

EDUCATION

## **U Of M Runner Gabe Grunewald Of Perham Loses Long Battle To Cancer**

06-12-13

Friends, family and the running community are mourning the loss of Perham native Gabriele "Gabe" Grunewald. Her husband Justin says Gabriele died Tuesday night after a long battle with cancer at age 32. Justin wrote on Instagram, "I can't wait until I get to see you again to my hero, my best friend, my inspiration, my wife." Gabe entered hospice care this week due to worsening liver function. Grunewald was diagnosed with adenoid cystic carcinoma in 2009 while running for the University of Minnesota and went on to win national championships and set the Golden Gopher record in the 15-hundred meters.

## Northwest Minnesota Town Mourns Loss Of Prep Athlete In Crash

6-5-19  
(Clay County, MN) -- A northwest Minnesota town is mourning the death of a three-sport prep athlete in a crash. Alivia Mortenson was killed over the weekend north of Hitterdal, about 30 miles northeast of Moorhead. The 17-year-old played volleyball, basketball, and softball and had just finished her junior year in high school. Members of the Ulen-Hitterdal High School baseball team honored Mortenson during yesterday's section playoff by wearing stickers with her jersey number and initials on their helmets and ball caps.

## **Frazee Vergas School District Referendum Fails**

05-15-19

The \$25.6 million bond referendum that was on the ballot in a special election held Tuesday in the Frazee Vergas School District failed to get the approval of voters. The referendum included projects to update security at the elementary and high schools, add an auditorium, build a new gym and locker rooms and resituate the outdoor running track and football field. Superintendent Terry Karger says the final tally was 1,122 voting no, with 632 voting yes.

## **Fergus Falls School District Approves Purchase Of Additional Land Behind Target Building**

05-14-19

Monday night's Fergus Falls School Board meeting approved the purchase of additional acreage behind the target building, which the district recently purchased. The land would amount to approximately eight additional acres. Current Superintendent Jerry Ness says the additional land is required...

NESS TARGET PURCHASE 28 SEC

OUTCUE: "...with the target facility.

The school board also approved a \$17,000 easement proposal from the city that allows routing of city utilities on school property along Mt. Faith Avenue and Sheridan Streets as part of the upcoming street construction to take place in that area. Administration officials say this would make for easier access in case any electrical infrastructure needed to be modified, as it would not be underground as it is now.

## **Perham High School Student Honored In Nation's Capitol**

05-08-19

Perham student Annika Kovar and the other top Minnesota youth volunteer, Ryan Stoltz of Eden Prairie, were honored in the nation's capital Sunday night for their outstanding volunteer service during the 24th annual presentation of The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. 18-year-old Annika and 14-year-old Ryan— along with 100 other top youth volunteers from across the country – received a \$1,000 award and personal congratulations from award-winning actress Viola Davis at an award ceremony and gala dinner reception held at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.

Annika, a senior at Perham High School, created a charity that has encouraged and helped 105 childcare facilities in 21 states to grow vegetable gardens for their kids, and is engaged in numerous other projects to promote healthy eating and physical activity among young people.

## **Local Writer To Document History Of Fergus Falls**

05-07-19

Monday's meeting of the Fergus Falls City Council featured a local writer who has entered into an exclusive agreement with the Otter Tail County Historical Society to produce what he is calling an accurate, compelling, and readable history on the city of Fergus Falls. Local writer R.C. Drews of Fergus Falls says there is a lot of very rich history that has not been documented...

History of Fergus Falls RC DREW 22 SEC

OUTCUE: "...to pursue something like this.

The local author says the project was initiated after a substantial and generous local grant, and at the meeting, the city approved a resolution to help fund the project as well. The new book, is tentatively called, "Founding Fergus Falls: A History.

## **Great American Think-Off Finalists Announced**

05-02-19

The Cultural Center in New York Mills announces four finalists from the essay contest portion of the Great American Think-Off. These four essayists each win \$500 and a trip to New York Mills on June 8<sup>th</sup>, for the live debate where the finalists will argue their side of the question, "To vote or not to vote: does it matter?"

The four finalists are Rick Brundage of St. Paul, David Lapakko of Richfield, Louise Mengelkoch of Lake Oswego, OR, and Jennifer Nelson of Fridley.

Now in its 27th year, The Great American Think-Off is an exhibition of civil disagreement between powerful ideas being explored by everyday people.



## **Fergus Falls Library Celebrates Grand Opening**

04-13-19

The remodeled and expanded Fergus Falls Public Library building on Hampden Avenue will be celebrating their Grand Opening on Saturday (Today).

Grand Opening events start at 9am, with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 11.

The completely renovated building features an expanded children's area with an enclosed early learning activity room as well as increased computer workstations, a technology instruction area, and even a reading lounge area with a small electric fireplace.

The project was partially funded through a half cent local option sales tax which was approved by Fergus Falls voters. The Library Foundation also raised three million dollars in private gifts and pledges for the project.

## **U-N-D President Mark Kennedy To Visit College Campuses In Colorado**

04-12-19

The dates are set for U-N-D President Mark Kennedy to visit college campuses in Colorado as he gets ready to leave Grand Forks for the top job with the University of Colorado System. Kennedy was selected this week as the lone finalist for the position by the Colorado Board of Regents. Following that decision one board member was quoted by the Boulder Daily Camera newspaper as saying she was concerned with Kennedy's voting record in Congress.

Member Lesley Smith clarified her remarks by saying during the next two weeks staff will be checking references and hosting forums on all the campuses. The board will also collect feedback from the public and the C-U community through an electronic survey. Smith adds the regents want to see how "Mark" handles himself and to see how he is received – and all board members are keeping an open mind.

Kennedy's visits will begin April 22nd with a meeting with administration and the C-U Foundation. It will conclude April 26th at C-U Boulder.

## **A Scare at Waubun School**

04-03-19

A few tense moments at Waubun School Tuesday after an anonymous call to law enforcement alleging an armed person was spotted in the area of the Waubun High School. The high school was immediately locked down and secured by a number of law enforcement.

The Sheriff's Office said following an investigation which included a search of the surrounding area, several neighboring residences and interviews with citizens and homeowners in the area, there was no evidence found to support the initial threat. Sheriff Josh Guenther says extra deputies were stationed at the school and in the area for the rest of the school day. In a press release just after 2:00pm Tuesday the sheriff said law enforcement doesn't believe there is a threat to the public or the school.

## **Great American Think-Off Essay Extension**

04-01-19

The 27th annual Great American Think-Off is looking for essay submissions for its annual philosophy debate. Essays are now due April 15, 2019, roughly two weeks away. This year's controversial question reads: "To vote or not to vote: does it matter?"

Four \$500 cash prizes, plus an all-expense-paid stay in New-York-Mills, MN are up for grabs in the live debate scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup>. There is no fee to enter. Participants can submit their essays to [think-off.org](http://think-off.org)

## **Former Shakopee Superintendent To Serve Two Years In Prison**

04-01-19

The former superintendent of Shakopee Public Schools is facing two years in prison for a federal count of soliciting a bribe. Fifty-three year old Rodney Thompson served as superintendent from 2011 to 2017 and authorities say that in 2012 he coerced a construction firm to renovate his basement in exchange for school contracts. He has also admitted to using his school-issued credit card to buy sports memorabilia, first-class airfare, concert tickets, and an Xbox. His federal sentence will be served concurrently with a sentence on nearly 20 state felonies.

In 2002, Thompson resigned his position as principal at Detroit Lakes High School after alleged misconduct with a subordinate.

## Fergus Falls Score Chapter To Open

04-01-19

The Fergus Falls Downtown Riverfront Council together with Greater Fergus Falls has worked to establish a local chapter of certified business mentors, known as SCORE. The chapter will serve the community and surrounding area to mentor potential small business owners with start-up and expansion efforts.

Program Coordinator NeTia Bauman says that SCORE volunteers will provide free mentoring to small business entrepreneurs on a wide range of business topics like how to write a business plan, how to arrange funding and manage cash flow, to how to develop effective marketing and web-based retailing. Business owners can access SCORE via free, ongoing face-to-face mentoring sessions or through our email mentoring services.

The SCORE chapter will be co-located with Greater Fergus Falls and the Downtown Riverfront Council. The Small Business Development Center also shares the space for consulting purposes. With the opening of SCORE, Bauman say they have established a comprehensive economic development center in Fergus Falls.

The new chapter is still looking for volunteer mentors. If interested in mentoring, please contact the chapter at 218-321-2079. If interested in receiving services, please submit a request

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*The Fergus Falls Downtown Riverfront Council  
together w/ Greater FF have recently announced  
the creation of a local SCORE chapter.  
Full press release of the announcement:*

*Insert PR*