Fergus Falls five-day weather forecast

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
44/35	62/39	71/49	71/47	66/52

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

Tomorrow's almanac

Sunrise:	6:19 a.m.
Sunset:	8:25 p.m.
Wind:	SW 15 mph
Humidity:	68%
UV Index:	6 High
Avg. High:	60°F
Avg. Low:	37°F
Record High:	89/1962
Record Low:	24/1958

LOTTERY:

Daily 3:
7-2-3
Northstar Cash:
02-08-14-21-28

OBITUARIES

Alice Wegner

Alice Mae Wegner, 85, Moorhead, died on Friday, April 19, 2013, in Sanford Medical Center in Fargo.

Wegner

Alice Mae was born on Dec 18, 1927 in Underwood MN to Martin and Minnie (Lofthus) Larson. She graduated from Fergus Falls high school in 1944 and from the Fergus Falls teacher training department in 1945.

She taught for four years in rural schools near Battle Lake. In 1950 she moved to Fargo with her mother and sisters where she was employed by Commercial Credit for over thirty years. She married Robert L. Wegner of Moorhead on August 12, 1978 at Pontoppidan Lutheran Church in Fargo ND. Sadly, Bob passed away on May 22, 2006.

Alice Mae enjoyed gardening, both vegetables and flowers. She also enjoyed canning the garden produce and having a bouquet of fresh flowers on her table. She was very hospitable and always had a pot of coffee and something to go with it.

She liked to be active and did such things as bowling, biking, cross country skiing, and golfing.

She and Bob enjoyed traveling to places as far as Norway and visiting with relatives and friends whether in person or by phone. They also faithfully cared for her mother in their home until Minnie's death at age 102.

They were active members of Pontoppidan Lutheran Church where Alice Mae especially enjoyed the greeting card recycling ministry group.

Her life verse was Deut 31:6 "Be strong and of good courage. Fear not for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never fail you nor forsake you."

She is survived by her stepdaughter, Becky (Don) Anderson of Fort Worth Texas; and their two children Christopher (Julie) Anderson, whose sons are Wesley and Samuel, and their daughter Casey; her stepson Barry Wegner of Fargo ND and his son, Chad (Julie) Wegner whose sons are Armin and Edric; her sister Myrtle Trenne of Alexandria MN; brother Orval of Fergus Falls; and 13 nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; and her sisters, Lorraine Kane of Bend, Ore., and Maxine Keeping of Moorhead.

Visitation: Thursday one hour prior to the service at the church

Service: 2 p.m. Thursday, at Pontoppidan Lutheran Church, Fargo

Burial: Riverside Cemetery, Moorhead

Funeral Home: Wright Funeral Home, Moorhead

Condolences: www.wrightfuneral.com

Helen Benjamin

Helen Arlene Carlson Benjamin, 93, of Fergus Falls, died Monday, April 15, 2013, at Broen Home.

Benjamin

Born Jan. 5, 1920, in Maine Township, to Algot and Lillie (Nelson) Carlson, Helen lived in Fergus Falls, graduated from Fergus Falls High School and Stout in Menomonee, Wis., with a BS in Home Economics, which she used as a teacher at Watertown, S.D., and Fergus Falls high schools.

She judged 4-H garments and foods for many years at the Otter Tail County Fair and taught community education adult classes in upholstery, tailoring, foods and other courses in her field.

She was Baptized and an active member at First Baptist Church in Fergus Falls.

On Oct. 16, 1943, she married Harold Gustav Benjamin in Minneapolis in the parsonage of the Rev. J.G. Johnson.

They went to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, where Harold taught instrument mechanics with Northwest Orient Airlines in Canada, Alaska and the Aleutian Islands.

Following World War II, the couple made Fergus Falls their next and final home where Helen became an active member of the Home Economics Club and instrumental in establishing a chapter of Christian Women's Club.

Foods from her kitchen and garments created at her sewing machine were done to perfection.

Helen and Harold spent many winters in Mesa, Ariz., with friends and enjoyed being grandparents during their Minnesota seasons.

Preceding her in death were parents; husband; sisters, Margaret (Ralph) Olson and Jeanette (Alford) Gustafson.

Survivors include her son, Steven (Edie) Benjamin, and daughter Sharon Taylor of Fergus Falls; grandchildren, Naomi (Alfred) Tofibam, Rachel (Daniel) Wenzel, Jenny (Randy) Scott, Christopher (Carina) Taylor and Justin (Jamie) Taylor; eight great-grandchildren; and seven step-great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or Christian Ministry of donor's choice.

Visitation: One hour prior to the service

Memorial Service: 11 a.m. Saturday, in the Light and Life Auditorium at Broen Home

Clergy: Rev. Ken Austin

Burial: Oak Grove Cemetery, Fergus Falls

Funeral Home: Glende-Nilson Funeral Home, Fergus Falls

Condolences: www.GlendeNilson.com

Rush Lake burglar to serve time

By Heather Rule
Daily Journal

Record

The second of three people who allegedly spent a weekend last spring stealing various items around central Otter Tail County has been sentenced to jail time and probation.

Matthew Dillon Heaton, 43, of Sartell, was sentenced Monday, April 22 to 180 days in jail for one count of felony second-degree burglary, 90 days in jail and 10 years supervised probation for another count of felony second-degree burglary, and 30 days in jail for one felony count of third-degree burglary.

According to the criminal complaint, the Otter Tail County Sheriff's Office was alerted to a burglary in progress at an unoccupied Rush Lake Loop home shortly before 10 p.m. April 8, 2012, when a man near the residence heard a loud noise and observed people at the residence who appeared to be taking items from the house and loading them into a trailer.

By the time a deputy arrived at the scene, the alleged burglars had left in two different vehicles.

However, they were spotted and followed by the initial reporter's father, who kept them in sight on County Hwy. 78 until law enforcement arrived, the report says. The two vehicles were stopped in Ottertail City.

Heaton was allegedly driving a car, and Chad Allen Kampa was driving a truck, with Stephanie Schmitt as a passenger. In the vehicles, deputies reportedly found several items believed stolen from the Rush Lake Loop home and possibly another home in rural Henning, including a trolling motor, a silver platter, a tool box and more. The truck was also towing a trailer with a lawnmower believed to be from the Rush Lake home in it, although Kampa allegedly denied knowing how the lawn mower got there, according to the report.

Schmitt, 21, of Prior Lake, was sentenced in March to jail time and supervised probation.

Heaton was also sentenced Monday in Otter Tail County District Court for another case. He was sentenced to 365 days in jail, to serve 99 days, for gross misdemeanor possession of a pistol or assault weapon-previous felony conviction. He pleaded guilty Oct. 29, 2012.

According to the criminal complaint, a firearm theft within Otter Tail County was reported Sept. 3, 2012. An assault rifle and action rifle were pawned Aug. 29, 2012 in Alexandria, the report says. Heaton did not have permission to take the firearms from the property, according to the report.

Red River flood fight in Fargo getting louder

Associated Press

FARGO — The Fargo-area flood fight was getting louder Tuesday thanks to the sounds of heavy equipment moving clay into place for levees and police sirens escorting flatbed trucks filled with sandbags into low-lying neighborhoods.

There was quietly some good news, too. The National Weather Service slightly downgraded its crest forecast for the Red River at Wahpeton, about 50 miles upstream of Fargo, and predicted below-normal precipitation into next week.

Still, officials in the Fargo and Moorhead, metropolitan area of about 200,000 continued to prepare for a record flood in the 41-foot range, or 23 feet above the point where the river spills its banks. That likely would require sandbagging for several hundred homes in the two cities.

"If those sandbags need to sit out in the street and we protect less, that would be great," Fargo engineer Jeremy Gorden said Tuesday while inspecting a north side neighborhood. "It's easy to load them back on the truck and send them on their way."

The weather service has lowered the peak in Wahpeton to 16.5 feet, down half a foot. A crest prediction for Fargo could be released Wednesday.

About 300,000 sandbags were expected to be dropped off in flood-prone areas on the north side of Fargo by the end of Tuesday. The sandbag delivery, expected to take three days, is unlikely to cause major disruptions other than some traffic hassles, Gorden said.

"I tell you, if you don't live on the street you're hardly going to notice," he said. "They are being delivered during the daylight hours when most people aren't home. They'll just come home to a bunch of sandbags and plywood on the street."

Workers dropped off 4,000 sandbags to Fargo resident Ed Schmidt, who has lived near the river for nearly 25 years across the street from Oak Grove High School. Schmidt has sandbagged his 94-year-old house six times, including three straight years beginning with the record 2009 flood.

"This is a great location," Schmidt said, explaining his decision to stay when several neighbors have been bought out by the city. "We can walk to either downtown in Fargo and Moorhead."

He said it "was a great neighborhood" and added: "There's not much left anymore."

Schmidt had not outlined his flood protection plans this year, but said he's "prepared to do what's necessary" to save the house.

The sights and sounds were unnerving to Elizabeth Scotti, who moved from Denver to Fargo last year during one of the mildest North Dakota winters on record.

She returned home Monday from an out-of-town trip to find a massive clay dike between her apartment and a softball complex.

She shook her head at the 10-foot levee.

"My friends told me not to get comfortable, that last year was rare," Scotti said, referring to last spring's lack of flooding. "I would describe it as scary."

Construction on about 11 miles of emergency levees in Fargo will continue around the clock.

The city is also using temporary floodwalls called TrapBags, a process that allows workers operating front-end loaders, excavators or other heavy equipment to quickly put sand in woven polypropylene bags that are 4-to-6-feet deep.

Moorhead officials enlisted volunteers Tuesday to help homeowners with sandbagging. The city planned to begin sandbag delivery on Wednesday. Depending on the crest forecast, there would be about 38 to 110 properties to protect, Moorhead city manager Michael Redlinger said.

Fargo-Moorhead river levees might be lowered

Associated Press

FARGO — The height of levees in Fargo-Moorhead to protect against expected Red River flooding might change if a National Weather Service crest prediction comes in lower than earlier forecasts.

Fargo officials have been planning to build levees to 44 feet to protect to a river level of 41 feet. City Administrator Pat Zavoral says those plans might be changed to 40-foot levees, to protect to a river level of only 38 feet.

City Engineer Mark Bittner says weather service forecasters told city officials late Tuesday that if a gentle snowmelt and below-average precipitation continues, the river crest could be lower than anticipated. An official crest forecast is expected Wednesday.

Police: 6-year-old ended assault by calling 911

Associated Press

ST. PAUL — Authorities say a young boy's 911 call helped put an end to the brutal beating of his mother in St. Paul.

A criminal complaint says the boy's mother told his father he couldn't stay when he showed up at her house last weekend. Authorities say the Minneapolis man pushed the woman down, jumped on top of her, began punching her and tried to choke her.

The complaint says the 6-year-old boy grabbed a telephone receiver and hit his father on the head. The 37-year-old father then ran after the boy who tried to call 911 from the house phone. The father had disabled it. The boy found another phone and called 911.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press says the father fled as police arrived, but was tackled and arrested.

DEATH NOTICES

Delores Langston

Delores Langston, 84, of Fergus Falls, died Tuesday, April 23, 2013, at Lake Region Healthcare in Fergus Falls. Arrangements are pending with Olson Funeral Home in Fergus Falls

Evelyn Anderson

Evelyn Anderson, 90, of New York Mills, died Tuesday, April 23, 2013, at the Elder's Home in New York Mills. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, at the Apostolic Lutheran Church in New York Mills.

Visitation will be Friday from 4 to 7 p.m., with a prayer service at 6 p.m. at Karvonen and Son Funeral Home in New York Mills, and one hour prior to the service at the church. Karvonen and Son Funeral Home in New York Mills is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences: karvonenfuneralhome.com

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