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# The Daily Journal

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## What's Happening?

### Melon Day this weekend in Vining

By Rian Bosse  
 Daily Journal

The small town of Vining on Saturday will host the annual watermelon feast this weekend. But don't let the town's size mislead you. The event, started in 1972, has boomed in attendance each year and has been called "the biggest small town celebration in Otter Tail County."

The day will start with breakfast at Vining Lutheran Church between 7 to 11 a.m. Shopping begins in the morning as well, as over 70 people set up the arts and craft show.

The Children's Theatre will perform a production of Sleeping Beauty at 11 a.m. and children can find fun at the petting zoo, inflatables and children's games at 1:30 p.m.

A variety of musical acts will provide entertainment throughout the day and a number of food vendors will be available. Of course, slices of the favorite summer melon will be available all day.

A parade at 7 p.m., followed by a pie and ice cream social at the community center, will cap off the night.

#### Friday

- MN NH Barrel Horse Assn. State Finals, Red Horse Ranch in Fergus Falls
- Lindsay Bryant at Kaddatz Galleries in Fergus Falls
- Fergus Falls City Wide Garage Sales, all day
- Henning Crazy Days, all day
- Car and King of the Dirt races, 7 p.m. at the I-94 Speedway in Fergus Falls

#### Saturday

- Summer Arts Academy at AC4TA in Fergus Falls
- MN Waterfowl Association Woodie Camp, PWLC in Fergus Falls
- Lindsay Bryant at Kaddatz Galleries in Fergus Falls
- Fergus Falls City Wide Garage Sales, all day
- MN NH Barrel Horse Assn. State Finals, Red Horse Ranch in Fergus Falls

See **Events** — Page 3



Heather Rule/Daily Journal

Jesse Bergerud, left, and Brandon Gary, right, shovel dirt Friday morning on Alcott Avenue just east of the roundabout as part of the Tower Road and Bridge project.

## Tower Road bridge still not finished

Contractor faces \$3,500 per day in penalties

By Heather Rule  
 Daily Journal

The Tower Road and Bridge project is in the final stages of completion, with just some landscaping and grading work still to be done.

"They're working on it fairly extensively," said City Engineer Dan Edwards.

Construction for the nearly \$13 million Tower Road and Bridge project started in the fall of 2011. The bridge opened to traffic last November, when everything else with the project was supposed to be done as

well. But some of the fine-tuning aspects, like landscaping and paths, got pushed back to this construction season.

However, the original completion date for those items, June 14, has come and gone. Because the general contractor, Lunda Construction, didn't meet that requirement, it's in a liquidated damages stage, which means they're essentially being charged \$3,500 per day as long as the project isn't completed. Several subcontractors have also been part of the project.

There might be some legitimate reasons for the delay,

according to Edwards, like the late-arriving spring weather. The city even talked about extending the completion date until July 12, but that was never accepted by the contractor, so the penalties all are based on the original contact dates.

"Under either date, they're behind," Edwards said.

Once the project is finished the contractor will submit a request for extension, listing reasons for the delay. Then the city and county will review the request and determine what is justified.

See **Bridge** — Page 3

## Lake Alice plans still in works

By Heather Rule  
 Daily Journal

Getting Lake Alice back to its natural state is still a possibility, though it's in the planning phases right now. City staff are working on options, following an engineering study in January.

"What the council is waiting on right now is basically a recommendation from the staff," said City Engineer Dan Edwards. "We're hoping to provide that to them after this construction season."

Based on the report from Interstate Engineering presented to the Fergus Falls City Council, a plan to restore Lake Alice could cost up to \$5 million. The funds would drain the lake, remove the sediment that contains the phosphorus — the chemical causing the lake's bright-green color — refilling the lake with good-quality water, re-



Heather Rule/Daily Journal

A plan to restore Lake Alice could cost as much as \$5 million, according to engineering estimates.

constructing the storm sewer system around the lake and creating a method of filtering the sediment out of the storm water, according to Chris McConn, from Interstate Engineering.

Once city staff have some viable options to give to the council, then it can start to look at them and decide how to proceed with the project, according to Edwards. One thing they're looking at is to

see how they could break it up into phases.

The next step would be applying for grants for the project to help lower the cost. Edwards doesn't see any work taking place for the project until 2015.

"It's still quite a ways out," Edwards said.

Focusing on the storm water will

See **Alice** — Page 3

## Wind farm work to begin near Rollag

Daily Journal

The town of Rollag will be the center of an estimated \$75 million wind energy project, according to the Pelican Rapids Press.

Over the period of nine weeks, 32 wind turbines and related equipment will be shipped to the town. Shipments will start in August and end in September.

In early November, a wind farm spanning 10,000 acres will be constructed in Tansem and Parke Townships. Two other turbines will be located in Cormorant Township in Becker County.

Power generated by the wind farm will be sent to the regional power grid via the Tamarac substation in Scambler Township.

The Lakeswind Power Plant will be the first wind farm of such size and scale in west central Minnesota. It will produce nearly 50 megawatts of power.

The location was selected based on long-term studies on the wind resource available in the area.

It takes 8 to 9 trucks to transport each turbine for assembly. The crane needed for construction requires 26 semis. Ten to 15 trucks are expected in the area per day during the deliveries.

The wind turbines will be located south of Rollag and the neighboring Steam Threshers Reunion grounds. The towers will rise about 260 feet from the ground and the blades will measure 110 feet.

Each of the 32 turbines are expected to generate 1.5 megawatts of electricity. The Pelican Rapids-based Lake Region Electric Cooperative is not involved with the project and the wind-generated power will not be distributed locally. It will make its way into the regional grid and sold to Great Lakes Utilities.

Ashby Equity expands Agronomy Department. See **Page 3**.

## Fritze to replace Olson on Otter Tail Corp. Board

By Rian Bosse  
 Daily Journal

A replacement for former Otter Tail Corporation board of directors member Mark Olson, who resigned from his position in May, has been found, the corporation announced Thursday.

Steven L. Fritze has been appointed to serve the remaining term after Olson's vacancy. The term will expire at the 2016 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. The appointment was effective Thursday.

Fritze brings a wealth of financial and business experience to the position. He is the former Chief Financial Officer of Ecolab Inc., a company headquartered in St. Paul.



Steven Fritze

MAILING LABEL

**TOMORROW:**  
  
**HIGH: 83 LOW: 65**  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW: 6:26 a.m.**  
**SUNSET TOMORROW: 8:29 p.m.**  
**YESTERDAY:**  
**HIGH: 77 LOW: 55**  
**PRECIPITATION: 0**

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- Jack Everett, 92, Good-year, Ariz.
- John Ray, 49, Fergus Falls

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