

YOUTH

## Fergus Otter Girls Swim Makes Sizeable Donation To Food Shelf

04-12-17

The need is very real this time of year for the Fergus Falls Food Shelf, as more and more area residents are utilizing its services. With this in mind, the Fergus Falls Otters<sup>6-5</sup> Swim Team stepped up to the plate and was able to raise and donate \$250 to the Fergus Falls Food Shelf, and it was raised in just a couple of days. However, as Executive Director Lorna Fugelston says the girls' donation will be stretched even further...

Food Shelf Donation 24 SEC

OUTCUE: "...and Nicole Mortenson all helped."

The Fergus Falls Community Food Shelf operates solely on the generosity of personal donations, along with contributions, businesses, organizations and churches in the area and serve about 1,000 people each month, 400 of those are children under the age of 18.

7A  
1626  
8A  
1189

1628  
MAY 7

## Program Emphasizes Positive Alcohol Abstinence

05-05-17

Challenging misconceptions and talking about what teens are doing right can result in real reductions in teen alcohol use. This is one of the findings of a new report from the Minnesota Department of Human Services. The program, called "Positive Community Norms" was funded by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and is a 10-year-old initiative offering grants to school districts and communities to decrease teen alcohol consumption. Claire Wilson, DHS Assistant Commissioner...

CLAIRE WILSON 25 SEC

OUTCUE: "...behavior in our community."

The approach is based on national research that has found that teens overestimate alcohol and drug use among their peers, making it seem normal or even attractive. So rather than focusing on what youth are doing wrong, Wilson says that Positive Community Norms emphasizes what the teens are doing right. New grantees are encouraged to create a coalition of community members, from teachers to parents, from bankers to shopkeepers, involving as many community members as possible.

6A  
1207  
7:30  
1189  
  
1628  
NWS

DLM  
LPRW

## One Pick Up One Drop Off

05/09/17

The Detroit Lakes School Board agrees the district will implement a new bussing procedure next fall. On the table this week was the "one pick up, one drop off" proposal which limits each family to a single morning bus pick up and single afternoon drop-off site for their kids each day. Board members unanimously agreed the change needs to happen.

Board member Amy Erickson...

Bus\_Amy E1 :11 way to go, so

Superintendent Doug Froke (FROHK) says the core of why the busing proposal came about is because of growing safety and cost issues. He pointed out the increasing incidences of kids being lost after school and the cost and time savings by moving to one pick up, one drop off.

The school board requested a cleaned up version of the proposal be brought back at the June meeting to finalize the new procedure.

7A  
1625  
8A

## Otter Tail County AIS Education Targeting Youth

06-14-17

Aquatic invasive species education for schools and youth is a new direction the Otter Tail County AIS Task Force is taking. So far, over several summers and during the school year Wayne Horgan and Moriya (mohr-EYE-ah) Rufer (ROOF-er) with the department have visited schools and distributed an AIS Tool Kit, along with a 4-day program on the lake where youth will learn the importance of AIS identification, Horgan says it is really catching on...

HORGAN AIS ED EFFORTS 29 SEC

OUTCUE: "...it would be zebra mussels."

Educating youth is a new key component of the Otter Tail County AIS Task Force and will continue on Otter Tail County lakes this summer and fall. Horgan advises area educators to contact him to get set up for a course at their school.

7A  
8A  
1627  
1189  
NHSZ

## Kids Count Survey

06-17-17

For Saturday

A new report has high praise for Minnesota, for decreasing its number of uninsured children by 60 percent – one of the biggest drops in the nation – between 2010 and 2015. The new KIDS COUNT Data Book for 2017 ranks Minnesota fourth among states for overall child well-being. Stephanie Hogensen with the Children's Defense Fund Minnesota says despite its high ranking, there are some areas that need improvement. Breaking down the numbers by race, she says it's clear that white children fared better than those of other ethnic backgrounds...

..."those vast disparities." :12

The 2017 KIDS COUNT Data Book shows gains have been made across the country, with fewer children living in poverty, more parents with jobs, and more families able to bear the cost of housing.

The report ranks Minnesota 8th in education. It says the number of three- and four-year-olds who aren't enrolled in preschool has gone up four-percent, nearly two-thirds of fourth-graders are not proficient in reading, and more than half of eighth-graders aren't proficient in math.

## Library Seeks Community Input

06-21-17

Residents in and around Breckenridge will have a chance to make the city's library the best it can be in serving the public's needs. A community conversation is planned for June 27<sup>th</sup> as part of an extensive outreach and planning process undertaken by the Lake Agassiz Regional Library.

Regional Director Liz Lynch meetings have already been held in Detroit Lakes and Moorhead. Breckenridge, Hawley, and Bagley are next. Lynch says it's something Lake Agassiz Regional Library does every three to four years. Hosts at the meetings ask basic questions, and don't try to influence community answers...

..."variety of comments." :17

Part of the Breckenridge meeting will talk about a Bremer Trust grant recently received by the library. Community members will be asked how they would like to see the facility upgraded.

The community conversation will be held June 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at the library. Prior to the meeting, a light supper will be held in the library parking lot from 5:30 to 6:30, sponsored by Friends of the Breckenridge Library.

7A  
8A  
NWSL



## **OTC Compliance Checks**

06-23-17

Recent alcohol compliance checks in Otter Tail County, excluding Fergus Falls, shows just under four percent of establishments checked failed.

Confidential informants were sent to 80 establishments June 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Only three establishments failed by selling alcohol to minors.

Those who failed the checks were Willy T's at Thumper Pond, Zorbaz on Pelican Lake, and Firehouse Bar just west of Wadena.

Free alcohol server training is offered every year. 2017 training was offered in May. It's recommended every one to two years for anyone working in a business selling alcoholic beverages.

All reports from compliance checks are sent to the Otter Tail County Attorney's Office for consideration of charges.

Alcohol compliance checks are an effort to fight underage drinking and DWIs.

30LM  
PRW

Published