up with for Peeps being so far down on the list was that those who were surveyed simply forgot how good Peeps are for Easter. A bit of word of advice though, even though Peeps are made of marshmallow, they taste terrible on a smore.

Reporter

I also wanted to put a small plug in here that the Frazee-Vergas Forum is seeking a part-time reporter to add to its staff. We are looking for someone for 20 hours a week to write feature stories, cover a few meetings and just enhance our news coverage in the Becker and Otter Tail County region.

While we are hoping to find someone with some writing experience, we will train the right candidate to fill the position.

If you want more information, or to apply, contact Chad Koenen at (218) 548-5585 or by email at chad@henningsadvocate.com

USDA accepting applications to help low-income homeowners

Individuals and families can borrow up to \$40K to buy or repair homes

USDA Rural Development is accepting applications for very low- and low-income individuals and families seeking to purchase or repair a home in a rural area.

The Direct Home Loan program offers financing to

qualified very-low and low-income applicants that are unable to qualify for traditional financing. No down payment is required, and the interest rate could be as low as one percent with a subsidy.

Applicants must meet in-

come and credit guidelines and demonstrate repayment ability.

The program is available in rural communities of generally 35,000 people or less. The maximum loan amount is \$40,000 at a one percent interest rate, repayable for a 20-year term and can be used to improve or modernize homes and do essential repairs. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available to homeowners 62 and older and must be used to remove health or safety

hazards, such as fixing a leaking roof, installing indoor plumbing, or replacing a furnace.

USDA Rural Development loans and grants provide assistance that supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community services such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas.

For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov/mn

Church



Frazee Police report April 8-14

Tyler Trieglaff
Notes from the Chief

Last week, we had 18 cows that had calved. This week's number is 33 out of 80. I think the calf number should be 32. We have been very lucky with the weather compared to my friends in western North Dakota.

Our biggest number so far is six calves in one day. I did have to high-step across the pasture one time when ol' mama 12-19 didn't want me so close to her calf. I also had to drag a calf over by the side-by-side and dad parked the pickup making a small triangle that I could work in. Mama gave me the space so I worked on her calf.

B7 is now becoming a steer after the cheerio rubber band went on his testes. The newborn calves get a vaccine up the nose, vitamin A and D shot, microbial paste in their mouth, iodine on the naval, banded if a bull and an ear tag to match their mama.

Three more of our first calf heifers did not have milk so adios to them. That makes six heifers that went down the road due to no

milk production. We gave them every opportunity to produce but the milk did not come.

We did build a teepee type shelter for the calves to keep them out of the weather. The calves can handle the cold, it can be the wind and rain that will kill the calves. When I checked the calves, there were a couple inside and of course a couple on the outside on the windy sides. Let's hope and pray for our farmers out west as they are getting the full brunt of Miss Mother Nature.

Friday, April 8
6:20 p.m. Report that some kids were tampering with a light pole and it was down. Pole had been hit this winter by snow or a plow and had been leaning. Kids "helped" it down, no damage and no issues as far as the kids are concerned. City works crew notified.

8:24 p.m. Report of an assault at the Third Crossing Bar and Lounge. Officer determined there was not much of an assault after looking at the cameras.

Saturday, April 9

10:21 p.m. Assist with a domestic situation at Acorn Lake Trailer Park.

Sunday, April 10
2:24 p.m. Assist in looking for attempted homicide suspect that happened in Pelican Rapids.

Monday, April 11
11:01 a.m. Assist with a student at the school that was acting up.

11:06 a.m. Rural residents brought mail found in the county to the PD. Officer took the mail to the post office.

Tuesday, April 12
12:23 p.m. Report of property damage to a rental unit. Civil issues between a male and female who are split up. Under investigation.

8:47 p.m. Report of someone looking in windows of homes at a trailer park with a flashlight. Officer did not find anything suspicious.

Wednesday, April 13
1:06 p.m. Assist with a suspicious activity call in the county.

2:58 p.m. Assist with a stolen vehicle reported out of DL. Frazee officer as-

sisted state trooper who was following the vehicle two hours later. Michael Strehlow, 29, Frazee arrested for theft of a motor vehicle.

3 p.m. Officer was at the Dollar General and found a checkbook that someone had left on the counter. Officer delivered the checkbook to the owner in rural Frazee.

10:35 p.m. Suspicious and loud vehicle reported. Officer found the vehicle and talked with the driver, warning for the loud exhaust.

Thursday, April 14
8:27 a.m. Minor fender bender at the high school.

3:30 p.m. Officer met with concerned adult about behaviors of students who may be vaping.

5:28 p.m. Welfare check called in by a neighbor. All was ok.

6:26 p.m. Assist with several vehicles in the ditch on state Highway 34.

9:28 p.m. Small purse with drug paraphernalia turned into an officer. It will be at the PD if someone wants to claim their stuff.

Duane Estenson, 68

Duane A. Estenson, 68, West Fargo, N.D., formerly of Detroit Lakes, died Wednesday, April 6, 2022, in Sanford Health, Fargo.

Duane Allen Estenson was born March 29, 1954, in Jamestown, N.D., to Olai and Dorothy (Thompson) Estenson. He was raised in Walcott, N.D. and Frazee. He graduated from Frazee High School in 1972. Following high school, Duane enlisted with the United States Navy and served on the U.S.S. Coral Sea during the Vietnam War. Upon his honorable discharge, Duane attended technical college and earned his diesel mechanics degree. On December 18, 1976, Duane was united in marriage to Marian Anderson at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Frazee. Early in his working career, Duane worked for Daggett Truck Line in Frazee and Hedahl's in Detroit Lakes. In 1997, he founded Riverside Auto Parts in Detroit Lakes and operated the parts store alongside his wife and kids for several years. In 2010, Duane started working at SJE Rhombus in Detroit Lakes and continued until his retirement in 2019.

A true auto mechanic at heart, Duane was always willing to help his friends and neighbors with their vehicles. He enjoyed collecting John Wayne memorabilia and spending time



with his family. In 2020, Duane and Marian moved to West Fargo, N.D.

Duane is survived by his wife Marian; son, Jason (Kasey) Estenson; and daughter, Lisa Estenson; three grandchildren, Valen, Soren and Orion; brothers, Donald (Jan), Gary (Jay), Gordon (Rikka), Kevin (Terry) and Mike (Pat); sister, Marilyn (Wayne) Farsdale; along with many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Olai and Dorothy Estenson; and brothers-in-law, Marvin Anderson and John Finnegan.

Memorial Service for Duane was held Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 3 p.m. in Triumph Lutheran Brethren Church-West Campus, West Fargo, N.D. Visitation was held one hour prior. Interment will be in Lakeside Cemetery, Frazee.

Arrangements entrusted to Korsmo Funeral and Cremation Service, Moorhead. Online condolences may be shared at www.korsmofuneralservice.com

THANK YOU

We are so happy with the turnout at the benefit. Words do not express all the Thank You's we owe you for your generosity. Your support (spiritually, emotionally, and financially) is so appreciated, but more than anything, your love is lifting us up. This rocky road we are traveling is easier to walk with the support of our family and friends. A spe-

cial Thank You to those from our NCACC who coordinated the benefit, the workers and all who contributed to the raffles and silent auction.

Please remember that if there is anything we can do for you, just ask as we'd like to help you also if we can.

May God Bless You all, Deacon Mark and Joan Stenger and family.

Church Directory

Bethany Lutheran
52943 140th St., Menahga
Church Phone: (218)538-6531
Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

Bethlehem Lutheran, Frazee
210 Maple Ave East, Frazee
Pastor Edwin Borchardt
218-334-2866
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Worship
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship, Worship is live on 104.1 WAVE Radio Station, 10:15 a.m. Enduring Faith Hour, 10:15 a.m. Sunday School

Frazee United Methodist Church
202 2nd St, Frazee
Pastor Amy Strom
(218) 334-6901
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
46914 St Hwy 34, Osage
Pastor Bill Knaack
218-252-0199
Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Worship

Harvest Church
806 Frazee Rd, Frazee
Pastor Ryan Stockstrom
218-334-3101
www.harvestfrazee.org
Sunday: 10 a.m. Worship in person and online, Childrens Church during the sermon

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Shell Lake
43526 School House Rd, Osage
Pastor Bill Meyer
218-847-8216
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday school and Adult Education 10 a.m. Worship,
Communion 1st & 3rd Sunday

Lakes Area Word Fellowship
151 S 1st Ave., Vergas
218-847-8216
Pastor Larry Vosika 218-847-8499
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Worship
Sunday: 10 a.m. Worship

Lake Region Mennonite
35502 State Hwy 34, Detroit Lakes
Pastor Jesse Swiers
218-375-2803
Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Worship

Sacred Heart Catholic Church Frazee
202 West Maple Ave, Frazee
Msgr. David Baumgartner
218-334-4221
Tuesday: 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 9 a.m. Mass @ Frazee Care Center
Thursday: 9 a.m. Mass
Friday: 9 a.m. Mass
Saturday: 9 a.m. Mass, 4 p.m. Mass
Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Mass

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran
15275 Co Hwy 45, Menahga
Rev. Dennis Hannu
218-538-6540
Wednesday: 8 p.m. Family Bible Study
Sunday: 11 a.m. Worship

St. Paul's Lutheran, Loon Lake
31385 Co Hwy 4, Vergas
Pastor Del Stohs
218-342-2379
Sunday: 8:45 Bible Study, 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship, fellowship following each service

St. Paul's Lutheran, Evergreen
13084 Co Hwy 39, Frazee
Rev. Thomas Batchelder
218-334-8125

Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship, 10:15 a.m. Bible Study and Sunday School

St. John's Lutheran Height of Land
37425 Hwy 56, Frazee
Pastor Bill Knaack
218-252-0199
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship Service, 10:30 a.m. Sunday School
Monday: 7 p.m. Bible Study

St. John's Lutheran, Vergas
410 East Scharf Ave (LCMS), Vergas
Re. Jacob Wagner
218-342-2791
stjohnvergas@arvig.net
Sunday: 9 a.m. Service, on-site (live Sunday) (distancing and masks), Facebook stream (live Sunday), TV on ACS channel 14 (Tuesday 4:30 p.m.)
Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays during 9 a.m. on-site service and after service at lower level door from 10-11 a.m.

Vergas United Methodist Church
200 West Main St, Vergas
Pastor Amy Strom
218-334-6901
amyjstrom@gmail.com
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. Worship in person

Dent United Methodist Church
301 Main St, Dent
Pastor Amy Strom
218-334-6901
amyjstrom@gmail.com
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship in person 10:45 a.m. live-streamed worship

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There's nothing accidental about an accident

Question: I've noticed you use the word "crash" and not the word "accident" when talking about incidents while on the radio, T.V. and the newspaper. Why is that?

Answer: I'd be glad to talk about this as I am passionate about this topic and it is certainly intentional.

The spark for this issue stems from a court trial from almost two decades ago involving the intentional ramming of a police vehicle, which resulted in the death of a police officer. During the trial, an attorney brought up the point that the incident was referred to by police in all of the reports as an "accident." It also was reported by police on an "accident" report form, thus it was argued that the incident was not intentional and charges should be dismissed. I won't get into the results of that trial, but ever since that time, traffic safety officials in the state have made a huge effort to influence everyone to use the word "crash" and not the word "accident."

The definition of "accident" is "an unfortunate incident that happens and unintentionally, typically resulting in damage or injury." The definition of "crash" is "collide violently with an obstacle or another vehicle." Accidents happen. That is what we tell children who are upset about spilling their milk at the supper table. We often think "accident" is a neutral word to describe bad luck but I think there is more to it than that. "Accident" tends to imply that no one is at fault and when used for a traffic crash, it could give the impression that what occurred was not important.

I understand that anyone involved in a crash did not want it to happen and that it was most likely unintentional. But there is a reason why it happened; and most of the time it is from a person in control of a vehicle that has a momentary lapse in judgement or made an all-out destructive decision (impaired driving, reckless or aggressive driving, etc.) Even equipment issues (unsafe tires, obstructed vision, etc.) contribute to crashes and



Ask a Trooper
Sgt. Jesse Grabow

can be prevented. Yes, most crashes can be prevented.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported 38,824 lives were lost in traffic crashes in 2020 - the largest number of fatalities since 2007. Preliminary reports for Minnesota in 2021 were 501 traffic deaths, the highest since 2007. Why the recent severe increase in fatal crashes? This is what the traffic safety community is trying to understand and find a solution. Speeding has been a primary contributor since the start of the pandemic.

Weather and slippery roads can be a factor but each and every driver is responsible for keeping control of their vehicle at all times. This is accountability and it starts with every person, every time they get behind the wheel. The choices we make and the choices we fail to make have consequences. You might be a very good driver, but we do share the road with other people making some poor decisions (impaired, distractions, aggressive driving, etc.)

A crash doesn't respect age, career success, love for family or anything else. People of all ages died last year. Please slow down, pay attention, plan for a sober ride and buckle up. Speak up and take care of yourself and the people you care about. This is how we make the changes to save more lives.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Trp. Jesse Grabow - Minnesota State Patrol at 1000 Highway 10 West, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-2205. (You can follow him on Twitter @MSPPPIO_NW or reach him at, jesse.grabow@state.mn.us).

Mystery photo



Above: This weeks mystery photo features some men from a long time ago. Do you recognize them? Do you have any interesting stories about them? If so call 334-3566 or email design@nymdispatch.com.

Inset: Last week's Mystery Photo went unidentified. Joan Maertz identified the Mystery Photo from 4-5 as Eleanor Trieglaff, and the Mystery Photo from 3-29 was anonymously identified as Ralph Shipee.



A glimpse from the past

5 Years Ago Fraze-Vergas Forum April 20, 2017

Kathy was homeless, living on the streets of a near-by reservation. One day a teacher took notice of the dog all of the kids seemed to give attention and treats to. She asked her students whose dog it was, and they said everyone's. Her friendly nature was immediately noticeable, as was a missing ear that may have been lost in a fight or to the harsh winter. Law enforcement was called and Kathy was picked up and brought to the 4 Luv of Dog Rescue in Moorhead.

The Fraze-Vergas School District will financially support a school startup for level four special education students in exchange for dibs on enrollment. The school board agreed chipping in \$3,600 for a building lease so Lakes Country Service Cooperative can open three specialized schools. The locations would include Moorhead, Fergus Falls and Alexandria. Then, in three or so years facilities in Detroit Lakes and Morris would be added.

The Vergas City Council had more than 40 people attend its monthly meeting Tuesday, April 11, and the topic on everyone's mind was the gravel pit. After area residents spoke their

opinion on the pit and proposed a portable hot mix plant, the council agreed to postpone making a decision until a special meeting Wednesday, April 19. This past winter the city enacted a gravel pit and mining ordinance requiring any such business to obtain necessary permits to operate in city limits. The only operating pit in city limits is along Otter Tail County 35 and owned by Mark Sand & Gravel. Several residents asked the council to decline the interim use permit application. Concerns about noise, dust control, impacts to tourism and quality of life were expressed.

25 Years Ago Fraze Forum April 17, 1997

It was the chance of a lifetime, and Bruce Jacobs took it. Jacobs recently returned from his work as an extra in the upcoming Kevin Costner film *The Postman*. The movie is set in a futuristic post-World War III era. The filming Jacobs was involved in was done near Green Valley, Ariz., at Twin Buttes Mine. The opportunity came about through Jacobs' friend Gary Vennis, who works with a Civil War reenactment group. Vennis has previously worked as an extra in Costner films including *Dances with Wolves*

and *Crazy Horse*. Jacobs was part of a group of riders who act as the Holmist Cavalry in the film, and the mine served as a setting for the Holmist Training Camp.

Those wishing to grab a piece of history or just wanting some nice antique school pieces will have an opportunity June 6. The Fraze-Vergas School District will hold an auction June 6 to sell items in the 1908 building, which is scheduled for demolition Monday, June 16. During Monday's school board meeting, local auctioneer Vince Bachmann discussed the auction with the board. Upon approval of the Building Subcommittee Tuesday morning, it was decided to go ahead with the plan.

Sign of Spring—The arrival of baby chicks and other farm animals is a sure sign that spring is here. Soon, these little chicks will be full-fledged chicken scratching food in the yard.

50 Years Ago Fraze Forum April 20, 1972

National honors for outstanding safe driver performance were won by Daggett truck Line in the 41st National Fleet Safety Contest conducted by the National Safety Council. Daggett's fleet of 60 trucks and 65 drivers were awarded Third

Place in their division, the Company - All Operations Group. There were 33 other trucking companies entered in this same division as Daggetts. The award is based on the company's safety performance from January 1971 through December 1971.

Average family income was \$6,848 in Becker County, Minn., in 1969, compared with \$9,931 for the State, according to a report on the 1970 census by the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce. Per capita income for the county amounted to \$2,111 the report shows.

Robert Matthews, mayor of Fraze, and Duane Hass, president of the Fraze Community Club are pictured here looking thru copies of the new Fraze Community Fact Survey, just off the press. The 30-page book was sponsored by the Fraze Community Club, Inc., in cooperation with the Otter Tail Power Co. The brochure was compiled to provide information of interest to anyone considering Fraze as a location for business, industry, or just plain living. Copies are being made available to all local governmental units and civic organizations and may be picked up at the Fraze Forum office.

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Contributed photo

Cody Hill caught a pair of large tullibees during a recent outing on the lake.

Tullibee fishing continues to be hot on local lakes

It seems like we are having déjà vu like the Groundhog's Day movie, and it keeps thinking it is winter. As I write this, I'm looking at the forecast and the low temperature on the 29 of April is forecasted to be 39 degrees. People might have to think of fighting ice on opening weekend on some of our lakes and the possibility that some accesses might not be fixed or repaired from winter weather in time for the opener.

Even though I said I wasn't going to do it I did get out the prior weekend tullibee fishing and I had one of the best days I have ever had tullibee fishing. I ended up with three fish that were the state record length or longer with my biggest one being one inch longer than Austin's state record fish that was caught in our area.

Even though I am very tempted to get out this upcoming weekend the boat will be coming home next week, and I have a trip the same weekend planned to do my new engine break in period. My intentions are to travel south a few hours to some lakes that have been open for two weeks already and test out my new Lund boat and make sure it is ready for opener and that everything was wired properly. I have a lot of electronics going into the boat and it's a peace of mind taking steps now to make opener easier on me and everyone in line at the boat ramp behind me.

Safety is something I think must be at the front of everyone's mind and with water temps on opener going to be extremely cold an accidental trip over the side of the boat can turn bad in a heartbeat. If you haven't done so yet take time and inspect all your life jackets and if you have kids make sure they still fit from last year. Those that use the automatic inflate life jackets please remember if they are not being worn, they do not count as a life preserver in your boat. Friends that were checked on Rainy River have been warned and heard a few were ticketed by DNR officials for them not being worn.

Now is also a good time to inspect all your batteries and if you have the option of viewing your water level inside of the battery inspect and top off with distilled water if needed. Clean



Chill Fishing Report
Cody Hill

terminals and charge the batteries for a few hours to make sure a battery hasn't gone bad over the winter. When you reinstall your batteries in the boat make sure you secure the battery down to prevent it from moving when in transport or when hitting waves. Two years ago, I was switching spots on the lake, and I had no power when I got to my second spot and one of the trolling motor batteries had slid backwards breaking the wire connecting the two batteries together. Thankfully it was a simple fix, but it was a good reminder to secure down the batteries.

The last thing I do before going fishing for the first time is I find a lake that opens earlier than others and I back my boat into the water and let my motor run. I pick the least popular lake in our area to not bother other boaters. I do not put my plug in the boat and I back in enough that my lower unit is able to be submerged and I try starting my motor all while connected to my trailer. While it is running, I check my live well pumps and my aerator to make sure a pump didn't go bad during the winter. Since I didn't put my plug in the boat, I know I have water in the bottom of the boat I turn on my bilge pump and verify that pump is working properly. I used to just listen for the humming sound of the pump running but one year while fishing a tournament I had water leaking into my boat and when I turned on the bilge, so the pump wasn't connected to the discharge hose anymore.

After everything has been checked and the motor has been warmed up, I engage it into forward and reverse to make sure it runs smoothly.

Taking a few extra steps now can make your first trip of the year go a lot smoothly and safer for everyone involved.



Contributed photo

The Frazee girls golf team had a strong showing at the sub section golf meet last season. Madeline Matejka and Krysten Halverson, who both qualified for sections last year, will lead an experienced team once again this year. Sub section team members last year included: Alexis Mack, Madeline Matejka, Krysten Halverson, McKenzie Wake and Taylor Walkers.

Two section qualifiers return to Frazee golf team

Halverson was also an all-conference member

By Chad Koenen
Publisher

A pair of section qualifiers will highlight the Frazee Hornet golf team this season. Senior Madeline Matejka and junior Krysten Halverson will lead a large contingent of Frazee golfers to the links—when the weather decides to finally cooperate and shed its snow cover.

In addition to qualifying for the section meet last year, Halverson was also a member of the Heart O' Lakes Conference team. A total of 26 people are out for golf this season, which features five returning letter winners. In addition to Matejka and Halverson,

who both qualified for sections last year, seniors McKenzie Wake and Alexis Mack, as well as junior Taylor Walker will return to the Frazee line up.

The Hornets will return an experienced lineup this season as they did not have a senior on their team last year. This will be Matejka's sixth year on varsity, while Halverson and Mack have been on varsity for five years.

Some non-letter winners who could make an impact on varsity this year include freshman Emma Wiseman who has transferred to Frazee from Red Lake Falls. Wiseman qualified for the section meet as an eighth

grader last year and has a chance to join the varsity lineup this year.

Other people out for golf this year include 10th grader Olivia Eckre; ninth graders Onalea Majaja, Gracie Fales, Ella Perala, Liberty Peterson and eighth graders Addison Ratz, Rylee Stock and Kylie Ueke.

The Hornets also have 12 new golfers to the program this year including: seventh graders Lily Hovland, Madison Krejce, Keela Hanson and Gillian Pope; eighth graders Elizabeth Olson, Madison Boyer, McKinley Splonskowski, Alayna Pennick, Emersyn Wake and Aliya Mustain and ninth graders Emma Beimert and Lillian Adams.

"We have a total of 26 golfers out this year so I am really excited about the large number of girls out this season," said head

coach David Conzemius.

With so many golfers out for the sport, Conzemius hopes the team continues to improve throughout the season and has some fun along the way.

"Our goals, as always, are to improve and have fun. We would like to finish in the top four in the conference for the team and hopefully have some individuals in the hunt for all conference," he said.

Among the conference favorites this year will be defending champion Perham and Hawley. The Yellowjackets feature the defending individual state champion from last year in Mallory Belka.

Defending section champion Fergus Falls, Perham, Hawley, Park Rapids and Crookston should be among the section favorites this year.

Learn how to camp, paddle, mountain bike, fish at Minnesota state parks

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' award-winning I Can! program resumes this summer with outdoor skill-building sessions held in more than 25 Minnesota state parks. Programs start Saturday, June 11, and continue through late August. Registration begins Thursday, April 14.

Program offerings include:

- I Can Camp!
- I Can Paddle!
- I Can Mountain Bike!
- I Can Fish!

The I Can! program is designed for individuals and families interested in trying one or more of the featured outdoor activities.

"We provide all the gear along with friendly instructors who can show you how to use it," said Ann Pierce, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Parks and Trails director. "Our goal is to make it easy for all Minnesotans to get outdoors, have fun and enjoy the health and wellness benefits of nature."

Registration and more information:

For more information—including program details, dates, times, locations, and minimum age requirements — visit the I Can! page of the DNR website or contact the DNR Information Center at info.dnr@state.mn.us or 888-646-6367 (8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday). To register for the I Can! programs, visit mndnr.gov/reservations (link is external) or call 866-857-2757 (8 a.m. to 8

p.m. daily, except holidays).

Since 2010, nearly 100,000 people have participated in I Can! programs. The DNR's I Can! program series is made possible with funding from the Parks and Trails Fund, created after voters approved the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment in November 2008. The Parks and Trails Fund receives 14.25 percent of the three-eighths percent sales tax revenue that may only be spent to support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance.

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Wednesday, April 20

Thursday, April 21

Friday, April 22

Saturday, April 23

Monday, April 25

Tuesday, April 26

JV Baseball @ Vergas - 4p.m.
JV Baseball vs Barnesville JV/V Softball @ Barnesville - 4p.m.
Track @ Hawley - 4p.m.
JH Baseball @ Barnesville - 4:30p.m.

Field Trip @ Skate City and Lindenwood - 8:30
Arts Performance @ NY Mills Cultural Center - 9a.m.
JH Boys Track @ Pelican Rapids
Band Concert - 7p.m.

JH Baseball @ Branon HS - TBD
Softball Tournament - 10a.m.

FFA State Convention @ St. Paul
Boys Golf - 2p.m.
JV/JH Girls Golf @ Perham Lakeside - 4p.m.
Trap Shooting @ Becker city
Sportsman's Club - 5p.m.

JV/JH Girls Golf - 1pm
JV/V Baseball @ Bkrdge - 4pm
JV/V Softball @ Bkrdge - 4pm
Track @ Barnesville - 4pm
JH Baseball - 4:30pm
JV/JH B Golf @ P. Rps - 4:30pm
JH Softball @ Bkrdge - 4:40pm
Boys JH Track @ Perham - 4:30pm
Girls Golf - 5pm

Sports

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PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF BECKER
IN DISTRICT COURT
SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Case Type: 14 - Other Civil
Court File No.: 03-CV-22-108
SUMMONS

Equity Trust Company Custodian
FBO Scott H. Pahlén IRA,
Plaintiff,

vs.

A. S. Blowers, L. P. Smith, Theodore J. Johnson, Theodore Johnson, M. O. Pederson, Ida Pederson, Wallace Danielson, aka Wallace V. Danielson, Renee Danielson, aka Renee M. Danielson, Wayne Johnson, Sherry Johnson, Herman Doucette, State of Minnesota, Becker County, Richwood Roller Mills and Creamery, Company, Henry Reinhardt, Annie J. Reinhardt, Wanda E. Schaffschneider, Angeline McDougall, Gerald E. McDougall, aka Jerrold E. McDougall, Ida M. McDougall, Dannie R. Holt, Marilyn S. Holt, Howard R. Blatner, Marie H. Blatner, James O. Sargent, Robert Knowls, Amy S. Blowers, Ernest Glebe, Joseph H. Quinlan, Iona C. Quinlan, Josiah E. Vangorden, J. E. Vangorden, Angeline A. Vangorden, Marilyn Reinke as Trustee of the Marilyn Reinke Revocable Trust dated January 10, 2007, and also the unknown heirs of the above-named defendants, and also all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, estate, interest, or lien in the real estate described in the complaint herein,
Defendants.

THE STATE OF MINNESOTA TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS: You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon plaintiff's attorney an Answer to the Complaint which is on file in the office of the Court Administrator of the above named Court, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. This action involves, affects, or brings into question real property situated in the County of Becker, State of Minnesota, described as follows:

That part of Government Lot 4 in Section 1, that part of Government Lot 1 and that part of Government Lot 2 in Section 2, all in Township 140 North, Range 41 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian in Becker County, Minnesota, described as follows:

Commencing at a found iron monument which designates the north quarter corner of said Section 2; thence South 89 degrees 57 minutes 44 seconds East 100.00 feet on an assumed bearing along the north line of said Section 2 to an iron monument, said point is the point of beginning; thence South 00 degrees 39 minutes 08 seconds West 30.23 feet to the centerline of County State Aid Highway No. 21; thence southeasterly along the centerline of said County State Aid Highway No. 21 on a curve concave to the southwest, having a central angle of 62 degrees 00 minutes 45 seconds and a radius of 818.51 feet, for a distance of 885.89 feet (chord bearing South 42 degrees 25 minutes 06 seconds East); thence South 11 degrees 24 minutes 43 seconds East 243.84 feet continuing along the centerline of said County State Aid Highway No. 21 to the northerly line of THE VILLAGE OF RICHWOOD, said plat is on file and of record in the office of the Recorder in said County; thence North 78 degrees 53 minutes 02 seconds East 57.73

feet along the northerly line of said THE VILLAGE OF RICHWOOD to an iron monument; thence continuing North 78 degrees 53 minutes 02 seconds East 389.93 feet along the northerly line of said THE VILLAGE OF RICHWOOD to an iron monument at the northeasterly corner of said THE VILLAGE OF RICHWOOD; thence North 11 degrees 06 minutes 58 seconds West 115.00 feet to an iron monument; thence North 78 degrees 53 minutes 02 seconds East 153.73 feet to an iron monument; thence continuing North 78 degrees 53 minutes 02 seconds East 35.09 feet to a point in the Buffalo River; thence South 51 degrees 06 minutes 30 seconds East 53.09 feet in said Buffalo River; thence South 76 degrees 40 minutes 41 seconds East 95.33 feet in said Buffalo River; thence South 11 degrees 26 minutes 37 seconds East 44.69 feet in said Buffalo River; thence South 26 degrees 44 minutes 51 seconds West 79.03 feet in said Buffalo River; thence South 05 degrees 52 minutes 24 seconds East 121.38 feet in said Buffalo River; thence South 26 degrees 29 minutes 30 seconds East 75.40 feet in said Buffalo River; thence South 68 degrees 29 minutes 40 seconds East 46.07 feet in said Buffalo River; thence North 87 degrees 12 minutes 24 seconds East 47.79 feet in said Buffalo River; thence North 65 degrees 27 minutes 31 seconds East 131.18 feet in said Buffalo River; thence South 51 degrees 09 minutes 53 seconds East 71.31 feet in said Buffalo River; thence South 38 degrees 01 minute 26 seconds East 48.57 feet in said Buffalo River to the centerline of County State Aid Highway No. 34, said point is hereinafter referred to as Point A; thence South 38 degrees 01 minute 26 seconds East 49.96 feet in said Buffalo River; thence South 56 degrees 17 minutes 43 seconds East 85.81 feet in said Buffalo River; thence South 49 degrees 58 minutes 49 seconds East 123.28 feet in said Buffalo River to a point on a dam; thence North 45 degrees 23 minutes 02 seconds East 10 feet, more or less, on said dam to the water's edge of Buffalo Lake; thence easterly along the water's edge of said Buffalo Lake to the east line of said Section 2; thence North 01 degree 55 minutes 23 seconds East 30 feet, more or less, along the east line of said Section 2 to a found iron monument; thence continuing North 01 degree 55 minutes 23 seconds East 133.92 feet along the east line of said Section 2 to a found iron monument at Meander Corner No. 2; thence continuing North 01 degree 55 minutes 23 seconds East 52.06 feet along the east line of said Section 2 to a found iron monument; thence continuing North 01 degree 55 minutes 23 seconds East 51.16 feet along the east line of said Section 2 to the centerline of said County State Aid Highway No. 34, said point is hereinafter referred to as Point B; thence North 79 degrees 41 minutes 39 seconds East 1334.02 feet along the centerline of said County State Aid Highway No. 34 to the east line of said Government Lot 4; thence North 01 degree 32 minutes 17 seconds East 33.72 feet along the east line of said Government Lot 4 to an iron monument; thence continuing North 01 degree 32 minutes 17 seconds East 586.59 feet along the east line of said Government Lot 4 to an iron monument at the northeast corner of said Government Lot 4; thence North 89 degrees 45 minutes 51

seconds West 540.51 feet along the north line of said Section 1 to an iron monument at the southwest corner of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 36, Township 141 North, Range 41 West of said Fifth Principal Meridian; thence continuing North 89 degrees 45 minutes 51 seconds West 759.64 feet along the north line of said Section 1 to the northeast corner of said Section 2; thence continuing North 89 degrees 45 minutes 51 seconds West 563.58 feet along the north line of said Section 2 to an iron monument at the south quarter corner of said Section 36; thence North 89 degrees 57 minutes 44 seconds West 1323.23 feet along the north line of said Section 2 to an iron monument at the southwest corner of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 36; thence continuing North 89 degrees 57 minutes 44 seconds West 722.91 feet along the north line of said Section 2 to the point of beginning.

SUBJECT TO a 100.00 foot wide easement for right of way purposes for said County State Aid Highway No. 34 over, under and across part of the above tract. The centerline of said 100.00 foot wide right of way easement is described as follows:

Beginning at the aforementioned Point B; thence South 79 degrees 41 minutes 39 seconds West 399.04 feet; thence westerly on a curve concave to the south, having a central angle of 03 degrees 54 minutes 41 seconds and a radius of 2864.79 feet, for a distance of 195.56 feet (chord bearing South 77 degrees 44 minutes 18 seconds West); thence South 75 degrees 46 minutes 58 seconds West 129.11 feet; thence westerly on a curve concave to the north, having a central angle of 02 degrees 39 minutes 26 seconds and a radius of 3274.04 feet, for a distance of 151.84 feet (chord bearing South 77 degrees 06 minutes 41 seconds West) to a point hereinafter referred to as Point C and the centerline of said 100.00 foot wide right of way easement there terminates.

AND FURTHER SUBJECT TO a 66.00 foot wide easement for right of way purposes for said County State Aid Highway No. 34 over, under and across part of the above tract. The centerline of said 66.00 foot wide right of way easement is described as follows:

Beginning at the aforementioned Point C; thence westerly on a curve concave to the north, having a central angle of 00 degrees 59 minutes 50 seconds and a radius of 3274.04 feet, for a distance of 56.98 feet (chord bearing South 78 degrees 56 minutes 19 seconds West) to the aforementioned Point A and said right of way easement centerline there terminates. The sidelines of the above described 66.00 foot wide right of way easement shall be prolonged or shortened to terminate on the westerly boundary of the above described tract. The sidelines of the above described 100.00 foot wide right of way easement shall be prolonged or shortened to terminate on the easterly boundary of the above described tract.

AND FURTHER SUBJECT TO a 50.00 foot wide easement for right of way purposes for said County State Aid Highway No. 21 over, under and across that part of the above described tract which lies within 50.00 feet of the centerline of said County State Aid Highway No. 21.

AND FURTHER SUBJECT

TO an easement for right of way purposes for 272nd Avenue over, under and across that part of the above tract described as follows:

Commencing at an iron monument at the aforementioned point of beginning; thence South 89 degrees 57 minutes 44 seconds East 96.73 feet along the north line of said Section 2 to the point of beginning of said right of way easement for 272nd Avenue; thence southwesterly on a curve concave to the southeast, having a central angle of 05 degrees 18 minutes 57 seconds and a radius of 123.00 feet, for a distance of 11.41 feet (chord bearing South 42 degrees 45 minutes 49 seconds West) to the northeasterly right of way line of said County State Aid Highway No. 21; thence southeasterly along the northeasterly right of way line of said County State Aid Highway No. 21 on a curve concave to the southwest, having a central angle of 04 degrees 46 minutes 20 seconds and a radius of 868.51 feet, for a distance of 72.34 feet (chord bearing South 65 degrees 47 minutes 35 seconds East); thence easterly on a curve concave to the south, having a central angle of 29 degrees 38 minutes 30 seconds and a radius of 57.00 feet, for a distance of 29.49 feet (chord bearing North 75 degrees 15 minutes 54 seconds East); thence South 89 degrees 54 minutes 51 seconds East 416.49 feet; thence easterly on a curve concave to the north, having a central angle of 33 degrees 49 minutes 56 seconds and a radius of 183.00 feet, for a distance of 108.06 feet (chord bearing North 73 degrees 10 minutes 11 seconds East) to the north line of said Section 2; thence North 89 degrees 57 minutes 44 seconds West 604.83 feet along the north line of said Section 2 to the point of beginning.

LESS The East 100 feet of Government Lot 4, Lying North of the Centerline of County State Aid Highway No. 34, Section One (1), Township One Hundred Forty (140) North, Range Forty-one (41) West.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the object of said action is to obtain a judgment declaring that plaintiff is the owner in fee of the property described above, and that the defendants, and each of them, have no right, title, estate, interest, or lien in or upon the said real estate.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that no personal claim is made by plaintiff against any of the defendants.

Civil cases are subject to Alternative Dispute Resolution processes as provided in Rule 114 of the General Rules of Practice for the District Courts. Alternative Dispute Resolution includes mediation, arbitration, and other processes set forth in the rules. You may contact the Court Administrator for information about these processes and about resources available in your area. Dated this 17th day of January, 2022.

/s/ Carl E. Malmstrom
Carl E. Malmstrom
THORWALDSEN & MALM-STROM
Attorneys for Plaintiff
1105 Highway 10 East / P.O. Box 1599
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502-1599
Phone: (218) 847-5646
Attorney Registration No. 143613

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF BECKER
IN DISTRICT COURT
SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Case Type: 14 - Other Civil
Court File No.: 03-CV-22-215
AMENDED SUMMONS

Wayne Bernhoff,
Plaintiff,

vs.

Robert V. Corbett; Florence S. Corbett; Thomas Corbett; Rachael Corbett; William L. Corbett; Martha E. Corbett; Thomas L. Corbett; Lydia Corbett; William E. Huston; Ida L. Huston; Leo Kossick; Lucille Kossick; Josie C. Lyon, aka Jessie C. Lyon, aka Jessie C. Lyon; Stephen S. Lyon; Rebecca C. Hardy, aka Rebecca Camille Hardy; John P. Hardy, aka John Peter Hardy; Hetty H. Van Bergen; William S. Van Bergen; Ira J. Larson; Martha Larson; John F. Lewis; Catherine Lewis; Effie A. Hendrickson; Leo M. Hendrickson; Gordon V. Cox; Anne A. Cox; Mary Anne Cox Thompson, aka Mary Ann Cox Thompson; Virginia Cox Atkinson; C. Crawford Thompson, Trustee under the last will and testament of Gordon V. Cox dated January 18, 1983; Isaac W. Fisher; Mary J. Fisher; William M. Grant; Nora A. Grant; A. N. Truedson; John W. O'Leary; Constance Watson Pollock; Elizabeth Pollock Engebretson; E.F. Engebretson; John Watson Pollock; Nancy Higbee Pollock; Peder F. Engebretson; Linda R. Engebretson; John Waryan; Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Nationstar Mortgage, LLC, DBA Champion Mortgage Company; and also the unknown heirs of the above-named defendants, and also all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, estate, interest, or lien in the real estate described in the complaint herein,
Defendants.

THE STATE OF MINNESOTA TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon plaintiff's attorney an Answer to the Complaint which is on file in the office of the Court Administrator of the above named Court, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

This action involves, affects, or brings into question real property situated in the County of Becker, State of Minnesota, described as follows:

That part of Lot 21 of R.V. CORBETT'S 1ST AND 2ND ADDITION TO ELM GROVE, said plat is on file and of record in the office of the Recorder in Becker County, Minnesota, described as follows:

Commencing at an iron monument which designates the northwesterly corner of said Lot 21; thence South 87 degrees 31 minutes 56 seconds East 56.58 feet along the northerly line of said Lot 21 to an iron monument; thence South 04 degrees 15 minutes 48 seconds West 29.80 feet to an iron monument; thence continuing South 04 degrees 15 minutes 48 seconds West 18.09 feet to the centerline of North Melissa Drive; thence South 61 degrees 31 minutes 15 seconds East 59.06 feet along the centerline of said North Melissa Drive; thence South 04 degrees 15 minutes 48 seconds West 20.94 feet to an iron monument; thence continuing South 04 degrees 15 minutes 48 seconds West 21.24 feet to an iron monument; thence South 10 degrees 45 minutes 03 seconds West 30.64 feet to an iron monument; thence South 21 degrees 22 minutes 56 seconds West 7.91 feet to an iron monument; thence South 21 degrees 58 minutes 10 seconds West 70.94 feet to an iron monument; thence South 20 degrees 53 minutes 07 seconds West 22.19 feet to an iron monument; thence South 03 degrees 55 minutes 04 seconds West 10.77 feet to an iron monument; thence South 18 degrees 00 minutes 09 seconds West 9 feet, more or less, to the water's edge of Lake Melissa; thence southeasterly along the water's edge of said Lake Melissa to the intersection with a line

which bears South 17 degrees 30 minutes 10 seconds West from the point of beginning; thence North 17 degrees 30 minutes 10 seconds East 20.56 feet, more or less, to an iron monument; thence continuing North 17 degrees 30 minutes 10 seconds East 132.27 feet to an iron monument; thence continuing North 17 degrees 30 minutes 10 seconds East 33.37 feet to the point of beginning. The above described tract contains 9,300 square feet, more or less.

SUBJECT TO an easement for public road purposes for said North Melissa Drive over, under and across that part of the above tract which lies within 16.50 feet of the centerline of said North Melissa Drive.

AND That part of Lot 21 of R.V. CORBETT'S 1ST AND 2ND ADDITION TO ELM GROVE, said plat is on file and of record in the office of the Recorder in Becker County, Minnesota and that part of Auditors Lot 25 of that certain AUDITOR'S PLAT recorded in Book C of Plats, page 28, on file and of record in the office of the Recorder in said County, described as follows:

Commencing at an iron monument which designates the northwesterly corner of said Lot 21; thence South 87 degrees 31 minutes 56 seconds East 85.49 feet on an assumed bearing along the northerly line of said Lot 21 to an iron monument; thence continuing South 87 degrees 31 minutes 56 seconds East 56.58 feet along the northerly line of said Lot 21 to an iron monument; said point is the point of beginning; thence South 04 degrees 15 minutes 48 seconds West 110.00 feet parallel with the easterly line of said Lot 21 to an iron monument; thence South 87 degrees 31 minutes 56 seconds East 50.00 feet parallel to the northerly line of said Lot 21 to an iron monument; thence South 04 degrees 15 minutes 48 seconds West 29.80 feet to an iron monument; thence continuing South 04 degrees 15 minutes 48 seconds East 16.71 feet to an iron monument; thence continuing North 19 degrees 28 minutes 04 seconds East 185.36 feet to an iron monument on the northerly line of said Auditor's Lot 25; thence North 87 degrees 31 minutes 56 seconds West 61.40 feet along the northerly line of said Auditor's Lot 25 to an iron monument at the northeasterly corner of said Lot 21; thence continuing North 87 degrees 31 minutes 56 seconds West 115.33 feet along the northerly line of said Lot 21 to the point of beginning. The above described tract contains 23,558 square feet.

SUBJECT TO an easement for public road purposes for North Melissa Drive over, under and across that part of the above tract which lies within 16.50 feet of the centerline of said North Melissa Drive.

FURTHER SUBJECT TO a garage encroachment easement as described in Document No. 575698, on file and of record in the office of the Recorder in said County.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the object of said action is to obtain a judgment declaring that plaintiff is the owner in fee of the property described above, and that the defendants, and each of them, have no right, title, estate, interest, or lien in or upon the said real estate.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that no personal claim is made by plaintiff against any of the defendants.

Civil cases are subject to Alternative Dispute Resolution processes as provided in Rule 114 of the General Rules of Practice for the District Courts. Alternative Dispute Resolution includes mediation, arbitration, and other processes set forth in the rules. You may contact the Court Administrator for information about these processes and about resources available in your area. Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/ Carl E. Malmstrom
Carl E. Malmstrom
THORWALDSEN & MALM-STROM
Attorneys for Plaintiff
1105 Highway 10 East / P.O. Box 1599
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502-1599
Phone: (218) 847-5646
Attorney Registration No. 143613

Published April 19, April 26, May 3, 2022

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES March 14, 2022 BOARD OF EDUCATION FRAZEE-VERGAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS ISD #23

The Regular Meeting of the School Board of Frazee-Vergas Independent School District #23 was called to order by Vice Chair Kimberly Antonsen on Monday, March 14, 2022, 6:00 p.m., in the High School Media Center. Members in attendance: Tyler Trieglaff, Daneele Shipman, Kimberly Antonsen, Tammie Nunn and Nathan Matejka. Thaddeus Helmers and Michael Frank were absent.

Administrators present: Superintendent Terry Karger, Business Manager Chrissy Clapsaddle, High School Principal Anna Potvin and Executive Assistant Stacy Foss.

3 guests were present.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Adoption of the Agenda
Matejka made the motion to adopt the agenda as presented, Shipman seconded, motion carried.

Communication Reports
Administrative Reports:

- High School Principal Report - Ms. Potvin referred to the attached handout.
- o Enrollment for March 2022 - 392 students
- o Updates and Celebrations - upcoming trainings, Hornet LINK, ALC transportation and the Stehler Human Services Therapist Hailey Brower
- o Update on Open Campus feedback handout was shared with the recommendation for seniors to have open campus privileges beginning March 28 - discussion was held about including juniors - administration will consider this option

• Superintendent Report - Karger

o Superintendent Karger updated the progress on the Land Parcels and shared a map from MREA relating to the Special Education Cross Subsidy (amount of money from the District's General Fund used to pay the unreimbursed cost of providing services) that showed the cost per pupil loss for all districts in Minnesota - the median is \$833, Frazee-Vergas School District is \$904 per pupil.

o Upcoming Working Session - contact Stacy with dates and times available.

• Board Member Reports
o Budget & Facilities Committee - Board member Matejka and Trieglaff shared highlights of the meeting.

o Project Oversight Committee (POC) - Board member Matejka updated the board on the projects in the district.

Consent Agenda
Motion by Trieglaff, to approve the consent agenda as presented, Shipman seconded, motion carried.

Consent Agenda included the following items:

- Approved the adoption of the minutes from the Regular School Board Meeting on February 14, 2022.
- Approved the Treasurer's Report
- Approved the Check Summary
- Approved the Resignation of an Elementary Paraprofessional, Caitlin Breitenfeldt, effective March 4, 2022
- Approved the Resignation of a Junior High Softball Coach, Taylor Tappe, effective immediately.
- Approved the Resignation of the Head Boys Track Coach, Brian Tangen, effective at the end of the 2022 track season

• Approved the Resignation of the Frazee FFA Advisor, Doug Schwarzrock, effective at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

• Approved Hiring a Junior High Softball Coach, Trey Heimsius, Step 4 @ 4.5%, \$2,293.

• Approved Hiring a Junior High Softball Coach, Alexis Tappe, Step 0 @ 4.5%, \$1,910 (Booster Funded).

• Approved Hiring a Kindergarten Teacher, Kari Dahlgren, from March 7, 2022 through the end of the 2021-2022 school year, BA Step 1 (prorated) \$13,382.75.

• Approved a Leave Request from a Non-Certified employee, identified as Non-Certified Employee #1 in a confidential communication to the board.

• Approved a Leave Request from a Certified employee, identified as Certified Employee #1 in a confidential communication to the board.

• Approved Lane Change Requests from Taylor Drewes BA10-BA30 and Megan Galligan MA20-MA30.

• Approved an Update to the Frazee-Vergas Employee Handbooks for the Prior Approval for Credits I Lane Change section.

• Approved the School District Enrollment Options Program Applications

HornetPride Donations

Motion by Matejka, seconded by Shipman to approve the following donation as listed:

A \$100 donation from Jackie Graham for the School Readiness 3's Alone class.

Consider Business Items - Action Required

• Approved the 2022-2023 School Calendar
Motion by Nunn, seconded by Matejka, motion carried.

Published April 19, 2022

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FORUM
Regular School Board Meeting, Monday, April 11, 2022, 6:00 p.m., High School Media Center
Adjournment
Trieglaff made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Matejka, hearing no objections, meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.
Clerk: Daneele Shipman



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AUCTION
Auction: Ted Guck Online only Auction! Opens, April 23rd at 10AM and Closes April 27th starting at 1pm. Preview: Friday, April 22nd 2pm - 5pm. Located at 50222 360th St. New York Mills, MN.

Tractor, Attachments, Lawn Items, Tools, Shop Trailers, Firearms, Home Items and More. Call 218-346-7325, Vince 218-640-7653, Austin 218-841-2469 or visit www.bachmannauctioneers.com. bachmannauctions@arvig.net. Lic:03-23

Auction: Lakes Area Spring timed Online Only Consignment Auction! Auction opens Thur., May 19 and closes Thur., May 26. Located at our facility between Frazee and Perham along Hwy 10 at 48208 Luce St. Perham, MN. Farm Machinery, Farm

items, Trailers, Tractors, Cattle items, Trucks, Vehicles, ATVs, Boats, Sporting, Skid Steers & Attachments, Heavy Equipment, Lawn & Garden, Landscaping, Shop items, and much more! Call now to Consign 218-346-7325, Vince 218-640-7653, Austin 218-841-2469 or visit our website for updates! www.bachmannauctioneers.com. Email items and pictures to bachmannauctions@arvig.net. Lic:03-23

Auction: Frazee/Evergreen area Live ON-SITE 6 Tract Real Estate Auction. Wednesday May

4th Starting at 10AM. Owners: Breneman, Schmucker, & Gingerich. All properties are located near Perham and Frazee in Becker County. Properties include Homesteads and farm sites with multiple out buildings, farm and pasture land, recreational and hunting land. Preview Tuesday, April 19th from 3-6PM. For more information contact Bachmann Auctioneers, LLC, Bachmann Carow Real Estate Inc. 218-346-7325, Vince 218-640-7653, Austin 218-841-2469 or visit www.bachmannauctioneers.com Lic03-23.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES/ WORK SESSION
March 22, 2022
FRAZEE-VERGAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS ISO #23
The Working Session of the School Board of Frazee-Vergas Independent School District #23 was called to order by Chair, Thaddeus Helmers, on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, 5:30 p.m. in the District Conference Room #331. Members in attendance were Thaddeus Helmers, Tammie Nunn, Daneele Shipman, Kimberly Antonsen, Nathan Matejka and Tyler Trieglaaf. Michael Frank was absent.
Administrators Present: Superintendent Terry Karger
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
Approval of Agenda
Motion by Antonsen to approve the agenda, seconded by Shipman, motion carried.
Discussion Items (No Action Required)
School Board Policy #209 - Code of Ethics was discussed with board members by Superintendent Karger and Board Chair Helmers shared his process.
2.1. Summer Projects Update
- A map was shared from ICS with the latest lay out of the proj-

ects, except for Indoor Air Quality and the Elementary Learning Center. Donations were also discussed.
2.2 Land Parcels
- Superintendent Karger updated the board on the parcels that fall within the district and vacated parcels where the ownership needs to be cleaned up. He shared handouts for the different parcels.
2.3 Budget /Current: ESSER & Deficit Spending, Declining Enrollment, Declining Compensatory Aid, etc...
- The revised budget will be brought to the April School Board meeting - topics on this item will be reflected in the revised budget.
2.4 Budget/Future: ESSER Expires, Enrollment?, Compensatory Aid?
-Discussion was held on what the budget may look like when ESSER expires along the other two items listed.
Meetings/Workshops
Regular School Board Meeting, Monday, April 11, 2022, 6:00 p.m., High School Media Center
Adjournment
Antonsen motioned to adjourn, seconded by Matejka, meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.
Clerk: Daneele Shipman

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION COUNTY OF OTTER TAIL
Notice of Public Hearing and Intent to Consider
Plans for Redistricting of County Commissioner Districts in Accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 375.01 to 375.025
Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 375.025, Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, the 26th day of April, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing in the Commissioners/Otter Tail Lake Rooms of the Otter Tail County Government Services Center, 500 Fir Ave W, in the City of Fergus Falls, for the purpose of considering preliminary plans for the redistricting of Otter Tail County

Commissioner Districts and for the purpose of redistricting Otter Tail County Commissioner Districts. A copy of the preliminary plans under consideration with all attachments and supporting documentation shall be available for public inspection in the office of the County Auditor-Treasurer during regular office hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and on the Otter Tail County website at <https://ottertailcountymn.us/redistricting>. Any citizen intending to submit a plan for consideration in the redistricting of Otter Tail County Commissioner Districts must do so no later than Friday, April 15th, 2022.
Wayne Stein, County Auditor
March 30, 2022
Published April 5, April 12, April 19, 2022

To Toad Lake Residents:
The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization for Toad Lake Township will meet on April 21, 2022 from 2:30 pm until adjourned, at the Toad Lake Town Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor. If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it

with your assessor, you may appear before the local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The Board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. General, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization. All appearances before the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization should be by appointment. Call the Becker County Assessor's Office at 218-846-7300.
Linda Levjoki - Clerk
Toad Lake Township
Published April 12, April 19, 2022

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF BECKER
SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No. 03-PR-22-645
NOTICE AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of: Wallace Keith Ronning, Decedent.
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:
It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 8th day of June, 2022, at 1:15 o'clock P.M., a hearing will be held in the above-named Court at Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the above-named Decedent, dated January 26, 2021, and for the appointment of Lori Ann Lewis, whose address is 23330 Mill Pond Drive, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota 56501, as the Personal Representative of the estate of the above-named Decedent in an unsupervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if

proper, and no objections are filed, the Personal Representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes, and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate.
Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said Personal Representative or to the Clerk of the Court within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.
Date: April 7, 2022
Referee Susan Sotheim
District Court
Renelle Fenno, Court Administrator
By: Sarah Schlauderer
Deputy Court Administrator
Carl E. Malmstrom
Thorwaldsen & Malmstrom
Attorneys for Petitioner
1105 Hwy 10 E., P.O. Box 1599
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502
Phone: (218) 847-5646
Atty. ID No: 143613
Email: carlem@arvig.net
The hearing will be held remotely via Zoom. If you wish to participate, contact Court Administrator for the remote hearing information prior to the hearing date.
Published April 19, April 26, 2022

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Frazee Family Foods owner Heath Peterson stands in the new Lucky Bubble laundromat scheduled to open in the next week or two, bringing back a public laundry facility to Frazee for the first time in a decade. Photo by Robert Williams

Frazee Family Foods preps to open new laundromat

Company installs Frazee's first electric car charger

By Robert Williams
Editor

For the first time in a decade, Frazee will have a laundromat and for the first time ever, an electric car charging station.

"People have been talking about it for a while and I've been thinking about this for a long time," said owner Heath Peterson. "I've always been the type, if someone else wants to do it, I don't want to stand in the way."

The laundry facility will be an added convenience for shoppers, who can complete loads of laundry while picking up groceries.

For the Petersons, including co-owner and wife Laura, adding the laundromat was critical to fulfill a need in Frazee.

"We want the town to grow and I just thought this was imperative for the town to grow," he said.

The Lucky Bubble is located on the back end of the building, in a portion formerly owned by Daggett Truck Line. The entrance is on the parking lot side.

A few tables and chairs have yet to arrive, but the laundromat is preparing to open in the coming week or so.

"I'm super excited about it," said Peterson. "I'm hoping by the end of next week we can open the doors and give it a shot, but we'll see."

Opening has been a work in progress from initial planning to acquiring equipment.

"I started talking with people and got serious about it back in August," Peterson said.

Supply chain issues have created multiple delays.

Washing machines were ordered in October and the last machine finally arrived in March.

Signage for three sides of the building are currently backordered.

Between the grocery store and Lucky Bubble entrances sits a new electric car

charging station, the first of its kind in Frazee.

Demand is low as electric vehicles are not prominent in the area so far.

"I do see that changing," said Peterson.

Frazee joins Detroit Lakes and Perham as towns on this stretch of highway 10 with charging stations.

The charger installation was done with a grant from Otter Tail Power Company. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approved Otter Tail Power Company's electric vehicle charging infrastructure pilot program in 2020. The program enabled Otter Tail Power to build direct current fast chargers throughout its service territory in rural Western Minnesota.



Utilizing a grant from Otter Tail Power Company, Frazee Family Foods is the host of the town's first electric car charger.

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