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The Daily Journal

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WINTER STORM



Rian Bosse/Daily Journal

Adam Watson moves snow off a sidewalk on West Stanton Thursday morning. Windy conditions led to blowing snow on roads and down streets, decreasing visibility and canceling school in the area.

Blizzard sweeps into Midwest

AP and Journal reports

FARGO — A blizzard sweeping through parts of the Dakotas is making travel treacherous and prompting the shutdown of public schools and even universities.

County schools, including Fergus Falls and Underwood are closed today.

With a forecast of snow and winds reaching 32 miles per hour, schools and activities were closed Thursday in Fergus Falls and the surrounding area as well.

The National Weather

Service has posted blizzard warnings in eastern North Dakota and northeastern South Dakota. The impacted area includes the James River and Red River valleys.

The cold front sweeping in from Canada is expected to bring only about an inch of snow. But winds gusting to 70 mph are creating whiteout conditions.

A wind gust of 72 mph was reported at Forbes on the North Dakota-South Dakota border. As a comparison — sustained winds of 74 mph are considered hurricane force.

Highways close, stranded motorist rescued in storm

CROOKSTON — Blinding snow has closed at least two highways in northwestern Minnesota where firefighters rescued a stranded motorist.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation says Highway 2 was closed from Crookston to East Grand Forks, N.D., as well as Highway 200 between the state line and Highway 75 near Halstad.

Strong wind and heavy snow combined to create whiteout conditions.

Lunches on menu for summer

School district to serve bag meals at several Fergus Falls parks for kids

By Chris Reinos
 Daily Journal

While many of the details still have to be sorted out, the Fergus Falls Public School District will be offering a free summer lunch program this year, according to Superintendent Jerry Ness.



Ness

Funding for the lunches will come from a federal program that reimburses participating districts that issue breakfast, snacks or lunch over the summer. Ness said the focus will be on lunches, but there could be some all-day summer camps where other meals are offered as well.

"This is going to be a big one for our community," Ness said.

Any child under the age of 18 will be eligible to receive a lunch. The district will have to take an accurate count each day of how many lunches were delivered so they can get the proper reimbursement.

The district made the decision to bring the lunches to city parks rather than have them at a central location, such as Kennedy Secondary School. Ness said

summer cleaning in the school would make it very difficult to have lunches there, while business manager Mark Masten said it will be easier for kids to get their meals delivered to them.

Ness mentioned Adams (Grotto), Broadway and Red Sox (on County Road 1 near Lakeway) parks as options for drop-off sites. But that has not been finalized yet, and Masten said the district will delve more deeply into the program around April.

"The real target is to get the families that are in need," Masten said.

The brown-bag lunches will include at least protein, fruit and a drink, according to Ness, who said the goal is to simply make sure kids who otherwise may not have lunch each day get something to eat.

"You're making sure these kids have some food in their belly and they're getting nourishment," Ness said.

Some district staff members have already expressed interest in working on the program, which would include delivering the lunches to the different parks.

Masten said the district hopes to have the program up and running as soon as the school year ends.

City talks lining fees at ball fields

Groups who have invested money in at least 1 field oppose 'tax'

By Heather Rule
 Daily Journal

The Fergus Falls Youth Baseball Organization spent about \$97,000 on work at Farmer's Field, formally Field 6 located next to the American Legion field, last summer.

With that in mind, Daniel Prischmann told the Public Works and Safety Committee Wednesday that a proposed fee for lining fields during league play seems unfair.

"It's going to raise our user fees," said Prischmann, vice president of the FFBYO. "I look at the \$40 as more of a tax than anything else. Fairness. That's all I'm asking for."

The Fergus Falls Parks, Recreation and Forestry Board recommended fee schedule adjustments including a \$40 fee for lining any field for league or tournament play and a \$300 fee for a two-day tournament (for two baseball fields) in which all fields will be dragged and lined for the first game of the day, with additional lining and dragging at \$40 per field, according to a memo from Parks and Rec.

Manager Steve Plaza. The fee

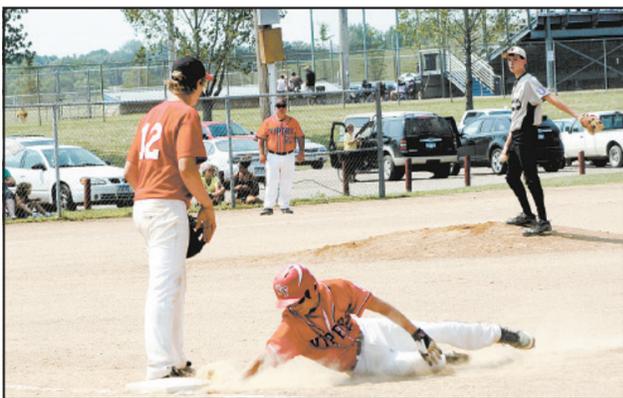


Photo provided

Farmer's Field, formerly Field 6, at DeLagoon Park was renovated at a cost of \$97,000 last summer. With another renovation project possibly in the works for the American Legion field, the Fergus Falls Youth Baseball Organization is opposed to lining fees, which the city is considering.

schedule already includes one-day and three-day tournament fees at \$250 per day and \$500 per day.

The fees would affect FFYBO, JO Softball and the American Legion team, which all play league games.

The groups are not being charged for lining due to a previous understanding with past staff, Plaza believes.

Groups can still use the fields with no lines or line the fields themselves.

The main reason for the change is so fees would be consistent and

will include all sports, park board member Rick Odden said to the committee.

The proposal resulted in a 30-minute discussion Wednesday morning. All Prischmann was looking for was a good working relationship with the city, he said.

"We're not here to play hardball," Prischmann said.

Still, he appeared to have a shared opinion from Rick Wilson, the American Legion Commander. Wilson's members have come to him saying they're against any

See **Fees** — Page 3

M State Fergus Falls could see money from Dayton's bonding proposal

Associated Press

ST. PAUL — Gov. Dayton included in his bonding proposal \$1.385 million for M-State, which would fund a collaborative Center for Student and Workforce Success on the Fergus Falls Campus. The funding also would finance renovations to combine classroom and new library space on the Wadena campus.

He proposed \$986 million in state borrowing Wednesday for construction projects ranging from civic centers to college science labs, delivering the opening bid in a debt debate that will play out among Minnesota lawmakers over the next four months.

The wish list, which he outlined at a news conference, was pulled from nearly \$3 billion in infrastructure requests put before his administration. Those that made Dayton's proposal are far from guaranteed because the Legislature will assemble competing plans, and the requirement that

borrowing bills get a supermajority will play a big role in deciding what makes the cut.

Republicans have leverage they lack on other issues as the minority party because some votes from their side are needed to pass a bill. With election-year positioning already in swing, Dayton, a Democrat, said the odds of getting a bill of this size through are "difficult, but not insurmountable."

The biggest single project on Dayton's list is \$126 million to complete the years-long restoration of the state Capitol. Higher education construction is the largest category, consuming \$233 million of the construction budget.

There were some notable omissions from the proposal. Dayton didn't recommend any money for a new light rail line connecting Minneapolis and its western suburbs. The governor said he didn't want to tie up \$125 million on a project facing considerable obstacles; he said he is exploring other funding mechanisms for the project.

MAILING LABEL

TOMORROW:

HIGH: 11 LOW: 9
SUNRISE TOMORROW: 8:02 am
SUNSET TOMORROW: 5:08 pm
YESTERDAY:
HIGH: 36 LOW: -8
PRECIPITATION: .01

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