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The **SUNDAY**
Daily Journal
www.fergusfallsjournal.com

Sunday
June 23, 2013
Vol. 140, No. 147
Fergus Falls, Minn.

Native climbs Mt. Everest

By Rian Bosse
Daily Journal

In his search for adventure, Micah Kershner found himself nearly 29,000 feet above sea-level — looking up at the famous snowy summit of Mount Everest.

Kershner, a 1996 graduate of Fergus Falls High School, had quit his job in the electronic payments industry to focus time on his bucket list and to get out of the busy business world. That brought him to Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal.

Kershner expected to gain experience climbing in the Himalayas. In turn, he was presented with the opportunity to join an expedition up the tallest mountain in the



Photo Provided

Fergus Falls native Micah Kershner uses an ice axe at Mt. Everest's Yala Peak, about 17,000 feet, during one of his acclimatization climbs.

world. Despite having no climbing experience, he signed up.

"I wanted a challenge," Kershner

said. "Everest provides a rare opportunity in life where you don't get phone reception, you don't have any day-to-day distractions, you get a total reset from the real world."

Veteran climbers did not expect Kershner to finish much of the climb or venture so far out of his comfort zone. He left with the group on April 12, making several acclimatization trips to allow their bodies to adjust to the altitude.

As he expected, the challenges were extreme.

"Everest will expose any underlying health issues, both physical and mental," he said. "You end up tired of being on the mountain. It's cold and the food leaves much to

See **Everest** — Page 11

Storm causes damage



Seth Johnson/Daily Journal

Residents along the west side of Otter Tail Lake pick up their overturned boat lift Friday following Thursday night storms that included severe winds and rain. For more, see **Pages 2,3**.

Storms don't dampen spirits at Relay



Kathryn Schultz/Daily Journal

Darla Jacobson begins the opening ceremony of the American Cancer Society Relay For Life at M-State on Friday.



Kathryn Schultz/Daily Journal

Amanda Sem, going through chemotherapy as treatment for her cardiac sarcoma, was supported by friends and family at the Relay For Life on Friday. Their team was called the "Vertical Running Team" and their shirts proclaimed, "Cancer started the fight, but we will finish it."

Almost from ashes

Michigan Kirkbride now a vibrant piece of Traverse City's economy

By Heather Rule
Daily Journal

Ray Minervini was on a committee in Michigan to preserve the Traverse City State Hospital. The group voted to demolish the building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, but Minervini wouldn't have it.

He is the man behind The Village at Grand Traverse Commons, a redevelopment of the Kirkbride facility that was built in 1885. It was the first Kirkbride to be redeveloped.

Ray Willey, of Historic Kirkbride, plans to add to that tally with his \$41.4 million plan for the

Regional Treatment Center in Fergus Falls.

But it's Minervini that has proven that redeveloping a Kirkbride building is indeed possible.

The RTC is in 90 percent better condition than what Minervini started with in Michigan, he said. Before the Traverse City redevelopment, a hole in the roof and holes in the floors made it so you could be in the basement and look up to the sky, Minervini said.

His philosophy from the beginning was "to create a place for the butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker."

"It's live, work, play,"

See **Kirkbride** — Page 11



Photo provided

The Village at Grand Traverse Commons is a \$70 million makeover of the Traverse City State Hospital in Michigan. It now houses boutique shops, commercial offices, residential units and a gourmet restaurant.



Heather Rule/Daily Journal

Kids learn about ducks, hunting and more during 'camp'

By Heather Rule
Daily Journal

A Fergus Falls mother of five loves to do things with her kids. She has lots of great ideas for fun activities, but sometimes they don't make it past the idea stage.

So she decided to have camps for kids at her home. This week, it's been Duck Dynasty camp, inspired by

the reality show, "Duck Dynasty."

"When I invite other people's kids, it's a motivator to make things happen," Sarah Thacker said.

Just by inviting some friends through word of mouth and Facebook, she ended up with 15 kids (13 boys and two girls) at her house during the afternoons this week for the activity-filled camp.

"We picked 'Duck Dynasty' just because of the hype with it," Thacker said.

Duck and goose decoys decorated her front yard Thursday as the kids sat on the grass and learned about training hunting dogs. Before that, it was all about taxidermy with Rob Westby, a taxidermist who

See **Dynasty** — Page 3

MAILING LABEL

TODAY:
HIGH: 81 LOW: 59
SUNSET TONIGHT: 5:33 a.m.
SUNRISE TOMORROW: 9:21 p.m.
FRIDAY:
HIGH: 78 LOW: 60
PRECIPITATION: .52

OBITUARIES
In today's Journal, Page 2

- Loraine Berg, 88, Pelican Rapids
- Beverlee Frank, 81, Fergus Falls
- Mila B. Fronning, 89, of Fergus Falls
- Charles Newborg, 76, Underwood
- Geraldine Preston, 84, Fergus Falls
- Ethel Vaughn, 85, Perham
- Sidney Weinkauff, 67, of South Dakota
- Geraldine Preston, 84, Fergus Falls

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