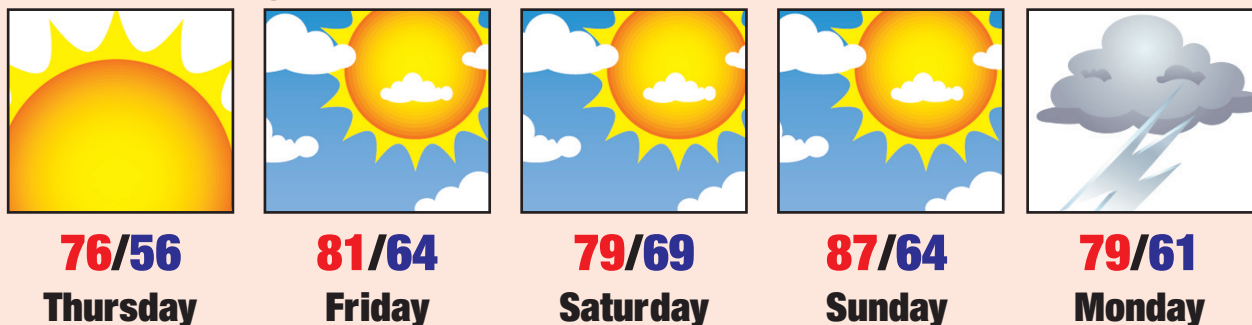


Fergus Falls five-day weather forecast



Tomorrow's almanac

Sunrise:	5:38 a.m.
Sunset:	9:20 p.m.
Wind:	SW 5 mph
Humidity:	54%
UV Index:	8 Very High
Avg. High:	80
Avg. Low:	59
Record High:	99/1949
Record Low:	40/1967



LOTTERIES:

Daily 3:
5-8-0
Northstar Cash:
5-7-13-27-28
Gopher 5:
16-18-19-24-43

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

OBITUARIES

Stanley Mann

Stanley Oran Mann, 61, of Doran, Minn., died at St. Francis Health Care Campus, Sunday, June 29, 2014.



Mann

Stan was born in Fergus Falls Nov. 11, 1952, one of two sons born to Ora and Dorothy (Brouwer) Mann. He attended elementary school in Doran and graduated high school from Breckenridge. He then enrolled in a one year course at Minnesota State Community and Technical College in Detroit Lakes.

Following his schooling, he worked for Virgil Albertson and Sons on their farm. When a medical condition prevented him from working, Stan stayed busy with his hobbies. Along with keeping in contact

with old acquaintances, he loved fishing and target shooting. He enjoyed crafting things with hands, like fishing tackle and jewelry. He was also a licensed gunsmith.

Stan is survived by his brother, Jim (Sybil) Mann of Campbell, Minn.; his nephews, Steven (friend Shiela) Mann, of Fargo, N.D., and Mitchel (fiancé Lindy) Mann, of Campbell. He is preceded in death by his grandparents; his parents, Ora and Dorothy; his niece, Autumn Mann; and his faithful companion, his dog, Snowball.

Visitation: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Monday, July 7, at Joseph Vertin & Sons Funeral Home in Breckenridge

Funeral: 10:30 a.m., Monday, July 7, at the funeral home

Cemetery: Vukku Cemetery near Doran

Clergy: The Rev. John Andrews

N.D. defends same-sex marriage ban in response to lawsuit

By Kyle Potter

Forum News Service

FARGO — North Dakota's top leaders have asked a U.S. District Court judge to dismiss a lawsuit challenging the state's ban on same-sex marriage, outlining its legal case for retaining a prohibition that's rapidly disappearing in the U.S.

In a motion filed Tuesday to dismiss the case, North Dakota Solicitor General Douglas Bahr argued that the U.S. Constitution leaves it up to individual states to define marriage.

"This case is really about who decides, not who is right in this im-

portant policy debate," Bahr wrote in the brief on behalf of Gov. Jack Dalrymple and several other top state officials named as plaintiffs in the lawsuit. "Under the United States Constitution, the people of North Dakota decide the definition of marriage for the State of North Dakota."

Seven same-sex couples challenged the state constitution's ban — which voters approved by a wide margin in 2004 — in early June, making North Dakota the final state to see a challenge to such bans. The couples argued that the state's ban unconstitutionally denies them the same rights and benefits granted to couples of different gender.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the federal Defense of Marriage Act last summer, making married same-sex partners eligible for federal benefits, a string of judges have ruled that state prohibitions outlawing gay marriage are unconstitutional.

In all 23 court rulings on the subject in the U.S. since the federal law was struck down last summer, judges have sided with proponents of same-sex matrimony, according to Freedom to Marry, an advocacy group in favor of gay marriage. Same-sex marriage is legal in 19 states, and there are pending rulings legalizing it in 12 more states, according to the advocacy group.

Old church — free, as long as you haul it away

By Emily Welker

Forum News Service

KRAGNES, Minn. — It's a classified ad much like those seeking a new owner for a cat or a dog.

But the ad running in The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead the past several days is offering something unusual — one old church, free to a good home.

"It cost too much to fix up, not enough members to do it," said longtime Oak Mound Congregational Church member Alvin Swanson, who lives about a mile away from the now-defunct church just north of Moorhead. "We had insurance, but it didn't cover seepage."

The church, built in 1896, had attendance hovering at 30 to 35 people when it finally was forced to close after the 2011 flood.

"I was pretty proud of that," said the Rev. Jo Cassidy-Mahoney, who had been pastor at Oak Mound for about five years when it closed. "Such a beautiful group of people, very dedicated to the church."

At one of the last events held there, Cassidy-Mahoney recalled, one of the keynote speakers referred

to himself as a newcomer — at only 30 years with the congregation.

When the flood hit, even the most dedicated were forced to stay away. Roads to the church were covered in floodwaters, making them impassable for most of the congregation.

As its members did their

worshipping elsewhere, praying for the rest of the valley to be spared, they didn't realize it was the old church they should be praying for.

And it wasn't until the floodwaters receded that they finally got inside it and realized the basement sump pumps had failed, filling it

with 3 to 4 feet of water.

"It had been in the back of our minds, how could we go on," Cassidy-Mahoney said, considering the dwindling numbers in the pews.

The congregation was down to just two Sunday-school-age children. And it had no flood rider on the church's insurance.

Maynard C. Olson

Maynard Carlton Olson, 90, of rural Underwood, died Monday, June 30, 2014, at Lake Region Hospital in Fergus Falls.



Olson

He was born Dec. 21, 1923, in Havana, N.D., the son of Ole C. and Ella (Osmundson) Olson. He was baptized and confirmed in the Havana Lutheran Church. He grew up in Havana, moving to Nashua, Minn. when he was 18 years old where he farmed with his parents.

On March 13, 1948, he married Edna Birdell Brubakken at the farm near Nashua. In 1951 he enrolled at Moler Barber College in Fargo. For seven years he barbered in Fergus Falls, later barbering in Underwood for 12 years.

From 1960 to 1970 the family lived on a farm in Girard Township, while he was working in Underwood. In 1974, they sold the farm and moved to Tordenskjold Township east of Underwood where he lived since.

Maynard also drove bus for the Underwood schools for 10 years, and

for 10 years he barbered at the Fergus Falls Regional Treatment Center.

He was a member of First Lutheran Church in Battle Lake and served on various boards. He was also a member of the Battle Lake Senior Citizens. Maynard enjoyed bowling, horse-shoes, playing cards and working with Herford cattle as a hobby.

Preceding him in death were his parents; sisters, Lorraine Hanson and Eleanor Bremmon, and brothers, Francis, Orville, Elven, Sidney, and two in infancy.

Survivors include his wife, Birdell, of Underwood; a daughter, Nola (Irv) Sax, of Dalton; four sons, Berton (Darlene) Olson, of Battle Lake; Burl (Deb) Olson, of Florida; Boyd (Bonnie) Olson, of Clitherall; and Steve (Cindy) Olson, of Crookston; nine grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Visitation: 10 a.m. Thursday, July 3, at First Lutheran Church in Battle Lake

Service: 11 a.m., Thursday at the church

Clergy: The Rev. Jake Dyrrhaug

Interment: Vukku Cemetery in Doran

Funeral Home: Olson Funeral Home in Fergus Falls

Condolences: www.olsonfuneralhome.com



Photo by Dave Wallis/The Forum

Alvin Swanson and his grandson Alex stand near the front of the Oak Mound Congregational Church Friday, June 27, near Kragnes. The church is free to someone who will move it. The church was closed in 2011 after basement flooding. The original church was built in 1896.

DEATH NOTICES

Janice A. Anderson

Janice (Mrs. Merle) Anderson, 73, of Erhard, died Tuesday, July 1, 2014, at Lake Region Healthcare, Fergus Falls.

Arrangements are pending with the Olson Funeral Home in Fergus Falls.

Condolences: www.olsonfuneralhome.com

Harold Jasken

Harold Joseph Jasken, 74, of Alexandria, died Saturday, June 28, 2014, at Salmons Care Home in Alexandria.

Funeral mass will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, July 3, at St. Alexius Church, West Union, with visitation beginning at 9 a.m.

Arrangements are with the Boschert-Norman Funeral Home of Fergus Falls.

Condolences: www.boschert-norman.com

CORRECTION

In the July 1 article "Ski enthusiast hopes to see sport popular again," The Journal misunderstood Doug Koch, who was quoted in the story, on the skill sets needed for water sport activities.

"I never meant to give the impression that skills are not needed to wakeboard or kneeboard," Koch said. "In fact, some of the more difficult tricks in wakeboarding and kneeboarding take a very high level of skill."

Wakeboarding and kneeboarding, just as conventional waterskiing and barefooting are all recognized sport divisions of USA Water Ski, which is recognized by the US Olympic Committee as the national governing body of waterskiing activities, Koch said. Other sport divisions of USA Water Ski include show skiing, ski racing, water skiing with disabilities, collegiate skiing and hydrofoiling.

Visit www.usawaterski.org for more information on any of these sport divisions of USA Water Ski.

Abortions down in MN

Forum News Service

ST. PAUL -- The number of abortions dropped in Minnesota in 2013 for the seventh straight year.

The 9,903 abortions is the lowest number since 1974 and a 7.5 percent decrease from the previous year.

Tuesday's Minnesota Health Department report confirms the success of laws that provide abortion information and alternatives, the Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life anti-abortion group said.

Still, MCCL Executive Director Scott Fischbach said, the abortion rate could have been lower.

"As governor, Mark Dayton has vetoed seven protective measures, at least four of which would have protected women and further reduced the number of abortions last year," Fischbach said. "Dayton's defense of the abortion industry has been at the expense of unborn babies and their mothers, who are nonetheless rejecting the self-destruction, dehumanization and death that result from abortion."

Minnesota health spending slows

ST. PAUL -- Minnesota health care spending

increased by 4 percent from 2011 to 2012, a slower rate than in the past.

The state Health Department reported Tuesday that the most recent numbers show a nearly \$40 billion increase in public and private health-care spending.

Minnesota spending growth was about the same as the national rate. But the state's per-person spending of \$7,403 was lower than the national figure.

"By historic standards, Minnesota saw low growth in health care spending in 2012," Health Commissioner Dr. Ed Ehlinger said. "However, projections of future spending highlight that we must continue to focus on disease prevention and creating healthy communities if we are going to ensure sustainability of health care costs over the long term."

Ehlinger's department credited several factors for the slower increase, including a waning recession, shifting costs to consumers, slower development of new medical technologies and legal requirements that insurers spend a certain percentage of premiums on health care services.

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