

HEALTHY

WELFARE

**Donor Pays Off School Lunch Debts At Fargo Middle School**  
(Fargo, ND) -- Good Samaritans paid off all lunch debts at a Fargo middle school this week. Principal Brad Larson says the donation of nearly seven-hundred dollars paid off debts for about 30 students. The good deed comes as a relief for a lot of parents Larson says, adding it's common to get these kinds of gifts during the holidays. The school will figure out which kids need the donations the most over the next week.

## **Tri-County Health Care Foundation Auxiliary Raises Record Amount**

12-14-18

Recently, the Tri-County Auxiliary held its annual Holiday Auction at Whitetail Run Golf Course in Wadena. The auxiliary raised a record amount of \$13,200. More than 70 baskets and 25 silent auction items were donated by community members and Tri-County departments. Foundation Director Ryan Damlo says the extra money will go far... Ryan DamlowTCHC BIG GIFT 31 SEC

Ryan DamlowTCHC BIG GIFT 31 SEC

OUTCUE: "...family member while they're in surgery."

Last year's proceeds helped to purchase a new rocking chair for the nursery, a treadmill for the Bertha Area Wellness Center, a computer monitor to update families on the status of surgery patients and more.

## **Officials seek public's help to locate missing Red Lake man**

12/13/18

Red Lake authorities are looking for a missing Red Lake man who hasn't been seen since late October. Twenty-six year old Dillon James Sayers has not been seen since Oct. 23. He was then reported missing Oct. 30. Authorities are not sure why he may have disappeared. The Minnesota Department of Corrections has listed Sayers as a fugitive since Oct. 31.

Red Lake Director of Public Safety, William Brunelle, says it's an active investigation and they don't know if there's foul play or if he absconded because of warrants. Sayers is wanted by the DOC in connection to charges of failure to register as a predatory offender and third-degree criminal sexual conduct.

Sayers is described as a 5 feet 9 inches tall, 160-pound Native American male with short brown hair. He has Native design tattoos on his right arm.

Sayers was last seen on the Red Lake Indian Reservation. Those with information about his whereabouts should contact the Red Lake Police Department.

## **Fergus Falls Salvation Army Reaches Half-way Point of Fundraising Goal**

12-13-18

The need is great, and now more than ever the services and programs that the Fergus Falls Salvation Army provides may be in jeopardy unless they can get closer to reaching their goal of \$100,000 this year. As of Wednesday, \$44,000 has come in, but there only three weeks to go. Lt. Anthony Nordan...

Salvation Army Lt Anthony Kettle Update 28 SEC

OUTCUE: "...and do some bell ringing for us this year.

Fergus Falls is also one of the few corps that actually do a daily lunch program, and without the needed funds, services would have to be cut back or stopped entirely. Nordan says a recent donation from Otter Tail Power really helped, but now is the time for individuals and other businesses in the community to help with the fundraising effort. If you are interested in bell-ringing, contact the main office or go online to the Fergus Falls Salvation Army on facebook to get signed up.

## Minnesota Manufacturers Worried About Long-Term Worker Shortages

12-10-18

Minnesota manufacturers are worried about long-term worker shortages. Employers in the state added 34-hundred jobs to a record workforce of nearly three million people in October. Minnesota is considered at full employment and workforce trends ~~are~~ <sup>currently</sup> threatening to slow the growth of the state's economy. Officials say more than two-thirds of Minnesota jobs don't require a college degree.

## **Two Good Samaritans Save Man After 4-Wheeler Goes Into Open Water**

12-07-18

In what could have resulted in a tragic accident, two good Samaritans jumped in to save a man from drowning after a 4-wheeler he was driving reportedly drove into open water on Wall Lake around 10:30pm late Thursday. Two men witnessed sixty-five year old Leon Engelhart of Fergus Falls in open water and his 4-wheeler submerged. Thirty-seven year old Cameron Hanson and thirty-five year old Jacob Payson sprang into action and pulled Engelhart out of the water and onto shore where Fergus Falls First Responders, Otter Tail County Sheriff's Deputies, and Ringdahl Ambulance provided medical care for severe hypothermia.

Eventually, Engelhart was transported to Lake Region Healthcare. The Sheriff's Office says alcohol \*was\* a factor in the incident. Before being transported Deputies obtained a warrant for a blood draw. No charges have been filed, but the incident is still being investigated by the Otter County Sheriff's Office. Englehart remains in stable condition at the hospital.

## **LB Broen Receives National Recognition**

11-29-18

A local care facility organization has received national recognition. LB Broen Homes of Fergus Falls has received a "high Performing" rating from U.S. News and World Report. Marketing and Business Development Coordinator Russ Rapp says they are honored, but feel their staff is second to none and part of the reason for the accomplishment...

LB Broen RUSS RAPP 25 SEC

OUTCUE: "...what to look for in nursing homes."

The U.S. News Overall Ratings assign each eligible nursing home a rating from High Performing to Poor. This rating evaluates the care of a wide range of resident conditions at the nursing home, including both long-term chronic care and shorter term rehabilitation. The data used to evaluate these homes come from the federal Nursing Home Compare program, and incorporate the nurse staffing, health inspection, and quality measures star ratings.

Tobacco 21

11/2/18

DETROIT LAKES, MN--The Tobacco 21 effort, where cities or counties adopt ordinances to change the purchasing age to buy tobacco or vape products from 18 to 21, is gaining momentum across the state.

Carol McCarthy files this update with local T-21 advocates working with the State Health Department... *in Becker County*

(T21 Carol Wrap 1:42 SOC)

*Jason McCoy from PartherSHIP4 Health works on tobacco cessation in the counties of Becker, Clay, Otter Tail and Wilkin...*

T21\_JASON MCCOY1 :33 AS WELL

*Otter Tail Commissioners voted earlier this month to adopt a T-21 ordinance making it the first county in the state to pass a county-wide ordinance raising the age to 21. The ordinance takes effect January 1st, 2019.*

*McCoy says there's some conversation happening at the state level and maybe the momentum created by cities and counties over the last couple of years to raise the age will be what it takes to take hold at the State Legislature...*

T21\_JASON MCCOY2 :21 GOOD SHOT

*There are now 17 cities and one county who have raised the age to buy tobacco. Beltrami County commissioners last week heard an ordinance proposal to raise the age to 21.*

**PLEASE ANNOUNCE MULTIPLE TIMES THIS MORNING!!!**

Otter Tail Power Company and 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church in Fergus Falls are teaming up to brighten up your holiday and help feed those in need.

1st Lutheran Church TODAY from 10a-7p. Bring a bag of non perishable food and get up to 5 strands of LED Christmas lights for Free!!!!

There are lots of lights available and today is the last day.

## **Flu Season Here**

11-27-18

With cold weather, flu season is definitely on the way. Otter Tail County Public Health and the CDC are recommending that people get vaccinated as soon as possible. Public Health Nurse Jessica Metzger says that most of the concern stems from last year when the ones who were hardest hit, were also the ones who weren't protected...

**METZGER FLU SEASON 24 SEC**

**OUTCUE:** "...out of a holiday.

The CDC says there are many different flu viruses and they are constantly changing. The composition of U.S. flu vaccines is reviewed annually and updated as needed to match circulating flu viruses. The flu vaccines available will protect against the three or four viruses depending on vaccine that research suggests will be most common.

## **OTC Public Health and CDC Warns Again Consumption Of Romaine Lettuce**

11-21-18

Otter Tail County Public Health and the CDC have issued a stern warning to people preparing for Thanksgiving: Do not consume romaine lettuce in any form as they investigate an E. coli outbreak in multiple states. Newly-installed Otter Tail County Public Health Director Jody Lien...

Jody Lein Romaine Lettuce 20 SEC

OUTCUE: "...if you're not sure, just toss that."

Lien also said the CDC says the advisory covers all types or uses of romaine lettuce, such as whole heads of romaine, hearts of romaine, and bags and boxes of pre-cut lettuce and salad mixes that contain romaine, including baby romaine, spring mix, and Caesar salad.

They are also advising that restaurants and retailers should not serve or sell any romaine lettuce, including salads and salad mixes containing romaine.

So far thirty-two people have been infected in 11 states.

## **Fergus Falls Salvation Army Kettle Kick-Off Highlights Work**

11-16-18

Many were in attendance for this year's Fergus Falls Salvation Army Kick-Off in Fergus Falls on Friday. The annual tradition marks the beginning of the most important time for the organization, with most local programs being funded with the red kettles placed at most retail locations in Fergus Falls. A short music program by the children of the After School program was presented. Officer Wallace Manderud has been with the local corps since 1995 and has seen many lives change...

Manderud Salvation Army Kettle Kick-Off 15 SEC

OUTCUE: "...just amazing over the years."

Mayor Ben Schreier was in attendance and wrapped up the main program by making the first donation of the season. The Fergus Falls Police and Fire Department came to show their support on Friday night as well.

## **Large Turnout For Fergus Falls Salvation Army Kettle Kick-Off**

11-16-18

Many were in attendance for this year's Fergus Falls Salvation Army Kick-Off at the Service Food parking lot in Fergus. The annual tradition marks the beginning of the most important time for the organization, with most local programs being funded with the red kettles placed at most retail locations in Fergus Falls. A short music program by the children of the After School program was presented.

Mayor Ben Schreier was in attendance and wrapped up the main program by making the first donation of the season. The Fergus Falls Police and Fire Department came to show their support as well.

Today the first Annual Bucket Blitz took place as well, earlier in the day. The Salvation Army locally were able to raise \$718 this year.

(For full video of the event click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-lu9FdSt4g>)

## **Salvation Army Bucket Blitz**

11-12-18

The Fergus Falls Salvation Army will be having their first annual Bucket Blitz Friday on Lincoln Ave. While not new to The Salvation Army, the Bucket Blitz is making its debut in Fergus Falls for the first time this season. The Bucket Blitz will consist of Salvation Army Advisory Board Members, Officers, and Church Volunteers along Lincoln Avenue at the intersections at Cascade, Mill, and Court with signs, and a five gallon bucket receiving donations that will go toward the total goal for this Kettle Season. Lt. Anthony Nordan...

Lt Nordan Boot 10 SEC

OUTCUE: "...really fun thing to kind of do."

The bucket blitz was prompted in effort to address the new challenges the Salvation Army faces this Christmas Season with the loss of two full and one counter kettle sites, that typically raise an estimated \$14,000 each year in donations to help those struggling to make ends meet. The event will help kick off This year's Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign.

## **Rural Parkers Prairie Man Severely Injured In Gasoline Fire**

11-09-18

A 25 year old Parkers Prairie man has been severely burned in an attempt to get a recreational fire started. The Otter Tail County Sheriff's office responded with assistance to a call late Thursday evening with Parkers Prairie Ambulance. The man was allegedly attempting to use a gasoline canister to light what was described as a recreational fire. In the process, the gas can exploded. The man caught himself on fire and received burns to upper front of his body. His uncle, the property owner, was able to assist in getting the fire out. Parkers Prairie Ambulance was also assisted by the Parkers Prairie Police Department. The man was transported by ambulance to meet a North Memorial Ambulance out of Alexandria, who then transported the man to a fixed-wing aircraft, for transport to Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis. His current condition or the full extent of his burns is unknown at this time.

## **Salvation Army Seeking Food Donations For Thanksgiving Meal**

11-05-18

The Fergus Falls Salvation Army is gearing up for their annual Thanksgiving Dinner. The event will be on Thanksgiving day, but Lt. Anthony Nordan says more food donations are needed so there will be enough for the expected rush...

Salvation Thanksgiving 25 SEC

OUTCUE: "...other people around the table."

Nordan says you can drop off any food donation right at the Fergus Falls Salvation Army Building at 622 E Vernon in Fergus Falls anytime during regular business hours Monday through Friday.

## **Fergus Falls YMCA Names New CEO**

11-01-18

The Fergus Falls YMCA has announced the hiring of a new CEO after the resignation of Dennis Lipp.

In a press release the Fergus Falls YMCA Board of Directors announced the hiring of Eric Price, as new CEO. Also addressed was the formal end of talks about a proposed merger with the Alexandria YMCA, with board members indicating that after much deliberation it was decided that now was not the appropriate time for such a venture.

Incoming CEO Eric Price previously served in the role of Operations Director within the organization. Price has already assumed the position, as Lipp's resignation was effective October 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day**

10-26-18

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is today. National Take-Back Day is a safe, convenient, and responsible way to dispose of unused or expired prescription drugs. The last Take-Back Day brought in almost 1 million pounds of unused or expired prescription medication nationally.

Locally, the Grant and Wilkin County Sheriff's Offices are taking part with the events going from 10am to 2pm Saturday.

In Otter Tail County a year-round program called "Take it to the Box" program allows residents to drop off unwanted and outdated prescription drugs in a secure receptacle at drop off locations in Battle Lake, Fergus Falls, Henning, New York Mills, Ottertail, Parker's Prairie, Pelican Rapids, and Perham.

No syringes, needles or sharps are accepted.

## **Ada Man Rescues Driver Trapped In Burning Vehicle**

10-24-18

Austen Germolus says he's no hero. The 33-year-old Ada man rescued a driver trapped in a burning vehicle following a crash Monday night on a county road near Borup, Minnesota. He says he did what anyone would do in a situation like that.

Germolus says the SUV was hot from the flames and it looked like the fire was getting closer to the driver. The driver was conscious but the vehicle doors were jammed so Germolus broke out a window and pulled the man to safety.

Norman County Sheriff Jeremy Thornton says moments after the rescue, the SUV was engulfed in flames. He says the driver, 40-year-old Zebulen Dickey, of Georgetown would not have survived. Dickey was transported to a Fargo hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

Dickey rear-ended a grain truck that had slowed to turn into a farm. The impact sent Dickey's SUV into a ditch where it started on fire. The driver of the grain truck, 60-year-old John Germolus, of Borup had only minor injuries. He texted his son, Austen, who was working in a nearby field, and asked for help immediately after the crash and he arrived to make the rescue.

## **H5N2 Avian Influenza Confirmed In Kandiyohi County Commercial Turkey Flock**

10-24-18

The Minnesota Board of Animal Health has confirmed a case of H5N2 low pathogenic avian influenza in a commercial turkey flock in Kandiyohi County. The disease was detected during routine surveillance testing of the flock of 10,000 13-week-old turkey toms on October 19. The farm includes an additional three barns housing 10,000 birds each, all of which have tested negative. This is not the same virus that was the cause of the highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak in the Midwest in 2015.

This strain does not pose a risk to the public, and there is no food safety concern for consumers. The Board of Animal Health is working with all federal, state and industry partners to prevent the spread of the disease. Poultry producers are asked to maintain strong biosecurity practices at their facilities to isolate their flocks from outside sources of infection.

## **Dog attacks walker in Pelican Rapids**

A man out for a late morning walk in Pelican Rapids on Tuesday was bitten by a dog. The victim said he was walking down a road when the dog ran out to the road and bit him on his left hand. The walker received a small single puncture wound to his left hand. The dog is up to date on his immunizations and has no previous bites on record. Photos were taken and report was made to public health.

## **Fisherman Located And Transported To Hospital**

10-15-18

Two missing fishermen who were reported missing from a resort on the South end of Lake of the Woodshave been found.

The Ontario Provincial Police Marine and Trails Unit and Emergency Response Team with help from the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Canadian Military and other community partners were able to locate the two stranded fisherman. The two men were transported to the hospital to be treated for non-life threatening injuries. Their last reported location had been reported to be near Fadden's Island last Tuesday October 9th.

## **October National Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

10-15-18

October is national Domestic Violence Awareness month and Someplace Safe is offering many different events during the month to offer assistance and help. Kim Anderson-Moen with the organization says they are there to offer support, no matter the situation...

NATL DOMESTIC VIO MONTH 25 SEC

OUTCUE: "...where they're at."

Every Thursday in October, Perkins of Fergus Falls will host the "Dine to Donate" Fundraiser. Perkins will donate a percentage their pre-tax sales to the Someplace Safe Fergus Falls Advocacy Office on October 18, and October 25. Simply dine at Perkins on one of these dates to support Someplace Safe.

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Someplace Safe. for more info on <sup>other</sup> events go to ~~Someplace Safe~~

Someplace Safe. info

## **Two Fergus Falls Businesses Fail Tobacco Compliance Checks**

10-10-18

Fifteen Fergus Falls Businesses were part of a random tobacco compliance check conducted on Tuesday by the Fergus Falls Police and resulted in two individual cashiers being issued citations who work for two area businesses.

Of the fifteen businesses involved, the two businesses that failed the checks were Little Chief in the 1600 block of Pebble Lake Road and Lakeway Market in the 1800 block of East Fir Ave. One of the cashiers cited was a minor himself, who was 16 yrs old and the other was 52 yr Denise French, both of Fergus Falls.

Fergus Falls city ordinance states that any business found to have violated the tobacco ordinance, or whose employee has violated the ordinance, shall be charged an administrative fine of \$100, with \$200 for a second offense at the same licensed premises within a 24-month period.

## **Minnesota Dept of Health Advising Doctors to Look out for Rare Illness**

10-08-18

State health officials are asking doctors to be on the lookout for children with a rare, polio-like illness after six cases were reported in Minnesota since September 20th. Symptoms of Acute flaccid myelitis (my-lite-UHS) include sudden weakness in an arm or leg and loss of muscular reflexes. The Department of Health's Kris Ehresman (AIRS-men) says at this point they aren't sure of the extent of the outbreak...

MDH Ehresman 7 SEC

OUTCUE: "...information is aggregated.

Ehresman advises parents to seek medical attention if they notice "any kind of acute muscle weakness in their kids, in arms and legs, that obviously doesn't have anything to do with spraining your ankle at soccer." Ehresman says its unknown what causes A-F-M but people should observe good hygiene and be sure vaccinations are up-to-date. A-F-M is serious but rare, affecting about one-in-a-million people.

## Fergus Falls City Leaders Discuss Changing Workforce

10-04-18

The League of Minnesota Cities held a regional meeting at the Fergus Falls City Council Chambers Wednesday evening discussing the way the workforce has changed and how to attract prospective job applicants to Fergus and Otter Tail County. <sup>Don wants his more</sup> League of Minnesota Cities Deputy Director Dan Greenswag says the mindset has changed dramatically from even just a few years ago...

Greenswag Changing Demo 28 SEC

OUTCUE: "...a bit of a change with the demographics in Minnesota."

Greenswag added that communities across the state are also grappling with many of the same challenges. Last year, Otter Tail County hired a Rural Rebound Initiative Coordinator to work with businesses and communities in the county to attract, retain, and expand the region's workforce and energize young people in the area about the opportunities that exist in their own backyard. The work is funded by West Central Initiative, Blandin Foundation, Otto Bremer Foundation, the Veden Trust, Fergus Falls EIC, and other private sector supporters.

>>Premiums Decreasing for Minnesota Individual Health Insurance Market

(St. Paul, MN) -- Premiums on Minnesota's individual health insurance market are expected to drop again next year by seven-point-four to nearly 28 percent. The state Commerce Department released the 2019 numbers prior to the November 1st enrollment period. Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm says no network service areas will be reduced and most counties will have two or three available provider networks and associated qualified health plans. A person's actual premium depends on their individual situation and health plan selected. Those receiving tax credits generally will not see as much of a decrease as those who pay the full cost of their own premium. Rates in the small group market will drop by two-point-four to nearly 12 percent.

## **Fergus Falls YMCA Director Resigns**

10-03-18

In a memo to staff and members of the Fergus Falls YMCA, Executive Director Dennis Lipp has called it quits. Lipp announced Tuesday that he is returning to his previous position at the YMCA in Manitowish Waters, Wisconsin. His last day is scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup>.

In the coming days the Fergus Falls YMCA Board of Directors will work with Y-USA to find his ultimate replacement. Lipp started in the position in Fergus Falls a little over four years ago.

## **National Presidential Emergency Alert Test Today**

10-03-18

Fergus Falls Police are reminding residents that they will receive a presidential emergency alert test, and to not be alarmed. FEMA in coordination with the FCC will conduct a nationwide test of the Wireless Emergency Alerts and Emergency Alert System at 1:18 this afternoon, and the Emergency Alert System portion follows at 1:20. The test will assess the operational readiness of the infrastructure for distribution of a national message and determine whether improvements are needed. Otter Tail County Emergency Manager Patrick Waletzko...

Waletzko Wireless Alerts 27 SEC

OUTCUE: "...different than a regular text."

This is the fourth Emergency Alert System nationwide test and the first national Wireless Emergency Alert. Previous national tests were conducted in 2011, 2016, and 2017 in collaboration with the FCC, broadcasters, and emergency management officials in Otter Tail County in recognition of FEMA's National Preparedness Month.

## **Mahnomen Apartment Building Fire**

10-01-18

Fire gutted an apartment and displaced other renters at a Mahnomen apartment building early Sunday morning.

A Mahnomen County deputy was driving by the apartment building when she noticed smoke coming out of the bottom floor apartment. The occupant of the apartment told the deputy that he was cooking something on the stove and it got away from him. Fire departments from Mahnomen, Waubun, and Twin Lakes responded.

All of the tenants were able to get out safely. They were placed at the Shooting Star Casino and with relatives. The Red Cross is helping with getting some personal items.

The apartment where the fire started will have to be replaced. The rest of the building had smoke damage. Tenants will be able to return at a later date after cleanup is completed.

The cause of the fire is under investigation by the State Fire Marshall.

## Psychiatrist Says More Studies Needed For Medical Marijuana

10-01-18

The push nationwide has been towards legalizing marijuana. Nine states and the District of Columbia have legalized marijuana for recreational use. Medical marijuana is legal in 30 states including Minnesota. Canada has legalized marijuana. There is a push in Congress to decriminalize it in the United States. Proponents say that marijuana is harmless. But Dr. Antoine Kanamugire (ahn-twon – kahn-uh-mah-geer) says he thinks the public is being misled...

Marijuana Health Effects Dr Antoine 31 SEC

OUTCUE: "...into other mental health problems."

He says that the drug far from being harmless causes, anxiety, depression, psychosis, and even suicide. He also disputes if medical cannabis actually helps patients.

Legislation passed during the 2014 Minnesota legislative session allows seriously ill Minnesotans to use medical cannabis to treat certain conditions.

2650

FGU  
NOX  
DLM  
PRW

## Minnesota Top Employer

10-01-18

Forbes named the State of Minnesota a top 50 employer for new graduates. Management and Budget Commissioner Myron Frans (franz) says he is proud of the fact Minnesota is the only state government system to make the nationwide ranking of 250 public and private sector employers...

[jwcstaterank1] :12 ~~stay~~ public service food

General Mills, Mayo Clinic, the U of M and 3M were other Minnesota-based employers included on the list. Franz says, on the whole, employers here do a good job promoting the Minnesota quality of life when recruiting and retaining workers.

1627