

THIS WEEK'S

SHOPPING NEWS

CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

IFPA

MFCP

A publication of The Midweek, Inc.

831 East Vasa, Fergus Falls, MN 56537, 218-739-3308, Locally Owned & Operated

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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE REGULARLY FOR OTHER POSITIONS.

MINNESOTA VETERANS HOMES
FERGUS FALLS

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Contact Salena at Salena.Ness@state.mn.us
or call/text 612-214-9921

MDVA is a Veteran-friendly, equal opportunity and affirmative action employer and service provider. This document can be made available in alternate formats. Contact MDVA's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Line at 612-548-5961 or your preferred telecommunications relay service.

Scan and search Fergus Falls as the location

Thank you to our Sponsors, Volunteers, & Donors. We appreciate all your help.

- Fergus Falls Food Shelf Board of Directors

WINTER FOOD DRIVE

from the Fergus Falls Community Food Shelf

We need your help to fill the food shelf!

Community Food Shelf

1512 1st Ave. N., Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Donate non-perishable food or money, or stop by the Fergus Falls Community Food Shelf to make your donation • 1512 1st Ave. N., Fergus Falls, MN 56537

All monies and pounds of non-perishable foods are reported to the Minnesota Food Share and the Feinstein Corporation. We then receive a percentage return.

In 2023 we served 15,000 individuals, we distributed 410,000 pounds of food and 8,000 volunteer hours. We appreciate your generosity!

"A different kind of food fight"

THANK YOU FOR YOUR THOUGHTFUL SUPPORT.

Monetary Donations

Please send to the Food Shelf
P.O. Box 136,
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Food Donations

Please bring to the Food Shelf
1512 1st Ave. N.,
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Hours

Wed. & Fri. 1-4pm
Special Appointments
218-739-2971

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WE ARE HIRING

• Admissions

• Gift Shop/Concessions

• Baking (16+)

• Carousel Operator (18+)

• Custodial

CHAHINKAPA ZOO

We are looking for fun, energetic and reliable individuals who would like to spend their summer at Chahinkapa Zoo.

Flexible scheduling with a fun atmosphere!

Applications found at www.chahinkapazoo.org
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OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY

FACILITY MAINTENANCE (TEMPORARY)

LOCATION: FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Otter Tail Power Company is offering a temporary job opportunity to a qualified applicant.

Description:
Assist the Facility Maintenance Department in maintaining the building and grounds in the Fergus Falls area. Applicant will be doing a variety of different maintenance applications. Some of these duties include:

• Lawn mowing

• Yard maintenance

• Painting

• General maintenance

Qualifications:
Applicant should be a full-time student. This temporary position will be from approximately mid-May 2024 through mid-August 2024.

To apply, visit our employment page at www.otpc.com/careers and submit your application and resume. We will accept applications through March 15, 2024.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status.



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northlandbuildings.com



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GIVEAWAY
Trees to be
cut down.
Battle Lake/Ashby
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218-747-2894

BRUCE L. NELSON
RUNNING FOR SUPERVISOR
at Friberg Township Annual Meeting
March 12th 2024



20th Annual
MARCH OF DIMES
MARCH FOR BABIES FUNDRAISER
SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024
7pm Raffle at AmericInn Lodge & Suites
526 Western Ave., Fergus Falls, MN, 56537
Questions Call Gary Anderson at 701-403-6083



FERGUS FALLS CITY-WIDE
RUMMAGE SALE
Thurs., May 16 • Fri., May 17 • Sat., May 18 • Sun., May 19

Rummage Sale Package:
• Your ad will consist of street address,
day/time & 20 word description with a border
• Ads will be published in the May. 12th issue
of This Week's Shopping News
• 2 rummage sale signs
COST \$20

SAMPLE AD
9?? E. Vasa, FF
Thur. 9a-3p, Fri. 9a-4p, Sat. 6a-3p
Baby items, stroller, high chair, clothing,
fishing, sporting, lawn & garden,
household, furniture, antiques, books,
unique items, plus much more.

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Reach over 10,000 Homes
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OBITUARIES

Roger Bratlien
Age: 91
From: Fergus Falls, MN
Passed Away: Sat., Feb. 17
Where: Lake Region Healthcare,
Fergus Falls, MN
Visitation: One hour prior to the
service at the funeral home
Memorial Service: Sat., March 2,
1pm
Location: Olson Funeral Home,
Fergus Falls, MN
Funeral Home: Olson Funeral
Home, Fergus Falls, MN
Online condolences may be sent to
www.olsonfuneralhome.com

Donna Kollé
Age: 88
From: Fergus Falls, MN
Passed Away: Sun., Feb. 25
Where: Park Gardens Senior
Living, Fergus Falls, MN
Visitation: One hour prior to the
service at the church
Service: Thurs., Feb. 29, 2pm
Location: Trinity Lutheran Church,
Fergus Falls, MN
Interment: Trinity-Faith Cemetery,
Fergus Falls, MN
Funeral Home: Olson Funeral
Home, Fergus Falls, MN
Online condolences may be sent to
www.olsonfuneralhome.com

Mavis D. Hendrickson
Age: 89
From: Evansville, MN
Passed Away: Wed., Feb. 21
Where: The Evansville Care
Campus
Visitation: One hour prior to the
service
Memorial Service: Fri., March 8,
1pm
Location: Calvary Covenant
Church, Evansville, MN
Funeral Home: Glende-Nilson
Funeral Home, Evansville, MN
Online condolences may be sent to
www.GlendeNilson.com



Jerome "Jerry" Washek



Jerome "Jerry" Washek of Battle Lake died Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at Lake Region Healthcare in Fergus Falls at the age of 84.

Martha Moeller
Age: 95
From: Elbow Lake, MN
Passed Away: Sun., Feb. 11
Where: Broen Home, Fergus Falls,
MN
Visitation: Fri., Feb. 16, 5-7pm at
St. Olaf Church with a Prayer
Service at 6:30pm, one hour
prior to the service
Mass of Christian Burial: Sat., Feb.
17, 10am
Location: St. Olaf Catholic Church,
Elbow Lake, MN
Burial: St. Loretto Catholic
Cemetery, Elbow Lake, MN
Funeral Home: Erickson-Smith
Funeral Home of Elbow Lake,
MN
Online condolences may be sent to
www.ericksonsmithfh.com

Elaine Louise (Lehrke) Anderson
Age: 87
Passed Away: Tues., Feb. 13
Visitation: Thurs., Feb. 22, 6-8pm,
one hour prior to the service
Funeral Service: Fri., Feb. 23,
11am
Location: Christ Lutheran, Elbow
Lake, MN
Burial: Fort Snelling at a later date
Funeral Home: Erickson-Smith
Funeral Home of Elbow Lake,
MN
Online condolences may be sent to
www.ericksonsmithfh.com

Camille Mickelson
Age: 85
From: Elbow Lake, MN
Passed Away: Wed., Feb. 14
Where: Rolling Hills Assisted
Living, Barrett
Visitation: Starting at 9:30am until
the time of the service
Memorial Service: Fri., Feb. 23,
11am
Location: Erickson-Smith Funeral
Home, Elbow Lake, MN
Burial: Hjerdl Cemetery, rural
Elbow Lake, MN
Funeral Home: Erickson-Smith
Funeral Home of Elbow Lake,
MN
Online condolences may be sent to
www.ericksonsmithfh.com

David Hendershot
Age: 52
Passed Away: Wed., Feb. 21
Visitation: Tues., Feb. 27, 10-11am
at St. Lawrence Catholic Church,
Perham, MN
Rosary: Tues., Feb. 27, 10am at
St. Lawrence Catholic Church,
Perham, MN
Funeral Mass: Tues., Feb. 27, 11am
Location: St. Lawrence Catholic
Church, Perham, MN
Funeral Home: Karvonen Funeral
Home
Online condolences may be sent to
www.karvonenfuneralhome.com

Jon Reemts
Age: 52
Passed Away: Wed., Jan. 24
Celebration of Life Open House:
Fri., May 10, 1-4pm
Location: Karvonen Funeral Home,
Wadena, MN
Burial: Wadena Cemetery, Wadena,
MN
Funeral Home: Karvonen Funeral
Home
Online condolences may be sent to
www.karvonenfuneralhome.com

Marie (Martin) Gruidl
Age: 69
Passed Away: Fri., Feb. 23
Visitation: Fri., March 1, 12-1pm at
the church
Funeral Service: Fri., March 1, 1pm
Location: Old Apostolic Lutheran
Church, New York Mills, MN
Funeral Home: Karvonen Funeral
Home
Online condolences may be sent to
www.karvonenfuneralhome.com



Jerry, the son of Jerome Sr. and Esther (Pederson) Washek, was born on March 10, 1939, in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. He was raised on the family farm in rural Underwood and was baptized and confirmed at Tingvold Lutheran Church. Jerry attended Rural School District #146, graduated from Battle Lake High School in 1957, and North Dakota State School of Science in 1959 with a degree in Graphic Arts Technology. Jerry married Judy Ann Grotjohn on May 19, 1962, at Peace Lutheran Church in Morris, Minnesota. For a short time, they lived in Fargo and Long Prairie, before settling in Battle Lake, where he had a forty-seven-year career with the Battle Lake Review, retiring in 2003. He enjoyed deer hunting, fishing,

coffee with his friends, and any time spent at his farm or with family. He was a member of the First Lutheran Church, where he served on the cemetery board. Jerry was preceded in death by his parents and an infant brother. He is survived by his wife, Judy; two daughters, Lynn (Steve) Johnson and Sarah (Joe) Prokott; four grandchildren, Nathan, Danielle, Emily and Sam; and by numerous relatives and friends. A celebration of Jerry's life is planned for 1:00 p.m., Saturday March 16, 2024, at First Lutheran Church in Battle Lake with visitation one hour prior to the service. Clergy: Rev. Lynn Melchior. Funeral Home: Glende-Nilson o Battle Lake. Condolences: GlendeNilson.Com





It's Okay to Ask for Help

Mental Health Resources for Yourself and Your Friends

- Suicide & Crisis Lifeline**
988
Press 1 for Veterans, Press 2 for Spanish
- Crisis Text Line**
Text TALK to 741741 for English
Text AYUDA to 741741 for Spanish
Text with a trained counselor for free, 24/7
- RAINN**
National Sexual Assault Hotline
Lifeline: 1-800-656-4673
Chat: Via hotline.rainn.org
- TWLOHA**
Connect to mental health resources in your community
twloha.com/find-help
- The Trevor Project**
TrevorLifeline: 1-866-488-7386
TrevorText: Text TREVOR to 1-202-304-1200
TrevorChat: thetrevorproject.org
- National Alliance for Eating Disorders**
Helpline: 1-866-662-1235
allianceforeatingdisorders.com
- National Eating Disorders Association**
www.nationaleatingdisorders.org
- Seize the Awkward**
seizetheawkward.org
@seizetheawkward



afsp.org/resources

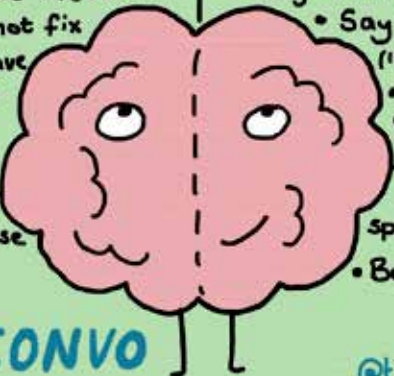
How To HAVE A CONVERSATION ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

DO....

- Listen without judgement
- Ask "how can I help?"
- Let them know you care
- Validate their feelings
- Tell them you want to hear - they're not a burden
- Listen with the intention to understand, not fix
- Ask when you have time to listen
- Be patient
- Keep in touch even if you get no response
- Empathize

DON'T....

- Interrupt or speak over
- Tell them how they should feel
- Jump in with solutions
- Belittle their feelings
- Pressure them to speak
- Tell them the illness or feelings they have are a choice
- Say "you just need to..." (it's not that simple)
- Diagnose them when you're not qualified
- Leave them out
- Be scared to speak about feelings
- Be critical or blaming



#REALCONVO

@thepsychologymum

Suicide Warning Signs

TALK

- Being a burden to others
- Killing themselves
- Experiencing unbearable pain
- Having no reason to live
- Feeling trapped

MOOD

- Loss of interest
- Depression
- Irritability
- Anxiety
- Humiliation
- Rage

BEHAVIOR

- Increased use of alcohol or drugs
- Withdrawing from activities
- Isolating from friends & family
- Giving away prized possessions
- Sleeping too little or too much
- Looking for a way to kill themselves, such as searching online for materials or means
- Visiting or calling people to say goodbye
- Acting recklessly
- Aggression



afsp.org/signs

Warning Signs Of Developing Mental Health Issues

Various mental illnesses are more common among women than men, including depression and anxiety. The Mayo Clinic says it's common to have mental health concerns from time to time, but when one of those concerns becomes frequent or affects one's ability to function, it becomes an illness.

According to Clearview Treatment Programs, women often live with mental illness for months, even years before seeking treatment. Individuals may not realize the severity of their conditions, or they may mistake mental illness for stress or feeling overwhelmed. Even though the stigma surrounding mental health issues has decreased considerably in recent years, women still face societal barriers, says McLean Mass General Brigham Hospital. Women may not be inclined to discuss their issues and, in turn, fail to receive prompt care. Signs of mental illness vary, depending on the disorder and additional variables. A condition may affect a person's emotions, behaviors and thoughts. Some signs of a burgeoning mental illness include:

- Significant changes in sleep habits, which may include sleeping more or not at all.
- Changes in eating behaviors, which may include binge eating or going without food.
- Women tend to internalize mental illness, and symptoms can include ruminating, withdrawal from activities and generally retreating from life.
- Physical conditions that cannot be explained, such as headaches, stomach aches, chronic pain, and even high blood pressure.
- Emotional lability, which means rapid mood swings from happiness to anger and sadness.

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Lakeland Mental Health Center
Help Today for a Better Tomorrow

www.lmhc.org

Children's mental illness is important, 1 in 5 children, ages 13-18 have or will have a serious mental illness. Adults involved in a child's life should watch for signs which could include withdrawal, sadness, anxiety, mood swings, fear, loss of interest in things they enjoy and/or even self harm to themselves. A change in behavior or any of the warning signs should be addressed immediately.

For more information about the services available or to take a free confidential online screening, log on to www.lmhc.org. LMHC is here to assist you and your loved ones during difficult times. Call one of our offices today and speak to an Intake Specialist to set up an appointment.





**THE AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY UNIT 30
OF DISTRICT 9,
FERGUS FALLS, MN
IS CHALLENGING THOSE
ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP
TO HELP US MEET OUR
MEMBERSHIP GOAL FOR 2022.**

Jeanne Schetnan, President

AUXILIARY MISSION STATEMENT

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ALA?

RELATIONSHIP TO VETERAN:

TWO PATHS FOR ALA ELIGIBILITY

PATH ONE



The potential member is related to a deceased veteran who served during the eligible time periods and was honorably discharged.



**For more information,
please contact:**

Carolyn Johnson
Membership Chairman
218.736.4808



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FERGUS FALLS CITY-WIDE

RUMMAGE SALE

**Have Your
Rummage Sale
1, 2, 3, or 4 days!
Thurs. - Fri. - Sat. - Sun.,
May 16, 17, 18 & 19
YOU CHOOSE!**

**Thurs. - Fri. - Sat. - Sun.,
May 16, 17, 18 & 19**



A hand-drawn sign on a piece of paper that says "GARAGE SALE!" in bold, capital letters. An arrow points to the left below the text. The sign is placed on a surface with a grid pattern.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address, City, St, Zip _____

Name and Address Must Accompany Ad. (For office use only)

Rummage Sale:

Street Address

Day(s)/Time

Rummage Sale Package:

- Your ad will consist of street address, day/time & 20 word description with a border
- Ads will be published in the May 12th issue of This Week's Shopping News

Cost
\$20

SAMPLE-9??

9?? E. Vasa, FF
Thur. 9a-3p, Fri. 9a-4p, Sat. 6a-3p
 Baby items, stroller, high chair, clothing,
 fishing, sporting, lawn & garden,
 household, furniture, antiques, books,
 unique items, plus much more.

**Reach over
10,000 Homes
in the area with This
Week's Shopping
News**

PRINT AD BELOW: One word per line. Please use punctuation. WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS MADE DUE TO ILLEGIBLE COPY OR IMPROPER PUNCTUATION.

20 words

**Deadline
Tuesday
May 7 - Noon**

Ad will not run until payment is received. **Paying with credit card/debit card?**
☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Card Number _____
 Expiration Date _____ 3 Digit Security Code on Back _____

**Drop off Payment and Form to
The Midweek, Inc., 831 East Vasa, Fergus Falls, MN 56537
or call This Week's Shopping News 218-739-3308**

For office use only
Amount
Pymt. Type
Initials Date



THRIFT STORE
Alexandria
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Alexandria, MN



THRIFT STORE
Morris
708 Atlantic Ave
Morris, MN



THRIFT STORE
Fergus Falls
204 W Cavour
Fergus Falls, MN

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

ACCEPTED ITEMS

- Bedding & Linens
- Books, Movies, Music
- Clothing - Furniture
- Home Decor
- Household Appliances
- Jewelry & Accessories
- Kitchen Items
- Seasonal Items
- Sporting Goods
- Toys & Games

ITEMS WE CANNOT ACCEPT

- Baby Furniture/Equipment
- Televisions, Computers and Printers
- Household Chemicals
- Large Appliances
- Mattresses or Sleeper Sofas
- Encyclopedias/Textbooks
- Exercise Equipment prior to 2005
- Weapons
- Items that are broken, stained, have holes, tears, wet or midewed

Contact your local store with any questions about donations or specific hours.

Because of safety standards, environmental regulations, and high disposal cost, we cannot accept these items. Dollars we use to dispose of the above items take away funds from our clients and programming.

Alexandria Thrift Store - 690 Voyager Dr #106 320-763-4677
Morris Thrift Store - 708 Atlantic Ave. 320-585-6614
Fergus Falls Thrift Store - 204 W Cavour - 218.503.2156

MINNESOTA STATE LAW PROHIBITS INDIVIDUALS FROM DONATING ITEMS THAT ARE OBSOLETE OR IN NON-WORKING CONDITION

Donations and proceeds directly support victims and survivors of crime, and Someplace Safe services and programming.

Someplace Safe is a 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization.



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Bobby Nordick 218.770.3791
Owner Fergus Falls, MN



Anna Lake Animal Sanctuary

Anna Lake Animal Sanctuary is a nonprofit farm animal rescue in rural Underwood, Minnesota.
We are devoted to providing a caring home through adoption and plant based education. We are currently home to rescue cows, pigs, goats, chickens, cats, dogs, and a bunny.

YOU CAN HELP THE RESCUES THROUGH:

Venmo @annalakeanimalsanctuary
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Patreon https://www.patreon.com/annalakeanimalsanctuary
or Facebook and Instagram

Thank you for choosing the residents at ALAS!

https://www.facebook.com/annalakeanimalsanctuary
annalakeanimalsanctuary@gmail.com



Traveling On Ice


The DNR does not measure ice thickness on Minnesota lakes. Your safety is your responsibility.

Before traveling on ice...

1. Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.
2. Evaluate ice conditions and possible hazards.
3. Know your plan of escape and have your safety gear accessible.
4. Measure ice thickness.
5. No matter how cautious you are when traveling on ice, there is always a risk of falling through. By following the ice thickness guidelines and being prepared with safety gear and an escape plan, your risk will be reduced.

On foot

Mom with four kids, two are skating and two on in a sled.While ice fishing is the most common activity we see on frozen waters in Minnesota, that is not the only way to explore our frozen lakes on foot. Many Minnesotans enjoy snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, ice skating, iceboating, windsurfing, and kiteboarding among other activities on the ice. Communities around the state hold annual winter festivals with a huge range of out-of-the-box, family-friendly activities on the ice. Visit Explore Minnesota (link is external) to find a new frozen festival in your area.




Recommendations:

- Wait for at least 4 inches of solid, clear ice.
- Wear a foam life jacket or other buoyant gear.
- Carry ice picks and make sure they are always accessible.

On a snowmobile or ATV

Snowmobiles are the smallest motorized vehicle that we see on the ice and one of the safest options if you choose to drive on the ice. Still, people break through the ice every year on snowmobiles, and on average, there are about two fatal breaks through each year on a snowmobile or ATV.

Recently, we see more and more side-by-side ATVs on the ice because they can comfortably hold at least two people sitting side-by-side and still have room to haul equipment. While these larger vehicles can be a great option, it is important to remember that they weigh more than the standard snowmobile or ATV, and therefore require thicker ice.




Recommendations:

- Snowmobile or small ATV - Wait for 5 to 7 inches of solid, clear ice.
- Side-by-side ATV - Wait for 7 to 8 inches of solid, clear ice.
- Wear a foam life jacket or other buoyant gear.
- Carry ice picks and make sure they are always accessible.
- Don't override your headlights.

In a car, truck, or SUV

When solid, clear ice gets thick enough, it can support the weight of a vehicle. However, it's important to remember that ice thickness can vary drastically on a single body of water. Driving an enclosed vehicle on ice always involves added risk.

If you choose to drive a car, truck, or SUV on the ice, be sure to follow these recommendations.




Recommendations:


- Stay on plowed ice roads whenever possible.
- Talk to local experts about ice conditions and known hazards.
- Roll down windows and unlock doors.
- Bring a life jacket or buoyant gear and ice picks in your car. Do NOT wear the life jacket or buoyant gear inside your vehicle. It could make escaping the vehicle very difficult if you break through the ice.
- Have a simple emergency escape plan you have discussed with your passengers.
- Don't override your headlights.
- Avoid pressure ridges, channels, and under bridges.
- Park at least 50 feet away from other vehicles and move your vehicle every two hours.

Overriding your headlights


SUV on a frozen lake with the front end in a water hole. It is never a good idea to drive too fast on the ice, but it is especially dangerous at night or in blizzard conditions. If you drive too fast at night, it may cause you to override your headlights, meaning by the time your headlights illuminate an obstacle in your path, you will not have enough time to stop.



At even 30 miles per hour, it can take a much longer distance to stop on ice than your headlights shine. Many fatal snowmobile through-the-ice accidents occur because the machine was traveling too fast for the operator to stop when the headlamp illuminated the hole in the ice. Another common obstacle for snowmobiles is pressure ridges which can be hard to see during both day and night. Colliding with a solid wall of ice can cause serious injury or death.



Snowmobile driving too fast at night and overriding its headlights. At 35 mph, there is not enough time to safely stop after the headlights illuminate the obstacle. Photo credit: Fresh Air Educators



Snowmobile driving at a safe speed at night. At 15 mph, there is usually enough time to safely stop after the headlights illuminate the obstacle. Photo credit: Fresh Air Educators

Beginning Experience

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Beginning Experience, a non-profit Christian Support Group for Divorced, Widowed or Separated people, will begin a 10 Week Session "COPING WITH LIFE ALONE" on March 11, 2024 in Fergus Falls.

All facilitators are volunteers who have experienced a divorce, been widowed or are separated from their partner.

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WINTER CLEANUP

By Bev Johnson, WOT Master Gardener

Bunkey's yard is a mess. The strong winds this winter have littered it with everything from twigs to branches that are so large that they will need to be cut up before they can be moved. He has a smallish dog that likes to invite the neighbor's large to monster size dogs to come play in his yard. The result is more branches, bones, a hunk of rug and poop piles. Since there is very little snow, the temperatures are fantastic and the ground is frozen, Bunkey decided it was a good time to clean up. it all went well until he took out the lawnmower to chop up the remaining twigs. He didn't hear Petunia's horrified scream as a mix of twigs and dog poop sprayed the newly painted siding and sprinkled the window where she was standing.

Do get out and get ahead of spring yard cleaning now that it is so nice. Mark the poop piles and, if possible, shovel them up and put them in the trash. Never put pet feces in your compost pile no matter how healthy the animal. And never mow them. it contaminates the mower and makes a royal mess.

Some of our tree have been tricked into thinking it is spring and have begun budding out, including the fruit trees.

Do get your apple trees pruned as soon as possible, before the buds get any bigger. The object of pruning is to make the tree healthier and last longer.

Start by removing any branch that is growing straight up. Next, any branch that is crossing and rubbing on another. Back up and look at the tree. Which branch makes the tree more symmetrical? Or, if they both do, which is stronger. Then thin out the middle of the tree. The object is to have good

air circulation and to let all the apples get sun. Don't get carried away. Never remove more than a fourth of a tree or shrub at a time.

Tempting as it is, don't prune your spring blooming shrubs now. You will be removing some of the flowers. The time to prune them is immediately after they bloom as they start forming next year's flowers soon after this year's show.

Trees that do bud out too early and get the buds frozen off will re-leaf, however the leaves will be smaller and fewer. If we have a dry summer, that could be an advantage as the tree will lose less moisture in the heat.

Check your mulch and add anyplace it is thin. You need to keep the soil frozen to prevent frost heaves and preserve moisture. A plant that has its root exposed to the air in a frost heave is more than likely going to be a goner. It should be easy to find mulch as leaves that got missed last fall are exposed and easy to pick up. If you can get your lawnmower started, chop them up first. It keeps them in place better.

Look for critter damage. Since there has been so little snow, rabbits and voles haven't been able to get at any stem that has been protected. If you forgot, cut the top off a liter pop bottle, then slice it down one side and slip on the stem of your shrub or small tree. Instant protection.

A quick and dirty clean up now will give you more time in the spring to just enjoy the warmth. You will still need to deal with the brown mounds in the spring, hopefully before they thaw out and disappear in the new grass.

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OTTER TAIL
POWER COMPANY

SENIOR PRODUCT MANAGER

We have an opening for a Senior Product Manager. Our company's commitment is to environmental, economic, and community stewardship and we balance each decision we make with the impact it has on our friends and neighbors.

We're proud to offer innovative products that meet the energy needs of our customers. To help us continue expanding our offerings, we're in search of a product manager to lead the development of customer facing load management programs.

For this role, we prefer a bachelor's degree (or equivalent) in product design or engineering, or 5 years of relevant experience. Requires knowledge of marketing principles, emerging customer technologies, energy markets, market research, and project management. Also requires knowledge of utility operations, including customer service operations, resource planning, and budgeting. Must be a self-starter, able to work alone and in large teams; have the ability to manage multiple projects - prioritization, planning and task delegation; execute and deliver results by influencing people and business teams.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status.

Selected candidates will be required to complete a pre-interview assessment.

Successful applicant will develop and manage load management programs and strategies for the Company. Drive the execution of all processes in the product lifecycle, including product and market research, competitor analysis, planning, positioning, requirements and roadmap development, and product launch. Research and understand emerging customer technologies and how they integrate with both energy markets and Company load management systems.

We offer a competitive wage and benefit package. Position is located in beautiful Fergus Falls, MN and offers hybrid work opportunities. To apply, visit our careers page at otpc.com. We'll accept applications through March 15, 2024.



OTTER TAIL
POWER COMPANY

POSITION: MARKETING SPECIALIST

LOCATION: FERGUS FALLS, MN • HYBRID REMOTE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Description: At Otter Tail Power, our employees help us support the communities we serve by producing reliable, low-cost, and environmentally responsible electricity. Our employees ensure that our customers and communities have the power they need for modern life.

In this role, the successful candidate will develop and manage the advertising plan and strategy for our energy efficiency, demand response, electrification, and electric technologies programs and services. You'll thrive in this role if you enjoy:

- Designing persuasive advertising campaigns, promotional events, and educational programs.
- Managing relationships with advertising agencies, web design firms, consultants, and contracted service providers.
- Maintaining web and other digital channels to improve the customer experience.
- Understanding customers through market research.

Qualifications:
We're seeking candidates with a passion for developing creative, impactful marketing strategies that will influence customers and optimize customer experience. Alignment with our core values of Integrity, Community, Safety, Resourcefulness, Customer Service and People is a must. There's a lot of innovation in our industry and we want positive, can-do people who can explore different paths to achieve an outcome.

Some examples of what we're looking for include:

- Ability to balance and prioritize several initiatives at one time. Detailed planning, coordination, and communication skills will be necessary to succeed.
- Knowledge of marketing, branding, social media, advertising, and public relations.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal relationship skills as you work to partner with and influence internal and external teams, stakeholders, and customers in multiple market segments to implement and manage programs.
- An independent thinker who is excited and driven to solve problems in creative ways.
- A bachelor's degree in communications, marketing, business administration, or related field, or two years of relevant experience will be preferred.

Selected candidates will be required to complete a pre-interview assessment.

Offering:
We believe employment is a partnership and to support our employees' success, we offer a competitive wage and benefit package, health insurance, as well as training, career development, and mental health resources and support.

We offer a competitive wage and benefit package. Position is located in beautiful Fergus Falls, MN and offers hybrid work opportunities. To apply, visit our careers page at otpc.com. We'll accept applications through March 15, 2024.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status.

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 <p>*18 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT 5.3L V8, 8 cyl., heated/cooled front seats, NAV, gray leather interior, silver, 83,542 mi. \$32,990</p>	 <p>*21 Ford F150 Lariat 3.5L 6 cyl., 6.5' box, backup camera, NAV, heated/cooled front seats, space white, 46k \$47,990</p>	 <p>*17 Ford F250 Platinum SRW 4WD Crew Cab 6.7L 8 cyl., heated front/rear seats, keyless start, platinum, 93,500 mi. \$55,990</p>	 <p>*21 Ford F150 XLT 4x4 2.7L V6 ecoboost eng., trailer tow, box liner, lane keeping, lane departure, backup camera, p. drivers seat, room for 6 pass., NAV, race red, 32,700 mi. \$39,990</p>	 <p>*22 Ford Bronco Sport Badlands 2.0L, 4 cyl., 4WD, adaptive cruise control, heated steering whl., NAV, cactus grey, 7,326 mi. \$36,990</p>	 <p>*20 Ford Explorer ST Just In! 3.0L 6 cyl., hands-free liftgate, keyless start, pano roof, leather seats, agate black metallic, 33,367 mi. \$38,990</p>
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