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The Daily Journal

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Sunday

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Joel Myhre/Daily Journal

Liquor store clerk Beth Beighley helps out a customer buying craft beers. Liquor store manager Brian Olson says staff training on premium beer and wine has helped increase sales.

Muni pours profits to city

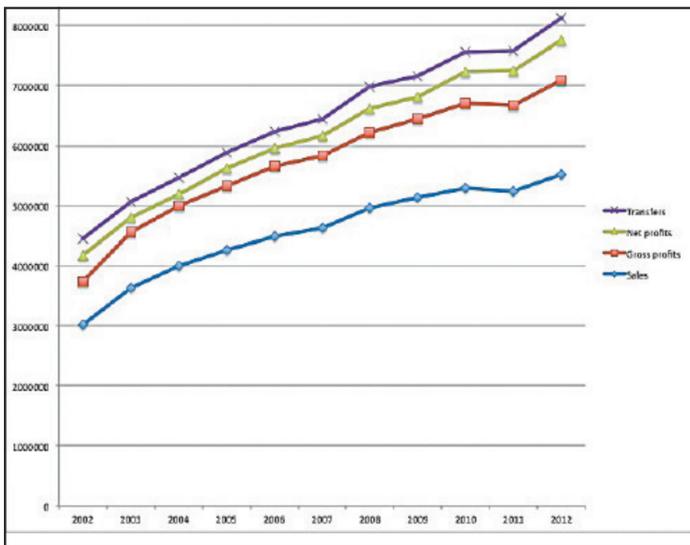
Liquor store ranked 10th in state for gross sales

By Joel Myhre
Daily Journal

By any measurement, the Fergus Falls Municipal Liquor Store had a big year in 2012, according to a recently released report by the State Auditor's Office.

With more than \$5.5 million in gross sales, the store was ranked 10th out of the 207 municipal liquor stores in the state in terms of gross sales, and the nine ahead of Fergus Falls were all Twin Cities suburban communities. The store's gross sales increased by \$275,129, or 5.2 percent compared to 2011.

Fergus Falls was also ranked 21st in terms of net profit as a percentage of sales, at 12.3 percent with \$679,514 in net profits in 2012. Net profits also increased by \$99,231 compared to 2011, a 17 percent



increase.

Fergus Falls Municipal Liquor Store operations manager Brian Olson attributes much of the success to the growth of the new store on the city's west side, which opened in April of 2003. Gross sales have

increased 83 percent, and net profits 56 percent, compared to 2002, the year the store opened.

"Everything (city officials) said would happen with this place is hap-

See **Sales** — Page 3

NEIGHBORS



Chris Reinos/Daily Journal

Wayne Hanson, Anna Weber and Jesse Thorstad are three of the members of the Fergus Falls Frozen Assets, the city's first Polar Plunge team. The team will be taking the plunge Feb. 23 to benefit the Special Olympics.

Taking the plunge

First FF team preparing for charitable icy-cold jump

By Chris Reinos
Daily Journal

As the brutally cold winter rages on, it would be fair to expect people to bundle up with a warm cup of hot chocolate and avoid going outside.

But one group of Fergus Falls residents, led by school district employee Jesse Thorstad, is facing the weather head-on, all in the name of charity.

"We thought it sounded exciting and dangerous and would be a terrific way to raise some money," Thorstad said of putting a team together for the Feb. 23 Polar Plunge in Alexandria.

Thorstad has spent weeks rounding up a team of his coworkers and Fergus Falls Junior Special Olympics athletes for his Polar Plunge team.

The team, dubbed the Fergus Falls Frozen Assets, will head to Alexandria in a coach bus the morning of Feb. 23 for the charitable plunge.

Each member of the Fergus Falls Frozen Assets is required to raise \$75 in pledges. Half of the money the team raises goes to the state Special Olympics program, while the other half goes directly to the Fergus Falls Junior team.

Jackie Formo joined the team because she is always up for a challenge. Stacy Kolle has been do-

FYI ...

The Fergus Falls Frozen Assets will head to Alexandria Feb. 23 for the Polar Plunge. The frozen water jump is a fund raiser for the Special Olympics.

M.A. Burriss back in OTC jail

Bail set at \$1 million

By Heather Rule
Daily Journal

Nearly six months after he was arrested in Arizona for allegedly murdering his nephew, Michael Alan Burriss is back in Minnesota and in the Otter Tail County Jail. He made his first appearance in Otter Tail County District Court Friday.

Michael Alan Burriss, 65, is charged with felony second-degree murder. He's accused of murdering his nephew, Scott Burriss, who died from a single gunshot wound in May 2012. Michael Kyle Burriss, 24, is also charged in the case with felony second-degree murder and felony aiding an offender-accomplice after the fact.

Michael Alan Burriss is in jail on \$1 million bail set Friday by District Judge

Mark Hansen. An attorney will be appointed to represent him.

Both Judge Hansen and Assistant Otter Tail County Attorney Michelle Eldien cited the seriousness of the charge, and the fact that Michael Alan Burriss is homeless and unemployed, as reasons for setting the bail so high.

Michael Alan Burriss remained in Maricopa County Jail since his arrest and chose to fight extradition. He waived extradition last month and returned to Minnesota following the process of a Governor's Warrant.

Michael Kyle Burriss waived extradition in October and was returned to Minnesota. He had been in the Otter Tail County Jail, but was moved to another jail when his father was returned. The move was to preserve the integrity of the case and "to limit interaction between the two suspects," said Lt. Matt



M.A. Burriss



M.K. Burriss

McGuire with the Otter Tail County Sheriff's Office.

During his jail time in Arizona, Michael Alan Burriss allegedly tried to hire someone to kill three people. He was charged with felony conspiracy to commit first-degree murder in Maricopa County Superior Court; he pleaded not guilty to the charge in November.

That charge in Arizona was dismissed. The Otter Tail County Sheriff's Of-

See **Murder** — Page 3

Heuer pleads not guilty to sexual conduct charges

By Heather Rule
Daily Journal

A Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Deputy who allegedly had sexual contact with children pleaded not guilty to all the charges against him Friday in Otter Tail County District Court.

Aaron Joseph Heuer, 30, of Isle, is charged in two separate cases with felony criminal sexual conduct. He was first charged in July with four felony counts of first-degree criminal sexual



Heuer

See **Heuer** — Page 2

MAILING LABEL

TOMORROW:



HIGH: -4 LOW: -16

SUNRISE TOMORROW: 7:35 a.m.
SUNSET TOMORROW: 5:43 p.m.

FRIDAY:

HIGH: 7 LOW: -16
PRECIPITATION: .0

OBITUARIES

In today's Journal, Page 2

- Judith A. Carr, 84, Fergus Falls
- Kathryn Frees, 72
- Mayme Heiden, 87, Fergus Falls
- Maxine Schuler, 83, Fargo



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Love Lines

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