



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

News, Photography, & Special Awards



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BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

News & Editorial Awards





BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Reporting



Reporting: Small Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press

Hungry for a Cure: PR youth bringing awareness to Type 1 Diabetes

WILDCARD- Allison Olimb

◆ Second Place

- Elgin, Grant County News

Historic spring blizzard takes its toll

Luann Dart

Reporting: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- **Hankinson, News Monitor**
Discrimination
investigation continues
Levi Jones

Discrimination investigation continues

BY LEVI JONES - NEWS MONITOR
lj@hankinsonnewsmonitor.com

Editor's note: This is part two of the story regarding the discrimination investigation at Wyndmere and Lidgerwood Public Schools. Part one was published in the Sept. 6 paper. The discrimination investigations came after Lidgerwood teacher and Wyndmere-Lidgerwood girls basketball coach Erin Bohnensting filed a complaint against Wyndmere principal and athletic director Scott Strenge. An informal and formal investigation were conducted and found no evidence that Strenge discriminated against Bohnensting on the basis of her gender.

Complaint against Bohnensting

Prior to the discrimination investigation into Scott Strenge that found no evidence of sexual discrimination, an incident occurred with Erin Bohnensting after the playoff basketball game against Hankinson Feb. 17.

According to notes by Strenge, a parent had approached him on April 1 regarding Bohnensting's behavior after the game.

"She [the parent] said she [Bohnensting] was screaming at them and that she was very demeaning towards the team. She did not believe she built the girls up after a tough game," Strenge said in the notes.

This complaint came nearly three months after the initial incident. According to Bohnensting in a statement made to the basketball co-op board, she had resolved the issue with the parent prior to the parent's

'It was a true storm. The co-op had nothing to do with the other two things, it was entirely coincidental. Mr. (Chad) Benson contacted us about the same time, his only concern was not having enough girls. It was the perfect storm.'

Chris Bastian
Lidgerwood Superintendent

conversation with Strenge.

"From what I know it had a good resolution. I don't think it was an official complaint per se, it was more of a concern because that particular parent talked to the coach, it was when it was reported after the fact that he felt that an investigation was needed," Bastian said.

The parent's comments were followed up with an investigation from Strenge. As part of the investigation, anonymous statements were taken from the students involved in girls basketball. These statements showed a mix of responses to the incident.

"What is weird about it is it had happened so long after the fact. But the investiga-

tion into it really seemed to be the straw that broke the camel's back," Lidgerwood Superintendent Chris Bastian said.

Due to Bohnensting's prior conversation with the parent, unclear formality of the comments and the time that had passed between the incident and the comments, the investigation's merit and necessity were called into question. As part of her complaint against Strenge, Bohnensting stated that it was not a formal complaint and therefore did not warrant such an investigation.

At this time no resolution has been made to the investigation regarding the parent's comments.

Co-op

While the discrimination investigation was taking place, a decision was being made regarding the possibility of joining a co-op with Hankinson for girls basketball. The co-op was eventually accepted.

Both Bastian and Wyndmere Superintendent Anthony Morrison have stated that the events surrounding the co-op are unrelated to the investigations.

"It was a true storm. The co-op had nothing to do with the other two things, it was entirely coincidental. Mr. (Chad) Benson contacted us about the same time, his only concern was not having enough girls. It was the perfect storm," Bastian said.

During the discussion of the co-op a survey was sent out to the Wyndmere and

Reporting: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- **Tioga Tribune**

*Former teacher faces state scrutiny,
potential license loss*

Jacob Orledge

◆ Third Place

- **Hillsboro Banner**

Fostering hope

Cory Erickson

◆ Second Place

- **Harvey, The Herald Press**

High climber grounded

WILDCARD- Neil O. Nelson

Reporting: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

■ Hillsboro Banner

*In the right place at
the write-in time*

Cole Short



In the right place at the write-in time

Hillsboro poised to elect first write-in candidate since 1980

By COLE SHORT

The slate of candidates running for the Hillsboro City Commission in the June 14 primary has been set since the filing deadline for public offices closed in early April.

Voters headed to the polls next month will pick either Terry Sando or Levi Reese as their city commission president in an intrigue-filled mayoral race.

Incumbent City Commissioner Dave Sather should be a

shoo-in to keep his seat as well, since he's the only one running for one of two openings up for grabs in the city race.

But the absence of a second city commission candidate means Sather will be ushered into a new term alongside a still-unknown write-in candidate.

Three and a half weeks remain until the election, giving commission hopefuls enough time to mount a quick campaign in their local paper or through

social media.

But who will emerge from the shadows and toss their hats in the ring?

Are there requirements that write-in candidates need to meet to be eligible for office?

And what happens if there's a tie in a race where no one appears to be running?

Hillsboro city attorney John Jacobson said Tuesday that the winning vote-getter in next month's election has three quali-

fications that must be met.

The winner needs to be a minimum of 18 years old, a U.S. resident and can't be incarcerated at the time of the election.

"A (candidate) could have a criminal record and still run but you can't have a criminal record and be serving your jail time during the election," Jacobson said.

WRITE-IN

Continued on page 7

Reporting: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Garrison, McLean County Independent
Meanwhile, back at the ranch
James C. Falcon

◆ Third Place

- Crosby, The Journal
Cases top 100 in January
Journal Staff

◆ Second Place

- Casselton, Cass County Reporter
Buntrock Retires
Angela Kolden

Reporting: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Casselton, Cass County Reporter
Flood Fight
Jan Russell

Kindred vigilant in flood-fighting effort

By Jan Russell
jrussell@cassreporter.com

It's been a long, tedious week in Kindred, as the rains came down and the Sny-Leone River came up. The slow and steady growth of the city has taxed the aging sewer and wastewater lagoons in the best of weather. And this wasn't the best of weather.

"I'm crossing my fingers now," said public works supervisor Rich Schock as he inspected the city's lift stations.

The stations have received a boost in the form of portable pumps, that relieve the pressure off of it. The city is in the process of building new wastewater lagoons, but the full project will not be completed until 2023. Meanwhile, Schock and public works assistant Shelia Tomasz are tasked with ensuring the current system through the soggy spring.

"It didn't look good, but the levels are dropping slowly now," Schock said. "But our pumps are running 24 hours a day and they need constant monitoring."

So for the past week or so, Schock and Tomasz have some

precious little down time. They have to be careful in monitoring and fending off the pumps, with Tomasz actually bunking at the city's fire station to stay nearby.

"The wave action on the current lagoons has eroded the edges of the lagoons to the point that we can't drive around them anymore," Schock said. "So now we either have to check the pump or take a side by side. The sides are so eroded, you can't trust them to hold the weight of the truck."

The city is pumping water out of the gray water and directly into the Sny-Leone River.

"If the water meets the criteria the state has set for cleanliness, we can pump into the river," Schock explained. "And it's better to do this than to let the lagoons burst and let the sewage escape. That helps no one."

According to the National Weather Service, the Sny-Leone was expected to crest Monday at 22.2 feet, about five feet above flood stage. While any flooding is a problem, the Sny-Leone poses an additional issue. It's a perched river—meaning the river bed is higher than the water table. If it overflows its banks, the water doesn't easily return to



PHOTO BY JAN RUSSELL

Kindred Public Works Supervisor Rich Schock inspects the auxiliary pump at the city's waste water lagoons.

the channel. It typically becomes part of overland flooding.

An emergency meeting of the Kindred City Council was held last week. Council members reviewed flood plans, discussed pump locations and possibilities of ring-dike construction.

Meanwhile, the city's residents were asked to conserve water usage, postponing water-consuming chores like laundry and dish washing. Residents were requested to make sure their

sump pumps were draining into the street, rather than directly into the sewer system. While eventually the water will end up in almost the same places, the delay buys time for the stressed infrastructure to catch up.

These preventative measures appear to be working. The lagoons haven't burst open. The water levels in the lift stations are slowly dropping. The weather is evening out, with five dry and gradually warming days pe-

dicted. But Schock and Tomasz will keep monitoring the city's systems closely.

"I'm looking forward to the new lagoons," Schock said as he walked the pump lines of the current system. "They're almost double the size of the current ones and I can't imagine I'll ever have to pump them like this."

Schock looked at the fuel pump levels.

"But I'll never say never."

Reporting: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Dickinson Press

Breaking the Cycle

Jason O'Day

◆ Third Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News

*Workplace gender equality improving, but
still not great*

Colton Rasanen-Fryar

◆ Second Place

- Jamestown Sun

Honoring sacrifice

Kathy Steiner

Reporting: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

■ Wahpeton, Daily News

Black youth's parents say they're done ignoring offensive problem

Frank Stanko

WAHPETON

Black youth's parents say they're done ignoring offensive problem

Allege son's been harassed before as crude Snapchat messages made public

BY FRANK STANKO - DAILY NEWS
frank@wahpetondailynews.com

Editor's Note: This article includes allegations of activity by juvenile males, none of whose names are being included.

Offensive language used in a Snapchat group of Wahpeton Middle School boys, including at least 24 instances of a racial slur from one individual, is part of a wider problem according to the parents of a targeted

Black youth.

Antoine White and Aldonia Edwards say their son – classmate and teammate of youth included in a Snapchat group, "Basketball team" – has received verbal harassment from peers over a more than two-year period in Wahpeton. The family moved to Wahpeton from Tacoma, Washington, in February 2019 and the first racial incident occurred in Chahinkapa Park late that

year, White said.

"He was called the 'n-word' by a peer," White said. "He had never been called that before. Later on, he was being called 'Black boy' and 'Black banana' at school. This has made him lash out and it causes him to not feel safe at school."

Edwards' first reporting of her son's alleged treatment occurred when he attended Wahpeton



AUDRA ANDERSON - DAILY NEWS

Antoine White (left) and Aldonia Edwards say their son has been experiencing verbal harassment from peers for over two years at Wahpeton Public Schools.

SEE HARASSMENT PAGE 9

Reporting: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Unintended consequences
April Baumgarten

◆ Third Place

- Grand Forks Herald
*Demand for K-12 teachers in North Dakota
outstrips supply*
Joe Bowen

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
The nukes next door
Adam Willis

Reporting: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
Living with gunfire
C.S. Hagen, April Baumgarten



Photos by C.S. Hagen | The Forum
Sabrina Grochow holds what she calls her machete, a weapon she keeps as a warning to deter crime against her family at their south Fargo apartment in The Arbors at McCormick Park, on Wednesday.

Living with gunfire

Regular gunshots at Fargo apartment complex keep tenants indoors and in fear

By C.S. Hagen and April Baumgarten
The Forum

Fargo
When people say Sabrina Grochow lives in a crime-ridden neighborhood, she doesn't argue back. She keeps what she calls a machete near her window as a warning to "vandalists" or unwanted guests.

She has a right to be concerned. Just this past weekend, the first-



The Arbors at McCormick Park apartment complex on Wednesday in south Fargo.

ever resident in The Arbors at McCormick Park narrowly escaped a shootout at her south Fargo apartment complex.

"They just started shooting at people, and there were kids around," Grochow said. "One bullet ricocheted and went behind one of

my daughters. We ran into our apartment. I had a whole bunch of kids with me. They were pretty scared."

As Grochow described the violent episode, she stroked her daughter's hair, and the 7-year-old girl said, "All the boys abuse me."

It wasn't the first time shots were fired at or near the apartment complex, according to the Fargo Police Department. Officers have responded to several reports of gunshots and other violent crimes at The Arbors over the past year, Lt. Mike Semler said.

GUNFIRE: Page A4



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Reporting Series



Reporting Series: Small Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Elgin, Grant County News
*The Rancher, The Processor,
The School*
Luann Dart

◆ Second Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor
*Schools co-op and related
discrimination complaint*
Levi Jones

Reporting Series: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- **Bowbells, Burke County Tribune**
Blizzard
Lisa Thomas

April '22 Storm – Historic

By LISA THOMAS

The weatherman was lying when predicting a major tornado-like storm came, but wind (right to left) The blizzard that drove most of the state of North Dakota flat. Burke County was no exception.

The storm had been predicted for about a week, allowing people time to prepare as much as possible for what was to come.

As the storm moved, greater storms were nearly completed and always left here or people started up in regular and persistent. Schools in the county generally prepared. Parents later started the distance learning program that was used during the height of the pandemic, and students were sent home early each day Wednesday, April 13 and Thursday, April 14 with Friday being a scheduled holiday.

Burke Central and Bowbells Schools both called off school Wednesday and Thursday. Most parents had to close their doors as getting around the local roads was impossible and to stretch the money piled up against them and filled homes.

As the storm made quick movement, some officials predicted the snow-plow from the north showing it has disrupted the operation to be over. With extreme wind gusts, their work was quickly undone, leaving no sign that they had been there at all.

MARL MURPHY



Lisa Thomas

She did not stop Bowbells' post-mortem. Lisa Thomas from keeping the doors open.

Bowbells is a rural station, ghosted about and through clothes. And until the city returned on Tuesday, leaving the night and under the jet side job to work

Wednesday morning. In her "normal post" she had activities in yellow, white, cream and green, in addition to her activities which provided comfort from the heat.

Bowbells was opening in the corner of the post office and started her storm every day. "I've gone with the job," she explained.

After working the Bowbells community for over seven years, Bowbells did not want to leave her customers. In fact, her sister despite her love for her customers in Bowbells, in which she says "The community gets around with her, it's not and often."

Though the staff was not ideal, she kept very busy every day, cleaning the office and working up on things that were done and about office while performing her job in the district.

She continues to be in and for between, many just to check on her and see if she needed anything. The Green employees were very kind enough to allow her to be out on the day during her stay. When the post office closed for the day or gone job. Bowbells had to call her staff and keep busy by working around her phone as of Friday, Bowbells planned to

(Continued on Page 2)



Reporting Series: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- **New Rockford Transcript**

Child care center opens in Brown Memorial

Amy Wobbema

◆ Second Place

- **Hillsboro Banner**

Day care licensing coverage

Cole Short

Reporting Series: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
Cayler Ellingson homicide case
Nathan Price

Grace City teen struck, killed in vehicular incident in McHenry

BY NATHAN PRICE

In the early morning hours of Sunday, Sept. 18, tragedy struck in McHenry, N.D., when a pedestrian was hit and killed shortly after the McHenry Days street dance.

According to a press release from the N.D. Highway Patrol, 18-year-old Cayler Ellingson of Grace City, N.D., was killed after being struck by 41-year-old Shannon Joseph Brandt of McHenry, driving a 2003 Ford Explorer.

The accident occurred at approximately 2:55 a.m. while Ellingson was walking on Jones Street, directly east of Hohneck Street in McHenry.

Ellingson was transported to CHI St. Alexius Medical Center in Carrington via ambulance, but later died as a result of his injuries. Brandt was uninjured.



See *INCIDENT*, page 2

Cayler Ellingson (Independent file photo)

Reporting Series: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Chris Thompson
WILDCARD- Todd Morgan

◆ Third Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Garza Brothers
Todd Morgan

◆ Second Place

- Casselton, Cass County Reporter
Cat Scam
Jan Russell

Reporting Series: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Crosby, The Journal
Where have the workers gone?
Cecile Wehrman

4,500 employees 'missing' in Divide, Williams and McKenzie **Where have the workers gone?**

(This is the first of a two-part report on the failure of Divide County's workforce to rebound following the COVID-19 pandemic.)

By Cecile Wehrman

It's 7:15 p.m. and a car pulls up to the local dollar store. A man walks toward the entry only to find a sign that says the store has closed hours early due to a lack of staff.

On another day it may be a small town restaurant that's shut down over a lunch hour because the owner has to be out of town for a doctor's appointment

and there's not enough employees to cover the absence.

At yet another place you may spy a downtown business owner pulling a bartending or cashier shift because the local supper club or grocery store needs help.

Job Service ND's Paula Lankford has heard many anecdotes like these across the northwest region in recent months.

There's a simple reason why. "We lost a little at a time, but within about a year's time we lost 4,000 people," she said, as

a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

That's not 4,000 population lost across all ages, but 4,000 people who had been part of the labor force prior to March 2020 who haven't returned.

It's not, Lankford said, due to any unemployment programs aimed at keeping workers in place at the start of the pandemic. Those programs have long since ended.

"They're just not coming back to the labor pool," she said. Job Service ND Region 1,

made up of Williams, Divide and McKenzie counties, is something of an anomaly compared to the rest of the state.

"We have not regained those people, in fact, that loss of labor force has continued," she said, particularly in Divide and Williams, while McKenzie County has seen some gains.

While the state as a whole is now down only 2,000 workers compared to prepandemic levels, Region 1 is now short 4,500 workers compared to April 2020

(See WORKERS, Page 4)

Connecting "Crosby"

Job Service ND - Outreach Services
@ Divide County Courthouse Community Room
2nd Wednesday of each month
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Individuals

Job Searching/Applying
Resume Building/Enhancing
Interview Tips
Career Exploration
Workforce Training Program

Meeting Workforce Needs
in Divide County!

Employers

Facebook Live at:
Four Seasons at The Courthouse
Recruitment Services

For More Info or
to Schedule a Facebook Live:
Contact Job Service ND Outreach
701.774.7300
info@jnsd.gov

Job Service ND graphic

Reporting Series: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Dickinson Press
Missing Beulah boy
Jason O'Day

◆ Third Place

- Dickinson Press
Halloween on the Western Edge
Ashley Koffler

◆ Second Place

- Jamestown Sun
Mayor: Sex assault claim is false
Masaki Ova

Reporting Series: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Williston Herald
Explosives in Williston
Maddie Davis

Over 1,000 pounds of homemade explosive materials found in Williston apartment

BY MADDIE DAVIS
editor@willistonherald.com

Members of the Minot Bomb Squad and Bismarck Bomb Squads have estimated that over 1,000 pounds of homemade explosive materials were found in an occupied Williston apartment on Monday night. Detonation sites near Williston High School and at the Williston City Landfill have been set up to destroy the materials.

At 3:54 p.m. Monday, the Williston Police Department responded to the 3600 Nock of Seventh Street West after receiving a report of possible narcotic activity according to a release from the Department. During the investigation, materials that were suspected to be explosive were found in the apartment. As a precaution, the apartment building where the items were located and a neighboring building were evacuated. After the evacuation, the



MADDIE DAVIS | WILLISTON HERALD

Williston Police Department's Public Information Officer Heather Cook reveals that over 1,000 pounds of explosive materials are estimated to have been found at a Williston apartment Monday night

Department confirmed that multiple of the suspected items were indeed explosive. Quantity of explosives and exact materials used to create the explosives may be released at a later date, but the Department confirmed that multiple different chemicals and materials to make explosives were located in the residence.

The Minot Bomb Squad and Bismarck Bomb Squad came to assist the Williston police with processing the scene on Monday night and came back Tuesday morning with more equipment. The Williston Fire Department assisted with ensuring scene safety.

"We have some of the highest trained individuals in the state brought in for this," Williston Fire Chief Matt Clark said in a press briefing.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, 32nd Av-

See EXPLOSIVE, Page 4

Reporting Series: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Virginia Piper kidnapping
Tracy Briggs

◆ Third Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Motive in teen's killing takes spotlight
April Baumgarten

◆ Second Place

- Bismarck Tribune
Beyond the Streets
Mike McCleary

Reporting Series: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- **Fargo, The Forum
of Fargo-Moorhead**
Ray Holmberg series
**April Baumgarten,
Jeremy Turley**

ND lawmaker exchanged 72 texts with child porn suspect

By April Baumgarten
The Forum

GRAND FORKS — North Dakota's longest-serving state senator exchanged 72 text messages with an inmate suspected of child porn and sex abuse crimes, jail records show.

A phone number used by Sen. Ray Holmberg, a powerful Grand Forks Republican, was among



Morgan-Derosier

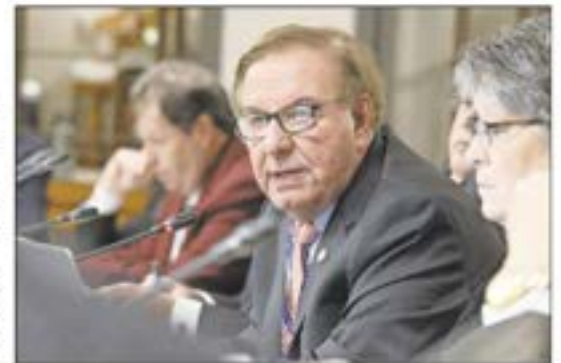
Inmates can pay money to use

those 34-year-old Nicholas James Morgan-Derosier texted in flurries of communication on Aug. 23 and 24 when Morgan-Derosier was incarcerated last year at the Grand Forks County Jail.

a text messaging service in jail, which is what Morgan-Derosier did, a jail official confirmed.

Reached by phone, Holmberg said his text messages with Morgan-Derosier were related to "a variety of things," including patio work Morgan-Derosier did for him.

TEXTS: Page A10



Forum News Service file photo
Sen. Ray Holmberg, R-Grand Forks, addresses members of the North Dakota House and Senate appropriations committees on Jan. 7, 2019.



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Feature Reporting



Feature Reporting: Small Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- **Bowbells, Burke County Tribune**
Hannah's Hats
Lisa Thomas

◆ Third Place

- **Elgin, Grant County News**
Sheriff Foss takes final patrol
Luann Dart

◆ Second Place

- **Park River, Walsh County Press**
Not just a job, a career:
Seim to be celebrated on Nurses Week
WILDCARD- Allison Olimb

Feature Reporting: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- **Finley, Steele County Press**

One year later: How is Brady Munroe?

Lisa Saxberg

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Published in Finley, ND

One year later: How is Brady Munroe?

Lisa Saxberg | Reporter

Last month, a family from Page was able to celebrate a one-year anniversary that they weren't sure was going to happen. About one year ago, after contracting COVID and spending 92 days on a ventilator, Brady Munro was discharged from the hospital, on August 12, 2021. Now, with a new job, marriage, and a fresh move across the state with his wife Katie, it is difficult to imagine what Munro and his family endured such a short time ago.

After a fun family trip to Florida, Neil and Patty Munro soon found themselves in a nightmare situation with their son,

"I was working for Casey Burchill at his farm by Luverne," said Brady. "Four days after returning from Florida, I was working out at the farm in the shop. One minute I was standing there holding some tools, then one second later, I felt like I had been hit by a train. I could barely stand up straight, my vision was blurry, and I had almost no strength to do anything. That being said, I was still able to finish work that day; went home, took a shower, and passed out in bed. The next day I tried to go to work in the morning, but I couldn't even make it past lunchtime. I went back home and sat in bed for the next 2 days. On the second day, I was taken to the drive-through testing in Valley City. My test came back positive. That night I went to my family's farm, and they quarantined me in my grandma's



empty house on the farmstead. I spent probably another 3 days just sitting around trying to drink water and eat crackers and soup, but I wasn't able to keep

Munro on Page 5 ▶

Feature Reporting: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Hillsboro Banner
A Focus on the Arts
Cory Erickson

◆ Third Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
A special delivery
Erik Gjovik

◆ Second Place

- Hillsboro Banner
In it for the long haul
Cole Short

Feature Reporting: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Rugby, Pierce County Tribune

*With help from Rugby residents,
Vietnam vet says goodbye to friend
Sue Sitter*

With help from Rugby residents, Vietnam vet says goodbye to friend

By Sue Sitter • | Aug 20, 2022

Staff Writer

ssitter@thepiercecountytribune.com



Submitted Photo

Lionel Castillo, center, poses for a photo on the Fourth of July with Rugby residents Michael Wendland, left, and Jessie Wendland, right.

A disabled Vietnam veteran living in Texas fulfilled a bucket-list dream to say goodbye to his U.S. Army buddy in Rugby, thanks to local residents willing to help a stranger.

Lionel Castillo, of San Antonio, Texas, had never set foot in North Dakota before last Fourth of July weekend.

Feature Reporting: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Dominguez faces hardest battle yet
Chelsea Wysocki

◆ Third Place

- Casselton, Cass County Reporter
Retired Major General Macdonald
Jan Russell

◆ Second Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Buzzer-beater Bjornson
WILDCARD- Chelsea Wysocki

Feature Reporting: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

- **Beulah, The Beacon**
He's bats about bats
Bill Schmalfeldt



Bill Schmalfeldt, 55, of The Woodlands, shows off the three-square-foot box for the long-term community bat house he built from a 1990 Ford Econoline van. The bat house is designed for the arrival of the woodrats. (Bill Schmalfeldt)

He's bats about bats!

Beulah man builds a backyard bat house

By Bill Schmalfeldt
bill@schmalfeldt.com

"I like bats."

When Lloyd of Beulah likes them so much, he built a sturdy stand for the flying mammals. According to Lloyd, the accessories here are everything, a bat could possibly die, or be injured from a fall, or even while being up there.

There's an open level where the largest bats can sit and roost safely when the temperatures fly into an upward climb. There's a roof for the bat roosters and children to have their little ones around to help them with, warm, and cozy. Airholes provide ventilation. The wayway is in the shape

of a cylindrical bat's head and spread wings.

The house is about 10 feet in the air atop a 1990 Ford Econoline van. It's a three-square-foot box that Lloyd put all out.

"The driveway looked pretty bad, so I built it," he said. He is in the process of creating a 1000 square-foot yard.

Lloyd and his wife, Carol, are fond of bats, birds, and other creatures that fly and fly in the early evenings while they sit in the comfort of their back yard garden in the south area of Beulah.

The problem? The bats like Lloyd enjoyed observing as they slipped and slid in their own winging speed for insects and other flying bugs on which to live. It is a

neighbor's yard.

"They don't like the bats," Lloyd said. "They called a gun. I think he was called 'the Red Man,' so I bought the gun and shot out there until the evening was around to see when they were coming out. Then he went up and played the hole with steel wool. After that, we had no bats."

There's a lot more bats around now anyway. Lloyd said. Like they had no roosters, bats tend to live the hardest life, not giving to winter. They're before the first hard frost or are too cold.

When they come back, they will find warmth and welcome in the little bat house in Lloyd's backyard.

(Continued on Page 1)

Feature Reporting: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Dickinson Press

Stranded by war:

A Ukrainian foreign exchange student's story

Ashley Koffler

◆ Third Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News

Metal Nana

Carrie McDermott

◆ Second Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News

*22-year-old funeral director dedicated
to families in toughest times*

Colton Rasanen-Fryar

Feature Reporting: Small Multi-Dailies



MURDER

The Dickinson Press

The taxi driver murders

How Dickinson police never gave up and solved a cold case a decade later

Dickinson woman, girl strangled

The slayings

MURDER, Page 3

◆ First Place

■ Dickinson Press

The taxi driver murders

James B. Miller, Jr.

Feature Reporting: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Grand Forks Herald

*As Russians advance through Ukraine,
schools teach history*

Joe Bowen

◆ Third Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

*Marge's Diner brings 1970s vibe
to downtown Fargo*

Helmut Schmidt

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

Bond of brothers

Jeremy Turley

Feature Reporting: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
'Their spirits are still here'
Jeremy Turley, Adam Willis



Dave Samson / The Forum

Denise Lajmodiere, author of a leading book on Native American boarding schools, uses old photos possibly depicting the graves of soldiers to orient herself in a forested area near the Fort Totten State Historic Site, which formerly served as a boarding school for Native American youth.

'Their spirits are still here'

Tribe, state to search for remains at ND boarding school

Editors note: This is the fifth story in an occasional series on Native American boarding schools and their impact on the region's tribes.

By **Michelle Griffith and Jeremy Turley**
The Forum

Fort Totten, N.D.
On a cloudy October morning, Denise Laj-

BURIED WOUNDS

modiere walked through brambles and tall grass with her eyes to the ground.

Consulting a photo from the 1980s, the scholar scanned the

prairie terrain near the Fort Totten State Historic Site for small, tan boulders that could mark graves long hidden from view.

After stumbling across one, she grabbed a plastic boggle of tobacco from her coat pocket, held a pinch tight in her left fist and said a prayer for the bodies

that may have been buried under her feet more than a century ago.

Historic site employees believe the boulders could be the vestiges of a cemetery

WOUNDS: Page A6

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BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Feature Reporting Series



Feature Reporting Series: Small Weeklies



On the left is a Washington sunrise, framed by mountainous landscape and endless evergreens. On the right, a North Dakota sunset perfectly set on the horizon without anything to mar the view.

Reflecting on my 2022 changes

Reporter moves to North Dakota after spending entire life in Washington

BY COLTON RASANEN-FRYAR, NEWS MONITOR
colton@newsmonitor.com

Editor's Note: Our latest Point of View series, running in Daily News and News Monitor, examines change and all that it encompasses. The first installment looks into the changes a North Dakota transplant has seen after living in Washington state for nearly 23 years.

It's been an eventful year, to say the least. As we look forward to 2023, it's only natural to look back at the changes we've made.

For me, change and 2022 are synonymous. In March, I made a decision that would change life as I knew it. Less than a month later, I lived in Williston and was finally able to see my journalism degree. This decision didn't

SEE POINT OF VIEW PAGE 14

On the left is a picture I took in 2017 over Washington. The landscape almost entirely hidden by the cover of trees. On the right is a picture I took over the Southern Red River Valley when Williston Commissioner Eric Klohn generously took me up in the air. Photo of farmland made up most of the land as far as the eye could see.

◆ First Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor

Point of View series - changes

Colton Rasanen-Fryar,
Frank Stanko,
|Robert Wanek Jr.,
Levi Jones

Feature Reporting Series: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Hillsboro Banner**

Hillsboro Days coverage

WILDCARD- Cole Short, Cory Erickson

◆ **Second Place**

- **Hillsboro Banner**

New teachers in Traill County

Cole Short, Cory Erickson

Feature Reporting Series: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
Twin City
Erik Gjovik



PAPA'S

Twin City

Larsen family of Bowdon doubles up fun with girls Adalyn, Brooklyn —

BY ERIK GJOVIK

(Editor's Note: This article is the sixth in a series highlighting Carrington, Foster and Wells County-area parents of twins, triplets, or any other multiple births.)

It's good in life to not make assumptions about how your future plans line up.

Before meeting his future fiancée, Tessa, Trevor Larsen of Bowdon was adamant to his friends and family that he would never get "tied down" in a relationship, or even date anything of that nature in a marriage.

Fading all that, he certainly wasn't of the mindset to start a family if the opportunity presented itself.

"Which all changed in a quick two years of his life," Tessa chuckled.

Now, Trevor and Tessa are the proud parents of twin girls, Adalyn and Brooklyn, along with Tessa's nine-year-old son, Ayden Hatch, whom Trevor "counts like his own," in his wife's words.

The two were married in July 2014, and it didn't take long for the news of their family's impending growth to materialize.

"I found out I was pregnant in September, which left Trevor, Ayden and I very excited," Tessa said.

Her first obstetric appointment was the following month, and Tessa went on her own while Trevor was barnworking.

"My doctor got out the little heart-beat checker, found one heartbeat, and I could see the little flicker on the monitor reading two, but I didn't know what that was because I'm no doctor," she recalled.

Tessa figured something was up, because her provider had to confirm the twin pregnancy with the ultrasound technician first.

"The tech asked me if this was my first appointment. I said yes, and she told me, 'Well, you're having twins.' I was so happy, and had tears running down my face," she said.

As it turned out, Trevor and Tessa had joked to each other recently about being the next of their circle of friends to have twins.

"Needless to say, we were right," she laughed.

She called Trevor after the appointment. He took the news about as expected.

"He'd been texting and trying to call me for about 20 minutes. I sent him a picture of the ultrasound," Tessa said, "and the PG version of what he said."

See *TWIN CITY*, page 2

Tessa and Trevor Larsen hold their twin daughters, Adalyn and Brooklyn. Trevor's son, Ayden, is also pictured. (Courtesy photos)

Feature Reporting Series: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Beulah, The Beacon
Giving Back Series
Staff

◆ Third Place

- Crosby, The Journal
Cancer survivors
Brad Nygaard, Cecile Wehrman

◆ Second Place

- Crosby, The Journal
Conversations with Ukrainian refugees
Cecile Wehrman

Feature Reporting Series: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Casselton, Cass County Reporter
Equal Opportunities
Angela Kolden

Equal Opportunities GENDER NOT A QUALIFICATION

(Editor's note: the following is the third in a series of articles featuring equal opportunities and the individuals who are employed in professions that were once considered male or female-dominated. If you know of someone you would like considered for the service email angelak@reporter.com.)

By Angela Kolden
angelak@reporter.com

Andie Wagmann's petite frame is solid muscle. She works out with a personal trainer four days a week and used to compete in Muay Thai, a style of kickboxing. Today, she works out for a different reason: to meet the physical demands of being a volunteer firefighter.

"My dad was a volunteer firefighter for 20 plus years. As a kid, I grew up around it and it was interesting to me. As an adult I wanted to get into it so I asked, 'How do I volunteer?'"

As a West Fargo resident, she followed in her father's footsteps by signing on with both the West Fargo and Rural West Fargo Fire Departments. After that, while visiting friends Shelton Tronnes, and Jared McCaulis, who volunteer on the Kindred Fire Depart-

are protective," she said, but without any preferential treatment. "We are all treated equally."

About the only difference between her and her fellow fire fighters is that she is physically smaller.

"If they see me struggling, they will help me by teaching me a different technique or a way to modify it," she said, citing an example.

"It's simple things like, adjusting my grip on the ladder. I have to hold it lower to find my balance point because I'm not as tall."

As a self-described fiercely independent woman, she appreciates that no one has a "jolly party" for her.

"They challenge me, in a good way and they know they can train me to do the job. Just trust I can do the job and I will do it."

She said there is nothing about being a fire fighter that she doesn't like, aside from not knowing the final outcome following an incident.

Her reason for doing it is simple:

"I like helping people and knowing I can make a difference in somebody's life by being there for them."

Although she is always on call for West Fargo Rural Fire and Kindred Fire, she



Kindred Fire Chief Rich Schick with volunteer firefighter Andie Wagmann.

COURTESY PHOTO

Doing whatever needs to be done seems to be Wagmann's philosophy, evidenced by her latest desire to begin training again.

moving toward getting back into competitive Muay Thai. Her personal trainer, Eric Rowsey, is another one of her mentors.

"He pushes me more than anybody because he knows I can do it," she said. "He taught me mental toughness."

Feature Reporting Series: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Wahpeton, Daily News

*POV series examines great outdoors in
Southern Red River Valley*

**Colton Rasanen-Fryar, Levi Jones, Robert
Wanek Jr., Frank Stanko**

◆ Third Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News

Family Footprints (4 part series)

Frank Stanko

◆ Second Place

- Jamestown Sun

The most rewarding time of my life

Kathy Steiner

Feature Reporting Series: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Dickinson Press
Ukrainian Heritage/Culture
Jason O'Day

Feature Reporting Series: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- **Bismarck Tribune**

Western North Dakota Honor Flight

Travis Svihovec

◆ Third Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**

Kid Boss series

Tammy Swift

◆ Second Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**

Buried wounds series

Jeremy Turley, C.S. Hagen, Michelle Griffith

Feature Reporting Series: Large Multi-Dailies



PHOTOGRAPH BY JACK DURA

Joshimar Luzano Huaynalayo, 5, left, and brother Iván Luzano Huaynalayo, 11, both recent immigrants to North Dakota from Peru, look over gifts Santa Claus brought to their home in south Bismarck.

Santa's 1st stops include immigrants and refugees

Ukrainian integration specialist delivers to local Peruvian family

JACK DURA
Bismarck Tribune

Santa Claus and his elves brought their way through a 100-mile round-trip on Thursday to make one of their first deliveries, to a Peruvian immigrant family resettled in September.

"Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad!" said Natalia Ostapchuk, Bismarck Global Neighbors' Ukrainian integration specialist, ringing a handbell to tell Santa gear — beard and all — as her elves presented gifts to the children.

Brothers Iván and Joshimar Luzano Huaynalayo, ages 11 and



Santa Claus and three children from Ukraine watch Jeopardy! Jimmy, right, play Jeopardy! at the Bismarck Global Neighbors' Christmas Cookie Exchange Holiday party. Watching are, from left, Bogdan Ostapchuk, 11, Natalia Ostapchuk (Santa David, Laine Aasen, 10), and Ilya Ostapchuk, 9.

They played and played with Santa in their family's apartment after opening gifts of Hot Wheels,

and figurines. Joshimar carried a gift of a pet to his mother, Edith Huaynalayo Kim.

Ostapchuk came to Bismarck with her husband and son in 2009 from Lviv, Ukraine, to join her mother. She worked as a cake decorator and has taken on her Global Neighbors role full time, helping 171 Ukrainians resettled throughout North Dakota. She's helped people apply for assistance and benefits and given people rides to appointments.

"I want to make it easy for them to make a new life. I know what they need," Ostapchuk said.

She hopes to make good memories as Santa for Ukrainian children who, when asked what they'd like for Christmas, have

Jeopardy! and games such as Uno and Jenga. Their older brother Jefferson, 11, opened out beds

PHOTOGRAPH BY JACK DURA

◆ First Place

■ Bismarck Tribune

Immigrants and refugees

Jack Dura



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Government Reporting



Gov't. Reporting: Small Weeklies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Elgin, Grant County News**
E/NL top open bus bids August 22 - PAGE 2
Luann Dart

◆ **Second Place**

- **Finley, Steele County Press**
Census population count leads to redistricting
Lisa Saxberg

Gov't. Reporting: Small Weeklies



License suspended: Dug Out once again on the outs in PR

By Allison Olimb
of The Press

PARK RIVER, N.D. — The Park River City Council has once again temporarily revoked the liquor license for the Dug Out Bar and Grill on Briggs Ave. Representatives from the Walsh County Health District joined Walsh County Sheriff Ron Jurgens to address the council at the September meeting following Dug Out Bar owner Warren Denault's most recent guilty pleas in district court regarding violations of the North Dakota Smoke-Free Law that went into effect in 2012.

This is the sixth time that the city council has taken action regarding bar owner Warren Denault's violation of state law.

The documentation provided by the Walsh County Health District at the meeting noted past actions by the City of Park River including:

1. A warning letter was sent to Mr. Denault, dated 03/13/19, on behalf of the Park River City Council.

2. The Park River City Council suspended the Dug Out Bar liquor license for a period of 5 days but only one day of the suspension was invoked at that time. Suspended 12/27/2019.

3. The Park River City Council suspended the Dug Out Bar license for three days in March of 2020.

4. The Park River City Council suspended the Dug Out Bar's liquor license from 11/22 to 12/21/22.

5. The Park River City Council suspended the liquor license of the Dug Out Bar for 30 days, beginning on 4/25/22.

In the summary provided by Sharon Laxdal, she explained that the Walsh County Health District has received numerous complaints over the years about smoking at the Dug Out Bar. Complaints have been received from Facebook, Tip 411, telephone calls, and in writing. This is the fourth

Dug Out
Cont. page 6

◆ First Place

- Park River,
Walsh County Press
*License suspended:
Dug Out once again
on the outs in PR*
Allison Olimb

Gov't. Reporting: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
CPS commits to full-day Pre-K program
Amy Wobbema

◆ Third Place

- New Rockford Transcript
Full house at special assessment hearing
Amy Wobbema

◆ Second Place

- Hillsboro Banner
*Former, current city leaders
trade barbs in heated exchange*
Cole Short

Gov't. Reporting: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

■ New Rockford Transcript

Oberon voters officially contest city election

Nathan Price

Oberon voters officially contest city's election

—Allege voters weren't properly notified, or sent absentee ballots, for primary election

by Nathan Price

On Tuesday, June 14, voters across North Dakota took to the polls to cast their votes in this summer's elections, even in the small town of Oberon.

Oberon's population is just 101 according to the 2020 census, and the number of eligible voters is fewer still. Even so, one resident says relatively few voters

turned out for the city's elections, and, in his opinion, that's no coincidence.

Corey Ploium, a resident of Oberon, alleges that multiple procedures were improperly conducted or ignored entirely by his city's government relating to their election on Tuesday, June 14.

Consequently, he and 11 other Oberon residents have begun the process of official-

ly contesting Oberon's June 14 municipal election.

Among the allegations are that proper notification for Oberon's election was not provided, leaving some residents in the dark as to when and where votes could be cast.

The only notice given, said Ploium, came in the form of a piece of paper taped to the door of Oberon's communi-

ty center on election day.

"Nobody knew about the election," Ploium said. "Even people living a block away from where they had the election didn't know about it."

North Dakota Century Code (N.D.C.C.) 40-21-02, requires that city auditors give 10 days' notice of the time and place of an election, as well as the offices to be filled

in that election, via the official newspaper of their city.

Oberon's official newspaper, the Benson County Farmers Press, confirmed with the Transcript that Oberon's most recent notice for an election ran in March and April, which was for a special election on April 26, and that no other election notices have been published since.

Also alleged is that multiple Oberon residents were not sent absentee ballots, despite going through the necessary steps to acquire them.

Normally, a resident requesting an absentee ballot must fill out an application and submit that application to the county, who will then make an absentee ballot

OBERON, ON PG A2

Gov't Reporting: Large Weeklies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Grafton, Walsh County Record**
Commission appoints Barta
Todd Morgan

◆ **Second Place**

- **Garrison, McLean County Independent**
Meanwhile, back at the ranch
James C. Falcon

Gov't Reporting: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

■ Crosby, The Journal

Summer runway closing has sprayers looking at options

Brad Nygaard

Summer runway closure has sprayers looking at options

By Brad Nygaard

Effects of next summer's temporary closure of the Crosby airport are already being felt.

Representatives from New Century Ag and Pioneer AgVation met with county commissioners Friday to explore options concerning the 2023 crop spraying season.

"What options are these?" Commissioner Gerald Brady asked.

"We really don't have very many," replied Pioneer Agitation Manager Greg Grothusen.

Grothusen's suggestion, and preferred option, would be using a county road as a runway.

"The preferred would be a paved road," said Grothusen. "That's what we're asking, if we can find a county road we can use as a runway until the project gets completed."

Should Pioneer be given the go-ahead to use a road, it would mean temporary closures to vehicle traffic



Owners of crop dusting planes like the one above, are already trying to figure out alternative landing spots due to an upcoming runway project at the Crosby Municipal Airport.

during flight operations.

"We'll probably take the planes to Toga at night," said Grothusen.

Grothusen told commissioners he's flown over every grass airstrip in the area. There are several. All are too

short for the aircraft used by the aerial applicator.

"We're flying larger turbine air-

planes, carrying anywhere from 400-500 gallons of product," said Grothusen. "We need more than a half-mile to get those off. A couple of these strips are less than a half-mile with a hump in the middle and that just won't do."

During the discussion that followed, Grothusen said aircraft could work off a gravel road if no pavement becomes available, but expressed concerns about dust, suggesting the company may be interested in cost-sharing some sort of dust control.

Commissioners said it's not too early to begin talking about the idea, but expressed concerns. Particularly about liability, legal authority and who is responsible for barricading a road being used for aerial spraying operations. The first step, Brady said, is checking with the state's attorney and the county's insurance provider.

Should those hurdles be cleared, Commissioner Rodney Johnson

(See **RUNWAY**, Page 10)

Gov't Reporting: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Jamestown Sun

Service to continue

Kathy Steiner

◆ Second Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News

*Abortion will remain legal in MN
after fed protections overturned*

Colton Rasanen-Fryar

Gov't. Reporting: Small Multi-Dailies

◆ First Place

■ Dickinson Press

Stark County sheriff race turns ugly
James B. Miller, Jr.

Stark County sheriff race turns ugly

Public accusations of sex assault cover-ups and affairs surface

Editor's note: The anonymous letter made other allegations concerning non-public officials and The Press has chosen not to repeat nor address these allegations.

By James B. Miller, Jr.
The Dickinson Press

DICKINSON — With 60-days remaining before Stark County voters cast their ballots in the general election, an otherwise cordial race for sheriff has turned ugly as accusations of two sexual assault cover-ups; alleged parties involving minors and sexual affairs between elected officials surfaced over the



Dickinson Press file photo

Rumors and accusations levied against the incumbent Stark County sheriff and his opponent surfaced this week in an anonymous letter.

weekend.

An anonymous letter, penned under a pseudonym of Thomas Pain, spread across Dickinson's many social media community pages on Monday. The two page letter levied multiple spurious allegations

and prompted The Dickinson Press to reach out to both candidates to provide opportunities for response. Stark County Sheriff Corey Lee and his opponent Fern Moser agreed to address the accusations in sit-down interviews on Wednesday.

Allegations against Fern Moser

The anonymous letter circulating social media alleges that while employed with the Stark County Sheriff's Office, Fern Moser's license was suspended for two weeks following an investigation into a party at his home in which he was aware that



Moser

minors were present and in which alcohol was served.

Moser confirmed that he was in fact suspended by the North Dakota Peace Officer Standards and Training Board for his involvement in an incident involving a minor consuming

RACE: Page A4

Gov't. Reporting: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ **Honorable Mention**

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
*Why ND can't stop hiring
dubious guardianship company*
Dave Olson

◆ **Third Place**

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
Stonewalled and slighted
WILDCARD- Jeremy Turley

◆ **Second Place**

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
*Fargo man refuses to leave
century-old home slated for demolition*
Melissa Van Der Stad

Gov't. Reporting: Large Multi-Dailies



COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWN

Longstanding hurdles keep attorneys
from easily phoning clients in ND prisons

By April Baumgarten
The Forum

Fargo

When William Hart appeared via Zoom in Cass County District Court to address when he could potentially be

released from prison, he told Judge Susan Bailey he hadn't been able to connect with his attorney, Patrick O'Day. Hart, who was sentenced to life in prison with the chance of parole for shooting and

injuring a Fargo attorney in 1996 at a local YMCA, wrote in a letter to the court that he called O'Day several times and wrote multiple letters to the attorney but got no response. He said he wanted to fire O'Day and

represent himself.

O'Day said during the June 13 hearing it was almost impossible to reach clients in prison. When the judge asked guards at the North Dakota State Penitentiary

PRISON: Page A6

◆ First Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead Communication breakdown**
April Baumgarten



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Government Reporting Series



Government Series: Small Weeklies



◆ Second Place

- **Elgin, Grant County News**
*Candidate for Sheriff, Meet Candidates,
Meet Elgin City Council*
Luann Dart

Government Series: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- **Finley, Steele County Press**
*Concerned resident demands
commission's response*
Lisa Saxberg



Published in Finley, ND

Concerned resident demands commission's response

Lisa Saxberg | Reporter

One Steele County resident is upset with some of the county officials and is demanding that things be rectified. In a letter dated Aug. 16, Donald Huso wrote to Steele County Commissioner Brandon Krueger detailing several different grievances he had with decisions made by commissioners in the past and for the way he was treated while trying to address them in meetings.

In the letter, which was obtained by Steele County Press, Huso stated that he reached out to Krueger as he felt he was the only one that he trusted to be fair

and honest. He stated that after his appearance before the Steele County Commission on Aug. 2, 2022, he had never been more embarrassed for and disappointed in his elected officials.

Huso writes that he was basically called a liar by Commissioner Johnson and Auditor Wigen at the July 6, 2022 meeting and again at the Aug. 2, 2022 meeting regarding a newspaper interview in which he was critical of the County Commission and County Auditor over excessive wage increases from 2015 through 2020, that he said were received by Wigen. He

Commission on Page 11 ►

Government Series: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- **Tioga Tribune**

Community center prepares to lift off
Jacob Orledge

◆ Third Place

- **New Rockford Transcript**

New Rockford street project
Amy Wobbema, Nathan Price

◆ Second Place

- **Hillsboro Banner**

City budget review
Cole Short

Government Series: Mid-Size Weeklies



A look inside the city water plant

In work on the water treatment plant continues, Water Plant Manager, Rick Swanson, took the time to provide a tour of the facility for the Transcript.

Swanson explained that many of the plant's upgrades are designed to provide three Rockford residents with cleaner, better tasting water along with modernizing old pipes, structures and processes that have existed for decades.

Below are pictures and some thoughts from the facility's former upgrades, as well as updates that are ongoing and near completion.

Shown at right is the first process currently being used to clean New Rockford's drinking water called "fine sand sifting." This process catches the water by removing hard metals such as iron and manganese.

According to Swanson, this process is being completely replaced by a new system, which can filter the water's iron. The treatment plant will use tube settlers (shown below) embedded with potassium permanganate, which will also remove hard metals and soften the water.

Construction on the potassium permanganate treatment process began last week, so a temporary system is currently being used to treat the water. Much of the structure will include piping, and control room above right will also be replaced, said Swanson.

Below is a large panel of various switches, electronic and controls located and currently being used in the same room as the fine sifting process.

Below is the much smaller and more modern control panel scheduled to replace the old one.

Swanson said that many of the upgrades to the water treatment plant will modernize old processes that have been used throughout the plant's 117-year history.

Below are images of the brand new reverse osmosis tanks, the most expensive of the water treatment plant's new upgrades.

Swanson told the Transcript the system will be responsible for removing smaller particles from New Rockford's drinking water, with the purpose of improving the water's overall taste.

This is the last treatment process New Rockford's water will go through at the water treatment plant. Swanson added that there are two systems side-by-side for the purpose of redundancy. "If one of these tanks were working on it, the other one will still be operational."

The system is brand new or brand new additions constructed on the water treatment plant's north side, and according to Swanson, the system is nearly completed and will be ready to go once construction elsewhere is finished.








◆ First Place

- **New Rockford Transcript**
New Rockford
water plant upgrades
Nathan Price

Government Series: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Crosby, The Journal
Park board leadership saga
Jody Michael

◆ Third Place

- Casselton, Cass County Reporter
Soybean Processing Plant
Angela Kolden

◆ Second Place

- Linton, Emmons County Record
County makes eminent domain 'more difficult'
Kelli Ameling

Government Series: Large Weeklies



Resignations at ambulance district

By Brad Nygaard

Tim Swanson is leaving the Divide County Ambulance District, effective June 13.

Meeting on May 18, the district board voted to accept his resignation.

He's leaving to take a managerial position with the Bottineau Ambulance Service.

"It's a good opportunity for me," Swanson said.

He thinks the change will also be a good opportunity, going forward, for new board members.

"I think there comes a point where you want someone with newer ideas, fresher ideas, maybe something different to bring to the table," he said.

A certified paramedic and Crosby native, Swanson has been with the district nearly four years. During his tenure, he's



Tim Swanson

served as Interim Operations Manager twice, the second time in late 2019 when the "Interim" was made permanent under a previous board.

"I think we have to advertise for his position, not only as a manager, but either as a paramedic or Advanced EMT (Emergency Medical Technician)," said board member Christine Knudsvig. "It needs to be either one of these two roles in order to maintain the level of service we currently offer to the community."

"This position needs to provide a dual role as a primary provider for the ambulance service in addition to the operations manager," continued Knudsvig. "Unless we hire two separate people."

"It's unlikely we can afford to hire two people," Board President Denise Johnson replied. "In small towns, it's so common for people to serve dual roles. I think we start with advertising, see what we get."

Advertising will be handled by St. Luke's Medical Center's Hu-

(See **AMBULANCE**, Page 3)

◆ First Place

- Crosby, The Journal
Ambulance resignations leave financial mess

Brad Nygaard

Government Series: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- **Wahpeton, Daily News**
Carbon Capture
Frank Stanko

◆ Second Place

- **Dickinson Press**
Library board and controversial books
Jason O'Day

Government Series: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News
Election coverage
Colton Rasanen-Fryar

MN PRIMARY RESULTS

Minnesota primary election preliminary results

Jill Abahsain-DFL, Rep. Jordan Rasmusson-R win respective primary races

BY COLTON RASANEN-FRYAR
DAILY NEWS
coltonf@wahpetondailynews.com

Editor's note: Now with complete district and statewide results and candidate comments.

In the tightest race of his area, Minnesota Rep. Jordan Rasmusson narrowly beat out his political newcomer opponent Nathan Miller in the 9th legislative district. With less than 400 votes between the two, Republican-endorsed Rasmusson had to wait to claim victory until the

last minute as results came in.

"I'm grateful for the

support of voters across Senate District 9. Thank you to all of the volun-

teers and campaign teams for inspiring residents to vote in record numbers on Tuesday," Rasmusson said in an email. "I'm looking forward to working hard to win in November and take our rural conservative values to the State Senate."

Rasmusson will find his name on the primary ticket against Cornell Walker-DFL, who ran unopposed.

The only other contested primary, that wasn't a statewide election, was for the 7th Congressional district. DFL-endorsed candidate Jill Abahsain's victory over her oppo-

nent Alycia Gruenhagen was much more distinct. Over 4,000 votes separated the two.

"Going into this I didn't expect there to be another Democrat in the primary," Abahsain said.

Abahsain's real challenge will come in the November general election where she will face incumbent Michelle Fischbach-R and Travis "Bull" Johnson-Legal Marijuana Now. While Johnson only secured 509 votes, Fischbach gained nearly 60,000 votes, or

SEE PRIMARY RESULTS PAGE A12



Government Series: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Cass County sheriff's race
April Baumgarten

◆ Third Place

- Grand Forks Herald
*Easter reporting, Fufeng corn milling plant,
concerns with China*
Sam Easter

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
North Dakota sexual assault series
WILDCARD- April Baumgarten

Government Series: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
AG cost overrun series
Jeremy Turley

'Troublesome on so many levels'

ND lawmakers call for independent investigation of AG cost overrun

By Jeremy Turley
The Forum

BISMARCK — The North Dakota attorney general's office agreed in 2020 to lease a poorly equipped office building from a company owned by a state lawmaker, according to a report released by state Auditor



Gallion

Josh Gallion on Tuesday, Sept. 27.

After making expensive renovations to the south Bismarck build-

ing, the state's top law enforcement agency under the direction of then-Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem racked up a \$1.7 million budget overrun, according to the report.

A legislative audit committee on Tuesday referred the matter for further investigation to current Attorney General Drew Wrigley, who said he will hire an outside agency to look into any possible wrongdoing.

The anatomy of a deal

Wrigley, who was appointed after Stenehjem died earlier this year, made public in June that the attorney gener-

al's office under his predecessor accrued significant unexpected costs tied to a leased building that houses the Bureau of Criminal Investigation, the State Lottery and other branches of the agency.

Former leaders in the office, including Deputy Attorney General Troy Seibel, had concealed information about the overrun from legislators and improperly tried to absorb the addition-

al costs into the agency's budget, Wrigley alleged. Seibel, who left the office in March, has previously denied he withheld information. Lawmakers directed Gallion to compile a report on the deal after learning of the overrun.

The auditor's 45-page report found that Bismarck GOP Rep. Jason Dockter approached state Director of Facility Management John Boyle in summer 2019 about



Dockter

leasing a Bismarck building to the state. (The report says Dockter incorrectly stated the attorney general's office approached him. Dockter said representatives from the office informed him of their interest in finding a new office.)

OVERRUN: Page A6

north dakota newspapers

BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Spot News



Spot News: Small Weeklies



◆ Second Place

- **Finley, Steele County Press**

*Emergency responders rescue man
from grain entrapment*

Jill Larson

Spot News: Small Weeklies



Fairmount man surrenders after five-hour standoff Thursday

Confirmed as suspect in Tuesday's Richland County Law Enforcement Center fire



Adam Prochnow



LEVI JONES - NEWS MONITOR

Richard County Sheriff's Deputy Josh Boto and Sheriff Larry Lešovský (right) at a press conference following the standoff Thursday, March 3.

BY LEVI JONES
LEVI@NEWSMONITOR.COM
levis@spotnews.com
levis@spotnews.com

A five-hour standoff between an armed man and law enforcement in Fairmount, North Dakota, came to a close around 3 p.m. Thursday, March 3. Adam Prochnow, 25, has been confirmed as the suspect sought after the Tuesday, March 1 fire at the Richland County Law Enforcement Center in Wahpeton. Prochnow, who was charged Thursday with arson, had allegedly barricaded himself in a Fairmount home with firearms after setting a garage on fire.

Prochnow surrendered and was transported Thursday afternoon to the Cass County Jail in Fargo, North Dakota.

"It was meant to cause a lot more damage than it actually did," Sheriff Larry Lešovský said Thursday about the in-

provided explosive device (IED) that was identified following Tuesday's fire in Wahpeton.

The IED went off after Prochnow allegedly used the Richland County Law Enforcement Center's public entrance, then exited, at approximately 9:30 p.m. Tuesday. Multiple law enforcement agencies, including the Wahpeton Police Department, Richland County Sheriff's Office, North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation and National Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), began an investigation which resulted in identifying Prochnow as a suspect.

Prochnow was reportedly on probation in Richland County, North Dakota.

"We have had experience with this individual and we do know that mental illness is a factor," Lešovský said.

The use of an IED in Wahpeton resulted in a bomb squad searching the Fairmount home that Prochnow was barricaded in. The search turned up small firearms.

Prochnow's initial appearance before Richland County District Court occurred at 8:30 a.m. Friday, March 4. As of press time, he has been charged with one count of class B felony-level arson related to Tuesday's incident.

"The defendant set a backpack down, opened it and takes out a cylindrical container," states a criminal complaint, describing surveillance footage of what allegedly occurred Tuesday evening in the foyer of the Richland County Law Enforcement Center. "The defendant is seen placing this object on the floor and lighting what

appears to be a fuse with a lighter."

Prochnow then allegedly ran from the Richland County Law Enforcement Center, with the placed object propelling the contents of the container. This caused fire and smoke damage in the center's foyer.

"Through different cameras in the city of Wahpeton, the defendant is seen running to a distinct vehicle and leaving the area," the complaint states. "The vehicle is also seen on bank surveillance in Fairmount a short time later."

People with knowledge of Prochnow's vehicle say that he was seen driving it Tuesday and that it is a vehicle he uses regularly.

"While the person on the surveillance does conceal their face, the body

◆ First Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor
Fairmount man surrenders after five-hour standoff
Levi Jones

Spot News: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
Electrical system failure causes student evacuation

Erik Gjovik

◆ Third Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
Memorial Day deluge
WILDCARD- Erik Gjovik

◆ Second Place

- Hillsboro Banner
Goose River busts through Mayville dam
Cole Short

Spot News: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

■ Tioga Tribune

*Daily life grinds to a halt
in face of spring blizzard*
Jacob Orledge

Daily life grinds to a halt in face of spring blizzard

By Jacob Orledge

There's nothing like an April blizzard to keep motorists on their toes, but when it was over it was tough to realize it just how much snow fell.

Great big snow drifts had accumulated across Tioga and Blue, sometimes to the extent of plows, whipped into shape by the ferocious winds that steadily built to fury on Tuesday night through Thursday.

The cold and some sleet kept Scott Dugher from walking his dog Ceryn down Main Street Thursday during a few moments of calm.

"That's not good for the cold weather," Dugher's wife is wary of neighborhood as they eventually proceed around the sidewalk, trying to stay warm.

Later in the day, the spring storm resulted in a wave of closures. Businesses could not get a few essential workers who had to wait out the cold in their vehicles.

"We have had numerous calls for canceled meetings throughout town," said Jack Nelson, chief of police. Three days afterward, "Citizens could not even get to the store to get their groceries due to the blizzard and conditions to what our vehicles can handle."

Closures

The blizzard conditions impacted every facet of life. The Tioga Medical Center closed Wednesday and Thursday for a few days, though the emergency rooms remained open.

Businesses up and down Main Street, as well as other streets in town, remained closed until the snow was removed through areas, such as Appleton and the Red Stone Coffee Plant, located two miles to the east for a few hours Thursday afternoon.

(See BLIZZARD, Page 6)



The Jay Mall, seen above on Thursday morning, was buried under monstrous snow drifts in the aftermath of the blizzard.



Jason Zuber, left, digs his way out along Benson Street; Steve Givensberg, center, clears his path; the old-fashioned way; city workers, right, moved mountains to clear Tioga streets within 48 hours of the storm's conclusion.

Spot News: Large Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Crosby, The Journal

*Teen recovering after collapse
at football game*

Jody Michael

◆ Second Place

- Crosby, The Journal

High winds wallop Wildrose area

Brad Nygaard

Spot News: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Wahpeton, Daily News

Moorhead homicide victim's vehicle located in Wahpeton

Frank Stanko

◆ Third Place

- Dickinson Press

Dickinson man arrested following pursuit

Jason O'Day

◆ Second Place

- Dickinson Press

Dickinson family 'very lucky'

Ashley Koffler

Spot News: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- **Jamestown Sun**
Schools lockdown
Masaki Ova

SCHOOLS LOCKDOWN

All JPS schools lockdown as a precaution of active shooter report at JHS

By Masaki Ova
The Jamestown Sun

Jamestown
All schools in the Jamestown Public School District went into lockdown Thursday, Oct. 13, after the Stutsman County Communications Center received a report about an active shooter in Jamestown High School.

Scott Edinger, Jamestown chief of police, said Jamestown Police Department officers responded to Jamestown High School after the Stutsman County Communications Center received a call at about 10:40 a.m. about an active shooter in a specific area of JHS. He said officers were on the scene in less than 10 minutes and entered the building.

No evidence of a shooter or injuries was discovered, he said.

As a precaution, all schools

of the Jamestown Public School District were placed on lockdown as officers conducted two sweeps of the high school building, he said.

"In consultation with the school district, the lockdown was lifted, and Jamestown High School students were systematically dismissed from class," he said.

All other schools in the school district continued with their normal schedule.

About 30 officers from the Jamestown Police Department, Stutsman County Sheriff's Office, North Dakota Highway Patrol, North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation, North Dakota Probation and Parole, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as well as several firefighters and medics from the Jamestown Fire Department and Jamestown Area Ambulance responded to the scene.

Edinger said the Jamestown



Parents stand near a perimeter set by law enforcement around Jamestown High School. A text message sent by the Jamestown Public School District says law enforcement was notified about a potential threat at about 10:40 a.m. Thursday.

Police Department will continue investigating the incident.

"It's my opinion that this is something that is going to have to be continued by a federal agency and the FBI is looking into this," he said. "We are not going to have the resources independently to track this down. Hopefully with federal and state

partners we will be able to get somewhere."

Edinger said a number of schools statewide received similar calls on Thursday about reports of a potential threat of an active shooter. He said the department believes the call about an active shooter was a hoax.

"The caller had a foreign accent and the call sounded

scripted," he said.

The hoax emergency calls have been referenced as "swatting" calls. Edinger said these types of calls are dangerous.

"I think that is their intended purpose," he said. "It's frustrating for us because we have to try and investigate them but also treat them at least initially as a real emergency. When it's something that we have to react to that quickly, it's very difficult to do both at the same time, especially the staffing levels that our small-town departments have. You overwhelm an agency very quickly and the expectation of getting information out and investigating and handling the situation that's in front of you gets to be very taxing.

Parents were seen outside of the perimeter of Jamestown High School on Thursday.

LOCKDOWN: Page 2

Spot News: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
*After 21 years on the run,
man accused of sexual assault arrested*
Dave Olson, April Baumgarten

◆ Third Place

- Grand Forks Herald
*Rivers on the rise, Gov. activates
MN Nat'l Guard for Crookston*
Ingrid Harbo

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
*Mother, baby recovering after
being shot by baby's father*
Robin Huebner

Spot News: Large Multi-Dailies



Relationship may impact murder case

Cass County Assistant State's Attorney Ternes disclosed relationship with Detective Hanson

By April Baumgarten
The Forum

FARGO — A dating relationship between a Cass County prosecutor and Fargo detective could impact the outcome of the murder case of a pregnant woman who was fatally shot in November.

Attorneys for 36-year-old Anthony Reese Jr., of Moorhead, who is charged with three counts of murder, asked on Wednesday, May 18, in Cass County District Court why the relationship between lead prosecutor SheriLynn Ternes and Fargo Police Detective Troy Hanson was just disclosed to the defense Friday.



Ternes



Hanson

The Cass County State's Attorney's Office has known about the relationship since mid-December, State's Attorney Birch Burdick confirmed Friday to The Forum.

"We are unclear why the State's Attorney Office decided to sit on material information as to this matter," defense attorney Tracy Hines said. "There's absolutely no excuse for withholding this information for

◆ First Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Relationship may impact murder case
April Baumgarten

north dakota newspapers

BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Business News Reporting



Business News Reporting: Small Weeklies



◆ **Honorable Mention**

- **Elgin, Grant County News**
South 40 Beef awarded grants for expansion
Luann Dart

◆ **Third Place**

- **Bowbells, Burke County Tribune**
Cafe Opens
Lisa Thomas

◆ **Second Place**

- **Hankinson, News Monitor**
Long-term toll
Levi Jones

Business News Reporting: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ **Honorable Mention**

- **Carrington, Foster County Independent**
Everyone is welcome at our table
Amy Wobbema

◆ **Third Place**

- **Hillsboro Banner**
Downtown turnaround
Cole Short, Cory Erickson

◆ **Second Place**

- **Hillsboro Banner**
Donut seem brand new?
Cole Short

Business News Reporting: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

- **Tioga Tribune**
Dollar General under OSHA investigations, chronically understaffed
Jacob Orledge

Dollar General under OSHA investigations, chronically understaffed

By Jacob Orledge

Tioga's Dollar General store, the scene of frequent complaints on social media from former employees and customers, is the subject of an OSHA safety investigation.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration staff from Elmira is conducting an inspection on Nov. 1 as part of an investigation into an alleged safety hazard. The investigation remains open and OSHA is unable to comment on investigations that have not been closed.

"We have 180 days or six months from when we get it to investigate it and then write up a citation if citations are warranted," said Brenda Adams, an OSHA representative in Elmira.

The investigation was opened in response to a "whistle" according to the sparse details publicly available on OSHA's website, which states a non-employee alerted OSHA to the presence of a safety hazard. "Typically when an injury or hospitalization" according to OSHA.

"The complaint report is to OSHA or it is a media release of what we see in the media and then we go down and inspect on it," said Adams. "I believe that most someone told us about it whether it is an employee, whether it's another government agency, something like that."

Adams, who is unable to comment on the specifics of the Dollar General case, spoke in general terms to explain that terminology of public information records to say the OSHA website.

"Another Adams saw the information available on OSHA's website offered my suggestion as to what prompted the release of that Dollar General, who said she was an assistant manager at this store from July to September in an interview last week, however it was likely precipitated by the lack of storage capacity for the store's regular freight distribution.

"We did not have the space to do



Tioga's Dollar General framed by the rising sun Monday morning.

back to get it so we ended up having to put it on the floor, and obviously that's dangerous because if there's a fire or something like that you have to have a clear walking space," said Adams. "It got to the point where an owner's wife in the store and another woman and there was broken emergency lights. There was still hanging off the top of shelves."

She said she became aware in September, shortly before leaving Dollar General's employ. OSHA's interest in the store is unclear.

"It was just a very simple observation for customers and employees," said Adams.

The Nov. 1 inspection was "partial" in scope, according to the inspection details available on OSHA's website which means it would have been only focused on a specific part of the store subject to be a safety hazard.

"That means we're focusing solely on that one aspect of either the safety or the company. We're not doing a full sweep of every single walkway and every" Adams explained. "It's

complaint is about slipping hazards so we would go in there and we would only look for slipping hazards if we're doing a partial scope of it. We would only look at that one specific area or hazard."

Tioga's store is not the only one under investigation in North Dakota. Dollar General stores in Cassin and Garrison are also under investigation.

The store's problems are not beyond the OSHA investigation according to former employees like Brubaker.

Brubaker, other former employees and areas of non-stored customers took to Facebook last week to discuss the store's problems. The local government and local media have not commented but been the store's storefront and all its employees have been cooperative.

"They do close at seven or 8 p.m. most times," said Brubaker, even though the official hours are supposed to be 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week. "I stopped shopping there about the beginning of October just because they were never open."

The former assistant manager doesn't blame the employees who also said one working hard to keep the store open as often as it is. But the chronic understaffing of the store and lack of support from management and other people, according to Brubaker, are problematic.

"That is not supposed to work by yourself," said Brubaker, as the store usually opens before two employees could be present. "Without four people we needed to run the store full time. There you have people who would usually not have, which is under-staffed, and a really hard to hire somebody on to keep the store open full time."

The situation was made worse, during for time of empty, Brubaker said, by a manager who had frequently absent from the store and "wanted to come in and help us any time."

She was supported by a public Facebook post last week by two people who said they were former employees of the Dollar General stores in Tioga and Stanton.

"Every time but in a previous employee this place and didn't manage it a job," commented Melissa Holte, a former employee of the Tioga location. "We had several very qualified managers and assistant managers quit because they got no support from corporate."

The district manager and corporate office, according to Brubaker, were unresponsive when she tried to take her complaints to a higher level of management.

"I worked at the one in Stanton and corporate is absolutely aware of both Stanton and Tioga and terrible combination of both," commented Melissa Brubaker, who said she worked at the Stanton store. "We're celebrating for customers and for the employees that they do their thing."

Dollar General's Media Relations Department did not respond to an email

and phone call seeking comment for this article.

Wages

The chronic understaffing can likely be traced back to the non-competitive wages offered by the store.

Lillian Brubaker, a part-time job under offered a job at Dollar General earlier this fall, was shocked by how low the hourly wage she would have earned was.

Brubaker said the hourly wage would have been around \$12 an hour to be an assistant manager, a little more than \$11 an hour to be a shift lead and \$11 an hour to be a regular cashier.

"It's not even worth my time to only make \$11 even in a part-time job," said Brubaker.

Brubaker recently works in the oil field and knows she wouldn't find comparable wages, yet she was expecting something similar to the \$18 an hour she was earning in a previous manager at Cash Wagon BILT. At the very least, she said, most positions in the area make \$13 an hour or more.

"Every store is struggling and every business seems to be struggling around here. It's not just that one. But I think they definitely need more a better management if wages were higher," Brubaker said of the staffing that hangs. "I hope they can figure it out. It would be really nice to see another store go downhill that is a good asset to our area."

The wages simply aren't sustainable in the industry.

"Everybody seems up here for the money. They are paying them one, please but their wages for the work they are doing," said Brubaker. "I was making \$18 an hour, which is good, but for assistant manager of a type like it being \$18. \$12 an hour is bad."

She could not recall what wages were typically paid \$11 an hour when she was the assistant manager.

"It's not good wages for what they're doing," said Brubaker.

Business News Reporting: Large Weeklies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Grafton, Walsh County Record**
RRRC Incubator project
Todd Morgan

◆ **Second Place**

- **Casselton, Cass County Reporter**
Proposed Carbon Pipeline
Jan Russell

Business News Reporting: Large Weeklies



An 811 utility operator at the New Century job site. The sign is a warning to anyone who might be digging in the area.

NCA is doubling capacity at its Noonan grain terminal

By Brad Nygaard
 The grain industry is looking for ways to increase its capacity to handle the world's growing demand for grain. One way is to build new grain elevators. Another way is to expand existing ones. The National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) is currently working on a plan to double the capacity of its Noonan grain terminal in North Dakota.



The Noonan terminal is one of the largest grain elevators in the world. It has a capacity of 1.5 million bushels of grain. The NGFA is currently working on a plan to double the capacity of the terminal to 3 million bushels. This will allow the terminal to handle more grain from the surrounding area. The plan is to add a second set of elevators and a new conveyor system. The NGFA is currently working on a plan to double the capacity of the terminal to 3 million bushels. This will allow the terminal to handle more grain from the surrounding area. The plan is to add a second set of elevators and a new conveyor system.

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◆ First Place

- Crosby, The Journal

NCA is doubling capacity at its Noonan grain terminal

Brad Nygaard

Business News Reporting: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Dickinson Press**

Selling like WILDFIRE!

Ashley Koffler

◆ **Second Place**

- **Jamestown Sun**

*Bold flavors at the heart
of Buffalo City Popcorn*

Kathy Steiner

Business News Reporting: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- **Dickinson Press**
Sanford to close
Mott nursing home
Jason O'Day



The Good Samaritan Society nursing home in Mott is pictured.

Jason O'Day / The Dickinson Press

Sanford to close Mott nursing home

Refuses city proposal to use facility for senior care

By Jason B. O'Day
The Dickinson Press
Mott, N.D.

The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, which is owned by Sanford Health, announced May 24 in a letter to staff, families and residents that

they will be closing their nursing home in Mott -- the only senior living facility in the rural southwest community.

In a statement to The Press, Sanford Health Spokeswoman Tess Hendrick claims the decision to close the facility comes as a result

of the 2020 pandemic and ongoing staffing challenges.

"The pandemic has put unprecedented strain on the senior care industry, which has forced us to make difficult decisions about how and where we can provide care and services," Good Samaritan

Society Executive Director Phil Samselien stated. "A number of factors including ongoing staffing challenges, a decline in the number of residents at our location and increased operating costs have unfortunately

HOME: Page 6

Business News Reporting: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ **Honorable Mention**

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
*Speak Easy closing 'devastating'
to longtime employees*
Mike McFeely

◆ **Third Place**

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
*Food cart operators fear
possible restrictions*
Barry Amundson

◆ **Second Place**

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
Dedicated DJ
April Baumgarten

Business News Reporting: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead Questions linger as Moorhead Center Mall tenants ponder futures Thomas Evanela



People walking the halls of the Moorhead Center Mall on Nov. 9. Photos by Dave Peyer / The Forum

Moorhead Center Mall businesses wonder what's next as demolition looms

By Thomas Evanela
The Forum

Moorhead
It's demolition on a recent Monday and some time is spent at a booth inside last restaurant wondering what's next.

It's not the day's lunch and dinner service she's mulling, nor is it the open dishwasher positions last Cathy, now restaurant is trying to fill (today she will be teaching the dishes herself). Rather, she is contemplating the future of the Moorhead Center Mall, where that booth makes its home along Center Avenue in the city's downtown.

The mall's future and her family's home in the United States are closely intertwined. Because that booth is a family affair, with two and her other working alongside their parents to help by family members who don't look to get great grandchildren.

Keeping the restaurant's doors open isn't just a business decision, it's what keeps her parents' work alive. It is the reason the family even acquired the restaurant back in 2011, so her whole family could stay in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

When a group of developers revealed plans to tear down



Ariel Osa at The Central Restaurant in the Moorhead Center Mall on Monday.

the Moorhead Center Mall in an effort to revitalize the area, it was personal for Osa. "It's so special, it's so easy for me because I didn't leave the restaurant, all of my family has to go back because of the view of my mom and dad," she told The Forum.

That Osa is only one of the businesses which stands to be displaced by the proposed redevelopment.

While Osa has long worried regarding the mall's fate, she considers all but legs when Moorhead residents voted in favor of a 4.9% sales tax increase to finance the construction of a library and community center on the mall site.

While businesses inside the mall acknowledge the writing is on the wall, questions are being to be asked as they work to

plot their future.

Weathering crises
Osa works for Cathy's eight plus years running that Osa is the brother's wife of Osa.

That is how road construction, there a broken pipe, a fire, flooding, the COVID-19 pandemic, and road construction once again this year, that Osa says

within a week of ending their lunch service and a month of closing for good after a particularly dry patch after starting a phase of their supply chain from the Facebook, Osa's eye to the camera and that Osa is once again pulled through. As it arrives all of that Osa's thought, Osa is now wondering whether or not she needs to look for a new location. Previously, she has found that Osa is once again pulled through. She tried eventually and eventually to leave, the large-based and retail shop where Osa has been told the City Council Commission has approved 20% to 30% left but she Osa's of the mall's property.

Osa reports that that Osa is to be under a year for the next year. After that, however, she doesn't know what the future holds.

Down the hallway and around the corner, the table is there for Mary Fales, former franchisee of their Moorhead Center's, when Osa has been a decade of the mall for 10 years, spinning their on work end, meaning she has had a time now what to the changes at the mall since its early days.

Fales herself acquired the store back when it was

MALL: Page C4

north dakota newspapers

BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Sports Page



Sports Page: Small Weeklies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Park River, Walsh County Press**
Walsh County Press - Sports Page
Allison Olimb & staff

◆ **Second Place**

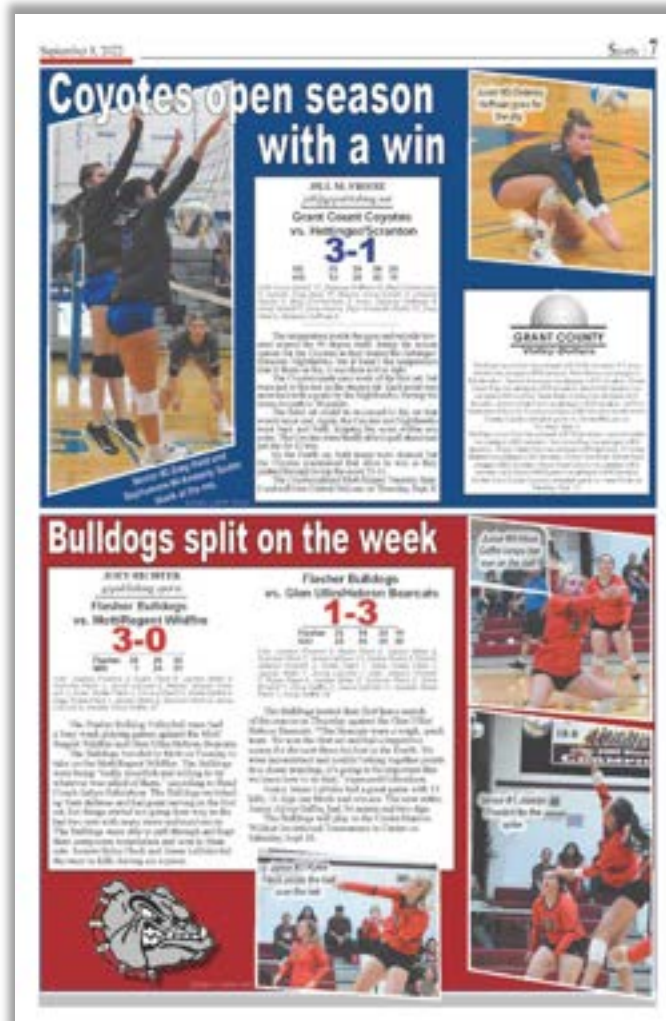
- **Hankinson, News Monitor**
Sports Pages
Levi Jones

Sports Page: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Elgin, Grant County News
Sports Pages
Jill Friesz & staff



Sports Page: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ **Honorable Mention**

- **Tioga Tribune**

Jan. 12, June 1, Sept. 21

Jody Michael

◆ **Third Place**

- **Hillsboro Banner**

Hillsboro Banner Sports Pages

Banner Staff

◆ **Second Place**

- **New Rockford Transcript**

Transcript sports pages

Nathan Price, Kyrie Dauenhauer

Sports Page: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Carrington,
Foster County Independent
Independent Sports Section
Erik Gjovik, Kyrie Dauenhauer,
Nathan Price,
Lane Moellenkamp

Sports Page: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Crosby, The Journal
March 9, May 25, Sept. 21
Jody Michael

◆ Third Place

- Garrison, McLean County Independent
McLean County Independent sports pages
Jackie Kohler, James C. Falcon

◆ Second Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
May 18, September 21, December 7
Chelsea Wysocki

Sports Page: Large Weeklies



What's new is old again for Reesville champs

Muskrats, Newburg players help reassemble camp back to state

SPORTS
June 29, 2007

MAKING GAINS

Girl jumps on show as state lead teacher's coach aims points to divide

INJURY TO RELIEF
But brings out best in Brown

EARLY 90S GREAT
Future play team assistant springs back into action

Few hiccups prove costly as Braves see season end

Muskrats fall short of return state trip



◆ First Place

- Bottineau Courant
Bottineau Courant Sports
Matthew Semisch

Sports Page: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Wahpeton, Daily News**
Daily News Sports page
Robert Wanek Jr.

◆ **Second Place**

- **Dickinson Press**
*Sports covers for
the Dickinson Press*
Meghan Dowhaniuk

Sports Page: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- **Jamestown Sun**

*Sports covers for
the Jamestown Sun*

**Alex Kallmeyer,
Paula Pandey Chhetri,
Becca Larson**

Sports Page: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Bismarck Tribune
Bismarck Tribune Sports Staff

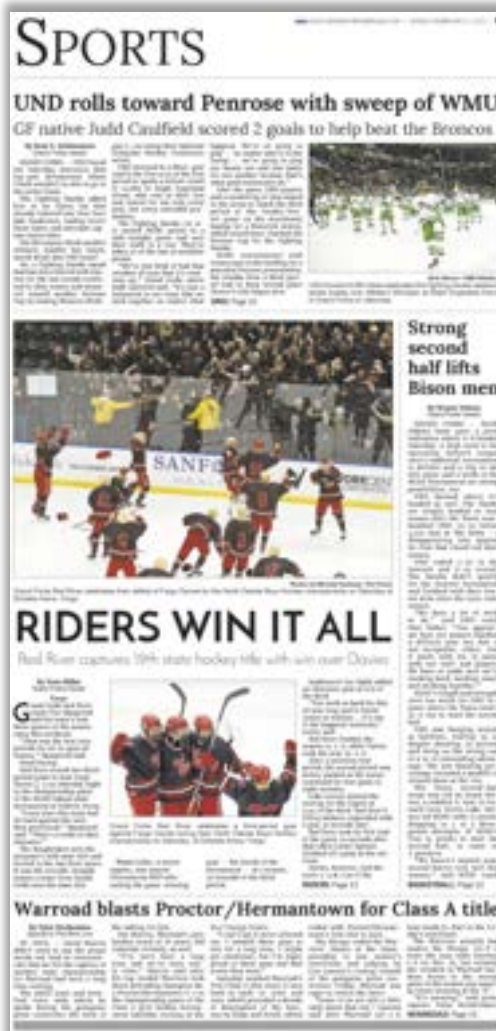
◆ Third Place

- Grand Forks Herald
Sports page/section, Jan. 31, Aug. 11, Aug. 23
Tanner Larson, Danielle Verhey, Joey Good

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Forum sports sections
Forum staff

Sports Page: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Grand Forks Herald
Sports page/section,
Feb. 24, Feb. 27, Oct. 23
Wayne Nelson, Staff

north dakota newspapers

BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Sports Reporting



Sports Reporting: Small Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Cooperstown, Griggs County Courier
*Thunder rain on the Titans' hopes
of a Homecoming game win*
Preslet Paintner

◆ Third Place

- Elgin, Grant County News
Storm celebrate victory
Joey Richter

◆ Second Place

- Bowbells, Burke County Tribune
Fredrickson's 1000th
Lisa Thomas

Sports Reporting: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor
Biggest Game of the Season, So Far
Levi Jones



Hankinson and Wyndmere-Lidgerwood were tied 8-7 going into the last, 23 game. The results of the game may determine the final standing of either team.

Biggest game of the season, so far

Wyndmere-Lidgerwood beats rival Hankinson 30-19 at Warbirds homecoming

BY LEVI JONES - NEWS MONITOR
levi@newsmonitor.com

Homecoming is about school pride. It is a chance to celebrate the school and the community of it as one of the biggest parts of homecoming is the homecoming football game. With just the title of "homecoming," a football game takes on a new level of importance.

For Wyndmere and Lidgerwood, who had their homecoming game Friday, Sept.

23, it was one of the most important games of the year. Not only was it their homecoming game, they were playing against their biggest rival, the Hankinson Pirates.

To add to the pressure, both teams were tied with a 1 second going in. This had them tied for second in the region, behind Lakewood-Libertyville-Marion, which was undefeated and playing against another undefeated team, May Park C-6. This was the chance for either Hankinson, or Wyndmere-Lidgerwood to extend their

win to second place, and possibly, for the first. In the end, the Warbirds beat the Pirates, 30-19.

The game opened up with Wyndmere-Lidgerwood taking complete control. A strong offensive line set them on a steady progress in the run game. On defense, they were able to stop Hankinson's run game, which has helped them recently throughout the season.

In the second quarter, Hankinson was down 14-0. They were able to get off a long field punt, with a good pass completion, the score was 14-0. Before the end of the half, the Warbirds struck back and another long drive resulting in a touchdown put the game at 22-7 going into the half.

"We had a lot of yards, we took care of the clock. We kept the ball. I don't know what the time of possession was but I am pretty sure we won that," Wyndmere-Lidgerwood head coach Scott Stronger said.

After Hankinson got a stop to start the third quarter, they made it clear that they were still in the game. The Pirates subbed out their run game, going for more outside success. The new strategy worked well for Hank as they drove into the field and scored another two points. After a failed two point conversion the game was only ten scores away at 22-13.

"We started running outside runs. Trying to keep it outside. It was working but we were being outside so that is just what we kept running," Hankinson head coach Jason MacIntyre said.

The Pirates got another stop on the

Warbirds and started searching towards the endzone again. This time the defense stepped with an interception.

Wyndmere-Lidgerwood was able to take advantage of the turnover, turning it into another touchdown and two-point conversion.

As the game entered the final minute, the score was 30-13 in favor of the Warbirds. Hankinson needed a final punt, and a mistake, to tie the game.

The Pirates were able to get the first half of the field. With the clock winding down, Hankinson senior Chad Heron made a shot for a catch in the endzone to make the score 30-14.

The Pirates tried an onside kick, but were unable to recover the ball. The game ended with the Warbirds leaving their rivals and winning their homecoming game.

"Big win, we won our 4 (against) 3-1 and it is our biggest rival, homecoming. The kids played well, both teams played hard. Could be big place here so there could catch the game any way. I thought both teams fought it out, it was a close battle like it usually is," Stronger said.

With the win, Wyndmere-Lidgerwood's record improved up to 5-1, no longer tied for second in the region. Lakewood-Libertyville-Marion now sits at 5-1. May Park C-6 offer being taken at the field, keeping some undefeated and first in the region.

Hankinson dropped to third in the standings with a record of 4-3. The Pirates' next home game will be Friday, Oct. 7 against Rockland HS. This was the Warbird's best home game of the season.



The Warbirds held possession of the ball for the majority of the game. Their star run game helped set up the clock to prevent Hankinson from having enough time on offense.

Sports Reporting: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Hillsboro Banner
10 and Counting
Cole Short

◆ Third Place

- Hillsboro Banner
Patriots drop five-set thriller
Rian Richards

◆ Second Place

- Hillsboro Banner
Chomping at the bit
Pace Maier

Sports Reporting: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

■ Tioga Tribune

Dolan steps down as Ray volleyball coach **Jody Michael**

Dolan steps down as Ray volleyball coach

By Jody Michael

A year after retiring from teaching, Michelle Dolan has now also stepped down as Ray High School's head varsity volleyball coach, ending a 34-year career of building the most successful athletic program the school has ever had.

Dolan said the decision to retire now partly stemmed from a desire to be more available to her mother, who has been experiencing health issues.

"I think I'm leaving in a good spot for a coach coming in, with the returning players that we have," Dolan said.

Ray Superintendent Ben Schaefer praised Dolan for starting the team from scratch, sustaining a high standard of achievement and leaving a lasting positive impact on both the program and the entire school district.

"She was an amazing part of our school for many years and built a program that's second to none in the state," Schaefer said. "She's just someone who comes to work every day and did it well."

Dolan's career ends with an unofficial tally of 754 wins, as well as 11 region championships and berths in the state Class B tournament. For comparison, Ray's basketball teams have made it to state only once each.

"It's kind of an amazing thing," Dolan said. "I've been blessed with the kids I've worked with, that they've gotten to go out there and work hard."

Dolan can also take some credit for more than a handful of former Ray players having run almost involved with the sport long after they graduated.

"I know many who still play volleyball," Dolan said. "I know seven or eight that are retiring, and I think three or four that are coaching."

Dolan was among the longest-tenured high school volleyball



Steve Torgler photo

Ray High School head volleyball coach Michelle Dolan watches pregame introductions before a Region 8 tournament game between the Ray Jays and Trenton Tigers on Nov. 11 at Parshall High School.

coaches in North Dakota, one of just a few who have held their jobs since the 1988-89 school year, when the state high school activities association first sponsored the sport for small Class B schools. Kansas's Tim Waldman, winner of two state titles, is another.

Dolan, a native of Upton, had once been an assistant volleyball coach at Minot State University while finishing a mathematics degree, then was working in Towson when an appealing job opening two hours west, in Ray, came along in the summer of 1986.

"Ray was starting to look for a math teacher, but they were also looking into starting a volleyball

program," Dolan said. "I thought that looked like a good opportunity."

Some Class B schools already had teams that competed informally before the creation of the league, but many were trying volleyball for the first time in the 1988-89 school year like Ray, and not all of them had the benefit of a coach with Dolan's level of previous experience with the sport.

"That year, I think we beat almost all the other first-year teams," Dolan said, "so I knew we were going in the right direction."

Dolan quickly brought the Ray volleyball program to statewide prominence, winning its first region

championship in 1992-93. (High school volleyball was a winter sport in North Dakota through the 2000-01 school year at which point it switched to a fall season.)

That title advanced the Jays to their first state volleyball tournament, where they finished sixth out of the eight teams there.

In their next state tournament two years later, in 1995, the Jays won 3-2 over both Hankinson in the quarterfinals and Bottineau in the semifinals to reach the championship game in just the program's seventh year of existence.

But the Jays' ride through the postseason ended in second place with a 3-1 loss to a dominant and more experienced Beulah program.

"We were the only team that took a set all three at state," Dolan said, "so I was proud that we made it a decent game."

What the Jays accomplished that year was another sign for Dolan of the program's long-term potential.

"We were getting a little recognition," Dolan said. "This team of Ray knows a little bit about volleyball."

Then came nine more state berths over a span of two decades. Ray first returned in 1998 and finished third, then took fifth in 2000.

Following the switch to fall, the Jays made another run of state appearances, placing sixth in 2004, fourth in 2005 and eighth in 2007.

Especially meaningful for Dolan was getting to state four times with daughters Paige and Mia, who graduated from Ray in 2014 and 2017, respectively. The Jays placed seventh in 2012 and 2016 and eighth in 2004 and 2005.

Dolan also appreciated that the team as a whole began to embrace both the team and the sport. Ray volleyball matches now draw a robust turnout of fans just like the basketball and football games do.

"The kids in the student body that would sit and cheer," Dolan said, "that's a big thing."

Sports Reporting: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Garrison, McLean County Independent
Spring sports thwarted by storms
James C. Falcon

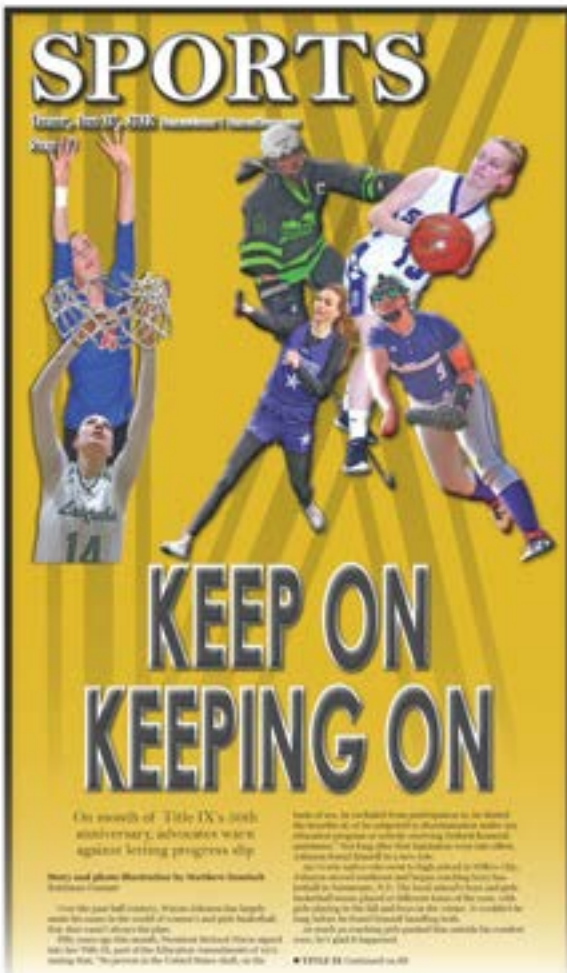
◆ Third Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Spoilers seeing double
Chelsea Wysocki

◆ Second Place

- Linton, Emmons County Record
NDHSAA proposes three-class system for basketball
WILDCARD- Mark Weber

Sports Reporting: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Bottineau Courant
*Keep on keeping on
Matthew Semisch*

Sports Reporting: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- **Wahpeton, Daily News**
Ring season
Robert Wanek Jr.

◆ Second Place

- **Dickinson Press**
Really meaningful to me
Race Archibald

Sports Reporting: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

■ Dickinson Press

Dickinson players mark crowning achievement, continue careers

James B. Miller, Jr.

2 football standouts sign National Letters of Intent Dickinson players mark crowning achievement, continue careers

By James B. Miller, Jr.
The Dickinson Press

DICKINSON — National Letter of Intent (NLI) day is a special moment for high school football players, as it marks the crowning achievement of their career and sets the stage for the next level. On this day, talented athletes across the country sign their letters to continue their football careers at the collegiate level, committing to a specific school and officially becoming a member of the team.

For many players, NLI day is a dream come true, as it represents the hard work and dedication they have put in to earn this opportunity. The letters are often signed in front

of the player's family, high school coaches and friends, making it a memorable and emotional moment.

This year, two local Dickinson High School standouts signed their letters to continue their football careers at Dickinson State University. Max Wilkinson and Chase Selle announced their move to join the Blue Hawks team.

Max Wilkinson, a lineman standing at a formidable 6'4 and 320 pounds, will be joining the Blue Hawks next fall. Wilkinson is known for his strength and quick feet, and has consistently dominated the line of scrimmage at the prep level. Using his power to overpower opponents, Wilkinson was among the very best offensive linemen in the state.

The highly-regarded offensive lineman will have his work cut out for him as he competes for playing time at Dickinson State University. The Blue Hawks are no strangers to an effective offensive line, having three starters named to the All-Conference team. Both Nathaniel Woodruff and Brandon Bennick are returning this season and a number of experienced players are vying for starting spots. Wilkinson could see defensive line play, but will need to bring his best game and work hard to earn a spot on the field. The impressive high school senior has all the potential and intangibles needed to make an impact for the Blue Hawks on either side

LETTERS: Page B6



Courtesy / Dickinson High Activities
Dickinson High School football standouts, Max Wilkinson and Chase Selle, signed their letters to continue their football careers at Dickinson State University.

Sports Reporting: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Faith and football
Jeff Kolpack

◆ Third Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Postgame pandemonium
Mike McFeely

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
*West Fargo Sheyenne earns
1st state volleyball title with wild win*
Ryan Spitza

Sports Reporting: Large Multi-Dailies



Andrew Bellows (left to right), Clarence Hunt, Nathan Chene, Marshall Moore, Tom Lybeck, Mike Doherty and Dan Ryan, all graduates from Concordia College in 2004 or 2005. The group wins at the British Open this past weekend using the earnings from a Golden State Warriors championship to help fund the trip.

'A SURREAL WEEK'

7 Concordia graduates parlayed Golden State Warriors championship into dream golf trip to British Open

By Eric Peterson
The Forum

Moorhead— Andrew Bellows knew the Golden State Warriors and their success were an activity for him—college forward Marvin Lemmy that he parlayed — with a group of seven Concordia College graduates — into the golf trip of a lifetime.

"It was a surreal week," said Bellows, a 2004 Concordia graduate who also played men's golf for the Vikings.

Bellows and six other college friends and former teammates became members of an international association, attending the British Open this past weekend in St. Andrews, Scotland, after they were given a grant that was primarily funded on the net they raised about the Warriors was the NBA championship to him.

"We all chipped in," said Bellows, who lives in Tulsa, Okla. "It was all of working," he said about the trip.

Bellows and his buddies spent around \$1,000 to fly over to St. Andrews, Scotland last part of the group down to a rental jet over the time to plan to play the links with guests being set legal to St. Andrews.

None of the stories was as it is in the end and as the final season progressed, Bellows said, the group had more money on the Warriors, with the odds dropping to 5 to 1, as he became more confident Golden State was championship caliber.

"It didn't do a lot of betting, but we like betting the odds we go to, but the Warriors being won something we're never done before," Bellows said. "We've never taken a giant leap of faith on something like this."

Mike Doherty, Marshall Moore, Tom Lybeck, Nathan Chene and Dan Ryan, who graduated from Concordia in 2005, were also part of the group along with past graduate Clarence Hunt. All but one in the group are

former Concordia athletes. The group had gone to three (1) football game trips in Tennessee, Ala., Texas, Okla., La., and College Station, Texas, since 2004. A trip to London for a major golf tournament, however, was at a much higher price point, which led the group deciding to bet on the Warriors.

"There were no sports betting shops, but wouldn't it be fun to do something just because and go for broke," Bellows said.

The longtime St. Andrews member for the week was the 2004 grad. Bellows said he had the Warriors not won the NBA title, he had an agreement with the Warriors that he would amount half of the cost. That wasn't needed, however, with Golden State knocking off the Celtics 4-1 in the end of 7 series.

Bellows, who lived in Las Vegas prior to Tulsa, and his wife Lisa Bellows were at home 1 of the NBA Finals 2 at Chase Center in San Francisco. The Warriors

announced a stable South quarter last to be held 1-1 to the net.

"That was a big winning making to Game 1 for sure," Bellows said, also knowing what was at stake with the bet.

For the final two days of the British Open, the Concordia group were taking money that one of the group members had lost out of the airport.

"The Lakers group weren't more pleased," Bellows said. "It's a different Golden State Warriors fan. I've always said losing is the key to the team, not to a joking way, but he's a guy that dove all the dirty work."

All seven earning the distinctive gold-colored Golden State jersey with Lemmy's No. 15, however, gathered attention around the course. Bellows and Golden State had a great relationship as the tournament that got ahead of them in the Lemmy group.

OPEN Page B3

◆ First Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
A surreal week
Eric Peterson



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Sports Reporting Series



Sports Series: Small Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- **Finley, Steele County Press**
*Raiders top Colts 36-6 in
opening round of playoffs*
Mark Frost

◆ Third Place

- **Elgin, Grant County News**
*Storm warning for playoff game,
Storm bring the thunder*
Riley Dahl

◆ Second Place

- **Bowbells, Burke County Tribune**
Ranchers Post Season
WILDCARD- Lyann Olson

Sports Series: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- **Bowbells, Burke County Tribune**
Honkers Shine in Tournaments
Lyann Olson



REGION 8 CHAMPIONS: Kennesaw-Bowbells Honkers - (back) Brooklyn Raines, Madison Melin, Anne Strickland, Abbey Kallher, Brenna Strickland, Tracy Asfourth, Kate Zimmer, Presley Zebinger, Brea Christ; (front) McKenzie Lovvick, Candiya Antkenhauser, Ava Barlow, Laci Hutter, Chloe Grindstead, Karryn Lautenschlager, Lillith Searles

Honkers Three-Peat as Region 8 Champions *Ranchers Place Second*

The Region 8 volleyball championship match was a repeat of the District 4 title in regards to the same teams and same place. The Kennesaw-Bowbells Honkers versus the Powers Lake Burke Central Ranchers in the Trips High School gymnasium. In the District 4 championship the Ranchers came out hot and were not intimidated by the third ranked team in the state, the K-B

Honkers, K-B easily claimed a 3-0 victory with scores of 25-15, 25-14, 25-9. What wasn't repeated in the Region 8 title match, Nov. 16, was Powers Lake Burke Central's presence on the court. The Ranchers came out enthusiastic, agitated and ready to have some fun. The Honkers maintained their hard hitting, bombing drops, like you'd imagine athletes to make

for an exciting match for fans on both sides of the court. The two teams battled it out with some rallies lasting the time holding their breath to see which team would account for a kill. In the end, K-B claimed a 25-16, 25-12, 25-10 victory, advancing to the State 8 Tournament in Denmark, Nov. 17-18 for the third straight year.

"We are so grateful to have this

opportunity at state again," said K-B senior right side hitter, Madison Melin. "Being there before we knew what to expect. Last year we were just a few points short from being in the title game. This year our place in the gym with a good mentality and positive attitude to get the job done, while we have fun and make the best out of these

(Continued on Page 8)

Sports Series: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Hillsboro Banner
MPCG volleyball coverage
Rian Richards

◆ Third Place

- Tioga Tribune
Tioga High School girls' basketball
Jody Michael

◆ Second Place

- Hillsboro Banner
HCV football playoff coverage
Pace Maier

Sports Series: Mid-Size Weeklies



Homecoming fever. . .

Cards race past Park River, 28-6

By Steve Schmitt

The game, scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 23, was a homecoming affair for the Cards. The game was held at the Park River High School stadium. The Cards were led by quarterback Logan Smith, who threw for 150 yards and two touchdowns. Running back Erik Gjojik had 100 yards and a touchdown. The Cards' defense was led by linebacker Erik Gjojik, who had 100 yards and a touchdown. The Cards won the game 28-6.



Logan Smith catches a pass during the game.

The Cards' offense was led by quarterback Logan Smith, who threw for 150 yards and two touchdowns. Running back Erik Gjojik had 100 yards and a touchdown. The Cards' defense was led by linebacker Erik Gjojik, who had 100 yards and a touchdown. The Cards won the game 28-6.



Erik Gjojik runs with the ball during the game.

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◆ First Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent 2022 CHS Football Erik Gjojik

Sports Series: Large Weeklies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Grafton, Walsh County Record**
Spoilers GBB State
Chelsea Wysocki

◆ **Second Place**

- **Crosby, The Journal**
Divide County High School football
Jody Michael

Sports Series: Large Weeklies

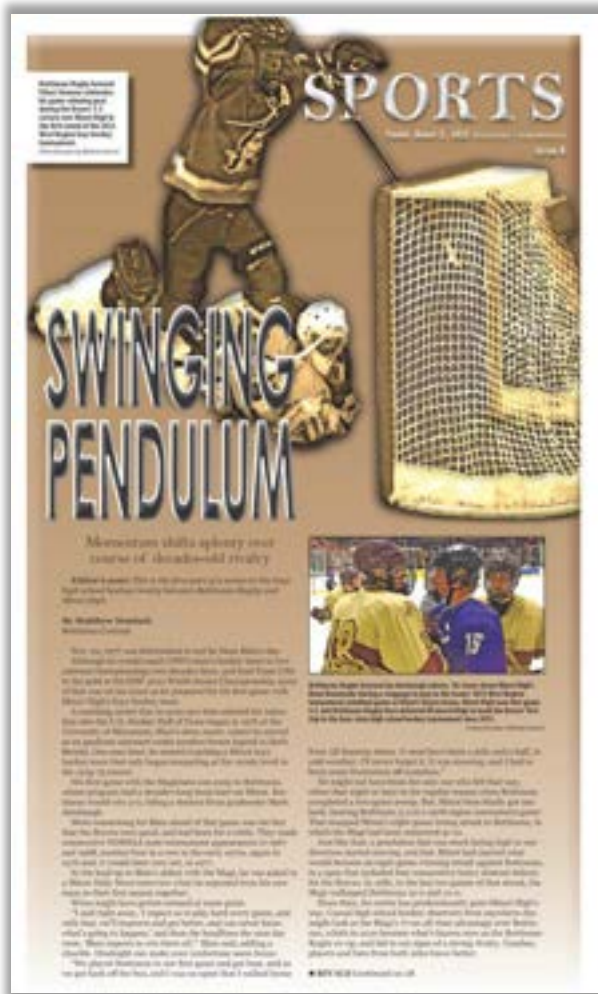


◆ First Place

■ Bottineau Courant

Bottineau-Rugby vs Minot High boys hockey rivalry history

Matthew Semisch



Sports Series: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Second Place

- Dickinson Press

Dickinson Midgets' failed state run

Josiah C. Cuellar

Sports Series: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News
Athlete of the Year
Robert Wanek Jr.

Sports Series: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Grand Forks Herald
UND-Minnesota rivalry
Brad E. Schlossman

◆ Third Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Christian Watson draft
Eric Peterson, Mike McFeely

◆ Second Place

- Grand Forks Herald
Four Winds-Minnewaukan perfect season series
Wayne Nelson

Sports Series: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
After more than 50 yrs, sons of former Bison great finally united
Jeff Kolpack

North Dakota State running back Paul Hatchett, center, was a 1961 All-American along with teammates Del Gemert, left, and Jim Fargo.

'DNA DOESN'T LIE'

After more than 50 years, sons of former Bison great Paul Hatchett finally united

By Jeff Kolpack
Fargo

Nobody knows for sure why the baby was left on the doorstep of the Church of Disciples on North Grand Avenue in Minneapolis in 1961, unless there perhaps the mother was aware that Hatchett's dad had a sense of wonder that things would work out. That's where the life of Jonathan Wright began.

He was adopted by non-loving parents — the father a publisher of three small newspapers in the Twin Cities — but both passed away around 20 years ago. Wright always wondered about his biological parents but didn't want to know if he had a would-be father to adopt.

"I didn't want to have them feel that I didn't want their love," he said.

After they died, at some point, he recalled the thought he and his wife, Lisa, were living in Ontario, Calif., when he/she saw a news segment about Paul on 40 TV. TV in Los Angeles called "finding family," where a man (Chris Ischler), who was adopted, talks about an organization that specializes in finding biological parents.

Thoughtful about his biological parents but didn't want to know if he had a would-be father to adopt with this. It would require an investment with an agency organization and in this case the fee might be over \$10,000.

She gave her blessing for also gave Jonathan the following advice: "You never know what you're going to find."

"It could be Paul's life," Jonathan said.

Jonathan reached English and video in Guam, a United States territory located almost a half a world away in the western Pacific Ocean. One thing about western science: it never doesn't matter.

HATCHETT: Page B3

Submitted photo
Clockwise from top left, brothers Thomas Meeble, Jonathan Wright and Jerome Lee during biological search of Paul Hatchett, along with Julie Messer, unrelated to Hatchett, Feb. 2008.

north dakota newspapers

BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Sports Feature



Sports Feature: Small Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Cooperstown, Griggs County Courier

Who's on first?

Jill Larson

◆ Second Place

- Bowbells, Burke County Tribune

Gold for Hinds

Lisa Thomas

Sports Feature: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

■ Finley, Steele County Press

*Goals & determination earn
Cigelske chance at Boston Marathon*

Lisa Saxberg

FRIDAY
APRIL 29, 2022
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County Press

Single Copy

Published in Finley, ND

Goals and determination earn Cigelske a chance at the Boston Marathon

Lisa Saxberg | Reporter

A lifelong love of running leads to a dream come true for one Steele County native. After several years of planning and training, Taylor Cigelske, daughter of Keith and Shari Palmer, ran the Boston Marathon on Monday, April 18. Cigelske, who now lives in Hatton, grew up on a farm 10 miles north of Finley.

"My love of running started at a very young age in early elementary from my dad," said Cigelske. "He was a talented runner, and I remember my mom telling me stories of how fast he was. My dad taught me running form and instilled in me determination and how to be competitive, yet humble. Then, I was with Coach Anderson for 1 year, as a 7th grader in track, in the 8th grade through 12th we were in a co-op with Hope-Page. He [Coach Anderson] was my coach for 5 years, 8th grade through 12th, in cross country. Coach Anderson taught me how to pace and gave me some great running workouts. Some of my best memories running in Cooperstown was repeat 400 days. It was those days that I was able to really hone in on pace. Being able to know my body and paces so well is a large part of how I have been successful in my races and marathons."

After graduating from Finley-Sharon School in 2011, Cigelske went on to coach cross country at May-Port CG high school for four years while she attended Mayville State University, earning her elementary teaching degree in 2015. She then accepted a teaching position in Hatton and began teaching and coaching cross country there in August of 2015.

"I married Benjamin Cigelske in October 2017," she said. "After 10 years of coaching, I decided that after the 2020 fall cross country season I would take a break from coaching because I was pregnant with our first child."

Cigelske said that she has always enjoyed running, and after high school, she competed in several 5ks, a few 10ks, and some half marathons. She said that she never thought she would do a full marathon.

"I thought for a long time that the athletes doing those were just crazy," she said. "It was shortly after I got married in 2017 that I decided I wanted to be one of those crazy runners. I am not really sure what exactly pushed me to begin that journey, but once I had decided, I was all in! It was my goal from the very beginning to qualify and run in the Boston Marathon on Page 4 ►

A photograph of Taylor Cigelske running during the Boston Marathon. She is wearing a white athletic tank top with the number 16249 on her bib, black leggings, and sunglasses. She is captured in mid-stride, looking forward with determination. The background shows a blurred crowd and a blue banner with "THE BOSTON MARATHON" visible.

Sports Feature: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Carrington, Foster County Independent

Their spirit lives on

Erik Gjovik

◆ Third Place

- Tioga Tribune

Rose defies damaged eye, leads Pirates as 8th-grader

Jody Michael

◆ Second Place

- Hillsboro Banner

Two very real tall tales

Pace Maier

Sports Feature: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

■ Tioga Tribune

Local rodeo star heads to nationals

Jacob Orledge

Local rodeo star heads to nationals

By Jacob Orledge

Presley Hill is on her way to Georgia in search of a national championship.

The local teen will be making her way cross country this week on the way to the National Junior High Rodeo Finals in Perry, Georgia, to compete on the national stage for the first time.

"I'm a little nervous. My first ever big, big rodeo," said Hill. "I've just got to go in there and think that it's just another rodeo. Think it's just another rodeo. Think it's just another rodeo. Think it's just another rodeo."

Events

Hill will be competing in two events, breakaway roping and barrel racing.

"I like breakaway because it can be difficult but, at the same time, once you get it it's good," said Hill. "It's just smooth once you figure out the right technique for it. Then it becomes a lot of fun when you get faster and faster."

At the same time there's something fun about being able to turn loose and go as fast as possible while barrel racing.

"I like barrels mostly because it's fast and you just get to run and turn," said Hill.

In other event, Hill said, the key is to stay calm and focus on making the best run she possibly can.

"No make your own risk. Don't try and go and beat everybody else. When you want to try and go beat everybody else, normally it doesn't go very well," said Hill.

Visualizing the run, from start to finish, is essential.

"Take some deep breaths and imagine your run in your head," said Hill. "Think of your run



Presley Hill warms up prior to the Ray Rodeo's fun night Wednesday last week.

before you do it. Picture what you want it to look like and stay calm.

She's guaranteed the chance to do two runs in each event. The top 20 finishers will qualify for the "shoot run," as she could potentially have six

chances to enter the arena.

Horses

Rodeos may seem like an individual sport at times. Yet while it's true Hill will be the only human competing in the arena when her name is called, she won't be alone.

She'll be accompanied by an essential team member: her horse.

"You have to have really good communication with your horse," said Hill. "It's all different with every horse. You have

(See HILL, Page 6)

Sports Feature: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Casselton, Cass County Reporter
Bulls, Barrels & Boxing
Angela Kolden

◆ Third Place

- Garrison, McLean County Independent
Cedar gets signed
James C. Falcon

◆ Second Place

- Crosby, The Journal
*Comet players savor experience
in national hockey showcase*
Jody Michael

Sports Feature: Large Weeklies



OVER ATHLETICS



BACK IN THE SADDLE

DCH sophomore Tyson Pringle follows through on a pitch during the second game of an April 19 home doubleheader against North Dakota State College of Minnesota. Pringle is making his first appearance on the mound since a freak accident after a crashing lumberjack tree while the spring of 2011.

DCH 2-sport player Pringle reflects on long recovery after freak accident

By Matthew Semisch
Matthew Semisch

Being injured baseball didn't let him enough, and I wish I had that sport referred to as "the ball game."

That's how Tyson Pringle's 2011 season English began, about three a game softball matches they can't get out of primarily played by school sports activities. Pringle, the team captain, is recovering through the emotional experience, who would rather not discuss it up to 14 that day.

But, if that's the case, how can he recover to make the difference?

It's a game that sticks itself in the structure beyond a routine of baseball. It's a game that sticks itself in the structure. There's still a pitcher, a ball, a batter, a fielder and home to hit, but the experience changes. Pringle is now the yellow plastic ball machine that comes after that would give baseball practice a headache.

Pringle had a lot more than that when playing baseball, as DCH 2-sport sophomore Tyson Pringle discovered, ended in a crash late this season, due to a 2011-12 experience, resulting in a fractured ankle, fractured DCH's baseball and more a better experience.

Pringle played in the outfield in two games in November, and later on, he attended a baseball game together at the Minnesota State of Lake and St. Cloud State, who were primarily a high school level for an earlier baseball playing location of Pringle's. That night, after receiving a lumberjack tree, Pringle pitched a game of baseball that resulted in a fall.

"They were my brother Jay's Angels in high school, when he was there, so I hooked up with them at their apartment," Pringle said. "I was playing with them here and I was over there then, and I was training when they had several here but not and I used to jump out of the way of a ball like you're watching the other way as I was coming for behind me, I pitched my right knee, and just hit it up on me."



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◆ First Place

- **Bottineau Courant**
Back in the saddle
Matthew Semisch

Sports Feature: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Dickinson Press

Kovash retiring from coaching track and field

Race Archibald

◆ Third Place

- Dickinson Press

Half-court shot of a dream

Jason O'Day

◆ Second Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News

NDSCS nose guard Ray Ruschel

cures football fever at 49 yrs old

Robert Wanek Jr.

Sports Feature: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

■ Dickinson Press

*Half Century Later: New Eng. St. Mary's
'70s state champs reunite*

Josiah C. Cuellar



The Dickinson Press file photo / Volume 88, No. 18
Article featured in The Dickinson Press on March 10,
1970, prior to the state tournament.

Half a century later

**New England
St. Mary's 1970's
state champion
teams reunite**

By Josiah C. Cuellar
The Dickinson Press

MINOT — The pandemic level spikes in COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021 put a halt to the long awaited reunion of two North Dakota state championship teams hailing from New England. In the same fighting spirit that witnessed them clinch titles,

more than half-a-century ago, tenacity and perseverance prevailed on Saturday in Bismarck when after two years of rescheduling both teams were once again under the same roof.

The 1970 New England St. Mary's championship basketball team, who not only clinched the title but made an appearance in the championship game the following year, were recognized at the Minot State Dome during the Class B state semi-finals on Friday, March 18, before joining with

their fellow 1970 New England wrestling team, who secured two consecutive state titles that year and the year prior, in a reunion held in Bismarck over the weekend.

**Road to a
championship**

Deep in the heart of western North Dakota, along a wide valley on the Heart River halfway between the Missouri River and the Montana Territory border, is a land where the prairie

REUNION: Page A12

Sports Feature: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Family man
Jeff Kolpack

◆ Third Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
*Bison OL Jensen playing for
memory of father in final season*
Eric Peterson

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
*Duhamel helps family honor
local golfer who dared to stand out*
Tracy Briggs

Sports Feature: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
It takes a village
Mike McFeely



North Dakota State senior Michael Tuttle leads onto the field during their senior night football game against North Dakota on Saturday at the Fargodome.

'IT TAKES A VILLAGE'

Special day for NDSU senior Tutsie, his daughter and the Bison

Fargo's Michael Tuttle said it was head coach Matt Entz's idea. And, really, how could any dad resist the opportunity to show off his precious 75-month-old daughter to 28,000 cheering fans?

"At Southern Illinois last week, coach Entz came up to me in the



locker room right after the game and said I should do it," Tuttle said Saturday after

helping North Dakota State to a 42-21 football victory over North Dakota at a sold-out Fargodome. "It was awesome. I have him to thank."

"It" was Tuttle carrying his daughter Tutsie as he ran through the inflatable Bison helmet and onto the

City Bank Field during Senior Day introductions prior to the big game.

The crowd roared as Tuttle begged Entz as the spotlight shined down on them. But, dressed in a blue-jean jacket with "Tuttle" on the back, seemed unbothered.

Then Tuttle ran to join

his teammates, carrying Tutsie in his right arm while waving the "bison egg" sign to the crowd with his left hand.

"I realized she was kind of bouncing around as I was running," Tuttle said. "I had to kind of turn it down. She was fine."

NDSU: Page A4



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Sports Column



Sports Column: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- **Drayton, Valley News & Views**
Bombers Wrap Up Football Season
Mike Alan Steinfeldt

Sports

Bombers wrap up football season | Quibell, Wimpfheimer named to all-conference team

By Mike Alan Steinfeldt

The Drayton Bombers football team wrapped up the 2022 campaign with 80-44 win at New Town on Saturday, Oct. 7.

"It was a really good game," Drayton coach Nathan Foster said. "It was back and forth all the way. It was nice to end the season on a win, most teams don't get that opportunity, so it was nice for us."

Foster said unfortunately the game was not filmed so exact stats weren't available for the game. He said the Bombers were down by a possession at half time but rallied in the second half for the victory.

With the win, Drayton finished the season with a 1-3 record, but Foster said this year was more than just wins and losses.

"We went into the season knowing we were one of the smallest teams in the state," he said. "The biggest thing is we were able to compete in some of the games we would normally get blown out in. So that was very good for us."

The Bombers opened the season with 43-31 loss to White Shield on Sept. 20. They dropped a 57-25 decision at Trenton on Sept. 24 and lost in

a blow-out game on Oct. 1 at home against Center-Stanton. Their only real lopsided loss in the fast paced 6-man game.

Two named to All-Conference team

The Bombers had two players on their varsity squad named to the All-Conference team at the conclusion of the season. They were senior running back and wide receiver Cayden Quibell and junior center and defensive lineman Bryce Wimpfheimer.



Senior running back Cayden Quibell runs by a would be tackler in the first game of the season. Quibell and defensive Bryce Wimpfheimer were both named to the All-Conference team at the conclusion of the 2022 football season.

Quibell at 6-foot tall and 170 lbs was a key to the Bombers offense this season.

Foster said Quibell ran and passed for several touchdowns and led the team in rushing with nearly 1,000 yards.

"Cayden is one of the most driven players I've ever coached," Foster said. "He's a good leader on the field and extremely durable. He'll go the entire game without taking a break, so you've got to give him kudos for that."

An anchor on the offensive and defensive line, Wimpfheimer is listed as five-foot-10 and 270 lbs.

"Bryce is born to play Center," Foster said. "He's strong, he's smart, he's fast. He's also one of the most coachable players I've ever had."

Foster said Wimpfheimer is physically capable of going up against the best players in the state and he'll be counted on again to be a leader next year. In addition to being a versatile snapper, Foster said Wimpfheimer also

began running passing routes toward the end of the season which is legal in 6-man football.

Foster said he is already looking forward to next season.

"We're going to have a pretty balanced team next year," he said. "We're going to have three seniors, a couple of juniors and sophomores and we also have a pretty solid freshman class who've been in this for two years now and they know what they have to do, so I'm really excited about that."



Junior Center and Lineman Bryce Wimpfheimer becomes a runner after picking up a loose ball in the first game of the year vs. White Shield.

Sports Column: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Carrington, Foster County Independent

Archery: where everyone gets the same shot

Amy Wobbema

◆ Third Place

- Hillsboro Banner

Lights, Cameras, Action

Cory Erickson

◆ Second Place

- Hillsboro Banner

Jake Hutter column

Cole Short

Sports Column: Mid-Size Weeklies



Mom pride at courtside

by Amy Wobbema

As I write this, I'm preparing to sleep in my own bed for the first time since Wednesday (and it's Sunday).

Armed with my media pass, new Rocket gear and Erik Gjovik's Nikon camera, I spent the last three days soaking up all that North Dakota Class B sports has to offer.

As reported in the Nov. 14 edition, this was New Rockford-Sheyenne's first trip to state for volleyball. Now, I've attended state tournaments before, i.e. archery and the Dakota Bowl in 2012, but this was a whole new ball game.

The "court sports" (as I call them) have a completely different energy. To experience them as a fan is one thing, as I have several times. To be a parent of a player, however, is something entirely foreign.

This weekend I saw my daughter's face both on the jumbotron and through the glass of a 300 mm lens for the first time. Her skill and athleticism were discussed by TV and radio broadcasters in real time, as I stood courtside capturing every moment. She even made the Bismarck Tribune, as a photo of Lena and Kaiya O'Connor attempting a block vs. Livton H-M-B made both the print and online edition of the newspaper on Friday morning.

We may have lost that

marathon five-set matches. To win means to fight for every point, and leave it all on the court.

If you make a mistake, shake it off. What matters is what you do next. In volleyball, it's taking the next point.

Speaking of taking the point, I learned what the term "sideout" means during the tournament. For those who don't know volleyball, it means taking the point away from the team with the serve. During the fifth place game, I heard Our Redeemer's fans yell "sideout" every time NR S served, so I looked it up. I'll be using that one next season.

To get here, they had to knock down what I call the "red wall." Within the last 25 seasons, Langdon has gone to the state tournament 20 times. Once in a while another team gets under their skin, and this year NR S earned that win.

Carrington got the rare "W" against them in 2013, when New Rockford and Carrington were in the same region. It was Cardinals vs. Cardinals in the regional championship that year, and the birds from CHS emerged victorious. That was Carrington's first and only trip to the state volleyball tournament in their program history. This was our first, and I certainly hope it won't be our last.

◆ First Place

- New Rockford Transcript
Mom pride at courtside
Amy Wobbema

Sports Column: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Garrison, McLean County Independent
Hanging up his cleats a champion
Ethyn Williams-Calvert

◆ Third Place

- Garrison, McLean County Independent
What Garrison girls are made of
James C. Falcon

◆ Second Place

- Crosby, The Journal
*District tourney will feel small,
but it's been smaller before*
Jody Michael

Sports Column: Large Weeklies



EDITORIAL

'Shark Tank,' school board meeting edition

By Matthew Semisch
Bottineau Courant



If you've never watched "Shark Tank," a reality TV show where bright-eyed entrepreneurs

try to persuade a panel of rich investors into claiming stakes in budding business ventures, then I offer my sincerest congratulations and...jealousy, I guess?

It's up for debate whether that program, which brings together Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban and five other main characters -- I assume they're already out on what I'm describing -- constitutes appointment viewing. I felt like I was at a live taping of an episode, though, last Monday when Bottineau's school board tabled an offer from Starion Bank for \$200,000 over 10 years to be put toward maintenance of Bottineau High's new football and track and field facility.

A full story on the meeting can be found on Page 10A. I thought about putting this column on Page Catch 22, but our layout software wouldn't let me.

■ OFFER Ctd. on 4B

◆ First Place

■ Bottineau Courant

'Shark Tank,' school board meeting edition

Matthew Semisch

Sports Column: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Second Place

- Williston Herald
Will Erickson
Maddie Davis

Sports Column: Small Multi-Dailies



OPINION

I am one man covering 30 teams

Submissions crucial to newspapers

BY ROBERT WANER JR. waner@wahpeton.com

Here at Wahpeton Daily News, we have a passionate and diverse collection of sports readers. The support is overwhelming and drives our success three days a week on page six. However, there will always be readers pointing out something wrong, or suggesting additions and changes to our coverage. Feedback is critical to our survival, but some criticism is unwarranted and I'm going to provide some clarity when it comes to my coverage.

As the lone member of our sports department, I cover 30 teams. That's counting male and female athletic programs that have appeared in the paper during my 10-month tenure. I take the photos, write the stories, lay out the pages and share the content on social media.

That's not counting the graphics, the videos and the awards coverage I do purely for the sake of putting athletes on the map.

Some of the sports I've highlighted include archery, boys and girls golf, wrestling, basketball, gymnastics, hockey and baseball. I cover two high schools and one college, while officiating 30-60 basketball games and umpiring 15-20 baseball games each year due to the ongoing officials shortage.

On Tuesday, May 3, there were eight games happening. I covered five of them from the Radisson Hotel in Bismarck Thursday, as our award-winning team attended the 116th Annual North Dakota Bicentennial

nobody reads them. I do agree with that, which is why even the Brockton/Bridgewater Blades boys hockey team got multiple stories. Athlete of the Week winners and Athlete of the Year nominees, despite an 0-21 record.

Sure, North Dakota State College of Science may grab the big headlines, but they are often one of the best NCAA programs in the entire United States. Even when science is rolling, I make sure to give every single area team a feature, a half page spread, or a lead photo at some point during the season. On top of that, I share photos for free on Facebook and Twitter, something outside my assigned duties.

• Athlete of the Week goes to ... the Athlete of the Week.

In the past, we've received emails objecting to the fact that a certain sport or team hasn't had an Athlete of the Week yet. It's an award ... I'm not in the business of handing out participation trophies. The players chosen for the honor are the top performers each week, a player who showed marked improvement or someone who displayed noble character. If we handed out awards to everyone to make them feel included, it would diminish the legitimacy and integrity and throw the whole point out the window. Not all athletes are created equal and that is perfectly fine, which is why I cover them fairly and accordingly.

◆ First Place

■ Wahpeton, Daily News

One man covering 30 teams
Robert Wanek Jr.

Sports Column: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Bismarck Tribune

Is 10 in 12 inevitable?

Dave Selvig

◆ Third Place

- Grand Forks Herald

Setback after setback

Brad E. Schlossman

◆ Second Place

- Grand Forks Herald

Kindness of strangers helped young baseball fan

Tom Miller

Sports Column: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
Coach Joe had the gift of making everybody feel important
Jeff Kolpack

Coach Joe had the gift of making everybody feel important

Fargo
Plans have been in the works for a while for another all-school reunion at Lisbon High School, a town of just over 2,000 people in the southeastern section of North Dakota. Having married into Bronco Nation, at least I had one fallback this summer when the Class of '82 goes out and about reliving the same stories.



Howell

I could always text Coach Joe and have him meet me at Cattleman's Club Lounge on Main Street.

The stories coming from Coach Joe were a string of seemingly endless memories of several decades coaching whatever sport he could coach. If Lisbon had an equestrian team, I'm sure he would have given that a shot. Anybody could listen to his football and track and field stories until the cows came home.

It's going to be a lonely beer in June when Lisbon grads get together again. Joe Howell



JEFF
KOLPACK
The Forum

passed away over the weekend from complications from heart surgery.

That in itself seems odd because nobody ever thought the stories would end. The prevailing theme of social media tributes over the last couple of days is that he was the guy who gave everybody a shot, from the all-state stud to the end-of-the-bench player.

I'll boil it down to this: the guy had a gift of remembering names and faces. Everybody's name and face.

"He would remember when you had your kid and what your kid's name was," said Chris Howell, his son.

The potential number of everybody Joe remembered must be staggering. Thousands and thousands and thousands of people.

COACH JOE: Page B3



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Editorial



Editorial: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Drayton, Valley News & Views
Valley News & Views Editorial
Lesa Van Camp

Valley News & Views Editorial

When the bottom line means more than the headline...

For years the word has been that print is dead. This could not be farther from the truth. Local newspapers still remain the most trusted source for news. The trouble is that news rooms are struggling due to decreasing advertising. This is a fact that every newspaper in the country has had to face no matter what size.

For years that have been industry experts who sounded the horn about hedge fund companies who swoop in to purchase newspapers only to destroy them in the process. This has been happening for years, however, it was just highlighted on the popular news program 60 Minutes recently.

These hedge fund companies come in with lucrative offers to buy struggling

daily newspapers and then proceed to slash newsrooms by over seventy percent and then sell off buildings, equipment, and whatever they can all in the name of profits to line their own pockets. When this happens the journalistic integrity of the publication often is destroyed in the process.

Newspapers are just like any other business in that the goal in the end is to be profitable. There are bills that must be paid just like any other business. The difference is that the bottom line should never become more important than the headline. Journalistic integrity must not be compromised for the bottom dollar.

This is not always easy when covering local news in any small community. The stories being covered are about people

within the newspapers own community. When it is necessary to report on a tough issue there is always the risk of causing hard feeling that may affect the bottom line. There is a balance between reporting on what needs to be reported on while remembering that there are real people behind the story. It is never just another story; it is a story that affects the lives of those who live within the community. They are friends, neighbors, and sometimes relatives to the person doing the reporting.

Any community newspaper has faced this at one time or another when having to report on something that affects the community. Whether it is an accident, a fire, a drug bust, some sort of business or government corruption, or the return

of a service member killed in the line of duty.

There is a sense of community that comes with the local newspaper. It highlights the scores of the latest high school sports, who the homecoming royalty is that year, births, weddings, deaths, and other local events. This all means far more than the bottom line. These are the events that become the history of the community. This is why so many weekly newspapers in the state of North Dakota struggle through trying to figure out how to increase their bottom line. This is why they are committed to doing the best job they can with often limited resources. They are committed to the communities that they serve.

Editorial: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Second Place

- Harvey, The Herald Press

*Newspapers have been in a
state of transformation forever*

Neil O. Nelson

Editorial: Mid-Size Weeklies



Protecting the public's right to know

BY AMY WOBBERA

Publishing public notices is our civic duty as newspapers. From the Abstract of Votes that officially reports the results of a recent election (as published in the Transcript this week, page B3, and in the Independent on page 7), to the minutes of city, county and school board meetings, we dedicate on average a full page per week or more to protecting the public's right to know by publishing these important community messages.

You may have read articles and editorials stating that newspapers are not well financially, and some have pointed out that the US has lost over 2,000 newspapers since 2004 (most of them publish weekly, like we do).

Northwestern University released a report on Wednesday, as I was writing this column, noting that from the pre-pandemic months of late 2019 to the end of May 2022, more than 360 newspapers have closed. Some surviving newspapers have severely cut staff and circulation due to financial pressure.

I'm happy to say that here in Foster and Eddy County, and throughout North Dakota, newspapers are holding their own. In fact, we at Transcript Publishing have actually increased our news staff since I purchased the Transcript seven years ago. When I first started in 2015, we had a freelance sports reporter and a part-time news writer. Now, we have a full-time reporter dedicated to local news and sports, as well as another full-time staffer who covers sports and local events as well as does page layout and many other tasks as assigned.

In Foster County, we have similar staff. Erik Gjovik has covered news and sports on a full-time basis for 13 years, and Leasa Lura covers the city council and county commission happenings, as well as brings you the "Around the State" recap of news directly from other newspapers throughout the state.

I also report local news, as well as cover the Carrington School Board and New Rockford City Commission. This column, as well as the Carrington School beat, was something I inherited from Mr. Allen Stock. He recently received an award from the Carrington School District for providing 45 years of coverage to Independent readers.

Why am I telling you all of this? Because I want to demonstrate that your local newspaper prides itself on being a true community partner. We support the community, and the community returns its support by reading and advertising.

Other columnists who have written about newspapers have urged mayors and other public officials to "help newspapers survive," recently.

Mr. Mayor Erdmann and Mr. Commission President Stu Richter, here's how you can help the local newspaper.

In upcoming legislative sessions, when bills are



Amy Wobbema

◆ First Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
Protecting the public's right to know
Amy Wobbema

Editorial: Large Weeklies



◆ Second Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Support is a two way street
Todd Morgan

Editorial: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

- **Garrison,
McLean County Independent**
Don't be a party pooper
James C. Falcon

Opinion

Don't be a party pooper

We are raised with the idea that with pet ownership comes a personal responsibility to care for that pet.

This includes feeding it, walking it, spending time with it and – if dogs had their way – completely catering to every whim they could ever dream of (belly rubs, Milkbones and steak dinners).

The less glamorous side of this includes picking up after it when it does its business in public.

Forty-four years ago, New York City was the first city to enact laws in collecting one's own dog waste. "Each person who owns or controls a dog must

remove any feces left by that dog on any sidewalk, gutter, street, or other public area and dispose of it in a legal manner," the law said.

Since then, such laws have spread like wildfire to all parts of the country, including Garrison.

Fast forward to today. The pooper-scooper law – for lack of a better term – is still in effect, although it appears there are some scofflaws in our midst. The Garrison Parks and Recreation board reports that during a recent event at Garrison City Park, a few of the board members spent

time – two hours, to be exact – in picking up dog waste – four two-gallon tubs worth – that had littered the park.

Unless there are gangs of random dogs roaming the streets at night wrecking havoc (tipping over garbage cans, scaring defenseless cats and, yes, pooping in the park), it is clear that there are pet owners who are not doing their part.

There are fines in place; according to a placard at the park, those fines range from \$25 to \$100. Be glad you are in Garrison. In New York City, the fine is \$250. San Francisco? \$320. And just be happy you

aren't in Los Angeles, where the fine is \$500!

We, as pet owners, must understand that with the responsibility of owning a dog comes the fact that we must pick up after it. Not only is this the right thing to do, but further infractions of not doing so could result in curtailing dogs from the park in general.

And that would be a dog gone shame.

JAMES C. FALCON IS
EDITOR OF THE MCLEAN COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

Editorial: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Williston Herald
Giving Tuesday
Eric Gill

◆ Second Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News
We can do better
Carrie McDermott, Tara Klostreich,
Frank Stanko

Editorial: Small Multi-Dailies



Small businesses are key to Jamestown

Small businesses are important to our community. They are a major commitment by people who want to provide goods and services, people who are dedicated to making their community better. Take the time to discover your local businesses and your own unique shopping experiences in Jamestown.

Today's annual Progress Edition is themed "Jamestown Has It." It features unique shopping, cultural and dining experiences related to small businesses. There are a few nonprofits in the mix.

Speak to small business owners and you might be surprised. Their ventures are not all about making money, although that's the point of being in business, to earn a living. Many of the people we spoke with for the edition have a passion for what they do and decided to turn that passion into a full-time business. They have a genuine desire to create or offer something and to help others find something they may want or need.

The businesses featured all have a brick-and-mortar presence in Jamestown, a major commitment given the availability of being online or on Facebook only. Storefronts filled on our Main Street and other areas create interest and energy in our community. Shopping locally strengthens our community. Offering cultural experiences strengthens our community. Supporting our businesses strengthens our community.

Take the time to explore

◆ First Place

■ Jamestown Sun

Small businesses are key to Jamestown

Kathy Steiner

Editorial: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**

*Fargo's refusal to allow Romantix
to move downtown location silly*

Forum staff

◆ Second Place

- **Bismarck Tribune**

Competitive parties good for the state

Bismarck Tribune Editorial Board

Editorial: Large Multi-Dailies



Child care issues bad for business

Small editorial head
It's a phenomenon with a number of catchy names: The Great American Walk-out, The Great Resignation, The Big Quit.

Had anyone who manages a business in this region had seen it, anyone who patronizes a business around here has probably seen it, too, in the form of longer lines, reduced services and higher prices.

Simply put, in the Dakotas and Minnesota, workers are hard to come by.

Over the past week, a series by North Dakotans for Communications Co. reporters has highlighted the problems associated with the region's labor shortage, from businesses being forced to diversify to trucking companies struggling to meet products.

Perhaps most alarming is how a crisis in child care is hurting the problem, for many young parents, finding affordable child care is difficult, and many are deciding to just stay home.

Who can blame them? Child care costs can come to at \$100 to \$1,000 or more per month per child. Openings are so scarce that parents are reserving spots months before a child is born.

In so, the growing credits with child care is among the biggest contributors to the Great Resignation in the Dakotas and Minnesota. It's why so many state lawmakers, governors and business leaders continue to seek landmark solutions.

Solutions are underway, including 111 solutions in appropriations during the 2024 special session of the North Dakota Legislature.

Those dollars likely will include matching grants for employer-provided child care supports for their employees, as well as funding for workplace child care assistance. Millions of dollars also were appropriated in the 2023 regular

session of the problem. In September, Congress and the former state "access to quality, affordable child care is vital to our workforce and economy." He also emphasized child care issues in his sweeping executive bill plan, unveiled in September. Mike Hovde, a spokesman for the governor, said it's "something we're prioritizing as a state."

This is good, and these committee members, Congress and lawmakers deserve credit for these recent developments.

Is it enough? Not yet, but it's a good start. Mandating higher minimum wages for all workers isn't the answer to the Big Quit. Businesses know they need to pay better wages or accept the risk. They don't need a government mandate to reward them that better pay attracts better, and more, workers.

Rather, more money should be dedicated to helping employees pay for child care and to motivate workers to enter the child care field, and here's a suggestion from Sen. Ray Holmberg, D-Grand Forks. Consider a program that provides something akin to low-interest student loans for parents of young children to help pay child care fees.

Whatever the solution, the current child care environment seems unsustainable. After all, as Rep. Greg Mock, D-Grand Forks, told the Herald, "it's shocking that the cost of child care is so put with the cost of a college education."

It's an issue that could cascade through generations. As young parents make spend for child care, they might be forced to longer savings plans; their children will grow up and, possibly, attend college via large student loans rather than with merit.

◆ First Place

■ Grand Forks Herald

Child care crisis in Dakota and Minnesota is bad for business

Korrie Wenzel



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Editorial Page



Editorial Page: Small Weeklies



◆ **Second Place**

- **Elgin, Grant County News**

Grant County News Editorial Pages

Jill Friesz

Editorial Page: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor
Opinion page
Carrie McDermott

Editorial Page: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ **Honorable Mention**

- **New Rockford Transcript**
Transcript editorial pages
Transcript staff

◆ **Third Place**

- **Harvey, The Herald Press**
Editorial Pages x3
Anne Ehni, Neil O. Nelson

◆ **Second Place**

- **Carrington, Foster County Independent**
Independent Editorial Pages
Amy Wobbema, Allen Stock,
Lori Buchholtz

Editorial Page: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Hillsboro Banner
Hillsboro Banner
Editorial Page
Cole Short

Editorial Page: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Editorial Pages
Staff

Editorial Page: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ **Second Place**

- **Jamestown Sun**

Jamestown Sun

Kathy Steiner

Editorial Page: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News
Editorial page
Carrie McDermott

Editorial Page: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Grand Forks Herald

Editorial pages: April 2, April 23, May 18

Korrie Wenzel

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

Forum editorial pages

Forum staff

Editorial Page: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

■ Bismarck Tribune

Bismarck Tribune Editorial Page Staff



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Standing News Fronts



Standing News Fronts: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ **Second Place**

- **Jamestown Sun**

Business (Buffalo city popcorn story page)

Kathy Steiner

Standing News Fronts: Small Multi-Dailies



Photo: Pippin/Depp

FLOWERS AND VEGETABLES

More award-winning varieties for 2022

The Garden of Eatin' award-winning varieties for 2022 are now available at your favorite garden center or nursery. These award-winning varieties are the result of years of hard work and dedication by the Garden of Eatin' team.



Photo: Pippin/Depp

Flowers
The Garden of Eatin' award-winning varieties for 2022 are now available at your favorite garden center or nursery. These award-winning varieties are the result of years of hard work and dedication by the Garden of Eatin' team.

Vegetables
The Garden of Eatin' award-winning varieties for 2022 are now available at your favorite garden center or nursery. These award-winning varieties are the result of years of hard work and dedication by the Garden of Eatin' team.



Top right: Garden of Eatin' Press; Middle: Garden of Eatin' Press; Bottom: Garden of Eatin' Press

◆ First Place

- Dickinson Press
Flowers and vegetables
Marcy Nickel

Standing News Fronts: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
Business page
Becca Larson

◆ **Second Place**

- **Grand Forks Herald**
Standing news front:
Feb. 6, Possibilities are endless
Meghan Dowhaniuk

Standing News Fronts: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Gone for good
Forum staff



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Ag Coverage



Ag Coverage: Small Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Drayton, Valley News & Views

*Drayton Factory District Sets Record
for Tonnage*

Mike Alan Steinfeldt

◆ Third Place

- Finley, Steele County Press

*High winds lead to dirty conditions
and talk about conservation*

Lisa Saxberg

◆ Second Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor

Sweet harvest

Levi Jones

Ag Coverage: Small Weeklies



Hay fields are abundant in the countryside this year.

Farmers, ranchers reap benefits of rain

LUANN DART
luann@scsny.com

With hay fields dotted with hales and wheatfields beginning to ripen into gold, farmers and ranchers are looking at a different landscape than last year's drought conditions.

"Wow! What a difference rain can make!" said Tessa Osterbauer, the Grant County agriculture and natural resources Extension agent.

"Crops are looking phenomenal, for the most part, this year. We have wheat about 80% headed out, first cutting hay is baled and waiting to be baled and corn may even be prepping fields for some. The corn is lush and leaving the leaves, even where we aren't. We still had a slow start this spring with getting crops to the ground and might be looking at some delayed small grain harvest by a couple weeks," she said.

“Wow! What a difference rain can make!”
—TESSA OSTERBAUER

"They were a little delayed in the spring, but the heat we've had lately has really helped catch them up," said Blake Ulrich, who farms in the Elgin area and has a cow/calf operation. He estimates he'll start harvesting small grains in a couple weeks.

"We've had good rains and good growing conditions," he said.

This summer's humidity, and hot temperatures are actually beneficial in advancing crop maturity, Osterbauer said.

"But, the extreme heat and lack of a reprieve at night is likely to result in some yield stress for portions of the crop, dependent on soil moisture and stage of development. Our soil moisture conditions still seem to remain adequate overall, which aids in limiting overall stress to the crop," Osterbauer shared.

"The good news is our hay crop has made longer and benefits from where it was last year," she said.

"We were blessed with some timely rains, which provided optimal growing conditions for hay. It's 2.4 to 3 times better than last year," Ulrich said of his hay crop.

Hay reserves were dwindling this spring.

SEE FARMERS, PAGE 4

◆ First Place

- Elgin, Grant County News
*Farmers, ranchers
reap benefits of rain*
Luann Dart

Ag Coverage: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- **New Rockford Transcript**
National Ag Week
Transcript staff

◆ Second Place

- **Hillsboro Banner**
Near-record small-grain yields expected
Cory Erickson

Ag Coverage: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
Lending a helping hand
Erik Gjovik



Above photo: Just one of the many combines and other harvesting equipment were put to good use Monday, October 3, to help rural Sykeston resident and farmer David Young with cutting his 625 acres of crops. The Young farm is visible in the far distance on this photo.

Young is currently battling stage 4 metastatic adenocarcinoma, which was diagnosed in July, and has been traveling back and forth to Bismarck for chemotherapy treatments.

Left: David is pictured with his wife, Gina, and daughters, Emily and Libby. (Courtesy photo)

Lending a helping hand

Friends, neighbors help Sykeston's Young family harvest fields —

BY ERIK GJOVIK

North Dakota, when you think about it, is essentially one big small town spread out over 70,704 square miles.

And for the necessities

of everyday life, neighbors are always willing to make life on the prairies and rolling fields easier for each other when one runs into difficulty.

David Young, who farms five miles south of Sykeston

with his wife, Gina, was recently diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic adenocarcinoma in his liver and bone on July 27.

Their daughter, Emily, said that the primary source of David's cancer

September 1 for five days due to him being so sick and in pain," said Emily.

From that point, another CT scan revealed that David's cancer had grown within his spine and liver. Upon consulta-

Ag Coverage: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Crosby, The Journal

A year of 'extreme' everything

Brad Nygaard

◆ Third Place

- Casselton, Cass County Reporter

Sustainable Farm Practices

Jan Russell

◆ Second Place

- Crosby, The Journal

Late harvest

Eric Standing

Ag Coverage: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
County's last dairy farm
Todd Morgan

COUNTY'S LAST DAIRY BIDS ADIEU

Hylden operation looks forward

BY TODD MORGAN

VERNON, IOWA (WALSH RECORD)—Last Sunday marked the end of an era in Walsh County as the last bucket of milk was hauled off the Hylden farm in Vernon Township southwest of Park Grove.

Hylden Dairy Farm was started in 1955 by three brothers, Mervin, Duane and Donald Hylden. For 67 years, twice a day four generations of Hydels and their help milked cows on the farm.

According to Kerry Hylden, who operates the farm, led by Luther Williamson of Grafton Milk Company in Grafton, agreed to buy out the farm if the family could get a Grade-A permit.

"I started with two Guernsey cows and sold cream, making enough money to pay for all the glucose for the families," Ferry said. "They

'Andrew wants to build the beef herd and go in that direction. That is why we are getting out of the dairy business.'

Kerry Hylden dairyherd



Photos by Todd Morgan

Kerry Hylden unhooks the last cow from milker marking the end of Hylden dairy farm that began milking milk to Luther Williamson of Grafton Milk Company in 1955.

thought if we could do this good with two cows, why not buy six or seven and call Grade-A milk."

So in 1955 the brothers built a milking facility and were able to milk three cows at a time and the journey began.

According to Kerry the brothers built a new barn to house the cows, called a free stall barn. The barn is still standing today.

"It's being converted to a calving barn for the beef herd," he said. "But the past six years we have been preparing for this day."

With cash and equipment to start in a new direction, Kerry said his son Andrew will be taking over the farm in the next few years that also raise wheat and

beans.

"Andrew wants to build the beef herd and go in that direction," he said. "That is why we are getting out of the dairy business."

The barn is 144 feet long by 12 feet wide. At least half is covered in concrete for easy cleaning and 148 stalls filled with straw for the cows' comfort and cleanliness. According to Kerry, the full cost of the barn with labor and materials was \$26,000 in 1965.

"Over the last few years, we have replaced about two-thirds, thanks to the roof and that alone has cost nearly \$100,000. New stalls have straight," he said.

Many people used to come and



Andrew Hylden moves the Hylden family cows out to pasture Saturday after they were milked on the Hylden farm for the last time. Andrew said the cows will be sold and moved to another dairy farm.

and visit on page 4-12

Ag Coverage: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Jamestown Sun

Youth safety is the focus at Tractor Safety Camps

Kathy Steiner

◆ Third Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News

Red River Valley leaders applaud Cargill, Golden Growers pact

Frank Stanko

◆ Second Place

- Dickinson Press

Moo-ving through the decades

Jason O'Day

Ag Coverage: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

■ Dickinson Press

***A HARD ROW TO HOE:
Dickinson man still
farming at 92***

Ashley Koffler



John Jaeger uses vintage equipment on his hobby farm north of Dickinson.

Contributed / Mark Jaeger

A HARD ROW TO HOE

Dickinson man still farming at 92

By Ashley Koffler
The Dickinson Press
Dickinson

John Jaeger, a 92-year-old Dickinson man, is still using vintage equipment to farm wheat and oats on approximately 50 acres north of town. While he used to

farm a larger area with more modern equipment, he likes to keep it simple now.

"When I retired from my farming operation, I sold all my big equipment and I retained all the antique stuff that I originally started out with in 1951," Jaeger said.

"It's a hobby. I just can't totally hang it up, because what else is there to do?"

Some of what he uses to farm include a Gleason combine and a Chevrolet truck from the 1950s, along with a tractor from 1944.

"That was my first tractor when I got out of the military," Jaeger said. "I completely took it apart,

cleaned it up and painted it."

Jaeger finds joy in repairing equipment and fixing things. He continues to work on and improve his original farm equipment, like he always has.

"When I started farming with my dad, that was back in the 40s," Jaeger said. "If we didn't have a piece of

FARMING: Page A4

Ag Coverage: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Young blood
Jeremy Turley

◆ Third Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
*Minnesota hops farmer is just a hop,
skip and jump from Fargo*
Tammy Swift

◆ Second Place

- Grand Forks Herald
Faith, irrigation and innovation
Ingrid Harbo

Ag Coverage: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
As farming eats Dakotas' grasslands, landowner aims for restoration
Adam Willis



Bob Narem on his land near Summit, South Dakota, on April 20. Summit is about 115 miles straight south of Fargo-Moorhead. Chris Fjelle / The Forum

'Prairie Hopes'

As farming eats the Dakotas' native grasslands, this landowner aims for restoration

By Adam Willis
The Forum

Summit, S.D.

○ In his blog "Prairie Hopes," Bob Narem has meticulously chronicled his work of the last five years to restore 100 acres of cropland back to an abundant prairie. In an inaugural post,

the retired South Dakota agronomist recounted a day dream of his teenage years on the farm, in which he imagined that heaven would be wandering through a Dakota prairie in the days before it was settled by European homesteaders. "There was nothing but

5-foot tall big bluestem to the horizon," he wrote. Narem, now 66, credits that vision as a possible unconscious inspiration for the ambitious project he is tending today, one that has become a gold standard of restoration in a region that has lost most of its native prairie.

On one segment of his land, Narem has seeded 545 different plant species. Remarkably, nearly half of them so far have established populations. He has found instances of more than 200 different plant species on his restored prairie.

NAREM: Page A6



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Personal Column- Serious



Personal Column- Serious: Small Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press

I stand with Rebecca

Allison Olimb

◆ Second Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor

I almost wasn't able to vote

Levi Jones

Personal Column- Serious: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

■ McClusky Gazette

Edge of Chaos, Bad bad words

Allan Tinker



Edge of Chaos

By Allan Tinker

Bad, bad words

There seems to be certain words that work well to cast a light from the mind of the speaker onto another person. Whether others would see the speaker in the same light is up to interpretation.

People choose these words because they work. They may get an immediate reaction whether accurate or not.

Little kids learn quickly to pick up words that get reactions and the attention of all around. They start often with babble, and most parents babble back or talk baby talk. Babies like this.

Pets get used to this too, only they do not babble back. They are just happy they are being spoken to and hang on for the words "treat" or "outside."

Those who want to cast a bad light on someone else, for reasons often known only to the speaker, might pick one that is funny, hurtful, or insulting. Another person might label the same behavior of a person in another way, such as complimentary, accepting or simply normal.

But, since that often does not bring the reaction desired for the speaker to use the softer or more constructive word, the bad, bad words get used.

Someone who is thin, might

hear "skinny," "boney" or "shapeless" to describe them. They might be a normal, healthy weight, but their weight bothers the other person, and they use it to single the other person out in a more negative fashion.

For those who tip the scale the other way, will get other word extremes, "chubby," "overweight" or "obese." Whether they are truly overweight or not, the speaker wishes to promote that image to everyone.

People might be called "stupid" simply for saying something with which the speaker does not agree. Another person might call the remark "interesting" or "clever." Others might need to be careful not to start using an untrue label and make someone appear unacceptable in any way.

Some delight in seeing only what bothers them in other people. They have the same word to use in some manner whenever they see them. "Still not losing weight?" they will question the "chubby" labeled person, intentionally calling attention to how they look.

Most people have said a bad word or two without knowing it was hurtful to the person who is trying to lose or gain

weight, hold a friendly conversation, or ponder a question. In modern day terms, this is a lack of social intelligence. If they label lots of people in bad, bad ways, they might be socially ignorant. Someone needs to help them, nicely.

Most have been insulted a time or two in their lives. But we get to choose how we react to it. Those who forget what someone's first name is and call them only by their last name, such as "Hey there, Smith," may not know how rude this is. Others might not mind being called by their last name at all.

Did someone stumble or stagger? Speak softly or mumble? Speak in a louder voice or shout? Were they dressed for work or play and did not know they were up to the standards another set for them to dress?

Did the child run to his or her desk or race to it? Did they misunderstand the question, or did they not know the answer? Not the time for someone to call them "stupid."

Putting people down; ridiculing them for normal behavior; calling attention only to their differences; shaming them for their differences; ignoring them when they speak; shunning their presence in a group;

Personal Column- Serious: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Harvey, The Herald Press
Neil O. Nelson column
Neil O. Nelson

◆ Third Place

- Hillsboro Banner
Painting a picture of the county paper race
Cole Short

◆ Second Place

- Hillsboro Banner
Lights, Cameras, Action
Cory Erickson

Personal Column- Serious: Mid-Size Weeklies



I'll never forget this assignment

BY ALLEN STOCK

A friend recently said to me, "You must have many stories you can tell about the many years you've been affiliated with newspapers."

I told him, "Yes, I do and I remember a lot of them like they happened yesterday."

"Any of them that really stick in your mind . . . kind of situational, a bit on the edge or something like that?" he asked. "I'd like to hear a few more like you've been playing in this space off and on," he quipped.

Well, yes I do have another, in fact it came to mind recently when I heard a recent news cast about this Fargo-based group.

And that group is the Haggis Hooligans, the North Dakota National Guard's 119th wing. They received the Air Force Outstanding Unit award and it was the 23rd time the Hooligans have earned the award dating back to 1971.

And with the Hooligans, that's where my story begins.

It was in the early 1970s when the phone rang in my office at the Wells County Free Press in Fessenden. It was Cal Olson of the Forum newspaper in Fargo where Olson was the chief photographer for many years. He has since passed away.

"Hey Al, I need a favor," were the words he started with as he proceeded to tell me that two F-104 jet planes of the Haggis Hooligans unit collided in midair over Harry.

Cal didn't have too much information, only about the incident and that one of the planes had failed to fly on and crashed in a field southeast of Fessenden.

I think Cal got his information from listening to a radio scanner as many news groups used to do in those years. Things changed in later years and the ability to listen to radio-conversations was cancelled due to frequency and modern radio changes.

So Cal says to me, "Grab your camera and run out and get a few picture frames for us for our tomorrow's paper. What are you shooting?"

I told him a Molleflex 120 and he immediately knew what it was and that a roll of film would produce 12 pictures with a 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 square negative.

"Send me those damn slabs," Cal said. (The camera was a vintage old shooter I had bought from my photo mentor, E.E. Weiss, a fellow employee at the Free Press for many years. This camera, along with other photo equipment served me well for many years.)

I loaded the camera with film, jumped into my vehicle and headed off in a southeasterly direction, following directions Cal had given me. I drove right up to the barnyard he mentioned. Just a quarter-mile or more from the farm was a pasture, the landing zone for the plane that didn't make it.

The crash scene was all hurred off as there must have been a flash fire upon ground-contact. Upon looking it over, I saw pieces scattered all over the area. Then I spotted the pilot's seat, several yards south from the actual scene. I remember a very eerie, weird feeling.

I was alone at the scene. It was quiet as I crawled over the fence and proceeded with my job, that of photography. I carefully looked over the many areas of debris, wary yet from the fire, and wondered where the pilot might be.

I shot my first 10 pictures and walked slowly over to the ejected seat, not knowing what to expect. But I did notice a parachute attached and lying on the ground. In my knowledge of the seat ejection system, I felt a sigh of relief to find no one nearby or in the immediate area.

The pilot had ejected, probably very low to the



Allen Stock



First Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent

I'll never forget this assignment
Allen Stock

Personal Column- Serious: Large Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Mr. Feltman
Todd Morgan

◆ Second Place

- Crosby, The Journal
Rulings are interesting juxtaposition
Cecile Wehrman

Personal Column- Serious: Large Weeklies



From the sidelines - Ruffling feathers

I typically try to keep my columns pretty light-hearted and void of controversy as ruffling feathers isn't my forte. But as I've aged, I've come to realize there's a time and place when speaking your mind on things that matter is necessary regardless of the feathers.

In the last few weeks I've also come to realize I may be a minority in my community. I believe people should be able to be and love whomever they choose. I believe children being exposed to this is a healthy and natural



Chelsea J. Wysocki

part of life. I do not believe a same-sex kid in a children's movie is a form of indoctrination. I also do not believe a transgender pastor speaking to children (about religion, not their sexuality) is part of some secret underground agenda to convert our children's beliefs. Recently, it seems as though those above beliefs peg me as somewhat of an outcast in our county and I'd be lying if I said that didn't sadden me.

For further context, this pastor at Park River Bible Camp was to be one of multiple speakers from all different walks of life. One with a disability, one indigenous, one of color and yes, one transgender. A different person would speak each night for 30 minutes out of the week roughly 120 times at camp.

The camp director called all of the parents, myself included, and laid out exactly what topics were to be covered and the timeline for each speaker but the majority spoke and they won. The especially loud ones online claimed they weren't coming from a place of hate but in the next breath were calling for the director to be fired. Numerous Facebook comments rolled in filled with beliefs and opinions of a secret agenda and outing the past during life of the aforementioned pastor. Needless to say, many kids were pulled out of the camp and the pastor will no longer be speaking.

I understand people believe this stuff isn't in the bible so it doesn't need to be spoken about in a religious setting. What they're not allowing themselves to see is this pastor was not planning to speak about being transgender, being gay or the process in between. They were going to speak about religion, just as everyone else working at the camp will be but it seems as though simply because of how they identify, they're not welcome to do so.

One question that comes to mind is if we're not going to allow our kids to be spoken to by someone who's transgender, why stop at pull-

ing them from bible camp? We better go a step further and pull them from school in case one of their peers happens to be gay, transgender or simply just too different and tries to talk to them. How far does this really go? What is so offensive about a lifestyle that strays from the typical white-picket fence and fatherhood, who are any of us to judge?

People often claim they don't care what other people do, "live and let live" but in the next breath will say these people just need to keep to themselves. How is that letting anyone live?

It seems as though some think we need to go back in time but instead of whites only bathrooms, schools, churches and transportation, we need a straight only. I don't understand this constant need for a huge line drawn in the sand between those who are different and those who are "normal."

The scariest part for me in all of this is the children, teens and even adults brought up this way who aren't "normal." What are they to do if the typical life the bible tells them to live is unobtainable to them? What are they to do when they're told over and over that everything inside of them is wrong and that they're a lying, breathing sin?

The answer is clear considering at least one LGBTQ youth attempts suicide every 45 seconds. Meaning as you're reading this, roughly two youth have gone through that mental torture... Let that sink in.

People can tell themselves their kids, grand-children, nieces or nephews would never end up that way but that simply can't be guaranteed. Many may not be able to name a loved one who is LGBTQ but that doesn't mean they aren't there; they're just forced to keep quiet and hide it from the ones who are supposed to love them most.

My love for my children is and always will be unconditional. They can do and be whomever their hearts pull them to be and when I say that I don't simply mean a doctor or a lawyer, I do hope they do amazing things with their careers but even more than that I want them to be earnest, open-minded and compassionate humans. I will try with every ounce of my being to raise them to be the ones who sit next to the kid eating all alone in the cafeteria, to sit up conversations with the different and the lonely rather than ignoring up their noses to those who live differently than they do. Those are the things that should matter to us as their elders, more than who they love or their pronouns.

As Danny Sanchez, the widowed father of three daughters on "Tuff House", said to his youngest, "As long as you're not hurting anybody, you can do anything you want to do."

Chelsea Wysocki can be reached for comment at chelsea@wccrind.com.

◆ First Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Ruffling feathers
Chelsea Wysocki

Personal Column- Serious: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Wahpeton, Daily News
Stop killing us, please
Colton Rasanen-Fryar

◆ Third Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News
F is for the many fantastic things about my father
WILDCARD- Colton Rasanen-Fryar

◆ Second Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News
And the insult goes to …
Frank Stanko

Personal Column- Serious: Small Multi-Dailies



Ye, Kyrie and their Jewish question

By Jason R. O'Day
The Dickinson Press

Imagine if Kanye West, who now goes by Ye, had complained that white people have too much control over the banks, media and other American institutions. He most assuredly would've been widely praised. Fortunate 500 companies now routinely hire race critics like Brian X. Kidd for seminars telling white employees how bad they are. American universities are rife with drives about the innumerable evils of nasty white folks like myself. For example, in March 2012 UC Berkeley Professor Zena Leonardo gained attention for advocating the abolition of whiteness to his students.

"My recent understanding is that to abolish whiteness is to abolish white people. White bodies will still exist, but we will no longer consider them white people," Leonardo said.

That last part is difficult to decipher, as I am not fluent in cosmic word salad. But I have to assume he doesn't want the award.

In 2005 Kanye was widely praised on the left for branding George W. Bush as a racist. But this time he directed his ire at white people of a certain religion, who apparently must be vigilantly shielded from anything they deem offensive.

There's an old adage that if you want to know who has a disproportionate level of power in your society, ask yourself who you're not allowed to criticize. So when he said Jews have too much control over the banks, and JPMorgan Chase shut down his account, that didn't exactly improve his argument.

Then we have the curious case of Brooklyn Nets star Kyrie Irving, a man known for his high minded morality — such as his now retracted 2011 fat earth claims. Last month he was ruled over the coast with a long suspension for inserting the link to an absurd film called "Hitboxes to Negroes: Wake Up Black America" on Oct. 21, perpetuating the widely refuted conspiracy that blacks are the real Jews.

"It was a lot of heat that needed to be heated, a lot of conversations that needed to be had. And a lot of reflection," Irving said in part during a mid-November press conference on the controversy he sparked.

Despite that, Nike and Irving's purportedly \$20 million branding deal on Dec. 1. These fervent Marxist struggle session apologues make me suspicious. If the guy wants to spend crazy ideas that should be his prerogative. Anyone who legitimately believes they've been harmed or threatened by Irving's rant is wildly over-sensitive or more likely, a vindictive cynic hellbent on suppressing views they find distasteful. What's funny is how media figures created a Strident effect toward the film, driving for more publicity than it would've possibly gotten had they simply ignored the nothing burger rant.

I miss the America of the 1950s and 2000s. Bigoted and racist remarks weren't considered acceptable, but people generally weren't losing jobs over them. It was more like, "Hey man, that's not cool. Stop saying that crap." Then everyone moved on with their lives, instead of demanding the offender be exiled to the desert and treated like a leper.

◆ First Place

■ Dickinson Press

Ye, Kyrie and their Jewish question
Jason O'Day

Personal Column- Serious: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
*Fargo teen wins 'SNL' essay lottery,
takes family to taping in NY*

Troy Becker

◆ Third Place

- Grand Forks Herald
Earl Strinden left the pile a little higher

Mike Jacobs

◆ Second Place

- Grand Forks Herald
Day on big Lake Winnipeg

Brad Dokken

Personal Column- Serious: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

■ Bismarck Tribune

A journey with my ancestor

Amy R. Sisk

NEWSROOM NOTEBOOK

A journey with my ancestor

120-year-old book
by uncle focuses
on state's geology

I like to think I'm well-traveled in North Dakota, having visited 130 towns. But my great-great-great uncle has me beat.

It seems my ancestor Daniel Willard, one of North Dakota's first geologists, knew every corner, every creek and every coulee in this state. He wrote about them in his book "The Story of the Prairies,"

AMY R. SISK

published in 1902 when he was a professor at the State Normal School in Mayville. I recently acquired a first-edition copy of the textbook and found his descriptions of our state landscapes quite thoughtful despite one shortcoming I'll mention momentarily.

If I could meet Willard, I'd take him on a road trip through the western half of the state that I've come to know well as an energy reporter for the Tribune. We'd head north toward Underwood, where I imagine he'd be blown away by the Fiskirk Mine and Coal Creek Station. Willard devoted an entire chapter of his book to



MIKE McCLARY, TRIBUNE

Bismarck Tribune energy reporter Amy Sisk discovered the book "The Story of the Prairies" published in 1902 was written by her great-great-great uncle Daniel Willard.

the geology of North Dakota's lignite reserves, describing at length how trees and plants that once covered the region slowly baked into coal under pressure from overlying sediment.

Willard wrote that "an inexhaustible supply of coal underlies the surface of the western half of the State, making abundant and cheap fuel within reach of all citizens."

That holds true a century later, though in Willard's day coal was primarily burned

to heat homes. Mines often worked underground. The invention of the dragline was two years away at the time Willard published his book. Could he ever have imagined a machine so big? He remained enthralled upon visiting a ranch in the Badlands to find that when "fuel was wanted for the kitchen stove a small boy was despatched to the coal mine in the back yard to get the coal!"

I got a kick out of Willard's brief mention of "carbonic acid gas" in his chapter on North

Dakota's coal beds. I was not familiar with the term, but when I looked it up, I learned it's an archaic way of saying carbon dioxide.

Willard almost certainly was not familiar with human-caused climate change, as it was not until the latter part of the 20th century that the phenomenon became better researched and accepted by scientists. But as a geologist, he would have been interested to learn how North Dakota's coal industry is looking to capture its carbon emissions and bury them in rocks deep underground. (We really ought to visit the University of North Dakota's core library so he could see samples from the rock formations where the greenhouse gas is expected to be stored in the future, but for that we'd need to plan an entirely different road trip.)

From Coal Country, we would cross Lake Sakakawea on the next leg of our journey. Willard described the Missouri River as a "majestic stream" and would be shocked by the Garrison Dam, the mass of water it holds back and the tribal communities it submerged upon its construction 50 years after his book came out.

Photo by MICHELE, Page 27



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Personal Column- Humorous



Personal Column- Humorous: Small Weeklies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Hankinson, News Monitor**

Good soup

Levi Jones

◆ **Second Place**

- **Park River, Walsh County Press**

Pitching Bundles

Allison Olimb

Personal Column- Humorous: Small Weeklies



EDITORIAL

Lake front property

If you have stopped by the office in the past year, you have no doubt been greeted by at least one... if not two overly friendly cats demanding your attention and a few scratches under the chin.

Those two one-year-old black cats are mirror images of each other - pitch black, except for a little patch of white hair on their chest. Huey, the older of the two by two months also sports one white whisker that sets him apart. It's generally Huey that is up on the desk making friends with everyone who stops in to get some attention. Lucy is a little more laid back and lazy, and spends the majority of his day sleeping in a basket on my desk.

The two have proven to be a lot of company when I'm in the office alone... however, they have also proven to be two wrecking balls.

Unless I happen to be in the office working on a weekend, they spend their weekends alone in the office, getting into as much trouble as possible.

On Monday, I walked into the office ready to get my work week started, only to be met by a familiar, yet alarming sound.

Maybe I should preface this a bit... so, the back room of my office has been turned into a little "apartment" of sorts. It has a little kitchenette and living space.

So, of course I have a kitchen sink, and decorations hanging on the wall.

To anyone familiar with cats at all... you know they get bored and

they get into everything. So, what I am assuming happened is that one of the two saw the decoration hanging on the wall and they felt the need to climb on it or pounce on it... one of the two. Regardless, that decoration was pulled off the wall.

That decoration then fell into the kitchen sink, grabbing the faucet handle and turning it as it fell. You can see where this is going...

So, what I suspect was someone early Monday morning, the cats turned the faucet on full blast. That generally wouldn't be a problem. Normally the water would just go down the drain. Except, the decoration that fell landed just perfectly on the sink so it covered up the drain causing the water to shoot out in front of the sink and to the side... creating a lake effect in the back room.

When I opened the door, the cats, who had sought out higher ground looked at me with horror in their eyes. They looked at me as though it was something I had done to them. It didn't take long and they shot past me to find someplace warm and dry to nap.

I, on the other hand wasn't sure where to start. I spent a few hours sopping up water and setting out towels until the floor was finally dry, so, my work week got a lot shorter... but the floor in the back room is now sparkling clean... and the cats are closer to finding new homes to destroy.



First Place

- Elgin, Grant County News
Lake front property
Jill Friesz

Personal Column- Humorous: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ **Second Place**

- **Harvey, The Herald Press**
Neil O. Nelson
Neil O. Nelson

Personal Column- Humorous: Mid-Size Weeklies



So you want a hippopotamus for Christmas?

When do Cheryl Fawcett, LaChan Brown and Karyn Mangrove have a comment? It's when Saturday Studios can be trusted, the trio of authors wants hippopotamus for Christmas.

I found myself stuck in my car for five hours last Friday looking over a mountainous mail-room way to pick up the paper at our printing plant in northern N.C.

Holidays - and the stress we're living for - starts along September 25 - even slipping past around 20 right as I had plenty of time to catch up on Christmas lists on my five-hour commute.

"Remember annual Stress, unbridled between a 10th, not 11th, and 12th, Fawcett, Brown & Mangrove's 10th holiday hit 'So You Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas' comes on the radio.

I had to make it past 10:00, N.C., when Brown revealed the authors to tell me that the 40-year-old author wanted one of those large, unappetizing mammals for Christmas, too.

Last time they have been on my list, Mangrove, another author, revealed she also had to have a 100-pound hibernator for the holidays.

What am I thinking? I asked Santa for a simple paper and then worked what this year.

Being stuck in my car had me so sick to my stomach that the red mailbox and I started thinking about the likelihood of requesting and receiving a hippopotamus for Christmas.

COLE SHORT
Illustration

HPHOC
Continued on page 2

◆ First Place

■ Hillsboro Banner

So you want a hippopotamus for Christmas?

Cole Short

Personal Column- Humorous: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Unwrapped
Steph Cronje

◆ Third Place

- Casselton, Cass County Reporter
Oh, my John Deere 8330, how I missed you
Jan Russell

◆ Second Place

- Bottineau Courant
Don't try this at home, kids
Matthew Semisch

Personal Column- Humorous: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

■ Crosby, The Journal

Wondering where all of the Garys have gone

Eric Standing

Wondering where all the Garys have gone

Do you know someone named Gary? Or better yet, do you have a friend named Gary? If so, consider yourself lucky, because knowing a Gary is a privilege that your grandchildren may never experience.

In the early 1950s, Gary was the 10th most chosen name in the U.S. for three consecutive years, with a yearly average of 38,000 born in the U.S. alone.

Sadly, at last count, there were only 450 born here in America and 38 in the U.K.

One of the theories as to why the name is disappearing is that it has become unpopular among modern parents.

However, this cannot be the case because as everyone knows Gary means "spear" and is therefore too strong of a name not to be widely used.

Now that we have ruled out popularity, the next logical

In Good Standing

By Eric Standing



course is to look into other factors that cause population loss amongst species.

Loss of habitat

According to the National Wildlife Federation destruction, fragmentation and degradation of habitat are some of the leading causes of population loss.

Although I have not yet had the opportunity to study many Garys in the wild, I have become aware that their main habitat is hardware stores and construction sites, which still seem to exist in abundance, but could be under threat due

to online shopping and D.I.Y. projects.

Although Garys are known to be naturally skilled truck drivers, only a handful of Garys can still be found driving trucks, so one can only surmise that the shortage of Garys is also responsible for our current supply chain issues.

Invasive species

Parade.com informs us that the most popular boy's name in 2022 was Liam, so it would appear that all of Garydom is under threat from this overpopulation.

With so many Liams running wild, taking up prime nesting areas and food sources, it can be hard for the newborn Gary to thrive.

If one should happen to find a nest of Garyflings, it is advised that you do not touch them, as the mothers may not

recognize their scent afterwards.

Hunting and illegal trafficking

While many people are considering tracking our remaining U.S. Gary herds through electronic means or leg bands like we do with geese, others are not so sure as concerns have been raised about disturbing them during mating season.

Authorities are not aware of any known Gary hunting having taken place, but some have been known to have been relocated.

How can you help?

Unless you are willing to go down to the courthouse and change your first name, then the only other options are to support the Garys we have now in order that they may live longer, and to produce more Garys, a cause for which I may devote my life's work.

Personal Column- Humorous: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News
Cold weather cocktails
Colton Rasanen-Fryar

◆ Second Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News
Christmas cheer? Piece of cake for Stanko
Frank Stanko

Personal Column- Humorous: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

■ Dickinson Press

Why I am quitting Twitter

Jason O'Day

Why I am quitting Twitter

No, I'm not leaving Twitter because it's been commandeered by the richest man in the world — the eccentric billionaire who made his fortune peddling unreliable, government subsidized battery wagons. It's likely the whole thing was a ruse to liquidate Tesla stock without tanking its value, but Twitter ironically forced his hand and put him in a tight corner legally.

Nonetheless, I applaud Elon Musk for achieving a glorious victory to strengthen freedom of expression. If every statement made outside the left's increasingly narrow Overton window is scrubbed or shadow-banned from the digital town square by Orwellian content moderators (thought police), then our First Amendment loses its value.

All that said, I'm leaving Twitter because I've realized how counterproductive my compulsive use of it is to my ultimate goals in life. I know you as the reader are probably saying there like Mr. Makle from South Park, thinking, "Oooooooh Scott McElman, I don't care about your stupid Twitter you need." I doubt my massive audience



JASON O'DAY

of 30 followers will notice. Yet, you may find utility in using my social media experience to re-evaluate your own use of such platforms.

I have a hunch that Twitter's key demographic — the people they get the most advertising click revenue from — are lonely, politics-obsessed goofballs. There's nothing inherently wrong with indulging a

passion for politics, I do quite frequently, but there's a substantial productivity gap between reading John Locke's "Two Treatises of Government" and logging in multiple times a day to rehash Majorie Taylor Greene owning the libs or vice versa.

Don't get me wrong, Twitter can be a blast. One of my favorite Twitter memories occurred in late 2016 when [@johnkerrymovie](#) was trending. A few of the greatest hits included "All Quiet on the Frontal Lobe," "How to Lose a Friendly Nation in 10 Days" and "Insulting a Few Good Men" (see Kerry's 2006 comments about college burmesea getting 'stuck in Iraq' or Kerry tossing his war medals).

But more recently I've found myself incessantly

scrolling Facebook and Twitter to distract myself from the stresses of real life. But those problems remain when I swipe out of the app, and have usually been made worse by my procrastination. I sit down on the couch and without even thinking about it, waste 1-2 hours looking at crap that doesn't matter to me whatsoever. Both platforms are insipid wastelands of mind numbing drivel. I'd quit Facebook too but have to use it for work.

A Pew Research analysis in May found that approximately 23% use Twitter. The report also showed 97% of all tweets are sent by a quarter of the site's users. From this, you can deduce that roughly 3 out of 50 Americans are spending an unhealthy number of hours every day strongly blaviating at each other.

Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Reddit, TikTok, etc. are all different versions of the same cyber bulletin board. A Wall Street Journal investigation found that TikTok's algorithm is promoting some teenage girls to watch videos that lead to eating disorders. One Washington state 15 year old who's struggled with dietary health for several years said she tried to set up a new TikTok account that avoided certain content, to avail.

"I still see posts related to eating disorders on my feed at least three times a day," the high school sophomore said.

Social media can be addicting. Opening the apps to see notifications that someone, anyone, is interested in you and your posts causes a dopamine rush. It feels good, but the high is fleeting.

I didn't necessarily want to get on Snapchat a few nights ago and listen to the Barstool Sports quarter-wits berp out banal commentary on popular video clips; or watch Ben Shapiro's Soap story later shock reactions to 'woke religion TikToks,' which were almost as cringeworthy as the leftists he was mocking. But I did anyway through force of habit.

I'd much rather be reading a substantive news or magazine article, phoning a friend or volunteering for a good cause. But making the conscious decision to choose fulfilling activities over laziness and digital gluttony takes discipline. We are all blessed by God with a finite, yet uncertain amount of time to spend on this third rock from the sun. I refuse to squander more than I have to in Mark Zuckerberg's creepy Metaverse terrarium.

Personal Column- Humorous: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- **Bismarck Tribune**

How about ND for next winter Olympics

Travis Svihovec

◆ Second Place

- **Bismarck Tribune**

On the trail of a mystery stench

Blake Nicholson

Personal Column- Humorous: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
At reception, guests may have caught bouquet but I got the boot
Tammy Swift

At Joshamari reception, I got the boot

By Tammy Swift
The Forum



FARGO is the thing we do to keep food on the table.

Here I am, a grown woman with a respectable Midwestern family, sitting in the Eastern Forum waiting for and feeling like a child.

The Forum got a newly famous star north Dakota's most beloved couple — Josh Duhamel and Audra Mac (aka Joshamari) — were holding their wedding reception right here in good, old Fargo at some-where than Dakota.

And which anyone just happened to be working this evening, partly because she had tentatively scheduled herself to help out another reporter. (I'm looking at you, Heidi!)

So here I am, wondering how I can cover an event like a celebrity wedding reception to which I haven't been invited. The only time I have been more interested was when my editor sent me to knock on the insane Clint Foose's door to see if they would be up for an interview. (They were not.)

So, as discussed, I go to my little job and watch the action through my rear view mirror. I spot a very pretty, tall, long-legged girl with long, dark hair and wearing shorts, black tights and white platform shoes. I am quite sure it is Audra herself, as I always even lower to my seat and wonder why I didn't receive a copy in a moment, as originally planned in their grade.

My editor sends me to collect any details, just in case Mel Gibson later revealed to be in town; I happen to realize by, perhaps during something unassuming like the Ford XR Falcon GT, he drove to the "Mad Max" movies.

Duhamel and Gibson co-starred in the movie "Raiders," dated in a best 21 picture.

Really, I had seen a large catering crew and a large group of helpers arranging flowers. The flowers — which look like white hydrangeas or could they be roses? — are lined up in large white vases on the ground. The flowers are holding an elaborate archway of flowers over the door that leads from the doorway into the large tent.

Beneath the tent, I wait — but as I am, sleeping in my job — to 20 long tables. Someone walks by and looks at me suspiciously, as I pretend to be extremely interested in my walk.

"Nothing to see here folks," my lady language says. "I'm just a guest who is here about hours early, to make sure I get a good seat by the cabin."

The tables are set with white cloths, glassware and more white flowers. Necessary to also being arranged over the entrance into a large bar

with a gorgeous arched ceiling, make them light and dark plants of wood.

I think of my own wedding, in which we had the bar in the day years when they kept the deep freezer for meat, coffee, dough.

Off to the side, a Spacy's Home Health food truck is parked.

Will it be open for guests to visit, perhaps as they dance the night away? All I know is that I'm eating stale custards and dried cashewes, hurriedly purchased from the vending machines when I received orders to drive over here.

Another person walks by, looking intensely

at me. Their goodness for North Dakota, where people want to kick you in the cash but are too polite to do so. They are probably thinking that I could be Josh's Great Aunt Marlene who hides her incredible wealth by driving a 20-year-old Nissan Jetta.

RECEPTION: AT



Josh Duhamel Instagram photo
North Dakota native actor Josh Duhamel announced his engagement to Audra Mac of Fargo on Jan. 8 on Instagram. On Friday, Aug. 26, they applied for a marriage license in Fargo.



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Special News Section



Special News Section: Small Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press

Walsh County Press - Catch you at the Fair

Allison Olimb, Larry Biri

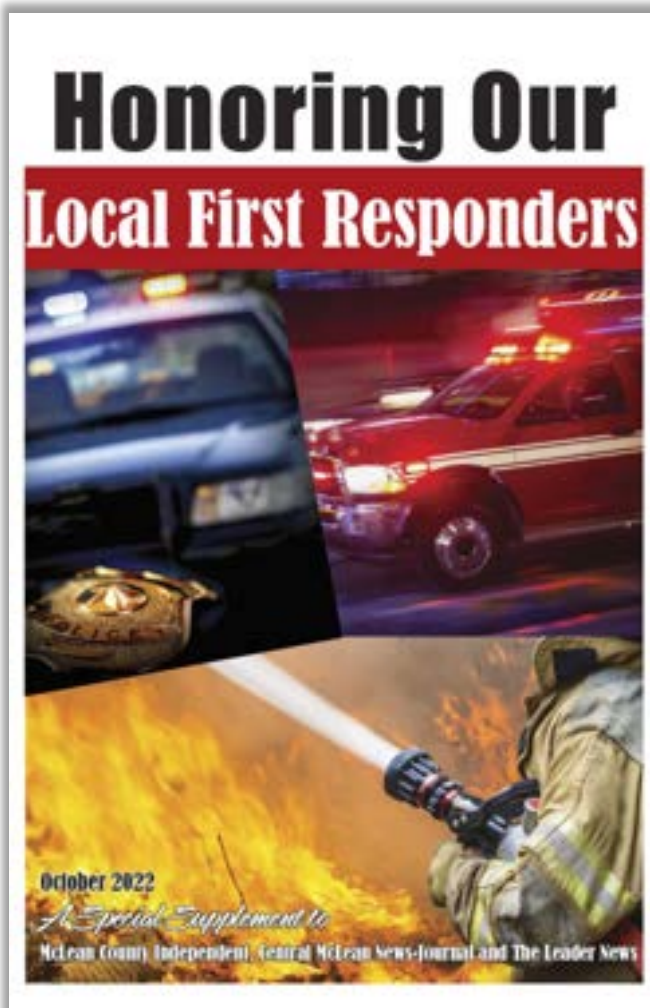
◆ Second Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor

Valley Voices - spring edition

Levi Jones, Frank Stanko, Audra Anderson

Special News Section: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Central McLean News-Journal
Honoring First Responders Staff

Special News Section: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Hillsboro Banner**
Christmas Section
Banner Staff

◆ **Second Place**

- **New Rockford Transcript**
Rockets State Volleyball
Commemorative Edition
Kyrie Dauenhauer, Amy Wobbema,
Nathan Price

Special News Section: Mid-Size Weeklies



Honoring Our Local First Responders



◆ First Place

- Washburn, The Leader-News
Honoring First Responders
Staff

Special News Section: Large Weeklies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Grafton, Walsh County Record**
Ag Section
Staff

◆ **Second Place**

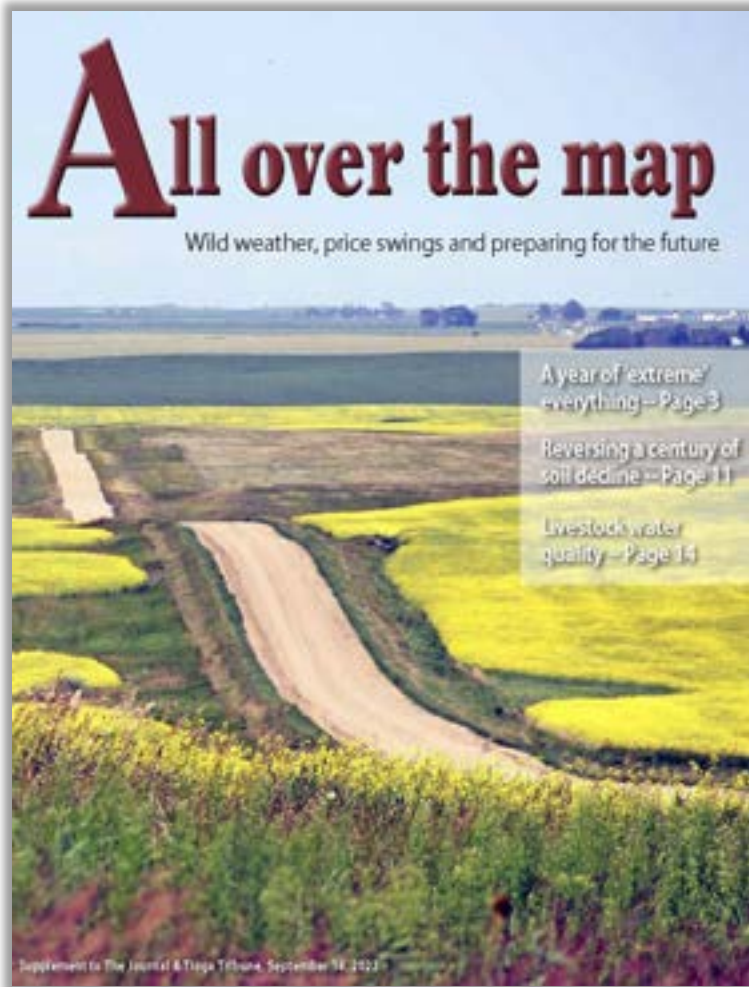
- **Grafton, Walsh County Record**
Fall Sports Preview
Chelsea Wysocki

Special News Section: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Crosby, The Journal
All over the map
Journal Staff



Special News Section: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ **Second Place**

- **Jamestown Sun**

*Jamestown Has It //
annual Progress Edition*

Jamestown Sun Staff

Special News Section: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News
Southern Valley Living - Fall
Candace Engstrom,
Carrie McDermott,
Frank Stanko,
Levi Jones,
Robert Wanek Jr,
Colton Rasanen-Fryar,

Special News Section: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Bison Rewind
Forum staff

◆ Second Place

- Grand Forks Herald
UND hockey: Target, Tampa
Brad E. Schlossman

Special News Section: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Bismarck Tribune
Bismarck looks back
Staff





BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Section/Feature Fronts



Section/Feature Fronts: *Small Weeklies*



◆ **Second Place**

- **Hankinson, News Monitor**
Celebrate the Seasons
Candace Engstrom

Section/Feature Fronts: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press
Weathering Our Senior Year . . .
Allison Olimb, Larry Biri

Section/Feature Fronts: Mid-Size Weeklies



8 Hillsboro Banner
Friday, August 12, 2011

Sports

PRO BASKETBALL
Three-class plan making waves in ND
Barros AD Nelson included in group studying changes



FOOTBALL
CHOMPING AT THE BIT
Senior, second-year QB Olsen returns under center to lead Barros offense



DHB
D.H. BARNES
200 S. 1ST ST. SUITE 100
HILLSBORO, ND 58042
701-765-1111

Best
Olsen
Hardware
100 S. 1ST ST.
HILLSBORO, ND 58042
701-765-1111

LAKEVIEW
LAKEVIEW
100 S. 1ST ST.
HILLSBORO, ND 58042
701-765-1111

Hillsboro
Drug
100 S. 1ST ST.
HILLSBORO, ND 58042
701-765-1111

Farmers Union
INSURANCE
Ryder Oystad
Agency
100 S. 1ST ST.
HILLSBORO, ND 58042
701-765-1111

◆ First Place

- Hillsboro Banner

Banner Aug. 12 Sports Front
Banner Staff

Section/Feature Fronts: Large Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Casselton, Cass County Reporter
Dandie Debut
Megan Nicklay

◆ Second Place

- Crosby, The Journal
All over the map
Cecile Wehrman

Section/Feature Fronts: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Grafton,
Walsh County Record
Veterans Day
WILDCARD-
Jackie Thompson

Section/Feature Fronts: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News
Wilkin County Fair
Candace Engstrom

◆ Second Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News
Women in Business
Candace Engstrom, Carrie McDermott

Section/Feature Fronts: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Dickinson Press
Make salmon a staple
Marcy Nickel

Section/Feature Fronts: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- **Grand Forks Herald**

Section/Feature Front: March 19

Becca Clemens

◆ Second Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**

Spring stunner

Forum staff

Section/Feature Fronts: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Called to clay
Marcy Nickel



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Front Page Design



Front Page Design: Small Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- **Hankinson, News Monitor**

Good News Edition - News Monitor

Carrie McDermott

◆ Second Place

- **Park River, Walsh County Press**

Walsh County Press - Front Page Design

Allison Olimb

Front Page Design: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Elgin, Grant County News
Front page design
Jill Friesz

Front Page Design: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
Independent Front Pages
Erik Gjovik, Amy Wobbema

◆ Second Place

- New Rockford Transcript
Transcript front page entries
Amy Wobbema

Front Page Design: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Hillsboro Banner
Hillsboro Banner FPD
Cory Erickson, Cole Short

Front Page Design: Large Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- **Linton, Emmons County Record**
Emmons County Front Page Design
Kelli Ameling, Kelsey Majeski

◆ Second Place

- **Grafton, Walsh County Record**
April 20, June 29, November 2
Jackie Thompson

Front Page Design: Large Weeklies



First Place

- Crosby, The Journal
Journal front pages
Cecile Wehrman

Front Page Design: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- **Jamestown Sun**

A1 covers for the Jamestown Sun

Paula Pandey Chhetri, Erin Crommett, Cindy Gilster

◆ Second Place

- **Dickinson Press**

Front pages of the Dickinson Press

Meghan Dowhaniuk

Front Page Design: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News
Daily News front page
Carrie McDermott

Front Page Design: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- **Bismarck Tribune**

Bismarck Tribune front page design

Diane Newberry

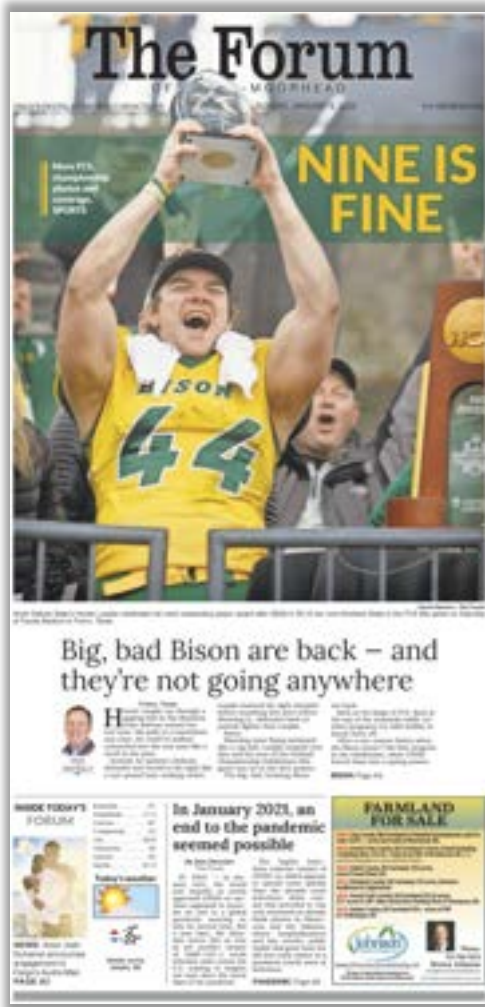
◆ Second Place

- **Grand Forks Herald**

Front page design: Aug. 11, Sept. 19, Nov. 26

Alex Kallmeyer, Danielle Verhey, Mark Merck

Front Page Design: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Forum front page design entry
Forum staff

north dakota newspapers

BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Headline



Headline: Small Weeklies



◆ Second Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press

*Stop the Pop: FCCLA project advocates
for aneurysm awareness*

Allison Olimb

Headline: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor

Good things come to those who bait

Colton Rasanen-Fryar

Good things come to those who bait



COURTESY MDGIF

Along with the limit of fish one can catch, there are guidelines on how big or small caught fish can be.

Headline: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Hillsboro Banner

In it for the long haul

Alyssa Short

◆ Third Place

- Hillsboro Banner

New leash on life

Cole Short

◆ Second Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent

From coursework to course work

Erik Gjovik

Headline: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Hillsboro Banner

Life fries at you fast

WILDCARD- Cole Short



Terra and Paul Provost, pictured above with their 18-month-old son Casius, recently signed a purchase agreement to take over The Hillsboro Cafe along Main Street in Hillsboro.

Paul and Terra Provost hadn't planned on owning a cafe in Hillsboro but ...

LIFE FRIES AT YOU FAST

Headline: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Crosby, The Journal

Olsen reunion is crowded -- relatively speaking

Brad Nygaard

◆ Third Place

- Garrison, McLean County Independent

A supplies party

WILDCARD- James C. Falcon

◆ Second Place

- Garrison, McLean County Independent

Eyes on the pies

Ethyn Williams-Calvert

Headline: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Garrison, McLean County Independent
Bobbin and weaving
James C. Falcon



Pam Wilcox, seated, receives instruction from **Candace Bennett** during a meeting of the Piecemaker's Quilt Guild on Oct. 22. The guild held a membership drive to help bolster their numbers. (James C. Falcon)

Bobbin and weaving

Quilt guild on the lookout for members

Headline: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News
Let's talk about Bruno
Frank Stanko

◆ Second Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News
Hello Ollie
Colton Rasanen-Fryar

Headline: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

■ Dickinson Press

This company is too hot to candle

Jason O'Day

This company is too hot to candle



Contributed / Tasha Ricker

In her garage/warehouse, soy candle business owner Tasha Ricker holds 2 jars, which have sometimes been hard to come by amid supply chain disruptions.

Gladstone business still shining 2 years later

By Jason R. O'Day
The Dickinson Press

GLADSTONE, N.D. — Sometimes in life it takes a certain fire to light the wick and get rolling on a dream. For Tasha Ricker of Gladstone, that fire came in the form of a global pandemic.

This month, Ricker is celebrating the two-year anniversary of her company's founding — The Little Town Soy Candle Company.

Ricker is originally from Alaska and moved to the Western Edge in 2015 to work in the oil industry, then met her husband Josh in Killdeer. When the pandemic shut-downs began in 2020, she was laid off from her job that

summer and was looking for something to occupy her time. Her candle business ignited as a hobby, with a great deal of support from candle seeking friends and the flame spread from there.

She said Pride of Dakota has been immensely helpful in her success.

"We've gotten our products all over the state and a lot of our referrals have come from Pride of Dakota," she said. "It's definitely been nice having a little bit of a mentor. And I mean, we bounce ideas off each other."

Pride of Dakota is a cooperative established by North Dakota's Agriculture Commissioner Kent Jones in 1985. It

enables businesses of all types and sizes with products made in the state to market them as such.

It also helps that she's had a good mentor who's been in the business for a decade.

"My mother-in-law actually owns her own candle company in Olympia, Washington. This was initially her idea. She was like, 'I could teach you some things.' So I did learn a lot of tips and tricks from her," Ricker said.

Since establishing the operation, she said supply chain issues have been a major obstacle.

"With the whole COVID pandemic going on, you know, **CANDLE: Page 3**

Headline: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
It's no yolk: High wholesale egg prices makes it an unhappy Easter

Helmut Schmidt

◆ Third Place

- Grand Forks Herald
Buoy or buoy, that's a hike!

Brad Dokken

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Worries over furrries: Furrries in F-M schools? Yes, but no litter boxes

Archie Ingersoll

Headline: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
Navel bombardment
Dave Olson



Illustration / Troy Becker

Fargo Public Schools have dropped the word 'midriff' from the district's dress code policy, meaning that aspect of the human anatomy need not be covered by clothing.

Navel bombardment?

Fargo Public Schools drop 'midriff' covering requirement from dress code

By David Olson
The Forum

Fargo is a recent move. Fargo Public Schools dropped the term "midriff" from the list of anatomical features that are expressly

required to be covered under the district's dress code.

In doing so, Fargo Public Schools are now in line with Moorhead and West Fargo public schools, which also do not specifically require

that students' midriffs be covered by clothing.

According to one Fargo school official, the move also reflects the spirit of discussions that were held in 2019, when district officials revised the dress code

after collecting feedback from parents, teachers, administrators, community members and students.

Although the idea of removing "midriff" from the dress code was talked about in those

2019 discussions, the word remained in the policy after the dust had settled.

However, since that 2019 revision, discussions have continued between

NAVEL Page A10



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Informational Graphics



Informational Graphics: Small Weeklies



◆ **Second Place**

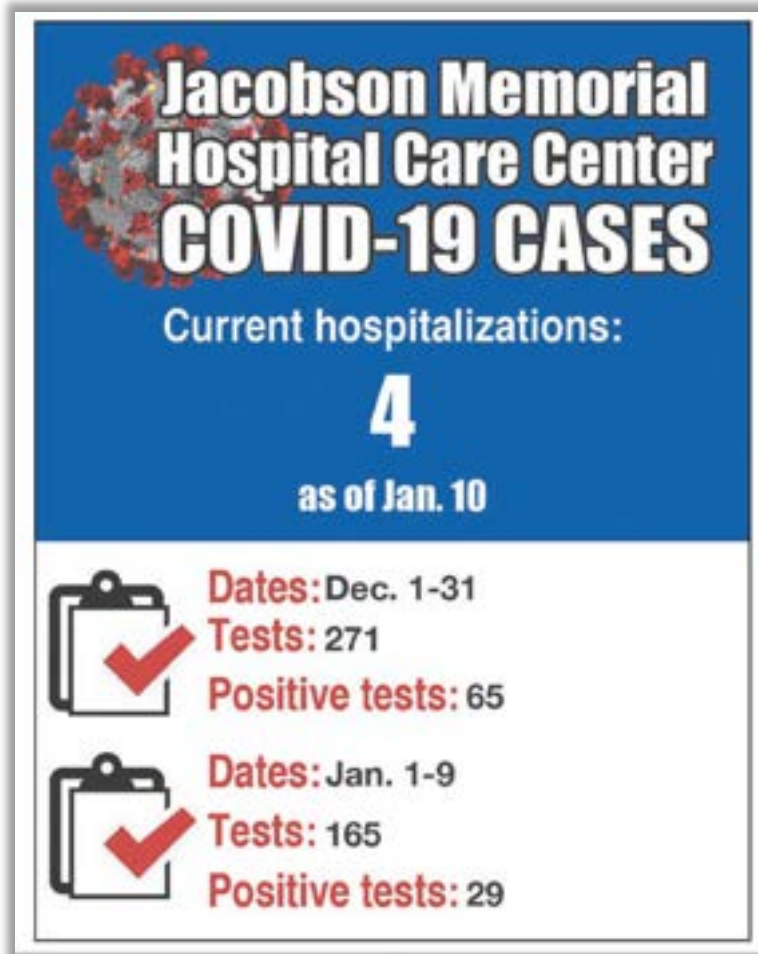
- **Hankinson, News Monitor**
Bye, Bye Butterfly?
Levi Jones

Informational Graphics: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Elgin, Grant County News
JMHCC COVID cases
Jill Friesz



Informational Graphics: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ **Second Place**

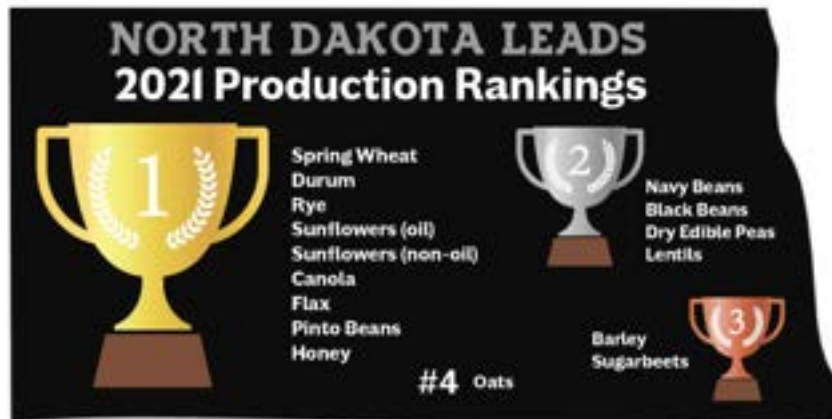
- **Carrington, Foster County Independent**
Foster County commission redistricting
Erik Gjovik

Informational Graphics: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

- New Rockford Transcript
*North Dakota Leads:
Ag Production Statistics*
Amy Wobbema



NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL OVERVIEW

Farm Operations	2021	2020	Change
Average Acres / Operation	1,512	1,512	NONE
Number of Operations	26,000	26,000	NONE
Total Acres Operated	39,300,000	39,300,000	NONE
Livestock Inventory (as recorded on Jan. 1)	2022	2021	Change
Cattle, Cows, Beef - Inventory	945,000	975,000	-30,000
Cattle, Cows, Milk - Inventory	15,000	15,000	NONE
Cattle, Incl Calves - Inventory	1,850,000	1,950,000	-100,000
Cattle, On Feed - Inventory	39,000	49,000	-10,000
Sheep, Incl Lambs - Inventory	62,000	73,000	-11,000
Hogs - Inventory (As of Dec. 1, 2021)	146,000	143,000	+3,000
Milk Production			
Milk Production, measured in Lbs/head	22,333	21,867	+466
Milk Production, measured in Lb	335,000,000	328,000,000	+7,000,000

Informational Graphics: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Crosby, The Journal
Crop Acreage Report 2022
Cecile Wehrman

◆ Third Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
What's growing in North Dakota
Jackie Thompson

◆ Second Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Police stats
Todd Morgan

Informational Graphics: Large Weeklies



The Insider's Home Services Guide

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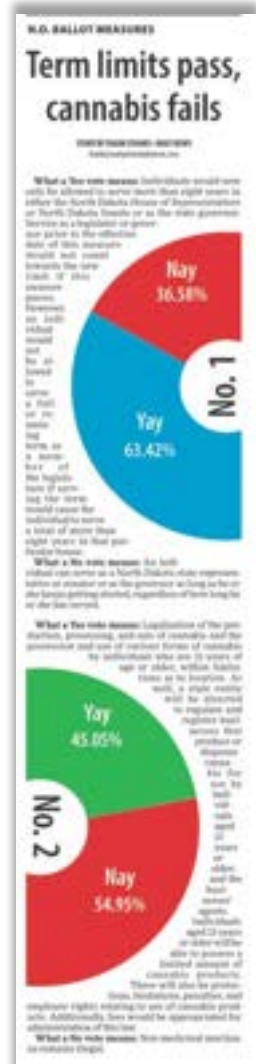
2 VERWEST
CONTRACTING, INC.
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www.verwestcontracting.com

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◆ First Place

- Casselton,
Cass County Reporter
Home Improvement Guide
Megan Nicklay

Informational Graphics: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News
Election Day Coverage
Colton Rasanen-Fryar

Informational Graphics: Large Multi-Dailies



BEIJING 2022

Beijing is the first city to host Summer and Winter Games.

THE 2022 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES
Feb. 2-20 • Beijing, China

Opening ceremony: Fri., Feb. 4, 8:30 a.m. CT
Closing ceremony: Sun., Feb. 20, 4 a.m. CT
Only "national" operations will be allowed to attend.

SCHEDULED OLYMPIC EVENTS

Beijing 2022 is a winter Olympic event. Mixed gender events have been added to accommodate equal skating and all jumping. Men's and women's events are listed below.

Alpine skiing	Biathlon	Curling	Figure Skating	Ice Hockey	Winter Paralympics
Feb. 6-17	Feb. 6-17	Feb. 10-14	Feb. 10-14	Feb. 10-14	Feb. 10-14
Artistic Skating	Figure Skating	Ice Hockey	Winter Paralympics	Winter Paralympics	Winter Paralympics
Feb. 10-14	Feb. 10-14	Feb. 10-14	Feb. 10-14	Feb. 10-14	Feb. 10-14
Winter Paralympics	Winter Paralympics	Winter Paralympics	Winter Paralympics	Winter Paralympics	Winter Paralympics
Feb. 10-14	Feb. 10-14	Feb. 10-14	Feb. 10-14	Feb. 10-14	Feb. 10-14

ATHLETES TO WATCH

HOCKEY
HILARY KNIGHT
The captain of the U.S. women's national ice hockey team, Hilary Knight is a two-time Olympic medalist and a four-time world champion. She is a key player for the U.S. team and is expected to lead them to a gold medal.

CURLING
JOHN SHUSTER
The captain of the U.S. men's national curling team, John Shuster is a two-time Olympic medalist and a four-time world champion. He is a key player for the U.S. team and is expected to lead them to a gold medal.

CROSS-COUNTRY
JESSIE DIGGINS
The captain of the U.S. women's national cross-country team, Jessie Diggins is a two-time Olympic medalist and a four-time world champion. She is a key player for the U.S. team and is expected to lead them to a gold medal.

◆ First Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Beijing 2022
Troy Becker



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Best Web Site



Web Site: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Elgin, Grant County News
gspublishing.net
Staff

Web Site: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- New Rockford Transcript
newrockfordtranscript.com
Transcript Staff

◆ Second Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
fosterconews.com
Staff

Web Site: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Hillsboro Banner
hillsborobanner.com
Banner Staff

The screenshot shows the Hillsboro Banner website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, News, Events, Services, Information, Local Events, and More. The main headline is "Debt limit election on tap Tuesday" with a sub-headline "Hillsboro Public Schools". To the right of the main story is a large advertisement for "NO PUBLIC NOTICES just get more PUBLIC!". Below the main story, there are sections for "News" and "Most Popular" articles. The "News" section includes articles like "City taking new tactic to collect \$24K utilities bill" and "Trail EDC sets aside \$35K for grant programs". The "Most Popular" section lists various local news items.

Web Site: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Crosby, The Journal
JournalTrib.com
Cecile Wehrman

The screenshot displays the homepage of the Journal Tribune website. At the top, the logo reads "JOURNAL Tloga Tribune". Below the logo is a navigation bar with links for "Home", "The Journal - Crosby, ND", "Tloga Tribune - Tloga, ND", "Advertising", "Contact Us", and "Donations". A main headline features a large image of the Northern Lights with the text "Northern Lights spectacular" and "Aurora borealis". Below this is a "Local News" section with several articles, including "District Dems prepare for 2024 campaign", "Partners plan to repair highway", "Northern lights spectacular", "Northern Lights in the night sky", "A year of change at the Tloga Medical Center", "2022 Junior Track", and "Football 3B". To the right of the main content is a sidebar with various advertisements, including "The Bank of TLOGA", "Crosby Drug", "STILLMAN'S", "Tloga Drug", and "PROO". At the bottom right, there is a section for "The Journal E-Edition" showing a thumbnail of the newspaper's front page.

Web Site: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Second Place

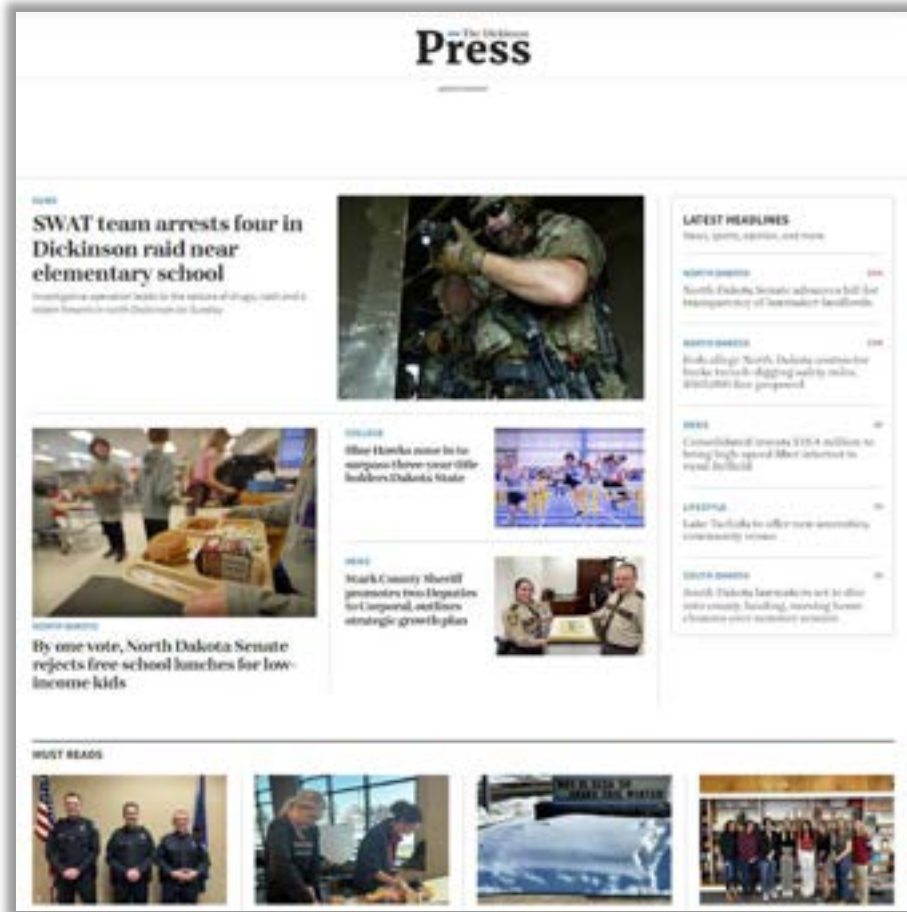
- **Jamestown Sun**
jamestownsun.com
Jamestown Sun

Web Site: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Dickinson Press
dickinsonpress.com
Dickinson Press Staff



Web Site: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Grand Forks Herald
grandforksherald.com
Staff

◆ Second Place

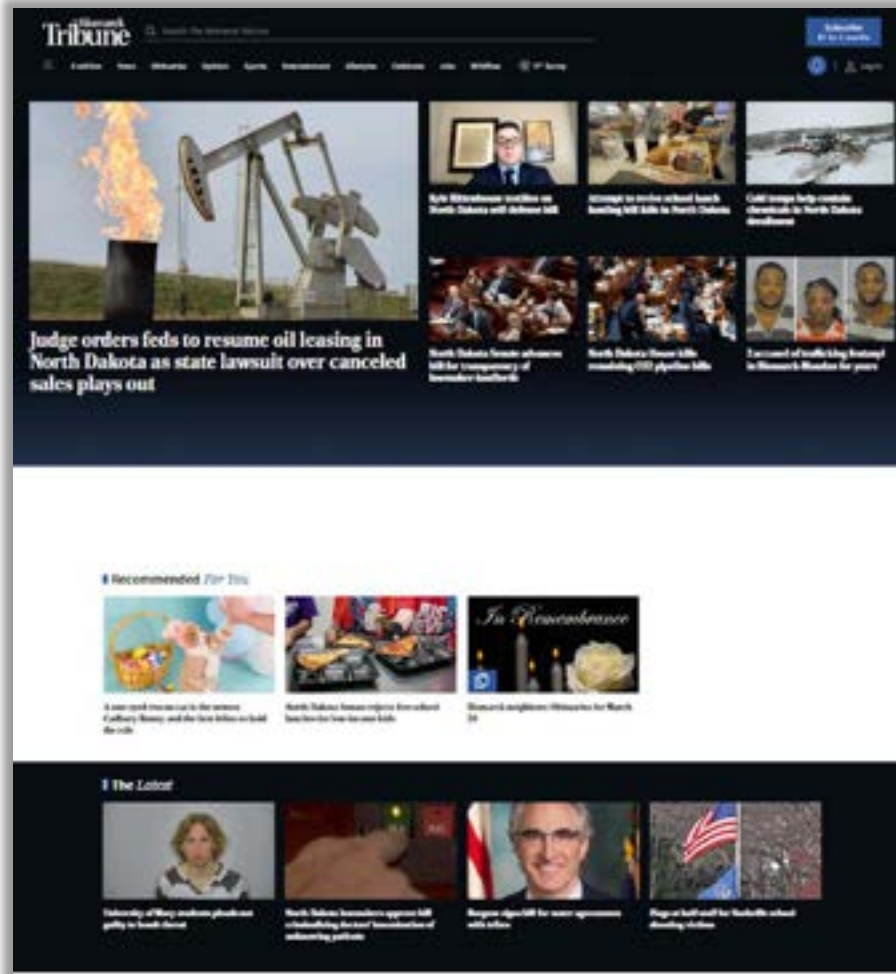
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Inforum.com
Forum staff

Web Site: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Bismarck Tribune
bismarcktribune.com
Staff





BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Online Coverage of Breaking News



Online Coverage of Breaking News: Weekly Division



◆ Third Place

- **New Rockford Transcript**

Burglary at Hanson's Bar and Eagles Club

Nathan Price, Amy Wobbema

◆ Second Place

- **Crosby, The Journal**

Widespread power outages

Cecile Wehrman

Online Coverage of Breaking News: Weekly Division



◆ First Place

- Crosby, The Journal
Wind packs a wallop
Brad Nygaard

Online Coverage of Breaking News: Multi-Day Division



◆ Third Place

- **Grand Forks Herald**

*'Everyone is safe,' active shooter hoax
at Red River HS in GF*

**Ingrid Harbo, Sav Kelley,
Korrie Wenzel, Eric Hylden**

◆ Second Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**

*Suspect found dead after shooting mother,
baby at Fargo restaurant*

Barry Amundson, Nick Broadway

Online Coverage of Breaking News: Multi-Day Division



◆ First Place

- **Jamestown Sun**

Standoff:

Man arrested in standoff in northwest Jamestown

**John Steiner, Kathy Steiner,
Masaki Ova**



north dakota newspapers

BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Best Use of Social Media

Best Use of Social Media: Weekly Division



◆ **Second Place**

- **Grafton, Walsh County Record**
Urban Cottage
Caylee Tibert

Best Use of Social Media: Weekly Division



◆ First Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press
*Meet the Maker –
a Super Santa Saturday feature
Allison Olimb*



Best Use of Social Media - Walsh County Press Meet the Maker collaboration with Park River Community Club

Submitted by Allison Olimb, Editor

At the Walsh County Press, we have tried to be creative and engage in our social media use. Each year our community hosts a holiday vendor show as a part of a large Super Santa Saturday celebration. Rather than just glossing over the vendor show as we usually do, this year we decided to do a "Meet the Maker" feature to showcase the event. Through this little feature, we were able to highlight a few local entrepreneurs from three different communities in a fun question-and-answer format. We did one each week, leading up to the event. Each maker feature was then turned into a colorful two-page graphic that was posted the day after our initial publication both to the Walsh County Press Facebook Page as well as the event host Park River Community Club's Facebook Page. Those posts were then shared out dozens of times which helped to showcase not only our coverage of the upcoming event itself but also reach people in the communities connected with these particular makers.

Best Use of Social Media: Multi-Day Division



◆ **Third Place**

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**

Fate uncertain for

Theodore Roosevelt National Park horses

Chris Flynn, Kate Almquist

◆ **Second Place**

- **Dickinson Press**

Dickinson Press Facebook Page

Jenn Binstock

Best Use of Social Media: Multi-Day Division



◆ First Place

- **Wahpeton, Daily News Athlete of the Year Robert Wanek Jr.**





BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

*Overall Design
Excellence*



Overall Design Excellence: Small Weeklies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Finley, Steele County Press**
Overall Design Excellence entry
Staff

◆ **Second Place**

- **Cooperstown, Griggs County Courier**
Overall Design Excellence entry
Staff

Overall Design Excellence: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor
Overall Design Excellence entry
News Monitor Staff

Overall Design Excellence: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- **New Rockford Transcript**
Overall Design Excellence entry
Transcript staff

◆ Third Place

- **Harvey, The Herald Press**
Overall Design Excellence entry
Anne Ehni, Neil O. Nelson, Edie Schell

◆ Second Place

- **Hillsboro Banner**
Overall Design Excellence entry
Cole Short, Cory Erickson

Overall Design Excellence: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

- **Tioga Tribune**
Overall Design Excellence entry
Tioga Tribune Staff



Overall Design Excellence: Large Weeklies



◆ **Honorable Mention**

- **Grafton, Walsh County Record**
Overall Design Excellence entry
Staff

◆ **Third Place**

- **Bottineau Courant**
Overall Design Excellence entry
Bottineau Courant

◆ **Second Place**

- **Garrison, McLean County Independent**
Overall Design Excellence entry
Staff

Overall Design Excellence: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Crosby, The Journal
Overall Design Excellence entry
Journal Staff

Overall Design Excellence: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Jamestown Sun**

Overall Design Excellence entry

Jamestown Sun

◆ **Second Place**

- **Wahpeton, Daily News**

Overall Design Excellence entry

Daily News staff

Overall Design Excellence: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- **Dickinson Press**

Overall Design Excellence entry
**Joy Schoch, James Miller,
Jennifer Binstock,
Jason O'Day, Ashley Koffler,
Josiah Cuellar, Cindi Wallner**

Overall Design Excellence: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
Overall Design Excellence entry
Forum staff

◆ **Second Place**

- **Grand Forks Herald**
Overall Design Excellence entry
Staff

Overall Design Excellence: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Bismarck Tribune
Overall Design Excellence entry
Staff

north dakota newspapers

BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST



*Overall Best
Headline*

Overall Best Headline: all circulation divisions



◆ Hillsboro Banner

Life fries at you fast

WILDCARD- Cole Short



north dakota newspapers

BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Photography Awards



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

News Photo



News Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Elgin, Grant County News
Into the fire
Riley Dahl

◆ Third Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor
2 votes determine D25 Republicans'
endorsement for ND House
Frank Stanko

◆ Second Place

- Bowbells, Burke County Tribune
Park Flooding
Lyann Olson

News Photo: Small Weeklies

◆ First Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press
Hazardous Conditions
Larry Biri



News Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- **Tioga Tribune**
D2 GOP 'historic' moment
Brad Nygaard

◆ Third Place

- **Carrington, Foster County Independent**
Farewell to a fallen hero
Erik Gjovik

◆ Second Place

- **New Rockford Transcript**
Paving the way
Nathan Price

News Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Hillsboro Banner

Central Valley graduation

Cory Erickson



News Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Bottineau Courant**

Wind storm brings damage

Scott Wagar

◆ **Second Place**

- **Grafton, Walsh County Record**

2nd Street Flooding

Chelsea Wysocki

News Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Helicopter - Cavalier flood
Larry Biri

News Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- **Dickinson Press**

*Southwest Narcotics Task Force addresses
New England Council*

Josiah C. Cuellar

◆ Second Place

- **Jamestown Sun**

She had a lot of fight

John Steiner

News Photo: Small Multi-Dailies

◆ First Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News

*Wahpeton man in custody
after Tuesday warrant arrest*

Frank Stanko



News Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- **Bismarck Tribune**
Abortion rights protests
Tom Stromme

◆ Third Place

- **Grand Forks Herald**
Hanukkah
Eric Hylden

◆ Second Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
Perez family funeral
David Samson

News Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
Nighttime tradition
Michael Vosburg





BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Spot News Photo



Spot News Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- **Hankinson, News Monitor**

Fire started in grain leg at Barney elevator

Levi Jones

◆ Second Place

- **Park River, Walsh County Press**

Rising Waters

Larry Biri

Spot News Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Elgin, Grant County News
Into the blizzard
Jill Friesz



Spot News Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
Dryer fire at Central City Grain
Erik Gjovik

◆ Second Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
Road washout
Nathan Price

Spot News Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Hillsboro Banner

Fire destroys home in Hillsboro

Cory Erickson



Spot News Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Garza brothers
Larry Biri

◆ Third Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Sandbagging
Chelsea Wysocki

◆ Second Place

- Crosby, The Journal
Wind packs a wallop
Brad Nygaard

Spot News Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

- **Bottineau Courant**

Hospital floods in August rainstorm

Scott Wagar



Spot News Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- **Dickinson Press**

Dickinson family is 'very lucky'

Ashley Koffler

◆ Second Place

- **Williston Herald**

Crews battle blaze north of Williston

Mitch Melberg

Spot News Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- **Jamestown Sun**
Man in custody
John Steiner



Spot News Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Death granny
Michael Vosburg

◆ Third Place

- Bismarck Tribune
Blizzard headstones
Tom Stromme

◆ Second Place

- Grand Forks Herald
Nash fire, It's a tough one
Eric Hylden

Spot News Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
Crash sends 2 vehicles into Fargo home
Chris Flynn





BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Feature Photo



Feature Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Elgin, Grant County News
A picturesque evening - PAGE 7
Riley Dahl

◆ Third Place

- Drayton, Valley News & Views
Another Successful Old Fashioned Christmas
Lyle Van Camp

◆ Second Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press
Little Sluggers
Larry Biri

Feature Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor
Heritage at home
Levi Jones

Feature Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Harvey, The Herald Press
It was all hands on deck
Neil O. Nelson

◆ Third Place

- Hillsboro Banner
Hats off, seniors
Cory Erickson

◆ Second Place

- Washburn, The Leader-News
Frying up Riverboat Days fun
Alyssa Meier

Feature Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
Rolling out the welcome mats
Erik Gjovik



Feature Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Crosby, The Journal

Freya sings National Anthem

Brad Nygaard

◆ Third Place

- Bottineau Courant

Fun times at the ballpark

Scott Wagar

◆ Second Place

- Bottineau Courant

Fans at LandoLive Festival

Matthew Semisch

Feature Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Linton, Emmons County Record
A hair-standing event
Kelli Ameling



Feature Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Williston Herald

*Lion Kent Reiersen grilling up some brats
for the first responders*

Maddie Davis

◆ Second Place

- Dickinson Press

BENESH

Jason O'Day

Feature Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News
On the Wings of Mentorship
Frank Stanko



Feature Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
Snow Angel
David Samson

◆ Second Place

- **Bismarck Tribune**
First Day
Tom Stromme

Feature Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Grand Forks Herald
Pow Wow
Eric Hylden



north dakota newspapers

BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Sports Photo

Sports Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Elgin, Grant County News
Javin Friesz intercepts the ball
Jill Friesz

◆ Third Place

- Center Republican
Wildcats roar to state title
Bill Schmalfeldt

◆ Second Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press
Pushing On
Larry Biri

Sports Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press
147 drops game to EGF
WILDCARD- Larry Biri



Sports Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Hillsboro Banner

Marshall Judisch dives into first

WILDCARD- Cory Erickson

◆ Third Place

- Hillsboro Banner

Beliles tagged out

Cole Short

◆ Second Place

- Hillsboro Banner

Tommys scratch out a win

Nashton Wimer

Sports Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies

◆ First Place

- Hillsboro Banner
Nothing but net
Alyssa Short



Sports Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Crosby, The Journal

Bears win 9-2, fall 13-6 against Ray

Jody Michael

◆ Third Place

- Linton, Emmons County Record

Strasburg Bull bash

Kelli Ameling

◆ Second Place

- Crosby, The Journal

DC football survives late Westhope rally, 52-46

Don Anderson

Sports Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Bottineau Courant

*Injured relay opponent
assisted at state track*

Matthew Semisch



Sports Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Dickinson Press

Big Sticks host special needs softball game

Jason O'Day

◆ Second Place

- Jamestown Sun

Three VSCU baseball players react

John Steiner

Sports Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Dickinson Press

*Bowman Co. swarm Hazen,
capture first Region 7
title since '09*

Race Archibald



Sports Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
Agony of defeat
David Samson

◆ **Second Place**

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
'It takes a village'
Alyssa Goelzer

Sports Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Grand Forks Herald
*Mahnomen Red Lake
County football,
player's helmet flies off
Eric Hylden*





BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Picture Story



Picture Story: Small Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Elgin, Grant County News
Into the blizzard
Jill Friesz & staff

◆ Second Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press
Patriotic in PR
Larry Biri

Picture Story: Small Weeklies



VINNIE'S MUD BOG



LET'S GO MUDDIN'

Vinnie's Mud Bog returned to let guests tan their trucks and ATVs through thick and dirty mud

BYRONIA NEWS MONITOR
byronianewsmonitor.com

The crowd of excited on-lookers, including mud and water jugs filled the mud pits at Vinnie's Mud Bog this weekend.

The annual event has become popular from across North Dakota's neighboring states and even as far away as Africa, to take to the mud pits and see if they can take on a challenge.

Setting a night before was Hankinson and Lakewood, a collection of 10 trucks and ATVs camped in a field. Though the people attended the event that weren't there were more than 100. According to Co-Manager Kathy Skroch, attendance makes the gathering five times



Bryce Baumgardner and Brandon Rensay visit Vinnie's Mud Bog for the first time this year. They wanted to break in their new ATVs with a coat of mud.

◆ First Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor
Let's go muddin'
Levi Jones

MUD BOG: Challenges bring back visitors year after year, visitors end up having weekend as mud is so old friends

BYRONIA NEWS MONITOR
byronianewsmonitor.com

"They come back every year to break a few more of their trucks with Vinnie's Mud Bog. Some have been here as long as 10 years."

After 10 years of Vinnie's Mud Bog



Vinnie's Mud Bog manager Kelly Skroch stands next to a mud bog. She has been managing the event for 10 years.




Skroch says that the event has become a tradition for many people. She says that the event is a great way to spend a weekend and to have fun with your friends and family.

Picture Story: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- New Rockford Transcript
4th of July
Transcript staff

◆ Third Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
National Night Out
WILDCARD- Erik Gjovik

◆ Second Place

- Hillsboro Banner
Hillsboro Days
Cory Erickson, Cole Short

Picture Story: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Hillsboro Banner

Banner Year in Sports

**Cory Erickson, Cole Short,
Nashton Wimer**



Picture Story: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Grafton Class of 2022
Chelsea Wysocki

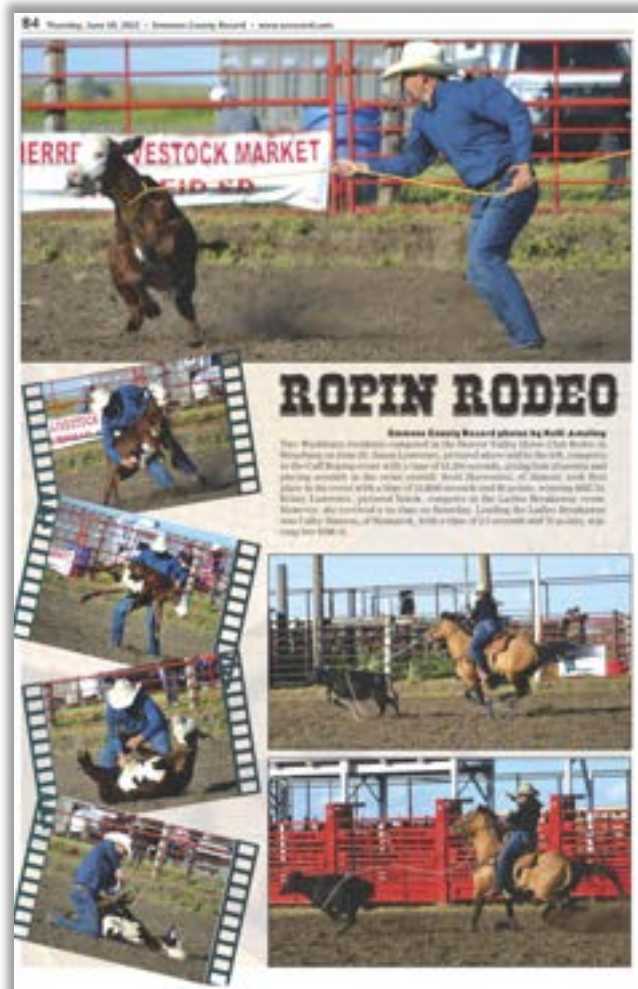
◆ Third Place

- Casselton, Cass County Reporter
Leonard Fall Festival
Jan Russell

◆ Second Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Minto Museum Alive
Todd Morgan, Chelsea Wysocki

Picture Story: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Linton,
Emmons County Record
Ropin' Rodeo
Kelli Ameling

Picture Story: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- **Wahpeton, Daily News**
A masterpiece of fun
Frank Stanko

◆ Second Place

- **Jamestown Sun**
Birds eye view of clouds
John Steiner

Picture Story: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Dickinson Press
Making History
Race Archibald



Race Archibald / The Dickinson Press
Dickinson junior Amy Fridley celebrates after her uneven bars performance at the NDHSAA Gymnastics State Meet on Friday, Feb. 25, at Dickinson High School.

MAKING HISTORY

Dickinson gymnastics captures 7th-straight state championship

Picture Story: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Grand Forks Herald

*Forest River Colony Hutterites,
online gallery of photos*

Eric Hylden

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

*Scenes from championship night
at ND Class A b-ball tourney*

David Samson

Picture Story: Large Multi-Dailies



TOM STROMME PHOTO, TRIBUNE

A trio of city of Bismarck snowplows clears Century Avenue near Jaycee Park on Friday afternoon, followed by a line of vehicles in north Bismarck.

Blizzard moves out, cold moves in

Arctic air system to hit ND next week

BY ALAN MICHAELSON
Bismarck Tribune

A blizzard that stalled out over the Northern Plains and brought heavy snow after weeks of heavy snow to North Dakota during the workweek was moving out as the weekend arrived, but deadly cold was poised to rush in on the backside.

High temperatures in the state are forecast below zero for the start of the next workweek — as much as 35 degrees below normal — as frigid arctic air replaces the stormy weather that has blanketed the state since Tuesday.

Temperatures during what began as a winter storm and intensified into a blizzard have been in the teens and 20s, even in the 30s



City of Bismarck snowplow operator Donnie Gilman clears deep and drifted snow in blizzard conditions on Valley Drive in north Bismarck on Friday afternoon.

as the system moved to late Monday and brought freezing rain to the southeast and central parts of the state.

"By next week, it will be a true

arctic air system sitting over the state," said Todd Hamilton, meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in Bismarck. "We have a lot of snow

the ground — there's not much chance for (the cold) to modify as it comes down from the arctic."

Snow is highly reflective, and a vast amount of sunlight that hits it is reflected back into space instead of warming the planet, according to the National Snow and Ice Data Center at the University of Colorado.

The storm had dumped 10 inches of snow on Bismarck as of Friday morning, including a record 10.4 inches on Tuesday, according to the weather service. Not much more was expected throughout Friday, though strong winds forecast to gust up to 50 mph were causing blowing and drifting snow and reducing visibility across the state. Snowfall totals from around the state can be found at bit.ly/3W26x1g.

Photo by MICHAELSON, Page A2

◆ First Place

- Bismarck Tribune
Blizzard moves out
Tom Stromme



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Pictorial Photo



Pictorial Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Elgin, Grant County News
Grant County sunset
Riley Dahl

◆ Third Place

- McClusky Gazette
Scenes from the McClusky Winter Formal
Allan Tinker

◆ Second Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor
Home grown prairie
Levi Jones

Pictorial Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press
Life in the Vast Lane
Larry Biri



Pictorial Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ **Honorable Mention**

- **Tioga Tribune**
Summer in full blooms
Jacob Orledge

◆ **Third Place**

- **Tioga Tribune**
Pump jack sunset
Brad Nygaard

◆ **Second Place**

- **Washburn, The Leader-News**
Rainbow
Kelli Ameling

Pictorial Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Hillsboro Banner

Treated to a dome dog

Cory Erickson



Pictorial Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- **Bottineau Courant**
Waxwing feeding
Scott Wagar

◆ Third Place

- **Grafton, Walsh County Record**
Sunshine state of mind
Chelsea Wysocki

◆ Second Place

- **Grafton, Walsh County Record**
Pumpkin Patch
Vicki Foss

Pictorial Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

- **Grafton, Walsh County Record**
Good Monday Morning Sundogs
Jackie Thompson



Pictorial Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Dickinson Press

*A thousand words:
Highlighting southwest North Dakota
in Photos*

Josiah C. Cuellar

◆ Second Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News

*There's nothing canine about
this phenomenon*

Carrie McDermott

Pictorial Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Dickinson Press

RIDE OR DIE:

***406 Freestyle stuns crowds
during intermission***

Amber Neate



Pictorial Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**

Harsh winds

Michael Vosburg

◆ **Second Place**

- **Bismarck Tribune**

Safe Haven

Travis Svihovec

Pictorial Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ **First Place**

- **Fargo, The Forum
of Fargo-Moorhead**
Fairly busy
David Samson



north dakota newspapers

BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Portrait Photo



Portrait Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- **Hankinson, News Monitor**
Class of 2022
Levi Jones

◆ Third Place

- **Elgin, Grant County News**
Roth closes the book as head librarian
Luann Dart

◆ Second Place

- **Park River, Walsh County Press**
Wild About History
Larry Biri

Portrait Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- **Park River, Walsh County Press**
Seim to be Celebrated
on Nurses Week
Allison Olimb



Portrait Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Hillsboro Banner
Running in the hall
Andy Blenkush

◆ Third Place

- New Rockford Transcript
Bowling alley's new proprietor
Nathan Price

◆ Second Place

- Washburn, The Leader-News
Frying up Riverboat Days fun
Alyssa Meier

Portrait Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Hillsboro Banner

Treyvion Johnson portrait

Cory Erickson



Portrait Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Adele Hankey
Todd Morgan

◆ Third Place

- Crosby, The Journal
Splash pad girl
Brad Nygaard

◆ Second Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Girl holding duck
Larry Biri

Portrait Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

- **Grafton, Walsh County Record
Skating
Chelsea Wysocki**



Portrait Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Dickinson Press

Selling like WILDFIRE!

Ashley Koffler

◆ Second Place

- Jamestown Sun

Its not about the ribbons

John Steiner

Portrait Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- **Wahpeton, Daily News**
*Honor Flight veterans
welcomed back Tuesday*
Frank Stanko



Portrait Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- **Bismarck Tribune**

Windy day

Tom Stromme

◆ Second Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**

Nash Jensen

David Samson

Portrait Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Grand Forks Herald
Easy as pie
Eric Hylden



north dakota newspapers

BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Agricultural Photo



Agricultural Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ Second Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press
Whatever it takes
Larry Biri

Agricultural Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Elgin, Grant County News

Historic spring blizzard takes its toll

Jill Friesz



**Historic spring
blizzard takes its toll**

Agricultural Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ **Honorable Mention**

- **Hillsboro Banner**
Eddy Mueller and calf
Cole Short

◆ **Third Place**

- **Tioga Tribune**
Harvest activity
Brad Nygaard

◆ **Second Place**

- **Tioga Tribune**
Soil health tour
Jacob Orledge

Agricultural Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Hillsboro Banner

*Digging the past,
digging the dirt*

Cory Erickson



Agricultural Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- **Bottineau Courant**
Pushing tractors
Scott Wagar

◆ Third Place

- **Grafton, Walsh County Record**
Pumpkin Patch
Vicki Foss

◆ Second Place

- **Linton, Emmons County Record**
A field of sunshine
Kelli Ameling

Agricultural Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Charle Delgado - Gudajtes Farm
Larry Biri



Agricultural Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- **Jamestown Sun**

Rising input costs

John Steiner

◆ Second Place

- **Dickinson Press**

Moo-ving through the decades

Jason O'Day

Agricultural Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Dickinson Press

*A thousand words:
Highlighting southwest
North Dakota in Photos*
Josiah C. Cuellar



Agricultural Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- **Bismarck Tribune**
Tractor Trek
Tom Stromme

◆ Second Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
Tree planting
David Samson

Agricultural Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- **Bismarck Tribune**
Longhorn cattle graze
Jack Dura





BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Outdoor Recreation Photo



Outdoor Recreation Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press
The battle to the summit
Larry Biri

◆ Second Place

- Elgin, Grant County News
Storm bring the Thunder
Jill Friesz

Outdoor Recreation Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor

Let's go muddin'

Levi Jones



Outdoor Recreation Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- New Rockford Transcript

*Roping longhorns - Wolf Creek Cattle Co at
Sheyenne Stampede*

Nathan Price

◆ Third Place

- Tioga Tribune

Fun on a hot summer day

Jacob Orledge

◆ Second Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent

Everyone into the pool!

Erik Gjovik

Outdoor Recreation Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Hillsboro Banner
Easy sledding
Cory Erickson



Outdoor Recreation Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ **Honorable Mention**

- **Casselton, Cass County Reporter**
Tractor Stampede
Jan Russell

◆ **Third Place**

- **Crosby, The Journal**
A carnival atmosphere
Brad Nygaard

◆ **Second Place**

- **Garrison, McLean County Independent**
Fun at the Fort
Ethyn Williams-Calvert

Outdoor Recreation Photo: Large Weeklies



Snow dog



Brad Nygaard - The Animal
Hodem, a 4-year-old border collie-Australian shepherd cross, tries to catch snow thrown by his owner, Amy Drees, of Crosby, not pictured, Thursday. Drees said the dog loves this form of play, going so far as to grab the shovel and bring it to her as encouragement.

◆ First Place

- Crosby, The Journal
Snow dog
WILDCARD- Brad Nygaard

Outdoor Recreation Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Dickinson Press**

Let's talk CHALK

Jason O'Day

◆ **Second Place**

- **Jamestown Sun**

Summer track

John Steiner

Outdoor Recreation Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Dickinson Press

*A thousand words: Highlighting
southwest North Dakota in Photos*

Josiah C. Cuellar



Outdoor Recreation Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
Late winter walk
Alyssa Goelzer

◆ **Second Place**

- **Bismarck Tribune**
Dad and his game cart
Jack Dura

Outdoor Recreation Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ **First Place**

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
Outdoor sledding
David Samson



north dakota newspapers

BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST



Photo of the Year

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Photo of the Year: Multi-Day Division



◆ Grand Forks Herald

Pow Wow

Eric Hylden

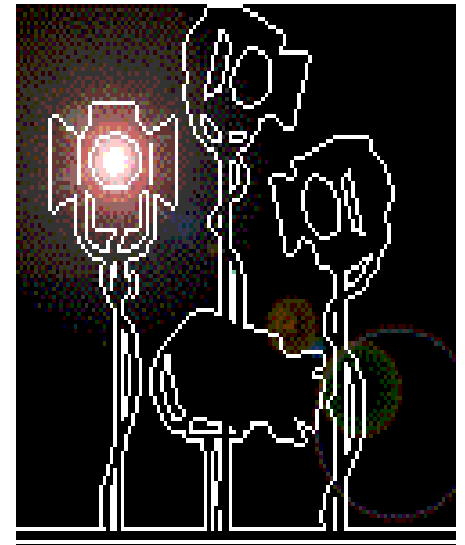


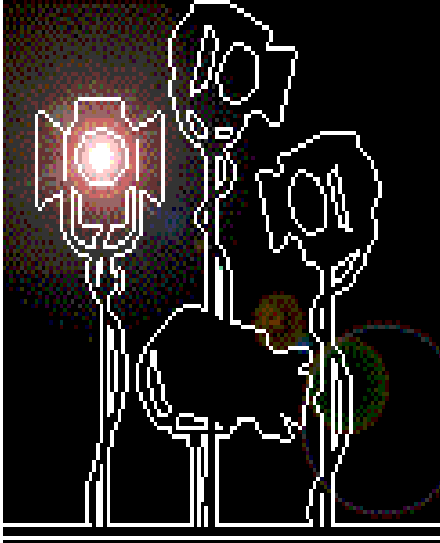
Photo of the Year: Weekly Division



◆ Linton, Emmons County Record

A "hair-standing" event

Kelli Ameling





BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST



Special Acknowledgements



*Please welcome our
likely new NDNA President*

Cole Short!



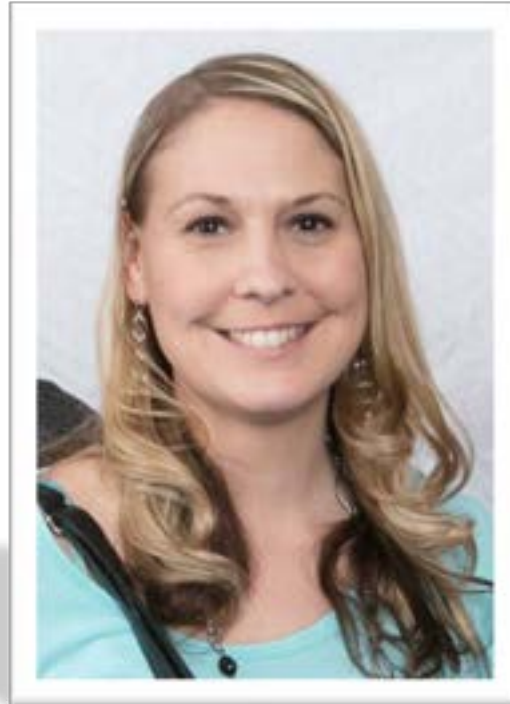
Congratulations, Cole!

Cole Short
Hillsboro Banner

Our new
NDNA President
2023-2024



Thanks Amy W.!



Amy Wobbema

New Rockford Transcript & Foster County Independent

NDNA President 2022-2023

(caricature
by
Trygve Olson)



north dakota newspapers

BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST



Special Awards



◆ *Rookie Reporter of the Year*

◆ *Public Notice Journalism*

◆ *Community Service*

◆ *First Amendment*

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



north dakota newspapers

BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

*Rookie Reporter
of the Year*



Rookie Reporter of the Year



Melissa Van Der Stad

The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead





BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Public Notice Journalism



Public Notice Journalism



◆ Washburn, The Leader-News Wilton Election Notice Alyssa Meier



Washburn one-month out from bond election

School hosts another community meeting, preps for next on Dec. 7

BY ALYSSA MEIER
ALYSSA@WORLDJOURNAL.COM

Hours of discussion and planning are coming together this month as Washburn Public School officials and board members close in on a long-anticipated bond referendum vote next month.

Members of the Washburn Facilities Committee met early Monday morning for a planning meeting ahead of a public project presentation Tuesday night. The community meeting is the second to last scheduled ahead of Dec. 13, when voters will decide whether or not to pass a \$7.9 bond referendum.

Cavody Hartman, from Consolidated Construction and Inver Hullaker of EngTech joined Monday's committee meeting to make final changes to the presentation being given Tuesday.

The group evaluated the documents from previous presentations, updating and adding information as needed

or in response to questions that board members said they had received.

"There are questions I get asked all the time, or people think we're going to spend \$7.9, we've got a plan in place, already got it bid and are ready to write a check. That's not the case at all," Committee member Luke Rattasch said of misinformation regarding what has been finalized at this point.

Attendees of the planning meeting also finalized who would be presented info to the public.

"We want to keep people from school in front of the community as much as possible, and Inver and I can jump in as needed," Hartman said.

The group confirmed that there would be applications for mail-in ballots, as well as information on the proposed building project, made available at this and future meetings.

Another public meeting is set for Dec. 7 at the school.

Wilton goes to vote on school bond

State election official says results should stand

BY ALYSSA MEIER
ALYSSA@WORLDJOURNAL.COM

Constituents of the Wilton Public School district took to the polls Tuesday for a second time this month, this week voting on the future of their local school infrastructure.

Wilton voters turned out to the school on Tuesday to vote on a \$65 million bond referendum that, if passed, would fund extensive building updates in the district. The nearly \$9 million renovation project as proposed includes expansion of the cafeteria, equipment and playground improvements, and the addition of 12 classrooms.

Superintendent Andrew Jordan said the school will finalize results of the election later this month, while preliminary results will be published in next week's Leader-News.

"Next steps would be canvassing the results, either way on November 28th," Jordan said. "The results for the paper vote were will be unofficial."

If the bond resolution passes, the school will move forward with creating more detailed renovation plans in order to call for bids in the spring of 2023, with hopes of construction starting that summer and concluding in See Richard Bond page 9



A detailed architectural floor plan of a school building, showing various rooms and areas highlighted in different colors (green, orange, yellow, blue) to indicate renovation or construction zones. A legend in the bottom left corner identifies the color-coded areas.

north dakota newspapers

BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

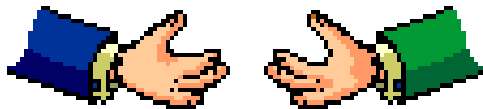
Community Service



Community Service



◆ **Fargo,
The Forum of
Fargo-Moorhead**
*ND's legal
guardianship
program is a
disgrace that
demands action*
Dave Olson





BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

First Amendment





BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Be sure not to miss the . . .

Final Awards Banquet



Tonight!

- **5:30 pm: Social** • **5:50 pm: Annual Group Photo**
- **6:00 pm: Silent Auction Closes**
- **6:30 pm: Banquet, Hall of Fame Inductee and Final Awards**
General Excellence, Sweepstakes, Best of the Dakotas awards
- **9:00 pm: Hospitality Lounge after banquet in Auditorium (down the hall)**



137th Annual Convention
May 11-13, 2023 • Devils Lake, ND

#NDNAawards

