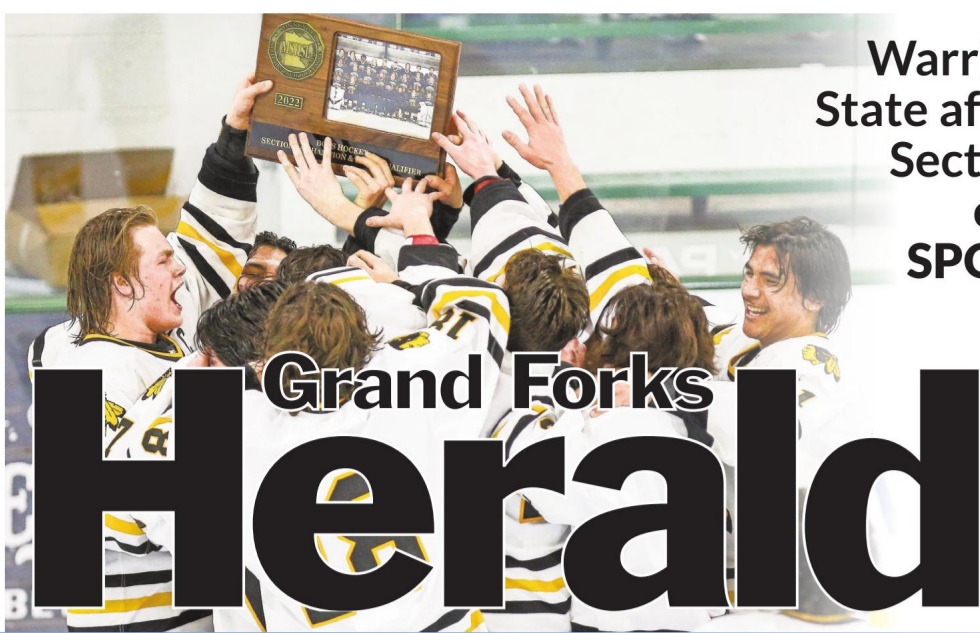


Warriors headed to State after Minnesota Section 8A victory over Prowlers. **SPORTS, Page B1**



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SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2022

GF pool needs costly repairs

By Meghan Arbegast
Grand Forks Herald

GRAND FORKS – Riverside Pool is in need of extensive repairs, including replacement of leaking pipes and crumbling concrete.

This week, members of the City Council agreed to move forward with painting and sandblasting the pool to get it ready for the upcoming summer season at an expense of \$74,760. However, more repairs are needed for the longevity of the pool.

The city worked with EAPC and Lunseth Plumbing to pressure test the underground pipes. The result? The pipes are leaking below the basin of the pool. Additional tests done on the concrete of the basin and walls of the pool showed the concrete needs to be replaced as well.

A report concluded that the concrete will need to be replaced within the next five years due to the depth of damage throughout the core.

“Going forward we probably have three to five years before we aren’t able to paint, repair and patch it,”

POOL: Page A8

New CEO: Altru ‘is definitely not for sale’



Courtesy / Altru Health System
Todd Forkel is the new CEO of Altru Health System, coming to Grand Forks from Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Board chairwoman says Forkel stood out for his desire to work for an independent system

By Sam Easter
Grand Forks Herald

GRAND FORKS — Todd Forkel, Altru Health System’s new CEO, arrived on the job this week. Like any new hire in a big, new role, he’s doing more listening and learning this week than anything else – making rounds through clinics and the emergency room, shaking hands and introducing himself.

But in an interview, he offered a

glimpse at how he wants to lead Altru, which is now at a pivotal moment in its history. The health care group is (cross your fingers) exiting the worst of the pandemic, pushing ahead on the construction of a new Grand Forks hospital and eyeing expansion into Devils Lake.

It’s also shaking off the sudden departure of Altru President Steven Weiser, who was abruptly dismissed late last month by Altru’s board. That change stoked rumors that Altru might be acquired soon — a notion that Forkel tamped down this week.

ALTRU: Page A8



Eric Hylden / Grand Forks Herald
Student teacher Amanda Hoverson works on a math project with Manvel Public School first-graders Tuesday. Hoverson is a student-teacher and a substitute, and coordinates after-school programming at the district. When she gets her teaching degree, she’ll be part of a supply of new K-12 teachers in North Dakota that education leaders worry isn’t enough to keep up with demand.

TEACHER DEMAND OUTSTRIPS SUPPLY

Many needed teaching positions being filled ‘irregularly’ or not filled at all

By Joe Bowen
Grand Forks Herald

In a first-grade classroom at Manvel Public School, Amanda Hoverson circled small drawings of bees 10 at a time on an electronic whiteboard. She ended up with three rows of 10 and another, final row of four. One, two, three, four — Hoverson and the gaggle of 6- and 7-year-olds counted the last row of bees together. “Four ones,” Hoverson told the class. “Now, how many in all do I have? Do not blurt, raise your hand.”

34, a student answered — correct! “Does this make sense?” Hoverson asked to a chorus of

TEACHERS: Page A8

As ER concerns arise, lawmakers address Devils Lake care issues

By Ingrid Harbo
Grand Forks Herald

DEVILS LAKE — On Feb. 24, Marvin Mead found himself on the floor of the emergency room at the hospital in Devils Lake.

After a fall that resulted in a brain bleed earlier in the month, he fell sick again and was taken to the emergency room by his daughter, Kristi Serumgard, and her husband. Despite feeling nauseated and weak, no beds were available for Mead as they waited.

“Repeatedly, my mother and myself appealed to ER staff about finding a pad or stretcher or bed somewhere in the hospital where he could lay down until he was able to be seen, and it was a straight across ‘no’ every time I asked,”

Serumgard claims.

After two hours of sitting in a wheelchair, Mead felt too weak to sit any longer. Serumgard grabbed a pillow and blanket from her car and made Marvin a bed on the floor, where he laid for another hour and 20 minutes waiting for care. She took a picture that appears to show him waiting on the floor of the emergency room.

“They took me in finally, but it was really miserable,” said Marvin Mead. “It was a nightmare.”

A week later, Cindy Mead teared up talking about how her husband was treated while waiting for care.

“A gurney in the hallway, almost anything, would have been more

EMERGENCY ROOM: Page A9

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Northern Minn. high school football player arraigned

Alleged sexual assault led to cancellation of team's season

By Tom Olsen
Duluth News Tribune

DULUTH — A former Proctor High School football player was arraigned Thursday on a sexual assault charge stemming from a September incident that led to the cancellation of the team's season.

Alec John Baney, 18, made his first appearance in juvenile court via Zoom after he was charged by summons in January with third-degree criminal sexual conduct.

A delinquency petition alleges that Baney, who was 17 at the time, used the handle of a toilet plunger to assault a 15-year-old teammate while the victim was being held down by others. Rumors of the alleged assault led to sig-

nificant community and social media reaction, a lengthy police investigation and the resignation of the team's coach, among other effects.

Assistant St. Louis County Attorney Corey Horn filed a motion ahead of Thursday's hearing asking the court to certify Baney to stand trial as an adult. Judge David Johnson ordered a psychosexual evaluation, individual family assessment and certification study to be performed before the court makes that determination.

Baney, accompanied by his parents, appeared from the office of his attorneys, Andrew Poole and Brent Olson. Poole told the court that his client understands his rights and the process. He waived any challenge to the sufficiency of probable cause as part of the certification process.

Poole asked that the court allow Baney to remain free without any conditions, but Johnson sided with Horn in placing the teen on pretrial supervised release.

"Given the nature of the offense, I do believe supervised release is appropriate," the judge said. "I think it'll also be helpful for Mr. Baney to have somebody guiding him — a second set of eyes guiding him through the process."

Under Minnesota law, it is presumed a juvenile will be certified as an adult if the juvenile was 16 or 17 at the time of the offense and if the offense would result in a presumptive prison sentence. The child can keep the case in juvenile court and overcome the presumption of adult certification only by demonstrating clear and convincing evidence that retaining the proceedings in juvenile court serves public safety.

Juvenile court records and hearings are public when the child is 16 or older and charged with a felony-level offense.

A certification hearing was tentatively scheduled for March 31, pending the completion of the evaluations.

The alleged sexual assault occurred Sept. 7 and was

reported to the Proctor Police Department on Sept. 16.

The petition states that a third party had sent a lewd photograph to a group of Proctor football players using the victim's phone and Snapchat account. That reportedly prompted a response that the victim was going to "get the plunger."

Court documents state that Baney, carrying a toilet plunger, was joined by several other teammates in surrounding the victim's locker after a varsity football practice. The victim ran out of the locker room toward the practice field as Baney and other players gave chase.

The petition states that the victim eventually was taken to the ground by one or more teammates and rolled over to his stomach. Baney then allegedly pulled down the boy's pants and assaulted him.

According to court documents, multiple witnesses said they believed Baney was joking until the moment he pulled down the vic-

tim's pants. After the alleged assault, Baney reportedly returned to the locker room and declared "I did it" and "I bet you guys didn't think I was going to do it."

Police said they learned through interviews with other players that the plunger had been used in the past to touch fellow members with the rubber end. But none of those incidents had been reported to involve acts of sexual assault.

Although the area was within view of a security camera, authorities said the system was not functioning during the time of the alleged assault. Investigators also said they were unable to identify anyone who acknowledged seeing a recording of the incident firsthand.

While the incident was to remain under investigation by Proctor police, the St. Louis County Attorney's Office has not announced charges against anyone other than Baney.

EMERGENCY ROOM

From Page A1

acceptable than just letting him lay on the floor like that," she said.

Friday morning, Mariann Doeling, president of CHI St. Alexius Devils Lake Health, told the Grand Forks Herald she could not confirm that the Mead family's experience had occurred.

"That would be a very unusual occurrence that would have happened in that hospital, so I really would need more detail before I could respond of if I could," said Doeling, who also cited Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act privacy concerns.

Doeling said the hospital has a formal grievance process, and encourages anyone with complaints to file a report for hospital staff to review.

Over the past few months, Devils Lake Mayor Dick Johnson has called for changes in Devils Lake health care for a number of reasons, emergency room wait times included. Now, in his final months as mayor, his determination to see change has brought outside attention to the community of 7,000 people.

On Wednesday, March 2, Johnson confirmed that federal and state lawmakers are now involved in discussions about health care in the community.

"They have been contacted and they are getting involved," he said.

Johnson declined to name names, but the offices of Sen. John Hoeven and Sen. Kevin Cramer both confirmed that the North Dakota senators have been in communication with Johnson about health care.

"I'm aware and monitoring the situation in Devils Lake. I have taken a lot of phone calls on this and communicated with providers and mayors," Cramer said in an email sent through a representative. "I'm working to bring people together so we can find resolution. At the end of the day, my top priority is to ensure North Dakotans have access to quality health care."

A representative from Hoeven's office said, "Our office has spoken with Mayor Johnson, who outlined his efforts for a unified health care system in Devils Lake. Access to quality health care is essential to the quality of life in our rural communities, and as discussions continue amongst local leaders in the Devils Lake region,



Contributed / Kristi Serumgard

According to his daughter, Kristi Serumgard, an ailing Marvin Mead had to rest on the floor for more than an hour while waiting for care at the emergency room at CHI St. Alexius Devils Lake Hospital on Feb. 24.

we will work to help reach a solution that improves quality of care and is supported by the community."

Johnson also has communicated his concerns about hospital care to Bishop John Folda of the Fargo Catholic Diocese.

In a Feb. 11 letter to Johnson, Folda acknowledged Johnson's concerns but said he has little influence over operations at the hospital.

"However, I can bring your concerns to the attention of their leadership and add my own authority as bishop to the discussion," he wrote in the letter, which the city provided to the Herald. "I will plan to be in touch with the CHI liaison in the next week, and will convey to him my own concerns about the current health care situation in Devils Lake."

The CHI St. Alexius Health system, of which the Devils Lake hospital is a part, is a branch of Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI), a faith-based health system. Representatives from the Fargo Diocese and CHI St. Alexius Health Devils Lake did not respond to requests for more information about the relationship between CHI and the Fargo Diocese prior to the publication deadline for this report.

Months before the Mead family's experience in the emergency room at the hospital in Devils Lake, Doeling, newly appointed president of CHI St. Alexius Health Devils Lake, acknowledged problems with wait times in the

emergency room. She did so in a November 2021 interview with the Herald, while serving as the interim president there.

"When you have a community the size of Devils Lake, and you have wait times sometimes up to 90 minutes, we're very much aware that that's a dissatisfier, and we're very much aware that we need to have an enlarged (emergency room)," Doeling said in November.

In the same interview, she told the Herald a plan for a \$2.4 million emergency room renovation had been approved.

In January, Johnson wrote a letter to the Grand Forks Herald and other media, expressing concern about what he sees as an "absence of investment in physical facilities of the hospital," one aspect being

the emergency room.

Wrote Johnson: "The local hospital board has been raising funds to improve the ER for several years. There is no privacy in the majority of the emergency room resulting in difficult times for patients and families to endure. With only a curtain to separate patients one can only ask how this can meet today's standard of care. The hospital has generated significant profits for Common Spirit while there have been no upgrades, even with locally raised foundation funds."

Money raised by the community for renovations at the hospital has not been used for other needs at the hospital.

"I believe it's \$375,000 that is in the foundation — it still remains in the foundation for remodeling," said Doeling.

For the Meads, changes can't come soon enough.

"I think we've learned we just will not go to this ER for anything anymore," Cindy Mead said. "It's going to have to be down the road to Grand Forks or Fargo or somewhere else. It's more harm than good, it seems."

COMMUNITY NEWS

► **Elaina Ballard**, Goodridge, Minnesota, and **Elise Kalsnes** and **Jonah Kalsnes**, Thief River Falls, were named to the fall 2021 semester Dean's List at Gustavus Adolphus College, Saint Peter, Minnesota.

► **Annamarie Wells**, Warroad, Minnesota, has been named to the fall 2021 semester Dean's List at Cedarville University, Cedarville, Ohio.

► **Amanda Erickson**, Grafton, North Dakota, has been named to the fall 2021 semester Chancellor's List at the University of Minnesota-Rochester, Rochester, Minnesota.

► **Kyri Christensen**, Goodridge, Minnesota, was named to the fall 2021 semester Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York.

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Tom Rand Bridge

Question: You showed a dozen different conventions for a 2C bid when the opponent opens 1NT. Is there any good reason for all those complicated conventions?

Answer: I won't answer for those twelve, but I think the history of artificial conventional bids comes out of two intersecting bidding realizations: (1) "That (4NT) bid is something I hardly ever need for a bid." And (2) "I wish I could ask partner how many aces he has."

The oldest, going back to auction bridge in 1912-13 was the takeout double (first called negative double, then inforatory double and finally takeout). They realized: (1) you would virtually never want to double opponent's opening 1-bid for penalty; and (2) It would be nice to show strength and let partner pick the suit.

Same reasoning, of course, for Easley Blackwood's invention in 1933 and John Gerber's addition in 1938.

The tradeoff, of course, is the value of the natural bid you give up. In old-fashioned standard, when partner opened 1NT, a bid of 2 of any suit was a sign-off in that suit. In 1945 George Rapee realized it would be well worth giving up the chance to play 2C over partner's 1NT and use that bid instead to look for a 4-4 fit in a major. And a guy named Sam Stayman put it into print.

That left 2D over partner's 1NT as still a signoff bid, but in 1956 Oswald Jacoby published a convention that some Swedes had started using a few years earlier:

Use that 2D bid to show hearts and use 2H to show spades! Thus the Jacoby Transfer bid was born, and soon everyone agreed that its value was much greater than that 2D signoff: (1) It let the stronger hand be declarer; (2) It made showing the 8-9 point invitational hand with a 5-card major much easier to bid; and (3) It made it easy to show a 2-suiter.

And what are the negatives about using these conventions? They are not that you want to: (1) Make a penalty double of opp's 1H opening; or that (2) You want to stop in 4NT after agreeing on a suit; or (3) You often want to stop in 2C or 2D when partner opens 1NT.

No, those are easy to give up. The negatives are that when they go wrong you get horrible scores! More later.

BROWSER'S BLACKOUT BINGO

ATTENTION BINGO PLAYERS

New game starts TOMORROW!

Look for the NEW bingo card printed on the back of TODAY'S Herald comics. Bingo numbers will run in the regular Herald from March 6 - 29, 2022.

The winner of the February game will be published in Saturday, March 12th Herald.

Questions? Call 780-1215 or 1-800-811-2580

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