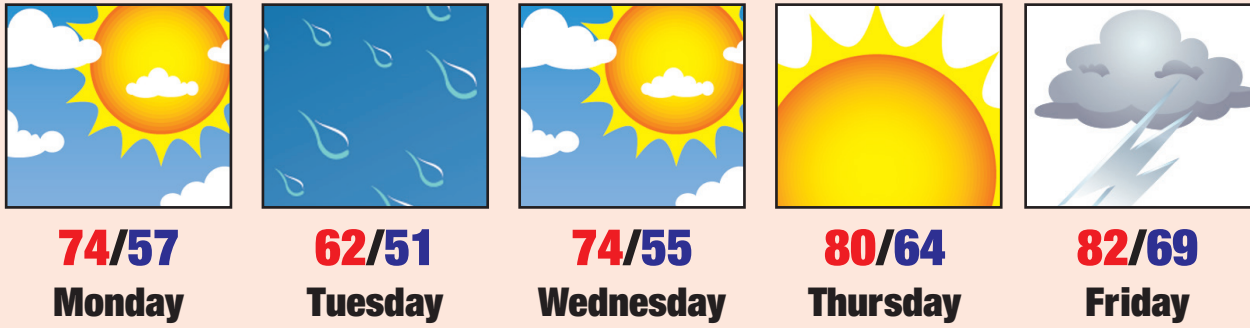


Fergus Falls five-day weather forecast



Tomorrow's almanac

Sunrise: 5:36 a.m.
Sunset: 9:20 p.m.
Wind: SW 20 mph
Humidity: 59%
UV Index: 8 Very high
Avg. High: 79
Avg. Low: 59
Record High: 96/1966
Record Low: 44/1950



LOTTERIES:

Daily 3:
6-0-5
Northstar Cash:
1-12-23-28-31
Gopher 5:
5-8-10-36-38

Traveler information and road conditions may be found at 511mn.org or by calling 511

Local jobless rate lowest in 8 years

By Heather Rule
Daily Journal

At 4.1 percent for the month of May, Otter Tail County's unemployment rate is the lowest it's been since 2006, according to unemployment data released by the Department of Employment and Economic Development.

It's not a surprising statistic to Harold Stanislawski, executive director of the Fergus Falls Economic Improvement Commission.

"The economy in just about every section is do-

ing relatively OK, so that's putting pressure on the job market," he said.

The jobless rate for May has kept the trend in 2014 with some of the lowest rates in years. Unemployment rates for the county were 6.8 percent in February, the lowest since it reached that rate in 2006 and it hasn't been lower since 2001; 6.5 percent in March, the lowest since 2006; 5.1 in April, the lowest since it reached that rate in 2004 and 2005 and it hasn't been lower since 2001.

With a lot of retirements

lately as well, it's opening up positions that haven't been available for awhile, according to Stanislawski, which gives younger people a chance to gain employment.

It's a busy time of year for construction work. They're relatively busy in the area with projects including the new school in Rothsay, Pelican Rapids School District renovation project and new apartment complex in Fergus Falls, according to Stanislawski.

"There's significant activity in the region," he said.

"They're having a hard time finding crews to handle the work load."

The health care sector, retail, hospitality industry, trucking industry and finance are other areas always looking for workers. There's a demand locally for certified nursing assistants, people with accounting degrees and those with computer-aided design abilities for 3D digital printing, Stanislawski said, adding that it's always good to have opportunities out there, especially for graduates.

"What I get concerned

about ... is we need to make sure that people that live in our region are aware of the opportunities," he said. "If you can sell yourself, right now is a good time to be entering the market."

The unemployment rate will likely drop more with the June and July numbers, before it climbs again once winter arrives and many seasonal jobs end for the year.

Stanislawski looks to promote the lakes region when it comes to employment. Paying attention to companies in the Fargo-Moorhead

area is also important because younger ones might choose to move closer to the lakes area, according to Stanislawski, which would be a local boost to the economy.

Workforce movement toward the Bakken in western North Dakota is also a concern on his radar.

"Some people don't believe we have a Bakken effect here, but we do have a Bakken effect," he said.

Still, he thinks the area is in "pretty good shape" when it comes to the unemployment rate.

Body found in Red River near Breckenridge

Forum News Service

BRECKENRIDGE — A body was found in the Red River north of here Friday morning, Wilkin County Sheriff Rick Fielder said.

Speculation that the body may belong to Andrew Sadek, the 20-year old North Dakota State College of Science student who disappeared May 2, led NDSCS to release a public statement.

"Any statement from the College regarding a possible connection between this development and the College's investigation into the disappearance of NDSCS student Andrew Sadek would be premature," the statement said.

Sadek's disappearance prompted days of public searching, including some looking for him along and in area rivers.

On May 5, a warrant for Sadek's arrest was issued for two felonies and a misdemeanor charge relating to drugs. Sadek had allegedly sold marijuana to a police informant at NDSCS.

The body, which was found at about 9:45 a.m., was taken to Grand Forks for an autopsy, Fielder said.

Menahga man indicted on murder charges

Forum News Service

PARK RAPIDS, Minn. — A Hubbard County grand jury has indicted a man on murder charges in the strangulation death of 19-year-old Kiela Knowles.



Leritz

Harley Leritz, 21, of Menahga, is accused of first- and second-degree murder.

Hubbard County prosecutors presented the case to the grand jury, which returned the two-count indictment Thursday. The indictment replaces a criminal complaint that was filed earlier.

Police said surveillance video showed Leritz going in and out of Knowles' apartment in Park Rapids several times Feb. 23. The two, who attended Park Rapids Area High School, had just reconnected through Facebook.

MINNESOTA

The morning of Feb. 24, Knowles' father found her dead in her apartment. She was in bed with a pillow over her head, police said.

Leritz was arraigned Thursday, and his bail was set at \$1.5 million without conditions and \$1 million with conditions. His next court appearance is slated for July 7.

Drowning victim identified as Sartell man

BRAINERD, Minn. -- A man who drowned Thursday in Clearwater Lake was identified Friday by the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office as Gary Thomas Steichen, 44, of Sartell.

Sheriff Todd Dahl said that at about 1:30 p.m. Thursday, the sheriff's office responded to a report of a man who was missing in Clearwater Lake, east of Brainerd. Steichen was with a group of people on

the lake on a pontoon. The group had stopped the pontoon to go swimming and entered the water, but Steichen did not surface.

The sheriff's office dive team located Steichen in 20 feet of water. His body was transported to the Ramsey County Medical Examiner's Office. Foul play is not suspected.

Arrests made in beating at Tower casino

DULUTH -- Several people have been arrested following the June 22 assault of an Ely man at Fortune Bay Resort and Casino in Tower.

A 19-year-old Virginia

woman and a 20-year-old Virginia man, along with a 16-year-old Gilbert boy were arrested for conspiracy and second-degree assault, according to the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office.

A 22-year-old Ely man was lured to the casino by the woman through the website meetme.com, according to authorities. She led him down a path to a predetermined location behind the casino where he was attacked and beaten by the males. The victim was taken by ambulance to Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, where he was treated for multiple head injuries.

The Bois Forte Police Department and Tower Ambulance assisted.

Civil War veterans tour is July 8

Daily Journal

Join the Otter Tail County Historical Society for a Civil War veterans tour of Silent Vale cemetery at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 8.

More than 1,000 Civil War veterans came to call Otter Tail County home. Many of these veterans made an indelible impact on the county's political, economic, educational and cultural development.

Silent Vale cemetery in

Maine Township contains the graves of 26 Civil War veterans — more than any other cemetery in the county. The historical society will explore the lives of some of those veterans at the event.

Silent Vale cemetery is located north of Phelps Mill on County Road 45 near County Road 74. The tour is free, no reservation is necessary. For more information call the historical society at 218-736-6038.

Vehicle collector plates have rules

Question: I have heard rumors, urban legend, and even from the people at the county license center that vehicles with collector plates can only be driven on holidays and/or in parades. I have looked at the Minnesota state statutes online several times and I cannot find any restrictions on the use of vehicles with collector plates. I just recently got a 40 year old Rolls Royce up and running (with collector plates). It is fun to drive around but I don't want to be breaking any laws. I do have two other vehicles that require yearly tabs in the state of Minnesota. Any light you can shed on this subject will be greatly appreciated.



Jesse Grabow
Ask a Trooper

Answer: Good question because, as I write this, I'm overlooking the highway and seeing several cars that I believe to be heading about "Back to the 50s" at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds. Here is what some of Minnesota State Statute 168.10 says; at least 20 model years old

The vehicle is owned and operated solely as a collector's item and not for general transportation purposes. The owner shall also prove that the owner also has one or more vehicles with regular license plates. I've been in law enforcement for 17 years now (16 of them with the State Patrol) and I recall early in

my career something about limited miles, parades, car shows only, etc. But I believe the statute was changed many years ago to what is currently listed.

The statute is vague with regard to the use of vehicles bearing any of these classifications of plates, merely stating the vehicle for which the plates are issued must be operated solely as a collector vehicle and not for general transportation purposes. Nothing defines how a collector vehicle must be operated.

The occasional use of such a vehicle for personal errands, etc., "could" be acceptable within the scope of the statute. However, commuting to and from work, daily trips to the grocery store, etc., would be in violation.

If you were in violation of one of those requirements listed above, you could be charged with "improper use of registration" — misdemeanor (90 days and/or \$1,000 fine) or "intent to escape tax" — a gross misdemeanor (up to one year and/or \$3,000 fine) depending on the situation. The license plates would also be subject to impoundment. So, if you are going to use it for other purposes, have regular plates on it.

A portion of state statutes were used with permission from the Office of the Revisor of Statutes.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Trp. Jesse Grabow, Minnesota State Patrol at 1000 Highway 10 West, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-2205. You can follow him on Twitter @MSPPIO_NW or reach him at jesse.grabow@state.mn.us

Survey: Devils Lake favorable toward building events center

Forum News Service

DEVILS LAKE, N.D. -- Devils Lake likely will schedule an October special election for a proposed one-half percent city sales tax increase to finance a \$23.5 million project to build an events center and a separate wellness center.

That's the consensus of the steering committee after more than 60 percent of the approximately 400 likely voters who responded to a telephone survey said they would support the project.

The steering committee will meet again July 9, when it likely will recommend the Devils Lake City Commission proceed with a special

election for the sales tax increase, which would end after the project is paid off in 25 years.

Current plans call for a convention center to be built on the site of the soon-to-be-vacant Walmart in Devils Lake. Officials are talking with several developers about also building a privately financed hotel, which could be connected to the events/convention center.

Devil Lake currently has a 2 percent city sales tax, which has been raising about \$2.8 million to \$3 million annually in recent years, or about \$1.4 million to \$1.5 million for each one percent of tax, according to a recent estimate from City Hall.

DEATH NOTICE

Iris Beck

Iris Beck, 87, of Battle Lake, formerly of East Grand Forks, died Wednesday, June 25, 2014, at Good Samaritan Society Nursing Home in Battle Lake. A memorial service is planned at 1 p.m. Thursday, July 3, at Zion Lutheran Church of Amor with the Rev. James Gronbeck presiding.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will be at Riverview Memorial Gardens in Lancaster.

Condolences: www.olsonfuneralhome.com

July 4th Celebration
Erhard, Minnesota
Friday, July 4, 2014
Parade at 11:00 a.m.

- Horseshoe Tournament (2 p.m. with Cash Prizes)
- Beer Garden
- Inflatable Games
- GIANT WATER SLIDE!! DON'T FORGET YOUR TOWELS!!
- Raffle Prizes
- Concessions
- Bingo

Live Music by **ROBBY VEE BAND**
12:00-4:00 PM
Erhard Park

**10 All Day Wristband for Games!*
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