

FRAZEE-VERGAS FORUM

Tuesday, October 19, 2021



TIME FOR A LAUGH DURING HOMECOMING WEEK

Photo by Barbie Porter

Nathan Johannsen and the homecoming court (and honorary members) played musical chairs during the Friday afternoon pep fest. For more information about homecoming week, check out pages 6-7.



Contributed photos

Above: Vergas Mayor Julie Bruhn gave a speech during the grand unveiling of the Vergas Veterans Memorial. Below: The bird's eye view of the Vergas Veterans Memorial was captured by committee member Lyle Krieg's son.

New Vergas Veterans Memorial unveiled

New memorial is located near the ball fields

By Barbie Porter
Editor

Vergas has a new go-to destination with the newly dedicated Veterans Memorial, which is located by the ball fields along Frazee Avenue.

The Veterans Memorial Committee hosted a celebration to recognize the completion of the first phase of the

NEW MEMORIAL DEDICATED
continued on 2



Huddlestons buy Vergas Hardware

By Barbie Porter
Editor

The Vergas Hardware Store has new owners. The Huddleston family: Steve and his wife Marcia and their son Brad and his wife Mallory officially have purchased the store.

The family had a longtime business offering contracting services, so they know the ins-and-outs of business ownership, as well as what

NEW OWNERS AT VERGAS HARDWARE
continued on 2



Photo by Barbie Porter

Dawn Flemmer received a 1912 brass cash register in working order as an anniversary gift from her husband Mark.

Flemmer finds the perfect anniversary gift

Cash register from 1912 in working order was a rare find

By Barbie Porter
Editor

Mark Flemmer walked into his Frazee home after attending an estate sale and asked for his wife's assis-

tance unloading his latest purchase.

Dawn Flemmer assumed her husband had purchased a gun and wanted to show it off. What she found was

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NEW OWNERS AT VERGAS HARDWARE

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it is like to work at a family-owned business. The construction knowledge will be of a great assistance to their customers who have maintenance or home improvement projects on the to-do list.

Steve said while they have strong points, he looks forward to learning more in other areas, as the store has a wide variety to offer its customers.

“For example, when it comes to grass seed, or what crock pot to best cook a turkey in, I don’t know,” he said. “But, when I see a customer who does know, I will be asking questions so I can learn.”

Idea to purchase store came up years ago

Former hardware store owner Paul Pinke planted the seed of purchasing the store in the ears of the Huddlestons years ago. In passing, he asked if they were interested in buying the business, and while they weren’t ready then, it always remained in their thoughts.

As the hard labor of contracting and construction began taking its toll, the family agreed to step into a small business ownership roll on Main Street in Vergas.

“We’ve been working on this since April,” Marcia said.

The family plans to do some remodeling, such as removing the false ceiling and showcasing the bead board ceiling. Steve added he isn’t certain if the bead board is across the entire roof, or just in a section where the false ceiling was removed. He added that before they can tackle that project they will need to do some outside roof maintenance.

When it comes to the friendly, helpful service, that will remain a staple of the store, as will the vast products carried—coffee



Photos by Barbie Porter

Above: The new Vergas Hardware owners (from left) Steve Huddleston, his wife Marcia, his daughter-in-law Mallory and son Brad posed with former owner Paul Pinke and the well-known house resident, Stanley the cat. Stanley will remain living at the store. The new owners are looking to adopt a friend for Stanley. People can vote on the new cat’s name at the store or on their Facebook page. Below: Vergas Hardware offers 5,000-square-feet of shopping space on the main floor.

pots to tools; paint to bird seed and notebooks to fishing lures. They will continue to order items off internet sources for customers, should one not have access to internet, or not want to enter financial information into the web.

The family explained they are excited to further expand the opportunities to residents and tourists, potentially to include a larger line of fishing gear and sporting equipment.

After 42 years of owning Vergas Hardware, Pinke has offered to stay on staff to help guide the new owners and introduce them to long-time customers.

“We all admire Paul and have for years,” Steve said, noting he grew up on a resort his folks owned and has fond memories of Vergas that span years. “The hardware store has always had an old-fashioned feel, and we plan to keep that.”

Paul purchased the store

in Vergas after visiting the town for the first time. He wanted to raise his family in a small town and saw the business venture as one that would provide a good living.

Pinke became involved in many facets of the city, from the Lions to the fire and rescue and city council, a position he still maintains.

While he plans to go south for a few months in the winter, he said his goal is to enjoy time and volunteer.



NEW MEMORIAL DEDICATED

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project on Monday, Oct. 11.

“It was a positive day and it went off great,” said committee member Lyle Krieg.

Vergas Mayor Julie Bruhn spoke at the event. With thoughtful words she eloquently thanked those serving and who have served in the military.

“There are many ways veterans are honored,” she said. “I feel the most enduring commemorative is a constructed memorial. It has a majestic appearance, it inspires us, it serves as a reminder of the sacrifice for our freedom and it stands tall as an everlasting tribute.”

Bruhn said learning the names of the veterans and their stories is just as important.

In addition to hearing dignitaries speak, there was also a commemorative ground breaking with shovels that were colored red, white and blue. Veteran and Vergas resident Alwyn Martinson had the sole gold shovel, which had the handle painted in patriotic colors.

The concept for the Veterans Memorial came about when Rodger Palmer planted the seed in the mind of several community members.

“He asked us if we’d thought of building a veterans memorial park in Vergas,” Krieg recalled. “I said no. He said, ‘Maybe you should think about that.’”

After a few months of mulling the idea over, several men began discussing design concepts and potential locations for the memorial. As interest grew, the ball started rolling and the dream for the veterans memorial became attainable. A board formed, which includes: Krieg and his wife Pam, John Lotzer, Doug Safar, Henry

Ditterich and Dennis Breitzman.

“I believe we started really talking about this in January of 2020,” Krieg said. “We met weekly for a while and put a lot of thought into it.”

While the committee did a lot of leg work, Krieg emphasized it would all be for naught if not for the generosity of its many donors, as the memorial has been fully funded through them.

“We are very grateful for the donations, comments and positive support,” Krieg said. “It has been outstanding.”

One donation happened at the event. The Vergas Community Club presented the memorial committee with a \$2,000 check to help with their fundraising efforts.

The first phase of the project included installing two white concrete circles. Both circles have insets. One inset is of a smaller circle that is made of gray-colored concrete. Around the outer edge of the larger white concrete circle are flag poles representing the U.S., POW/MIA, six service flags and one Minnesota flag. There is also a spot for a flagpole for the Space Force, if someone wants that addition in the future.

The other white concrete circle has an inset of a gray-concrete star. The future plan is to have tablets, or granite pillars, with names of service members engraved.

“We have eight of them that we plan to go in,” Krieg said, noting in addition to the name of the service member will be the branch they served in.

Inside the space with a smaller gray circle, Krieg said a pillar will be placed that has a special saying for those who served.

The committee kept the construction work local when possible, hiring Vergas natives Torey Sonnenberg to do the excavation and Jeff Zitzow for their electrical needs.

Krieg noted electricity to the poles is a work in progress, as they intend on having the flags lit up at night. Currently, there is a temporary solar light in place.

“We have come a long way, but there is a long way to go yet,” Krieg said.

The second phase of the project will include granite memorials pillars, benches and other enhancements to the area. Any veteran (or family of) is invited to have their name memorialized, not just those living in or from Vergas. Krieg said that was discussed, and it was decided when one served, they did so for the country, not for their local community. Wanting to honor all who served, the committee decided to leave an open-ended offer to all veterans to have their name memorialized at the site.

Discussions have also touched on potential greenery to add to the site that would be low maintenance, but add to the curb appeal. Krieg added they are placing edging around the site to allow city workers to “mow and go” without the need to use a weed-wacker.

The committee is accepting donations to help move the project to the next phase. To learn how to donate, Krieg can be contacted at (701) 238-1575.

When the memorial is finished, Krieg said he envisions hosting events where students and adults can go to the site to learn about the different branches or listen to a story of a veteran.

FINDING A PERFECT GIFT

continued from 1

something she’d dreamed of for years.

“I thought it would be a great present for our 44th wedding anniversary,” Mark said.

The perfect present came in the form of a 1912 cash register. Dawn explained her first full-time job at a meat market used the antique register, and she always loved the look and intricate buttons and pull lever on the machine.

When the 1912 cash register hit the auction block, Flemmer began bidding. There was one other pony in the race, but after a little back and forth, Mark emerged as the winner.

The machine had seen better days. The copper exterior was tarnished like an old penny. Still, it caught the eye of some Amish who had showed up a tad late to the auction. They asked if Mark would be interested in selling it. Mark held steadfast on his perfect find, but did offer the Amish a chunk of change to help lift it into his truck.

“I’d estimate it weighs around 350 pounds,” he said.

After bringing it home and surprising Dawn with the gift, the two tackled refurbishing it as a team. That meant taking the machines apart to remove the tarnish and return the brass to its old glory.

“We used a brush to take the tarnish off and to get in the cracks and then used Brasso,” Mark said “I also learned if I took my Dremel motor tool and put buffing pads on it, I could save time because it would take the tarnish right off.”

During the six week refurbishing process, grandkids jumped into the fun and researched the antique. Their findings revealed the register was made almost to the day of Flemmer’s wedding anniversary date. Then, it was sold to in a store near the border of Iowa.



Photo by Barbie Porter

The 1912 cash register was completely refurbished and a perfect fitting copper top was found and installed.

The company that made the register is still in existence and nationally known for providing businesses with cash registers. They learned the 1912 model type faded after about 26 years, as the machines moved to electric powered.

“Plus, when World War I started, all the brass went to cannon production,” Mark said.

After nearly 150 hours of together time and lots of buffing, the register was refurbished, and then the buttons and dials were tested. “The buttons wouldn’t press,” Mark said. “I couldn’t figure it out. After about a half hour I realized the cash drawer was open. When I closed it, the buttons worked.”

The buttons are more extensive than just numbers for cash transactions. The

1912 machine also had letters on the far left side of the machine. Each employee would be designated a letter, so the shop keeper would know who completed each transaction. There were also anti-theft measures in the machine that would essentially notify the owner something was amiss, from monitoring activity to customer counts.

The only thing missing from the machine was the top piece. Mark came across one on eBay. It was copper and a perfect fit for the 1912 cash register. Embossed in the top piece was the Coca-Cola signature. It just so happened Dawn is a big fanatic of the soft drink.

Mark made the purchase and completed the truly unique gift for the love of his life.



Photos by Barbie Porter

The railroad crossing is now open along State Highway 87, which is also called Lake Street in Frazee is now open. Work was being done to add a pedestrian sidewalk and path last week.

Highway 87, railroad crossing are now open

State Highway 87 is officially open. The signs are up, striping is done and all traffic is welcome on the newly reconstructed highway that goes through the heart of Frazee.

Crews still have a list of items to complete, including paving at County Road 31, which was delayed due to the weather. Installation of some signs, mailboxes and fire numbers along the cor-

ridor are also on the to-do list.

The railroad crossing along State Highway 87 in Frazee also opened last week. The closure extended most of last week and was to install the pedestrian pads across the railroad track for the future trail and sidewalk that is in conjunction with the highway construction project scheduled in city limits for 2022.



The bridge over State highway 87 is officially open to the public. Those traveling on the newly constructed highway may also notice the widened shoulders.



Photo by Barbie Porter

The yard waste site in Vergas is available, free-of-charge, to city residents. Those who live outside of city limits to dump their grass clippings and branches.

Yard waste permit fee under review in Vergas

Illegal dumping sparks vote

By Barbie Porter
Editor

A permit fees for the yard waste collection site in Vergas are under review.

The council heard a proposed increase for the permit to \$75. The current yard waste permit fee is \$40. At the start of the permit year, 300 permits are made. The past few years the city has exceeded the initial allotments.

The reason for the proposed increase was the cost of maintaining the site has been running at a deficit for a few years. It was noted to break even the permit would need to be about \$77. The amount included

the \$10,000 attached to the account for a pay loader. Councilman Bruce Albright said if the city opted to keep its current pay loader, the \$10,000 would "go away."

Councilwoman Natalie Fischer asked if the cost increases, would the number of permits decrease and the deficit remain the same?

Councilman Logan Dahlgren suggested if permits decreased then there would be less city labor at the site, and therefore costs for maintaining it would decrease. He also stated he believed it was fiscally irresponsible to allow a segment of the city finances to knowingly run at a deficit.

Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane said he spends about two-to-three hours a week at the yard waste collection site, but that varies based on usage. There are times he may spend an hour a day.

Fischer expressed concerns over increasing the cost too much and alienating those who purchase the permit and spend more at downtown shops.

Those who live in city limits can use the yard waste site for free, and without a permit. Those outside of city limits are required to purchase a permit or face potential fines. The council asked if those illegally dumping, and potentially increasing the work load and cost of operating the site, were being fined.

The council was informed that several videos of illegal dumpers have been brought to the sheriff's office. No citations have been issued. However, the city could request the identity of the car owner to pursue legal action and fines. It was noted a name would be needed from the sheriff's department to identify the vehicle owner.

After discussion options and how the deficit of the yard waste budget stands to be about \$11,000, the council voted on the proposed increase.

Councilman Dahlgren voted in favor of the increase, while Fischer and Councilman Paul Pinke opposed.

When a tie happens, the city mayor is the tie-breaker. Mayor Julie Bruhn thought doubling the cost was too much and asked for further review from the yard waste committee.

The council did approve the Yard Waste Committee to have discretion as far as closing the site. It was stated there are times when abundant amounts of brush are brought into the site and it nears capacity. The council added a stipulation, if the site is closed the committee must state why.

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Photo by Barbie Porter

Skirting the Rules is a go-to place for tux rentals as well as alterations for wedding dresses and ball gowns.

Skirting the Rules walks away from mall fire unscathed

By Barbie Porter
Editor

Nikki Caulfield will never forget the day she saw fire trucks rushing passed her storefront, Skirting the Rules. She kept her focus on the task at hand, unaware the fire was in the mall where her store is located. While hemming a dress, the electricity was cut.

"I stepped outside and asked a firefighter what was going on," she recalled. "He told me the block had been evacuated and I should've left already."

Before locking up, Caulfield called Dan Josphson, who is a weatherization director at Mahuba-Otwa. He advised her to turn off all external air sources. The idea was to minimize the amount of air brought in from the outside, where the smoke was billowing in the air.

The fire on Sept. 10 at the Washington Square Mall in Detroit Lakes started in an apartment adjacent to the mall. The fire was deemed accidental and unintentional. For the rest of the day, Caulfield stood across the street with another business owner watching smoke rise and the firefighters battle the blaze. The rumor mill churned and Caulfield's phone rang, chimed and notified her of concerned clients—brides and bridesmaids mostly. She had not definitive answer if a bridal gown had been damaged by smoke or not.

"There was nothing I



Photo by Barbie Porter
Nikki Caulfield is the seamstress of the lakes area to fit gowns for weddings or dances. She also offers tux rental and designer clothing.

could do, but watch and not know," she said, adding after three hours the fire was contained to the point she felt safe "ask-demanding" to go into her shop to see if there was a reason for her stomach to be in knots.

After all, she'd learned the store next to her and behind her shop had suffered damage due to the fire. Upon entering the store, she realized the advice she received had worked; no smoke smell wafted in the air.

With the immense water that was used (more than 300,000 gallons were reported), she figured there would be water damage; but there were no issues in the basement.

Caulfield said her store was one of the few in the mall that did not have to close. She believes having only street side access, and not in the mall may have helped.

"I posted updates to let people know, and those with dresses in the store were tagged," she said. "But, there were still face prints on the glass in the morning. There were so many I needed to do some cleaning."

Caulfield began her Detroit Lakes based business about nine years ago. She's been in the 1,600-square-foot shop in the mall the past two years. Prior to that she was at a location about a quarter of the size of the current store and she opened her shop in a 169-square-foot room, which she outgrew after one year.

In addition to the dress alterations for gowns and evening wear, Skirting the Rules also provides tux rentals, fixes zippers and provides a unique clothing line she makes right at the store.

"I have items that are small to 3X," she said, adding when creating a piece she does so to make the piece flattering for each specific size.

Skirting the Rules is located at 820 Washington Avenue in Detroit Lakes and is open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesdays the store is open from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Photo by Barbie Porter

The Vergas Community Club added to a donation made by an area resident to add a swing set to the Long Lake Public beach area.

Swing set to be added to Long Lake Park amenities

By Barbie Porter
Editor

The Vergas City Council received a check from the Vergas Community Club for \$5,000 to purchase a swingset for the Long Lake Park area.

Sherri Hanson, the club president, said during Looney Days a resident of a neighboring lake was in town, and donated funds and presented the idea of adding a swing set.

Hanson turned the community club donation and area resident's donation to the city, and the council accepted it in a resolution.

The city owns the park, and Hanson said the community club felt the generosity of the city to allow for use of public spaces during its annual festival was a great reason to add to the donation.

Hanson said the swing set

options are being reviewed, but the initial thought is to offer two saddle swings, an adult swing and a bucket swing.

Hanson also updated the council on the idea of offering a skating rink at the lake this year. The idea was presented last year, and she said the plans are still in place to provide that recreational opportunity to its residents and visitors.

In other news

The council requested a quote for construction of a platform to aid in access of a landowner along the Long Lake Trail. The cost was \$1,800, which was about \$800 over budget. The council approved the additional expense and moving forward with creating the platform.

The housing abatement program done in con-

junction with the county was approved to continue through 2024.

The council approved increasing the fire budget. The city pays 11 percent of the annual cost, while the townships the department covers the remaining amount. The city cost will see about a \$350 increase annually.

An invoice for work done for a berm along the trail was requested. The berm was put in place to alleviate water run off onto personal property.

The council hired Kyle Theisen as the new liquor store manager. He brings extensive leadership training, as well as knowledge in inventory, management and more. The background checks conducted also yielded positive results, it was noted. Theisen will start on Monday, Oct. 25.

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Council addresses parking variance in Vergas

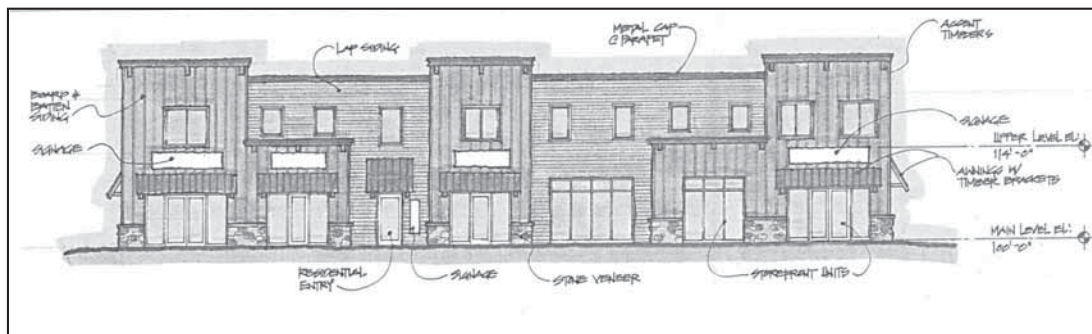
By Barbie Porter
Editor

Concrete work for the new downtown Vergas building may begin as soon as next week.

During the monthly Vergas City Council meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 12, owners Jeff and Wendy Zitzow and Tyler and Heather Schmid saw their variance request approved.

The proposed building has commercial on the bottom level, as well as one handicapped accessible apartment and several apartments on the second level. The city ordinance has a specific number of parking spots required for residential and commercial buildings. It was stated the building would need about 25 parking spots total to be in compliance with the city ordinance. The ordinance calls for two parking spots for each dwelling, and for commercial the number of spots is based on the size of the store.

The parking available totaled 11, including the side street, making it short by six for the apartments and short 12 for the commercial.



Contributed photo
Details for parking for the commercial spaces and apartments are being worked out with a variance between the developers and Vergas City Council.

Schmid said additional parking has been considered across the street on the Franklin Fence property. A variance was requested and the council hosted a public hearing. No opposition was voiced at the meeting and no concerns from the community were submitted to the city. The council approved the variance.

The council was also asked to approve a variance for having an apartment on the ground level, as that goes against ordinance for downtown. The council approved, noting the entrance is towards the alley, not

Main Street.

Discussion was also had about how the door to the proposed grocery store will be located. It opens toward the alley near the city office. The building is proposed to be built to the property line, meaning the door would open onto city property. The council was informed the door went to the east side, instead of on Main Street because of the street incline. Having the entrance on the side of the building made handicapped accessibility attainable.

It was also noted sidewalk is planned to be installed

around the building, and some of that sidewalk would be on city property.

An easement for the sidewalk and door access was suggested and a verbal request made to the council. The council noted the work for developing an easement would be at the cost of the developers. Zitzow agreed, noting it is a benefit to them. Creating an easement for the 105 Main Street project for further review was approved by the council.

The council also approved to put its West Lake Street property up for public auction. The city purchased the

property in Sept. 2016 for about \$33,300. The property has been sought after by Josh Hanson, who wants to offer a residential development on abutting land. He expressed interest in purchasing the property from the city to add to the development.

For preparation of the new development, the council is viewing where Glenn Street extends to, and considering access from the street to the proposed development.

The engineer informed the council if it extended Glenn Street one of two

things would need to happen. Either they could have a dedicated public right of way where city owns the property, or it would need to seek an access easement. With the latter, the underlying property owner(s) would maintain ownership but allow public access to go across their land.

The council also heard the city owns right-of-way on West Lake Street. Potential road improvements could also be done to that road, as it also leads to the potential new development.

When asked about bringing city services to the newly proposed development, it was noted costs are being looked at. It is the city's right to decline providing those services if the costs are high.

The first step to making the development official would be approval of a plat provided to the planning commission and council.

The council also authorized its attorney and engineer to begin work on East Lake Street to identify the street, much like the work done on Glenn Street which was not located where the plat had it.

Frazee Lions chip in for Summer rec program costs

Board to fill open seat

By Barbie Porter
Editor

The Frazee Lions are well known in the community for stepping up to provide man power for goodwill projects, as well as being quick to join in any community-minded activity. Sometimes, they let their money do the good deeds.

During its monthly meeting on Monday, Oct. 11 the Frazee-Vergas School Board thanked the Frazee Lions for making a \$1,000 donation for the 2021 summer recreation program. It was noted the program has been running in the red and the donation alleviated some of those immediate concerns.

Now that former board member Matt Bauer has vacated his position the board was tasked with how it will fill the open seat.

Because Bauer's term had about a year left, the options would be holding a special election or appointing someone. It was noted appointing someone would

save the district money, as special elections are costly.

Potential candidates for the seat were narrowed down to former board members, as that would afford a smooth transition without the need for training.

Frazee-Vergas School District Superintendent Terry Karger said, in the past, he has brought a recommendation to the board after contacting potential candidates to see if there would be interest.

In other news

- Karger said the district has met with legal advisors to clean up titles on parcel ownership between the city and school.

- Designs for the school improvements are going out for bid. The projects on the bid document would remove the current football complex and build a new one near the same place. Additional parking lots would be installed at both schools as well.

- Karger noted the district's food service is seeing a distribution shortage in the supply chain. He added the district is working with Lakes Service Co-op to find

needed items. The state has provided waivers if the school cannot meet sodium or other mandated requirements due to the shortages.

"Feeding children is what is important here," Karger said.

- Staff members and coaches were hired by the board, including: Amber Estenson, Dave Conzemius, Eric Schaefer, Eva Garcia and Katherine King.

- Estenson was hired for a .5 music teacher. She was the sole applicant for the position and will receive an annual pay of \$20,702.

- Garcia was hired as a special education paraprofessional. She was one of

two applicants, one didn't show for interview. She will be paid a rate of \$14.65 per hour.

- King was hired as the positive community norms media consultant, which is a position afforded to the district through grant funding. She will receive a monthly pay of \$1,250 per month starting in October and ending in June.

- Conzemius was hired as junior high girls basketball coach. He was the sole applicant and will be paid \$2,485.

- Shaefer was hired as the robotics advisor. He was the sole applicant and will be paid \$2,485.

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Photo by Barbie Porter
The Frazee Lions helped the school district by donating to the summer rec fund.

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Students of the Frazee High School stood and clapped along for the high school song while the drummers kept the beat.

Photos by Barbie Porter



Frazee Hornets celebrate Homecoming



Photos by Barbie Porter
Frazee High School staff joined in the fun of the pep fest. English teacher Judy Brekken (left) earned the top prize for the best dressed teacher of the week, as each day of the week had a special theme staff and students were invited to dress up as. Staff also provided a skit all about the importance of cowbell in rock music history.



Photos by Barbie Porter
Homecoming court members and honorary fill-ins participated in several fun games, including a competition where partners had to race to the middle of the gym and act out whatever random order was given. Payton Wothe and her partner Dan Graham pretend to paddle a canoe. The two won the competition. Students had dress up contest winners brought front and center in front of the student body to receive a sweet treat for a prize. Dan Graham also performed a rap song for the student body. Below the student body and staff listen to a song sung by a student.

Elementary cross country competes



Contributed photo
The Frazee Elementary school's cross country team had a one-mile competition against area schools at the varsity and junior varsity meet in Frazee held on Sept. 30 and in Perham on Oct. 7. The team coach applauded the runners, who "worked hard, had fun and finished well." Pictured are (front) Madilyn Branden, Ella Mae Behrmann, Hailey Hunt, Olivia Stockstrom, Brooklynn Riewer, (back) Marnie Larsen, Grace Hamm, Madilyn Perrine, Harley Erickson, Ruby Eckert, Aynslee Johannsen, JH Assistant Emerson Wake, Annabelle Davis, Summer Johannsen and not pictured: Tristan Maijaka.

Longtime assistant takes lead roll for FHS robotics

By Barbie Porter
Editor

The Frazee High School's robotics team has a new, yet longtime member at the helm this year. Eric Schaefer is taking the helm of the popular after-school activity, as the program's founder, Andy Paulson, resigned.

The school board approved Schaefer as the robotics advisor at its monthly meeting on Monday, Oct. 11. Information provided to the board stated Schaefer will be in charge of setting up and tearing down competition areas, working with the activity director for scheduling, being the program's lead and helping students learn about robotics.

During his interview for the position, the notes stated Schaefer was a top candidate as he brought with him a passion for the program and "loves teaching and learning."

In fact, the past several years Schaefer has been soaking up all the knowledge he could from the former advisor.

"I got involved with robotics when my daughter, who graduated last year, said she was interested in joining," he recalled. "She



Photo by Barbie Porter
Eric Schaefer is the new advisor for the Frazee Robotics program.

was really shy back then."

To provide moral support that only a parent can, he and his wife Jessica became one of the several coveted and much appreciated parent volunteers. Traditionally, the robotics program has more than 30 students involved, so additional leadership is imperative for the program to be productive and successful.

In addition to bringing a zeal to the program, Schaefer also had skills in the robotics field.

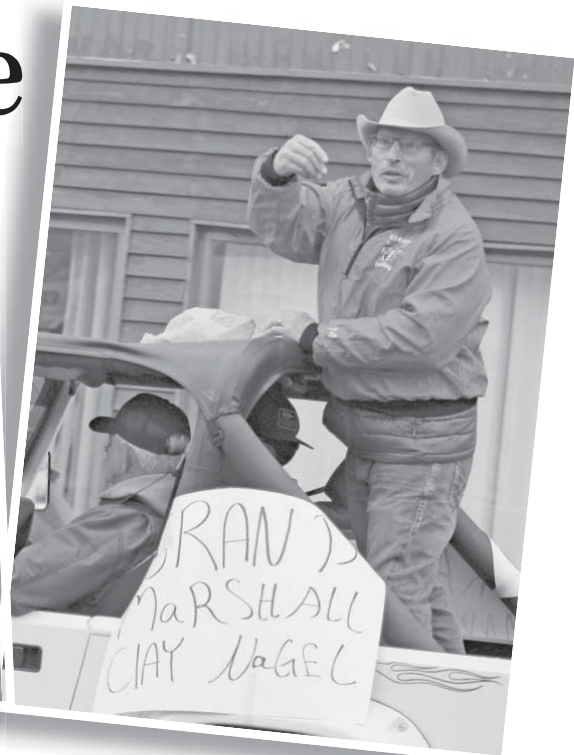
"It was a natural fit for me," he said, adding when he joined there were already two other Eric's in the program. "I don't remember who it was, but one of the students decided

they were going to call me uncle Rick instead. Now, when we're at robotics, even my own kids call me uncle Rick."

The robotics program held its first meeting of the season last week. That doesn't mean the period for joining the team has concluded. The new robot build starts in January and the season concludes with state competitions in May. For any students in grades 7-12, anytime before January would be the prime time to join the activity. Schaefer added athletes can also participate, as opportunities outside of practice scheduling are available. To join, students should stop in the high school office for more information or chat with activities director Nick Courneya.

Schaefer said those who do join the activity can expect to learn about robots, programming or the many other avenues, such as marketing, fundraising, building a presentation of work that has been done and more. For those considering a career as an electrician, engineer, programmer or marketer, plumber, media or graphic artist would benefit from the activity.

Hornets on parade



Photos by Barbie Porter

The Homecoming Parade had fall sports as the stars of the show. The football team got pepped up before tonight's game, while Clay Nagel threw out candy as the grand marshal. Little kids enjoyed watching the Hornets roll by.



Opinion

Frazee-Vergas Forum
frazeeforum.com

How to talk to women

"I know you don't ignore me on purpose," said a woman to me. It was some time ago, and I've mostly repressed this conversation due to deep psychological failings. (These are failings common to men; failings completely invisible to women.)

Saying something like me ignoring her is like throwing a soft ball to a major league hitter. Please don't feed me home run lines like that one, because I might hurt myself swinging for the left field fence.

"Well, then, why do I ignore you?"

Of course, since dying by tongue lashing isn't high on the list of ways I want to die, I didn't answer that way. Instead, I went to my well of intellectual plenty, sorted through many semi-intellectual answers that I might use, got a blank look on my face, and came back to earth deciding silence is the only option.

Sometimes I don't make it back from answer land in time. A lot of men are like that, I suspect. In fact, there are very few males who don't realize in this enlightened age that a woman making a statement like the one above in fact wants "to talk," and is liable, if the male doesn't immediately go change the oil in the car or lubricate a sticking door, to follow this statement up with "we never talk anymore."

"No, of course we don't. You're so right about that. I've got this idea: Let's talk about the car, which seems to be making a noise that isn't good."

But no male would say that. I just made it up in my mind, while I was in there searching around for something a woman would maybe want to talk about. Nope. It's pretty much a hollow cavern in there. I have yet to find something "to talk about." Nothing. Nada. No reply.

Men don't ignore women. That's not in fact why we don't talk to them. Mostly, we don't talk to them because most of the things that happen in our lives aren't really all that important. To us men, that is.

For example, I heard about this conversation. Husband comes home. Wife, wanting to be part of this weird two-some that nature and society has designed for the procreation of the species, asks: "How'd your day go?"

"Oh, I went and saw Willie. We went fishing." Intuitively sensing that this isn't enough to satisfy her, he goes deep into his reserves of experience and adds: "Willie didn't catch anything."

Later on, a telephone from Willie's girlfriend produces the great news (to



The Prairie Spy
Alan "Lindy" Linda

her) that she and Willie are getting married, and Wife turns to her husband with a great amount of disbelief: "And you didn't think that was important?!"

Well, no, obviously he didn't think it was important. Attempting to train a male in what is and what isn't important is closely akin to beating a dead horse to get him to go. He didn't catch any fish, a fact that reflects directly on his masculine abilities in several ways, one of which is that, as he sees it, he failed to catch any fish. No man talks about failure. Even though we're pretty dumb about this stuff, and even though we cannot quite come up with the stuff women want to hear about, we are not going to talk about the fish we didn't catch. We may not know what they do want to hear about, and may never know, but we know we don't do failure-speak. For lack of anything else, silence.

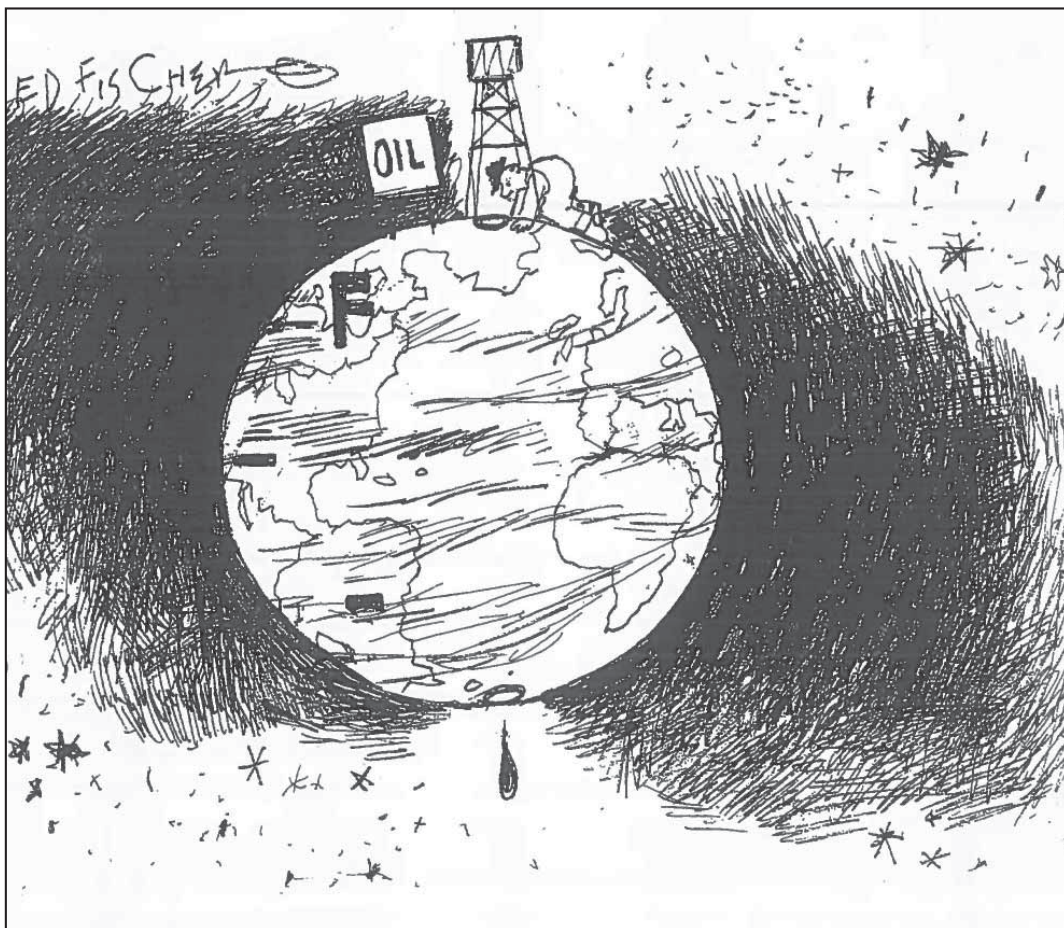
In fact, very few men know exactly what it is that women want to hear about, and most women in fact cannot understand why men find it so difficult to figure this stuff out. It isn't like they don't give us enough opportunities; it's just that we mostly miss them when they come.

One of the many books which I've read and studied claim that mostly the problem is that men want to range free and women want to be connected. She wants him to call home and let her know that he's going to be late. He's ranging. Rangers don't call.

To the woman, being called feels like the involvement in the relationship that she's yearning for. According to the books, anyway. Note: When I say stuff like that about books and women, I'm kind of like a parrot mouthing phonetic sounds.

To the man, it feels like he's not his own boss. To the other men, should they discover that he called home, it would seem to him that it would seem to them that he had to call home, which translates to a likelihood that he'll be kicked out of The Ranger's Club.

So, men, there you have it. Work on this, will you? Let me know how it comes out. And don't call home.



Nothing changes, but there is always change

By Delta Daggett
Guest Columnist

I was born in late April, 1940, at the Otto Hospital in Frazee. The building and I are still standing but one of us is beginning to weaken.

Growing up in the 40's and 50's was great in Frazee and the surrounding area for kids. I have seen many changes in Frazee—I remember the restaurants as Berends, The Diner, Skyview Café, Suzie Dunn's, Ralph's Ice Cream Parlor and the Blue Tea Room in the corner of the Hotel. The Blue Tea room was fine dining with, as I recall, white tablecloths. Ladies wore dresses, hats and probably gloves. They came from a wide area to eat here. Plus, there were many good late night meals with beer or pop within the four concrete block walls of Carroll Julius' City Limits Club.

Grocery stores were Lorsung's Hartz, Barney Aldrich Grocery, Bill and Dells and Bob Hodgen Red Owl. Gas stations included Charlie Pierce's Champlin, Sander's Deep Rock, Nelson's City Service, Jake's Skelley, Lausch Mobile, Carlson Texaco, Rudy Rethwisch Shell and Anderson's Standard.

There were two barber shops, a bakery, clothing and shoe store, Marie Pitz' variety store, a jewelry store, two hardware and appliance stores, the Lynn movie theater (with the best movies on Sunday through Tuesday and a lesser grade the rest of the week, such as a Western or Ma and Pa Kettle. Other stores included Lyford's plumbing and tin shop, beauty shops, a dry cleaner, antique store, funeral home and furniture store, Wilcox lumber yard, Hall's Harness and shoe repair and Dewey Hitchen's shoe repair.

Dewey was always good for a visit. I must have been a teenager when I took in

a pair of black shoes for repair. Dewey told me that I must be a higher-upper now as I was wearing black shoes. This was his criteria for a "higher-upper."

Next to Hall's and Don Harmer's Barber Shop was Matty Brenk's card room, complete with spittoons and a pool table. He sold beer, pop, snacks, candy and tobacco products. Behind was a two-lane bowling alley where we could earn 10 cents a game for setting pins.

Rosenbaum's clothing store was on the corner where the new bank is now located. I do not remember them being open so it must have closed in the 1930's or early 1940's.

The school moved the music room from the Methodist Church basement to this location in the middle 1950's until the new school building was built in 1958 and 1959. Next to Rosenblums was the Jess Garage where people parked their cars if they did not have a garage. This later became Northern Turkey Hatchery.

The VFW building was built about 1950 and there were four active churches, a blacksmith and Kachels Welding. Plus, there were car repair shops, three car dealers, an implement dealer, insurance and realtors, the bank and a creamery that made great butter to be shipped to a Pennsylvania food store chain. The creamery also had a meat market, cold storage and one of the two feed mills in town. Ketter's Meat Market has been here for close to 100 years. The revenue from the liquor store next to the Post Office supported the village budget. These businesses all brought people to town and town prospered.

I remember when the Frazee Fire Department acquired about a 1946 Ford

Pumper to add to the 1938 Ford they still own. This doubled the chance of them running into something on the way to a fire.

The 1900 population of Frazee was 1,000 and grew to about 1,650 in 1910 because of the sawmill. By 1920, it had dropped to 1,300 after the mill closed, to 1,050 in 1930 where the count varied little into the 1970s with a slight bump up in 1940. (<https://population.us/mn/frazee/>)

My grandparents' generation saw Frazee transform from a rough lumberjack town with many saloons and an active red light district to a merchant town serving area residents. The appropriately named Hanging Tree Saloon was located where the drug store is now located.

My parents' generation saw Frazee grow from board sidewalks and dirt streets to cement sidewalks and blacktop streets and from two livery stables to three car dealers. So change is always occurring. No matter how long or when you have lived in the Frazee area, you have seen change.

I sense a new enthusiasm in town to add to the economy of Main Street. The more businesses there are, the more traffic comes to town to buy something. I have read that each dollar spent in town, cycles through the local economy seven times. We locals need to give them our support now.

There is much talk about the walking and biking trails that will soon be passing through the Frazee area. Many volunteers have spent hours to help make this happen. There is another group in the formative stage to push for the Wannigan Park project. Two successful grant writers have recently volunteered for the board.

This would be a regional park with camping spots and great local field trip for area schools. Visitors could learn about Frazee's early settlers, lumbering and area Indian history with interpretive centers. Projects like these take years to accomplish but are worthy of our support.

I am reminded of the Hamden Slough north of Audubon when it began a few decades ago. The federal government purchased farmland from farmers that had been drained during dry years and turned into farmland. Returning the land to wetlands was not very popular with Audubon area farmers and town folk. The Fish and Wildlife personnel that were brought in to restore the wetlands with dams, joked about having to drive fast through Audubon so they could not be shot. Now, years later, this area is one of the top birding areas in the U.S. Watching and studying birds is not my cup of tea, but it brings people from all over the U.S. into our area. An example of how projects like this take years to see the positive results.

I have been encouraged by a few to write some about Frazee and our history. I can't say I have lived here all my life because my life is not over yet, but no matter where I am, Frazee is always my home.

If this story is acceptable to the Forum Publisher and the readers, I will probably submit more thoughts from time to time. Some on history, life, travels, experiences and maybe a political thought. I have been told many stories and memories and the Forum might have a slow news week and need to fill some space. Comments and feedback to the paper or myself would be greatly appreciated. We all grow from comments, both positive and negative.

Have your opinion heard

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

Deadlines for all Letter's to the Editor is Friday at 12 p.m.

Email letters to news1@loretel.net or drop them off at the Frazee-Vergas

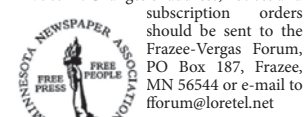
Forum office at 112 West Main Ave. in Frazee.

FRAZEE-VERGAS FORUM

Official newspaper for the cities of Frazee & Vergas and the Frazee-Vergas School District

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Frazee-Vergas Forum, PO Box 187, Frazee, MN 56544. Changes of address, notices and subscription orders should be sent to the Frazee-Vergas Forum, PO Box 187, Frazee, MN 56544 or e-mail to forum@loretel.net



Frazee-Vergas Forum (USPS 573-840) is published weekly at 112 West Main Ave., Frazee, MN 56544 by Henning Publications, LLC. Periodic postage paid at Frazee, MN.

Annual Subscriptions: Becker and Otter Tail County—\$35 • Elsewhere in the USA—\$45

Staff Members: Chad and Dani Koenen, Publishers • Barbie Porter, Editor

• Carly Johnson, Graphic Arts • Chris Hahn, Graphic Arts

Office Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, Thursday • 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday

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Church

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Darrell Beck, 66

Darrell Beck, 66, of Fergus Falls, died Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at Broen Home, Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

Darrell Donald Beck was born on May 15, 1955 in Spokane, Washington, the son of Donald and Marlene (Hintsala) Beck. He attended a country school by Frazee and graduated from Frazee High School in 1973.

Darrell and Terry met in April of 1979. Darrell was Terry's high school senior prom date and they married in Detroit Lakes on September 27, 1980. Sons, Jeremy, born in 1981 and Nicholas, born in 1985, brought Darrell great joy! He loved being a dad and when they married, Darrell loved his daughter-in-loves as if they were his own. Later, 5 grandchildren joined the family.

Darrell farmed during the early years, raising beef cattle, sheep, and small grains. Darrell and Terry graduated from Wadena Technical Institute in 1987 as Telecommunication Electronic Technicians. They left the farm and moved to Grand Forks and then East Grand Forks. In 1988, Darrell was hired as the first cell tech in the region. He built this region's system and had the very first cell number! Darrell literally was the "Can you hear me now?" guy! They relocated to Fergus Falls in 1992, and then moved over 20 times since 2005, living on both coasts of Florida, and Tennessee, before moving back to Minnesota in 2014. When God told them, "Always be ready to go," He meant it. Darrell accepted a personal relationship with Jesus as his Savior and was water baptized in 1994. He was filled with the Holy Spirit and loved God. Darrell completed the Institute of Ministry course in 2009. Darrell's walk with God wasn't perfect, but every challenge along the way brought him back stronger in his faith, a faith that trusted God in all things. Darrell was diagnosed with Huntington's Disease in 2014. In spite of



the future he knew was ahead, Darrell would often say, "It's all good, God's got it, right?" He understood that joy was a choice despite your circumstances and his laughter could be heard far off as he lived out joy in his days. Darrell's faith journey is an important part of his legacy as it has challenged all of us who walked beside him to grow.

Darrell enjoyed traveling as well as all forms of hunting and fishing. The family woods at Wolf Lake were his favorite place to be. Darrell treasured each of his family members and loved them deeply!

Darrell is survived by his wife, Terry; two sons and their families, Jeremy (Kate) Beck, Sawyer, Brayden, and Calvin of Elbow Lake and Nic (Nikki) Beck, Kelsi, and Kile of Fergus Falls; and by numerous relatives and friends. Darrell was preceded in death by his parents, Donald and Marlene Beck; a grandbaby, Baby Beck (parents Jeremy and Kate); and Terry's parents, Duane and Odella Tietz, and Terry's sisters, Bonnie Galbrecht and Mary Paulson, who always included Darrell as one of the family.

Memorial service: 4PM, Friday, October 22 at Life Church, Fergus Falls

Visitation: 4-7 PM Thursday, October 21 at Glende-Nilson Funeral Home and one hour prior to the service at the church
Clergy: Roger Sodsod officiating, Nicholas Preston - worship

Funeral Home: Glende-Nilson Funeral Home of Fergus Falls

Condolences: www.GlendeNilson.com

William Hager, 74

William D. "Bill" Hager, 74, Frazee, MN & Boca Raton, FL, died Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at Sanford Health in Fargo, ND. A memorial service will be 11:00 am, Monday, October 18 at David-Donohewer Funeral Home in Detroit Lakes, MN.

Visitation will be 1 hour prior to the service on Monday.

Born in Pipestone, MN, Bill was the son of WWII Veteran Robert and Harriet (Call) Hager. As a child, he lived in Ashton, IA, where he enjoyed to playing baseball. Bill was an outstanding public speaker and graduated from Sheldon (IA) High School in 1965. In addition to earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in mathematics from the University of Northern Iowa in 1969, Bill obtained a Masters Degree in Educational Psychology from the University of Hawaii in 1972 and a Juris Doctor from the University of Illinois in 1974.

Bill enjoyed his active professional work as President of Insurance Metrics Corporation, providing expert insurance witness and reinsurance arbitration services and practicing law. He was licensed as an attorney in IA, IL and FL. Bill also taught mathematics at Kalakaua Intermediate School in Honolulu, HI 1970-1972.

Among many other public service positions, Bill worked as an Iowa Assistant Attorney General 1975 - 1976; First Deputy Commissioner for the Iowa Insurance Department 1976 - 1978; Iowa Insurance Commissioner 1986 - 1990; he was a member of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners 1986 - 1990; served the Boca Raton City Council 2002 - 2009; Boca Raton Deputy Mayor 2004 - 2005; and as an elected member of the Florida House of Representatives 2010 - 2018.

Bill was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI) 1990 - 1998 and served as voluntary Board Member of the Boca Raton Regional Hos-



pital 1995-2004. Family and friends were important to Bill and anyone fortunate enough to spend time with him counted themselves lucky for having had good laughs with his witty, smart humor and gatherings with visiting friends and family members.

Bill was united in marriage to Martha Araujo Hager, Sept. 28, 2013 at Georgetown Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC. He cherished his faith with the United Methodist Church in Vergas, MN and Advent Lutheran Church in Boca Raton, FL; he loved college sports and his time at the lake.

Survivors include his wife, Martha; his daughters, Mackenzie (Andy Mounter) Hager and Madison (Gabe) Weinstein; siblings, James (Diana) Hager, Jeff Hager (Pat Hardie), Barbara Hager (Greg Garman).

The family is requesting that those who attend the memorial service wear masks.

In lieu of card or gifts family asks to donate to United Methodist Church in Vergas or their favorite charity. Additionally, memorial gifts may be made in memory of Mr. William Dean Hager and in honor of Dr. Neal Patel to Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, FL for Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis and Hypersensitive Pneumonitis research. Please visit <https://philanthropy.mayoclinic.org/donatemc>

Arrangements have been entrusted to the David-Donohewer Funeral Home.

Hope Schade, 88

Hope Joan Schade, 88, of Fergus Falls, died on Saturday, October 9, 2021, at Lake Region Healthcare in Fergus Falls.

Hope was born to Rev. John Arden and Gertrude Alvina (Runge) Wild on September 3, 1933, in Hot Springs, South Dakota. She was baptized on October 8, 1933 and confirmed in Hot Springs, SD. Hope graduated school in Delmont, SD where she was active in choir, softball, and band. She went on to further her education in Yankton, SD where she received her bachelor's degree in Physical Education and History.

On June 9, 1957, she married Robert Andrew Schade, with her father Rev. John Wild officiating over the holy matrimony. They lived in Amboy, MN where Hope taught in the local school while Robert finished his education. They moved to Frazee, MN in 1959 where she served the Frazee School District as a substitute teacher. While in Frazee, they had two daughters, Barb and Julie.

The couple retired and moved to Fergus Falls in 1993. In her retirement, Hope regularly volunteered for Meals on Wheels and the Food Shelf.

Hope was a lifelong active member in church where she served in the choir and ladies aid. She enjoyed gardening, reading, puzzles, watching her grandchildren grow and attending their many activities.

Hope is survived by her



husband, Robert Schade of Fergus Falls; two daughters, Barb (Ralph) Miller of Mazeppa, MN and Julie (Mike) Ellingson of Fargo, ND; a brother, James Wild of Sioux Falls, SD; four grandchildren, Jaci (Trent), Becky, Nikki, and Debbie (Sasha); one great grandchild, Dean; along with numerous nieces, nephews, and a host of friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Gertrude Wild, and brothers, Arden and Jerry Wild.

The family is requesting all who come to the service to wear masks for public safety.

Funeral Service: 10:30 a.m., Thursday, October 14, 2021 at Faith Lutheran Church in Fergus Falls, with a visitation at the church one hour prior to the service.

Clergy: Pastor Jay Weideman

Interment: Trinity-Faith Cemetery, Fergus Falls, MN

Funeral arrangements for Hope Schade are with the Glende-Nilson Funeral Home of Fergus Falls.

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
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

Immanuel Lutheran
43526 School House Rd, Osage
Pastor Bill Meyer
218-847-8216
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday school
10 a.m. Worship, Masks required
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, 5:30 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: 10:30 a.m. Worship

St. Paul's Lutheran, Loon Lake
31385 Co Hwy 4, Vergas
Pastor Del Stohs
218-342-2379
Sunday: 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

St. John's Lutheran Height of Land
37425 Hwy 56, Frazee
Pastor Bill Knaack
218-847-5064, Cell 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: 10:30 a.m. Worship in person, 10:45 a.m. live-streamed worship

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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'No Time to Die' is Craig's encore for James Bond

Last spring, the James Bond movie "No Time to Die" became the first movie to be pushed back because of the pandemic. The subsequent 18-month delay made me crave the film even more, and I confess my expectations might have gotten a little too high. In fact, it's probably for the best that the film was delayed, because if it had opened in April of 2020, it would have been less than a year removed from "Avengers: Endgame," which it is conspicuously trying to emulate.

Director Cary Joji Fukunaga has crafted less of a Bond movie and more of an MCU movie with James Bond in place of Tony Stark.

Bond (Daniel Craig) makes an effort to retire from spy work and settle into married life with wife Madeleine Swann (Lea Seydoux), but their honeymoon gets interrupted by the remnants of the evil SPECTRE organization. He accuses her of setting up the attack, which hurts her emotionally, and ultimately puts her on a train out of the country with the intention of never seeing her again.

We cut to five years later (reminiscent of "Endgame") when Bond's CIA friend Felix Leiter (Jeffrey Wright), accompanied by State Department liaison Logan Ash (Billy Magnussen), lures him out of retirement to try to stop SPECTRE. He's joined by rookie agent Paloma (Ana de Armas) and in many ways the mission is more successful than expected, but in others it's a total disaster that puts the fate of the world at risk.

Bond has to go back to work for MI-6, meaning that he gets to meet up with old friends M (Ralph Fiennes), Q (Ben Whishaw), and Money Penny (Naomie Harris), as well as Nomi (Lashana Lynch), a younger agent who has been assigned Bond's old 007 number.

He interrogates arch nemesis and former SPECTRE head Blofeld (Christopher Waltz), who indirectly directs him back to Madeleine, who is the key to Safin (Rami Malek), the mastermind of a DNA-based plot to kill millions.

Maybe the biggest disappointment of the film is Malek's villain. He's a frightening force in an early flashback scene, but once he's unmasked (literally), he's just another



Garver's Movie Review
Bob Garver

stock villain who insists that humanity can only be saved if he kills a great deal of it. He also likes to tend to his garden, in case the parallels to Thanos weren't blatant enough. He controls a trump card that gives him the upper hand on Bond, and he foolishly throws it away after an annoyance.

The good news is that the scene I was most anticipating certainly delivers. The "Knives Out" reunion between Craig and de Armas is filled with fun chemistry and action. I can't see de Armas in another movie soon enough, and if casting directors weren't breaking down her door before, they will be after her action scenes in this movie.

The problem is that what the scene delivers in quality, it lacks in quantity. This movie is 163 minutes long and de Armas isn't in it for more than 10. But those less-than-10 minutes are the highlight of the film.

Back in 2012 I wrote that the best thing about "Skyfall" was James Bond's vulnerability. It was nice to see a more human side of the character. But with "No Time to Die," I feel like we're getting too much vulnerability, like he's so emotional throughout the movie (and granted, he has a lot to be emotional about) that he's no longer a recognizable version of the character. This will be Craig's last turn as James Bond, and it feels right. Five movies is a satisfying number, and the series can only play the "pulled back into action after he tries to retire" card so many times before the trope is overdone. Maybe this last entry would have been disappointing if it had opened on time, maybe it falls short of expectations because of the 18-month wait, all I know is that I'm underwhelmed.

Grade: C
"No Time to Die" is rated PG-13 for sequences of violence and action, some disturbing images, brief strong language and some suggestive material. Its running time is 163 minutes.

MCV magazine to host Fish Art Contest

The Minnesota Conservation Volunteer magazine, in partnership with Wildlife Forever, will host the 2022 Minnesota Fish Art Contest. Open to students in kindergarten through 12th grade, this free art competition aims to introduce Minnesota youth to the wonders of fish, the joy of fishing, and the importance of aquatic conservation.

"The magazine is honored to host the 2022 Minnesota Fish Art Contest," said MCV Editor-in-Chief Chris Clayton. "Like Wildlife Forever, the magazine has deep roots in youth conservation education. Hosting the Fish Art Contest is a great opportunity to build on that legacy."

To compete in the contest, students must submit an entry form, an original

illustration of a fish of their choice, and a one-page informational essay (required for grades 4-12). The submission deadline is March 31, 2022. For contest details and entry forms, visit the 2022 Fish Art Contest website (link is external).

Following the submission deadline, MCV will work with a panel of judges to select the Minnesota winners from multiple grade categories. State winners will advance to a national competition.

Wildlife Forever (link is external) is a nonprofit conservation charity located in White Bear Lake, Minn. Its mission is to conserve America's wildlife heritage through conservation education, preservation of habitat, and management of fish and wildlife.

Mystery photo



Above: This week's Mystery Photo is of a group of ladies churning butter at the Vergas State Bank. Can you identify them? Do you have any fun or enjoyable stories to share about them? Call 334-3566 or email design@nymdispatch.com. Left: Last week's mystery photo is of Mr. and Mrs. August Kading from their 1934 wedding photo.

A glimpse from the past

5 years ago October 20, 2016

Frazee-Vergas Forum
Frazee High School recently celebrated their homecoming week with activities that included a pepfest with various games and a parade downtown. The Homecoming Queen is Audreana Fleisher and King is Jeff Marshall.

Two single-family homes are slated to be built before the end of the year by Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation (MMCDC) on the vacant corner at 103 5th Street Northwest in Frazee. Anyone interested in purchasing one of the homes should contact MMCDC to possibly customize the home before it's completely finished.

The Becker County Transit bus seats 14 people, including two wheelchairs, and currently stops

in Frazee twice, Tuesdays and Thursdays. By March the services are planned to be expanded to five days a week.

25 years ago October 17, 1996

Frazee Forum
The once-in-a-lifetime moose hunt for two rural Frazee men turned into the stuff good dreams are made of. Kurt Janu and Gus Ziegler teamed up for their first moose hunt ever and bagged a big bull moose weighing about 1,500 pounds. The moose sported a rack that had a 50-inch spread. The hunting pair scouted an area north of Ely for one day before moose season opened. Just four hours and 45 minutes after the opening Kurt and Gus had called in and shot their prize. Once the moose was dressed out the hunting pair split 680 pounds of

moose meat for their families.

Even with 25,000 square feet being added to Frazee Elementary as part of the 9.2 million renovation project, the need for another classroom has arisen. Frazee-Vergas School Board members approved a \$12,000-\$15,000 plan to convert the library near the elementary office into a classroom and staff room.

50 years ago October 21, 1971

Frazee Forum
Frank A. Alexander, 53, a life-time resident of rural Frazee, died Friday afternoon, October 15, 1971, from an accidental gunshot he sustained in his home. Deputy Becker County Coroner Don Bucholz ruled the death accidental. Alexander died from a chest wound caused by a .22 pistol. He was found about 2

p.m. by a neighboring farm hand, Gary Berger.

The Village of Frazee is now accepting applications for two new public service job positions, a part of those approved by the Governors office for Becker County under the Emergency Employment Act of 1971. Jobs for Frazee approved include an assistant Liquor store manager and a night patrolman.

A welcome surprise greeted the worshippers at United Methodist Church in Frazee last Sunday as a new electronic Conn organ was the source of the worship music. The new Conn organ is a memorial gift of the Q.P. Walseth family. According to Rev. Reginald Penner, pastor, an organ dedication and service of music is being planned for the near future.

Frazee Police Report for October 8-14

By Tyler Trieglaff
Notes from the Chief

Crikey it's been a while since I typed a column with a story. I done got laid up with some sort of sickness that wiped me out. I don't get sick but once a year, but this took several years and piled them all into one.

To explain how I felt ... exhausted. As I am typing this, I realize I found the perfect way to explain how I felt in my own words. Imagine that you are watching your dog, and he starts hacking and you know he is going to throw up. Up comes the vomit, hopefully outside or on the vinyl flooring.

Now that happens and it's pretty gross, but to put into context how bad I felt, just imagine the dog licking the puke back up.

Have a nice week!

Friday, Oct. 8

11:56 a.m. Assist with water leak in house, plumber was on scene, city crew shut the water off at the curb.

12:34 p.m. Report of decorations missing from Lakeside Cemetery. Items are supposed to be gone by Labor Day according to city crew.

12:53 p.m. Traffic complaint on U.S. Hwy 10. UTL.

2:59 p.m. Party dropped off wacky tobacky as they are trying to get off the stuff.

10 p.m. Vehicle westbound in the eastbound lane on U.S. 10 Vehicle righted itself before any officers arrived.

1:37 a.m. Patrons in bar on W. Main Ave. after legal closing hours.

Saturday, Oct. 9

12:20 a.m. Report of a disturbance/fight at the liquor store. Under investigation.

Monday, Oct. 11

9:32 a.m. Report of a theft of a blue tooth speaker/boombox from a high school locker. Cole Halverson, 18, Rochert, cited for theft.

1:37 p.m. Report of a loose dog on S. Lake Ave. Relative of the dogs human

caught the dog and brought it inside.

2:54 p.m. Welfare check on female in Frazee.

7:43 p.m. Traffic stop with citation for Driving After Suspension issued to Leon Barnett Jr, 20, Frazee.

8:04 p.m. Party dropped off wacky tobacky as they are trying to get off the stuff. 8:04 p.m. Suspicious activity on W Maple Ave with males acting odd. Males said they were playing basketball and yelled at a vehicle for driving too fast. Anthony Conger, 34, Frazee arrested on felony Becker County warrants.

9:23 p.m. Disturbance reported on W Maple, male throwing things in the house.

10:16 p.m. Report that male shut the power off on W Maple. Leroy Conklin, 29, Frazee arrested for domestic assault, obstructing legal process and disorderly conduct.

1:24 a.m. Assist with a domestic assault at Acorn Lake Trailer Park.

Tuesday, Oct. 12

8:09 a.m. Report of a

camper parked in the roadway near Indy 500 Rd and Frazee Rd.

10:17 a.m. Vehicle unlock at the clinic.

10:22 a.m. Disturbance reported on E Main. Charges pending.

9:32 p.m. Report of two brothers fighting on E Main. No punches thrown and both had too much liquid courage in them to know what really happened. Brothers agreed to separate for the night.

Wednesday, Oct. 13

7:02 p.m. Road barricades blown about at S. Lake and Main intersection. Officer placed them back in the proper spot.

8:05 p.m. Tree branch fell on a power line between pole and house. Officer provided light for the lineman and cleared some branches away.

Thursday, Oct. 14

3:26 p.m. School bus stop arm violation on W Birch. Unable to get plate information. Under investigation.



Max Rue dives forward for a positive gain during Frazee's game against Otter Tail Central on Friday night.

Photo by Chad Koenen

Frazee falls to sixth ranked OTC 20-0 on homecoming

Hornet defense holds Bulldogs to lowest point total of the season

By Chad Koenen
Publisher

The Frazee defense once again flexed its muscle on Friday night as the Hornets held one of the highest scoring offenses in Class A to just 20 points. Unfortunately, the Hornets were unable to find the end zone as they fell to the sixth ranked Otter Tail Central Bulldogs by a

score of 20-0. It was just the second time the Bulldogs scored 20 points or less all season long.

"I think it went really well we started two freshman quarterbacks and they did well," said head coach Russ Hackel. "I think the kids responded well to that."

Freshmen Carter Sonnenberg and Asher Blaine started the game at quar-

terback and rotated series throughout the game. Sonnenberg went 3-11 for 30 yards and Blaine went 2-4 for 26 yards and an interception.

OTC got on the scoreboard first in the opening quarter of action when Bricker Bladow was on the receiving end of a 55-yard pass from Tanner Arndt. The two-point conversion

was no good to leave the score at 6-0. OTC cracked the scoreboard for the second time in the second quarter when Calvin Stueve scored on a 15-yard run. The two-point conversion was successful to leave the score at 14-0 at halftime.

Stueve scored for the second time in the game in the third quarter when he found the end zone on a 33-yard run.

As a team the Bulldogs outgained the Hornets 352-121 in total offense, but the Hornets were able to force a fumble deep in their own

zone to keep OTC from finding the end zone once again. Frazee was also tough on third down as they held OTC to just 4-12 on third downs and 2-5 on fourth down.

"We held them down other than a few big plays," said Hackel of the defense.

Three turnovers ultimately were too much for Frazee to overcome as they lost 2 fumbles and threw another interception.

The Hornets were led by Tyler Moe who rushed 20 times for 68 yards, including a 33 yard run. Max Rue rushed 2 times for 5 yards,

while Jake Nagel rushed 1 time for 1 yard and Sonnenberg rushed 2 times for -9 yards.

This week the Hornets will host Roseau in their regular season finale. The Rams come into the game with a record of 0-7 after falling to Pelican Rapids by a score of 44-0 on Friday. Roseau is averaging 6 points per game on offense, while giving up 36 points per game

FRAZEE FALLS TO OTC
continued on 12



Putting on a show



Photos by Chad Koenen

A group of Frazee dancers performed an entertaining, fun-filled and spirited halftime show during Friday's homecoming football game in Frazee. The show was entitled "The Greatest Showman" and included a variety of dance, theater, tricks and more during the show. The dance production was open to all Frazee students in grades 1-12 and even included a few special guest stars.



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Wednesday, Oct. 20

Varsity Football vs. Roseau
4:00 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 21

Friday, Oct. 22

Saturday, Oct. 23

Monday, Oct. 25

Dance start of season 6:15 a.m.
Jr. High Basketball begins

Tuesday, Oct. 26

FFA convention - Indianapolis
Girls Swimming - Bemidji 6 p.m.
Section football TBD



Photo by Chad Koenen

Bailey Larson took 34th place at the Heart O' Lakes Conference meet in Breckenridge last week.

Fraze cross country team competes at HOL meet

Team to wrap up regular season this week in Bemidji

By Chad Koenen
Publisher

The Fraze girls cross country team took sixth place and the boys took eighth at the Heart O' Lakes cross country meet on Tuesday night.

On the boys side of the meet, senior Nathan Johanssen took sixth place with a time of 16:58, while Cael Pausch took 40th place with a time of 19:45. Brady Borah took 47th place with

a time of 20:14, Jonah Sharp took 48th place with a time of 20:21, Alexx Helmers took 49th place with a time of 20:22, Skylure Lehman took 54th place with a time of 21:07 and Tyden Schaefer finished in 56th place with a time of 21:29.

As a team the Hornets took eighth place with a score of 190. Perham won the meet with 34 points, while West Central Area finished in second place with a score of 59 points.

On the girls side, Braylee Riewer paced the Hornets with a 30th place finish with a time of 23:04. Bailey Larsen took 34th place with a time of 24:12, Taylor Perrine took 35th place with a time of 24:20 and Alexis Mack took 37th place with a time of 24:26. Claire Pausch took 42nd place with a time of 25:23 and McKenzie Wake rounded out the team with a 44th place finish with a time of 27:24.

As a team the Hornets took sixth place with 153 points. Perham won the meet with 30 points, while Hawley took second place with a score of 35.

Fraze drops a pair of tough matches in volleyball action



Photos by Chad Koenen

The Fraze Hornets dropped a pair of games to Highway 10 rivals last week. The Hornets fell to Detroit Lakes by a score of 3-1 in non-conference action on Tuesday and Perham by a score of 3-0 in conference action on Thursday. This week the Hornets will host Pelican Rapids in their regular season finale. The section tournament will kick off next week. Fraze is currently 3-19 overall and 0-5 in the Heart O' Lakes Conference. Above: Annika Reiersen passes the ball to a teammate during a recent game in Fraze.

FRAZEE FALLS TO OTC

continued from 11

on defense.

Meanwhile, Fraze is averaging 9.6 points per game on offense and is giving up just 24.3 points per game on defense.

The Hornets are currently in sixth place in the Section 8AA standings according to the QRF with a ranking of 50. Barnesville is in first place with a QRF of 17, while Pelican Rapids is second with a QRF of 22, Hawley is third with a QRF of 26, Warroad is fourth with a QRF of 36 and Crookston is fifth with a QRF of 45.

The game will have an extra special meaning for the Hornets as it will be the last regular season game at the current football field. The kick off will be at 4 p.m. and Hackel said he is hoping that former players will be able to attend the game and bid farewell to the football field.

"It's the last home game on our field and we are trying to see if we can even get some old players back on the field," said Hackel.



Photos by Chad Koenen

Top: Weston Mickelson and Jake Nagel converge on a tackle during Friday's game against Otter Tail Central. Above left: A group of Fraze defenders, led by Ray Hoehne converge on a tackle on Friday night. The Hornets held Otter Tail Central to its lowest output on offense all season. Above right: Brady Crabtree brings down an Otter Tail Central ball carrier in the open field during Friday's homecoming game against the Bulldogs.



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Photos by Barbie Porter

Furey Funeral Home has been a staple business in the Frazee and Vergas communities for providing compassionate care for those who lost a loved one. The funeral home has a quiet outdoor space for those who prefer an outdoor service, when weather permits.

Compassionate, individualized care offered at Furey Funeral Home

By Barbie Porter
Editor

When it comes to a celebration of life, Furey Funeral Home has consistently served the residents of Frazee, Vergas and beyond. Aside from helping families with funeral preparations, obituaries and other end-of-the-life details, the funeral home located at 33832 State Highway 87 in Frazee also offers a space to hold a funeral or wake. “We can legally have up to 100 people, but that is in-

cluding the common area,” said Furey Funeral Home Director Troy Diggins. “I think a comfortable amount for a funeral in our building would be 60 people.” During COVID-19, the funeral home was restricted to indoor services and outdoor funerals became more of the norm. Some families prefer those, even though restrictions have loosened. To accommodate people, Furey Funeral Home is looking at utilizing its outdoor space to better fulfill

that need. “We have a beautiful backyard,” said Diggins. During the pandemic some families opted to have a burial or cremation, but did not hold a funeral service. Having those ceremonies may help with closure, and others the opportunity to share a story about the dearly departed that another may cherish. “Whether it is six months later or a year, we will be there to help with funeral services,” he said.

With travel being a challenge at times for some friends and family, the funeral home offers an online stream of the service, if a family requests it. Because we all will eventually leave the earthly plane, the funeral home also works with Denise Fett to provide pre-planning services. Creating a plan ahead of time will remove that pressure from grieving family members, and allow for personalized services. “We are planning a pre-

planning seminar,” Diggins said. If a loved one left the end of life service in the hands of family, Diggins said he would be happy to assist in any way possible, including recommending other service providers for things such as marker or head-

stone. Diggins added the Furey Funeral Home has built a community-minded reputation that puts the families it serves at the forefront of every thought. Questions can be directed to Diggins at (218) 334-2461.

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