



Romfo in running to be UND's quarterback, A13

Grand Forks Herald

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2024

Council passes \$299M budget

BY MATTHEW VOIGT
Grand Forks Herald

GRAND FORKS — The Grand Forks City Council passed the city's 2025 preliminary budget on Monday with a 2.93-mill levy reduction.

That's 2.43 mills lower than when it was presented during the July 22 Committee of the Whole meeting and the fifth straight year of mill levy reduction. It's also the largest reduction in the levy since 2020. It means that for every \$100,000 of residential value, there would be an increase of \$9.55 a month in property tax. The total budget for 2025 is \$299 million.

The council also set a public hearing on the final budget for Sept. 16. Following Monday's vote, the city can reduce the final budget but cannot increase it. A net zero change to city property would need to be closer to a four- or more-than-four-mill-levy decrease, according to the city finance department.

The driver of the big decrease since the last presentation is a two-mill reduction in what Grand Forks International Airport levies. The change brings Grand Forks in line with the other major cities in the state, according to Grand Forks Mayor Brandon Bochenski, while the city continues to try to grow light options.

"It's important to point out the airport does have significant reserves and this really just gets us in line with what the other airports in the state are getting from their taxpayers," Bochenski said. "We're going to continue to grow the airport. We've taken over the air service expansion, which was normally something done by the airport, but I think it's time that our taxpayers get a little relief on their property taxes."

Bochenski said that his inclusion of the mill reduction is also to prevent a "hoard" of cash in

BUDGET on A12



Gov. Tim Walz speaks to delegates during the DFL State Convention in Duluth on June 1.

Mark Wasson / Forum News Service

HARRIS-WALZ 2024

Vice president taps Minnesota governor as running mate

Kamala Harris and Tim Walz both announced Tuesday that he is her pick for VP on the Democratic ticket

BY BRIAN TODD
Post Bulletin

ST. PAUL
Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz is looking for a new job.



Vice President Kamala Harris, the presumptive nominee for president for the Democratic Party, announced on X, formerly known as Twitter, Tuesday that she has selected Walz as her running mate for the Nov. 5

ballot. Walz made his own announcement on the platform, saying "It is the honor of a lifetime to join @kamalaharris in this campaign."

Harris and Walz will face off against former President Donald Trump and his running mate, Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance.

According to media reports over the weekend, Harris had narrowed her choices to Walz, Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro and Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly.

Walz, 60, served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2007 to 2019, and has been Minnesota's 41st governor since 2019.

Minnesota Sen. Liz Boldon, DFL-Rochester, said the nation as a whole is just now learning what a qualified leader Walz is and can be.

"We in Minnesota know how great Tim Walz is," Boldon said, calling him an "excellent pick." Boldon serves southern Minnesota's District 25, which is located within the Congressional District that Walz represented during his time as a legislator.

Boldon pointed to legislative successes shepherded by Walz such as helping families afford child care, feeding children through school

lunch programs, access and affordability of health care, and movement toward Minnesota's climate goals.

"The other thing I will say, in the last several weeks, the country has seen how great he is as a communicator," Boldon said. "He's out there talking to the public about what is at stake in this election."

Boldon said Walz is a great communicator, and over the past few weeks, as he has been featured in national media, people beyond Minnesota are coming to learn what his supporters here have known.

Surging profile

The Harris campaign hopes Walz's extensive National Guard career, coupled with a successful run as a high school football coach, and his Dad joke videos will attract such voters who are not yet dedicated to a second Trump term in the White House.

Harris, 59, has revived the Democratic Party's hopes of an election victory since becoming its candidate after President Joe Biden, 81, ended his failing reelection bid under party pressure on July 21.

WALZ on A12



Greg Vettel is photographed with Mayor Brandon Bochenski as Vettel accepts the city's Alexander Griggs Award on Monday.

Eric Hylden / Grand Forks Herald

Historical group honors Vettel with Griggs Award

BY MATTHEW VOIGT
Grand Forks Herald

GRAND FORKS — Greg Vettel was presented with the Alexander Griggs Award Monday for his work in preserving the history of Grand Forks.

"Thank you, everyone. This is a totally unexpected honor and I'm really surprised to have my name added to that long, prestigious list of many people I've read about and also worked with. This is just amazing," Vettel said. "My mother

is going to be so proud." The award was given to Vettel for his work preserving the city's history.

He was instrumental in the restoration of one of Grand Forks' only examples of a Lustron house, now located at the Myra Museum. Lustron houses were only produced for three years after World War II and are made of prefabricated enameled steel panels. They are considered important to the history of suburban architecture in the United States. Vettel also is part of the Antique

Automobile Club, which maintains the historic gas station at the museum.

The award, named after Alexander Griggs — credited as the founder of Grand Forks — comes from the Grand Forks Historical Preservation Commission and was presented by Grand Forks Mayor Brandon Bochenski during the Monday City Council meeting. Vettel's name will be added to the plaque that hangs in the council

AWARD on A16



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Year: 145
Issue: 43
Copyright: 2024

Newsstand price: \$2.00

