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News & Editorial Awards

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BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Reporting

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Reporting: Small Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Central McLean News-Journal
Staying home instead
Staff

◆ Third Place

- Hettinger, Adams County Record
Multi-county grass fire burns 19,400 acres
Frank Turner

◆ Second Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press
Making RAD changes to rural grocery shopping
Allison Olimb

Reporting: Small Weeklies



Wind whips area, local firefighters help with blaze

LUANN DART
For the Herald

Gale-force winds buffeted Hettinger County last week, damaging a business in New England and sending firefighters to help a neighboring community battle a raging grassfire.

With a 92-mile-an-hour wind gust recorded in Hettinger County by the National Weather Service Wednesday evening, Jan. 13, a tin roof on The Hub in New England peeled off the building and other minor damage was reported across the county Wednesday night and Thursday morning, Jan. 14. And the Mott and Regent fire departments responded to assist with a major grassfire northwest of Lemmon in Adams County Jan. 14. A Regent firefighter was injured fighting the blaze.

Building damaged

At around 4:30 p.m. Jan. 13, the tin portion of the roof of The Hub blew off, knocking a gas pump to the ground and hitting a light pole.

"It peeled it like a sardine can, just rolled it right up," owner Chris Fitterer described. "Thankfully, nobody was by the gas pumps or on the street. That could have been worse, but nobody got hurt."

The New England Fire Department assisted with traffic control as Schwartz Construction brought a loader to remove the tin from the street, a job completed in about 10 minutes, Fitterer said.

The pump was repaired that evening and everything was cleaned up by 9 a.m. the next day, Fitterer said. He expected the roof to be repaired by the end of this week.

An overhang on the Eido in Mott was also damaged by the wind. No other major damage was reported in the county, according to Hettinger



(Top) An overhang on the Eido in Mott was damaged by the wind last week.
(Bottom Left) The tin roof of The Hub in New England peeled off the building, landing in the street, under the force of strong winds last week.
(Bottom Right) A gas pump was knocked to the ground as the tin roof flew off The Hub in New England.
[Submitted Photos]

County Emergency Manager Tracy Kruger, but residents reported fence and shingle damage as well.

Battling a blaze

At 4:33 p.m. Jan. 14, the Lemmon Fire Department responded to a report of a major grassfire northwest of Lemmon in Adams County. At the time, sustained winds of 30 to 40 miles an hour were being recorded at the Lemmon Municipal Airport, according to a press release from the Lemmon Fire Department.

By 5:30 p.m., the Mott and Regent fire departments had been summoned to help. Twenty-five departments from South Dakota and North Dakota battled the fire, pushed by strong winds. The fire traveled more than 20 miles and was 4 miles wide at one point. The front blaze rose upward of 20 to 30 feet.

The fire progressed through approximately

19 farms and ranches and burned an estimated 20,000 acres, according to the Lemmon Fire Department. No occupied residential structures were lost. The fire's southerly progression was stopped at the Grand River at 11:04 p.m. 12 miles south of Lemmon, the press release stated.

The Mott Fire Department responded with three grass rigs and 10 firefighters, and the Regent Fire Department sent six rigs and 15 firefighters.

"When we left Mott, you could see the glow from the four-way stop sign. So, you knew it was a big fire," said Mott Fire Chief Troy Mosbrucker.

"It was something you don't want to see. All we saw was fire for miles," he said. "It was moving fast. A lot of times, you couldn't see where you were going, with the smoke and the embers. Then you're driving and you see all these

trees on fire and bales on fire. It's just crazy."

The Mott Fire Department returned at about 11:30 p.m.

Regent Fire Chief Scott Schenck said his department responded at about 5:30 p.m. and he returned at 12:30 a.m.

"Lot of smoke, lot of fire. Where I was at, the fire was pretty low, but it was still moving pretty quick," he described.

"With the wind blowing the way it was, it was just lighting up again, so you were fighting the same fire over and over again."

A Regent firefighter was injured while fighting the fire, suffering a fractured bone and a chipped kneecap, according to Schenck. He was treated and released at the Hettinger hospital. The Lemmon Fire Department reported that two firefighters were injured and received medical attention at the West River Regional Medical Center.



First Place

- **New England,
Hettinger County Herald**
*Wind whips area, local
firefighters help with blaze*
Luann Dart

Reporting: Mid-Size Weeklies



Third Place

- Harvey, The Herald Press

Firestorm

Anne Ehni



Second Place

- Tioga Tribune

Affordable units in jeopardy

Jacob Orledge

Reporting: Mid-Size Weeklies



First Place

- **Rugby, Pierce County Tribune**
Rugby Livestock Auction sees flood of cattle from drought-stricken territory
Sue Sitter

Rugby Livestock Auction sees flood of cattle from drought-stricken territory

By Sue Sitter - | Jul 3, 2021



Auctioneer Mike Ostrem opens bidding on a cow-calf pair at the Rugby Livestock Auction June 28. Sue Sitter/PCT

Reporting: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer
*Alexander grad plays role in cloning
of black-footed ferret*
Neal A. Shipman

◆ Third Place

- Garrison, McLean County Independent
This is only a test
James C. Falcon

◆ Second Place

- Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer
Battling back from near fatal accident
Ashleigh Plemper

Reporting: Large Weeklies



First Place

■ Crosby, The Journal

Closure announcement stuns Cecile Wehrman

Closure announcement stuns

Nursing home will close permanently in September

By Cecile Wehrman
Fifty-three employees, 19 residents and their families, all got the news within a couple of hours Wednesday last week — St. Luke's Sunrise Care Center will be closing permanently in just 60 days.

"That adds just, but it sure is a kick in the teeth," said Shavita Simonson, longtime St. Luke's board member.

"Crosby will survive and be better off," said Jerry King, who was elected president of the staff in February.

One common reaction among community members is why not use the financial situation had become so dire. "I don't feel we need it," said St. Luke's CEO Jerry Nelson.

Employees could use the road out unless falling costs by month and the growing difficulty in staffing. The few people who attended a delayed annual meeting six months ago could see the financials. And an aging physical complex in need of major improvements and, after nearly two years of discussion, the board's decision became clear on July 1.

"If you have something that's bleeding so bad, you have to stop the bleeding," said Simonson, because what no one was willing to do was risk the clinic and hospital.

Different picture now
The financial situation was very different when the Board of Directors (BOD) said the nursing home to St. Luke's in 2013.

"It was a 42-bed facility and there were 40 residents in there. We had both a skilled side and a long-term side," said Simonson.

Faced with growing difficulty in attracting and retaining staff along with rising housing costs due to an ill-timed sale of the facility to the hospital for \$1, with the only stipulation being that if the facility closed within two years, the sale would be voided.

"In the business world, that should tell you something," said King. "Now the physical plant is a significant value for the hospital."

However, the administration and staff at that time saw no other option but to keep the facility open.

"We wouldn't survive without this place being in business," said King. "At St. Luke's, when the ownership change was announced eight years ago."

St. Luke's already had in place an assisted living center colocated with the hospital, designed to keep aging people in the community and, potentially, create an easy transition



At this time last year, nursing home staff assisted residents outside for one of a number of community parades aimed at keeping residents connected during the COVID-19 pandemic.

See Inside:

Community reacts to announcement... Page 10

for future residents of the nursing home.

"I haven't turned out that way," said Nelson.

"We thought this will be great," said Simonson, who was board president at the time, but it turns out that giving people daily living assistance in a corporate setting, along with regular meals and social interaction, allows people to remain independent longer.

"It just makes for a longer, healthier life," said Simonson, which is great, but not for the nursing home's success.

Nelson estimates as few as three people in the past five years have made the transition from the Northern Lights Villa to the Crosby nursing home.

Add a 16-month period in which few people would think of admitting a loved one into a long-term care facility.

Simonson said that the high risk of COVID-19 infection or death, not to mention frequent lockdowns, isolation, and the usual rhythm of admissions was liquidated.

"Crosby wanted to be in the nursing home," said Simonson, but that was before COVID.

The difference between losing 40 residents who need medical support from the clinic, hospital and local dining stores is very different than losing 10.

"We lost 15 patients out of our clinic today; it's not difficult

to move them to our clinic, our hospital or our lab," said Nelson. Plus, they could wait up to 100 days for a bed depending on how many died to move long-term to the hospital's emergency unit.

"We hope that it won't be 100 days for them to wait," he said.

Home health gains
The nursing home also points to a trend long term care centers are grappling with nationwide — people are living longer and healthier and want to age in place.

"It feels like that's kind of a push now," King said, especially after "what the world has gone through, what St. Luke's has gone through over the past year" due to COVID.

A new program by the state of North Dakota even recognizes that trend, to try to support more aging individuals in their own homes through assistance with medications and personal care, as a "sheltering" to remain at home longer.

Nelson said the hospital looked at the program when it was announced three or four months ago and realized there was no way they could participate.

"We didn't have any extra COVID-19," said Nelson, but now there will be a number of COVID-19 in the community who need employment. A nurse is also needed to oversee the program.

The state program can accept both Medicaid and self-pay patients.

"It's a work in progress," said Nelson, but the hope is that program can be implemented soon to retain employees who will know before Sept. 6 that there is still work available

for them in Crosby. As well, a certain number of nursing home staff will find jobs caring for residents on the wing closed last. Nelson said the concept of providing long-term housing for the elderly at the hospital is nothing new.

"My grandma lived and lived there for years," said Nelson, but those plans were largely discontinued when St. Luke's acquired the nursing home.

Now an independent unit of the hospital could actually begin providing more income through placements also come with fewer regulations than at a nursing home and, best of all, in Nelson's estimation, is a far safer service.

Instead of sitting (see based on level of care at the nursing home — ranging from \$210 to \$350 per day — nursing residents would pay a fee for care of \$250).

Nelson said they're also exploring how the assisted living staff and resources might be used to provide activities for occupied residents.

Lots of second-guessing
St. Luke's paid out a lot of money on social media Thursday to address some of the questions being raised in the community about how the closure announcement was handled and why one out of four of the board indicated how the situation had become so dire.

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(See CLOSURE, Page 6)

Reporting: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Jamestown Sun

*Reward offered for information
about large-scale cattle death case*

Masaki Ova

◆ Third Place

- Jamestown Sun

Memorial dedicated to Cody Holte

Kathy Steiner

◆ Second Place

- Dickinson Press

*Woman drops excessive force claim,
pleads guilty*

Jackie Jahfetson

Reporting: Small Multi-Dailies



ALISA ANDERSON - DAILY NEWS - COURTESY TORACERA COMMINS
Breckenridge, Minn., has a primary 80-acre wastewater retention pond, and two secondary ponds, like the one pictured. Wastewater goes into the primary pond first, then goes into the secondary pond to sit for 180 days. Inset at bottom left, an aerial view of the algal blooms in Lake Winnipeg, Canada.

Red River Basin grapples with phosphorus flux

Cities, agriculture, natural events contribute to excessive levels of nutrient

Editor's Note: *Daily News* and *News Monitor's* four-part *Point of View* series this month is taking a closer look at local and regional infrastructure needs. Each Tuesday we'll feature a different aspect of what our communities need, including hard infrastructure such as roads and bridges, along with the human framework and support services.

Sept. 7: Part 1 took a closer look at projects benefiting consumers.

Sept. 14: Last week's Part 2 highlights the human services wing of Wilkin County and the diverse resources they offer those in need.

Sept. 21: This week's Part 3 looks at Breckenridge's wastewater permit and how it relates to Lake Winnipeg, Canada.

Sept. 28: Part 4 examines where money for counties in the Prairie Dog Bill ended up and how Richland County is coping.

Point of View INFRASTRUCTURE

BY ALISA ANDERSON - DAILY NEWS
alanderson@dailynews.com

After a seven-year legal battle that cost the city over \$10,000, Breckenridge, Minnesota, came to an agreement with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) about their wastewater permit in April 2021. The previous permit expired in 2014, but upon seeing the limitations of the new proposed permit, the city filed a contested case, claiming the phosphorus standard was too stringent to meet.

Every five years, wastewater permits are renewed, said Neil Crocker, Breckenridge's director of public works. Breckenridge's previous permit included a limitation of 2 milligrams of phosphorus per liter of sample. The new wastewater permit drafted in 2014 cut the figure in half, meaning Breckenridge would need to reach 1 milligram of phosphorus per liter of sample. It was a standard the city would be unable to consistently meet, according to Crocker.

Breckenridge, and four other

Minnesota municipalities that are part of the Red River Basin — Moorhead, Thief River Falls, Warroad and Roseau — each faced new permits with the stricter limitation. Each time a permit expires, the MPCA looks at the most updated standards and rules to draft a new permit, said Paul Schelrer, MPCA wastewater division.

"When permits expire, we need to reassess them and these permit fees within that area were the ones that needed to be issued," Schelrer said.

While Breckenridge was in the midst of a contested case, the city was able to continue operating under the expired permit's writing. Communication between the city and the MPCA went dark for several years, both entities met to review the situation in 2019, along with the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC), a 40-year-old nonprofit that seeks to facilitate a cooperative approach to water management within the basin.

SEE INFRASTRUCTURE PAGE 8A



First Place

■ Wahpeton, Daily News

Red River Basin grapples with phosphorus flux

Audra Anderson

Reporting: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Bismarck Tribune
ND faces record drug deaths
Jack Dura

◆ Third Place

- Grand Forks Herald
*Employees, surveys question Mayville State
University culture*
Sam Easter

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Questionable business plans
Patrick Springer

Reporting: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
Not a mistake you're allowed to make
April Baumgarten

'Not a mistake you're allowed to make'

2 Fargo deaths prompt questions about state oversight of memory care facilities

By April Baumgarten
abaumgarten@forumcomm.com

Fargo

In 2019, a man died after being punched at a Fargo memory care facility. About 19 months later, another resident at the same facility walked through a gate that was left unlocked before he was found dead two weeks later about a block away.

These two deaths that sparked police investigations are detailed in law enforcement reports obtained by The Forum, but the facility and North Dakota officials have balked at publicly discussing what changes have been implemented to prevent future deaths.

Documents obtained from



McKinnon

the Fargo Police Department through a public records request shed light on how 80-year-old resident Robert McKinnon walked away from Maple View Memory Care in early October, and how he was found Oct. 13 in a vacant office building. The records also indicate McKinnon, who had dementia, was a known risk for eloping, with previous escapes from that facility and another Fargo center.

McKinnon's death was the second connected to Maple View that police have

investigated since 2019.

In the other fatal case, Michael Lyman punched 84-year-old Donard Thue Jr. on March 29, 2019, at the facility. Thue was not immediately taken to a hospital, according to police reports.

Thue, who woke up the next morning but was later found unresponsive, died April 3, 2019. Lyman died several months later at age 70.

The two cases raise questions about how the state oversees memory care facilities and how well officials enforce regulations meant to prevent unnatural deaths. One expert has asked why walkaways don't automatically trigger

investigations by state agencies and why facilities are not required to report elopements.

Memory care facilities are paid to keep residents safe and to prevent elopements, said Mark Kosieradzki, a Plymouth, Minn., attorney who specializes in cases involving nursing home neglect and abuse. Leaving a gate unlocked is an unacceptable mistake, he said.

"For people who are elopement risks, it's just not a mistake you're allowed to make," he said, calling the mistake preventable. "The stakes are too high."

DEATH: Page A10

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BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Reporting Series

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Reporting Series: Small Weeklies



The Wilkin County Family Service Center sign in Brockensridge, Minnesota.

Infrastructure isn't just roads

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Point of View INFRASTRUCTURE

BY ROBERT WANER JR., NEWS MONITOR
robertwanerjr@dailynews.com

An unassuming, one-story building sits quietly on the corner of Mendonhall Avenue and Fourth Street North in Brockensridge, Minnesota, nestled between a small town church, a postal office and a local grocery store.

Many years ago it was home to the Wilkin County Law Enforcement Center. The unit has since transferred hands, while remaining a helping hand as the operating arm of the Wilkin County Family Services Agency.

During trying times as a freelance journalist, I reached out to family services for advice and assistance on many occasions. When it comes to obtaining and maintaining health insurance, or making sure families can put food on the table, family services is a no-judgment zone that assists individuals and families in getting to and staying on their feet in Wilkin County, Minnesota.

Family services helps with a variety of aid including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), health insurance placement, elderly assistance and chemical dependency services.

"We can't lose our focus. Our whole point is helping people," Human Services Director David Sawyer said. "Everyone goes through difficult times and has challenges, that's why we have a family services agency, to provide assistance to them when they're trying to become self-sufficient. Why would you not want a social safety net in which people can get the assistance they need when something unexpected

SEE POINT OF VIEW 3



First Place

- **Hankinson,
News Monitor
Infrastructure series
Robert Wanek Jr.,
Frank Stanko,
Tris Anderson,
Audra Anderson**

Reporting Series: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- New Rockford Transcript
NR-S vs. East Central Special Education
Nathan Price

◆ Second Place

- Tioga Tribune
*Sons of Liberty activists organize
to shake up ND status quo*
Jacob Orledge

Reporting Series: Mid-Size Weeklies



First Place

- New Rockford Transcript
Genre fire
Amy Wobbema

Genre family home destroyed by fire



These two photos of the Genre home were taken just a few hours apart, the first as flames engulfed the structure, and the second after the smoke had mostly cleared later that morning. The home was a total loss.



The Genre family, Ryan, Hunter, Fisher and Kristie, were able to safely exit their Sheyenne home, but survived with little more than the clothes on their backs.

by Amy Wobbema

Shortly before 5 a.m., on Sunday, March 14, Kristie Genre woke to the smell of smoke in her family's Sheyenne home. The lightest sleeper among the Genres, she said it was also likely that she was first jolted awake from the sound of shotgun shells going off in the garage, where the fire started. Husband Ryan awoke and called 911 at 4:53 a.m.

They grabbed their son Fisher and ran out of the home; he is nothing more than the shorts he had worn to sleep. Disoriented and afraid, Fisher wandered back into the house looking for his brother Hunter, who was staying at a friend's house that night. Kristie brought him back outside and reassured him that his brother was safe. She, son, had been concerned about Hunter, even though she knew he was not at home.

The blaze continued to burn in the garage for nearly a half an hour. Once the flames reached the attic, however, the house was completely engulfed within minutes, Ryan remembers. He recalls standing there watching the flames, and now wonders if he could have saved anything if he had tried. "It's so traumatic that you can't think," he said. At the time, his mind was pondering whether the house could be saved and making sure his family was safe.

Firefighters from both Sheyenne and New Rockford responded to the blaze that evening. Volunteers fought the fire for several hours, draining the city's water tower in the process. Residents were asked to conserve water while the firefighters continued to extinguish the flames.

Genre Fire, continued on page A2

Reporting Series: Large Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Crosby, The Journal

Nursing home closure and reaction

Cecile Wehrman, Brad Nygaard

◆ Second Place

- Crosby, The Journal

Divide County vaccine coverage

Cecile Wehrman

Reporting Series: Large Weeklies



First Place

■ Crosby, The Journal

Documenting the COVID waves in Divide County

Journal Publishing Staff

Cases and vaccinations rising now

Hospital CEO
expects surge
to continue
for a while

By Cecile Wehrman

Another 16 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Divide County since press time last week, bringing the total to 27 new cases since the current surge began on Sept. 2.

"It's probably been our busiest week ever – even more than last October or November," said St. Luke's Medical Center CEO Jody Nelson, just for the pace of people being tested.

Ninety-five tests were conducted in Divide County in the first 10 days of the month.

"We've had a lot of negatives, also," said Nelson.

She doesn't expect positives to subside for a while, though.

See Inside:

School district weighs
parent input, staff ab-
sences in virus
decisions Page 6

"Our county is the second worst for population in the state," Nelson said Friday. "We feel it's not going to be a short wave, just because the delta (variant) is so much more contagious."

As of Saturday, only McIntosh County had a higher percentage of infection per 10,000 people. By Tuesday, Divide's rate of infection had dropped to ninth place in the state, with a total of 13 active cases.

At the same time, vaccinations are increasing, but not nearly fast enough.

"Yeah, we're getting more and more every week," said Divide County Public Health

Nurse Juliet Artman, many of them, younger people.

Divide County's fully vaccinated rate last week increased to 54.8 percent, with the percentage of fully vaccinated teens and young adults set to increase between 3 and 5 percent by the time those getting first doses now are fully vaccinated in a few weeks.

"I'm really happy," with the interest, said Artman. "It's too bad it didn't happen earlier. We could have maybe swayed this outbreak that's occurring."

While the strides are positive, only about 15-22 percent of residents under the age of 29 are fully vaccinated. Meanwhile, the rates of vaccination for folks age 60-79 is between 76.6 and 83.9 percent.

Artman is also hearing from more people asking about symptoms.

"I'm just encouraging them to get tested," said Artman.

Different this go round

Even though case counts are

high in this wave, one difference – at least so far – is no hospitalizations, said Nelson.

People who meet certain criteria, including anyone over age 65, are eligible to receive monoclonal antibody treatments, which Nelson credits with helping people stay out of the hospital. But that also means hospital staff gowning up in full protective gear to administer the treatments.

Another difference this time around is that St. Luke's is not having to deal with a separate campus with a different set of rules for long-term care residents.

Because of the outbreak, St. Luke's was unable to mark without ceremony the official closure of the nursing home on Sept. 5, but Nelson reported the nine residents now living at the hospital weathered the transition well.

"It's kind of fun down in that hallway now," she said.

(See COVID, Page 5)

Reporting Series: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Jamestown Sun
Mining cryptocurrency
Masaki Ova

◆ Third Place

- Williston Herald
*Salt cavern propane storage
opens up opportunity*
Renee Jean

◆ Second Place

- Jamestown Sun
*Early and long: Series
on the rural fire department*
Keith Norman

Reporting Series: Small Multi-Dailies



First Place

- Jamestown Sun
And then came September
Kathy Steiner

'AND THEN CAME SEPTEMBER' Ave Maria Village staff recall fighting pandemic

By Kathy Steiner
The Jamestown Sun

Another Dockter, nurse manager at Ave Maria Village, remembers two resident roommates at Ave who were each diagnosed with COVID-19 at separate times.

"There was newly diagnosed, she was asymptomatic and the other, unfortunately, was quite ill (to pass away)," she said. "Her family was unable to be with her but the community made it a point to spend her time with the other one throughout her last time on earth and it was beautiful."

Dockter could not wipe her own tears away because she was weeping for her friend.

"We broke your heart but at the same time your heart was so full and to see that," she said.

Work to keep it out

Ave Maria Village and other nursing homes worked to keep coronavirus out but ultimately many facilities reported cases. In North Dakota, there have been 163 deaths related to COVID-19 in long-term care as of March 14 since the pandemic began.

"Just thinking back, we were all super scared back in March and April (2020) at the beginning of this because there was so much we didn't know and still don't," said Tim Randall, CEO of Ave Maria Village.

He said for six months Ave didn't have any visitors except of course. Occasionally an employee contracted COVID-19 outside of the facility but did not bring it in.

Randall was thinking during the summer of 2020 that maybe the worst of it was over.

"And then came September," Randall said.

"And that's when in North Dakota and American Country things just blew up. There were outbreaks everywhere."



Left: Andrea Bockelund, nurse manager at Ave Maria Village, says residents who recovered from COVID-19 still have lingering effects from being ill. Center: Heather Olson, nurse manager at Ave Maria Village, says the same staff worked with residents who contracted COVID-19. Right: Tanya Lagerstrom, assistant administrator at Ave Maria Village, says staff immediately volunteered to work in the nursing home's COVID unit when the first case was reported.

It was just moving through the community like wildfire."

He said she had a lot of employees with family members working in other places where outbreaks occurred.

"It just became inevitable," he said of coronavirus cases occurring at Ave.

Oct. 13: First resident positive case

As part of guidelines

issued by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Ave prepared its own COVID unit for residents who would test positive.

"When we had our first positive we set up an entire facility," said Tanya Lagerstrom, assistant administrator.

"... once we let every one (staff) know we had our first resident positive, we had barely go up offering to work in the

COVID unit."

COVID positive residents were isolated in a specific area of Ave and contain it.

The staff, consisting of the COVID unit had their own separate entrance as they entered the facility.

Andrea Bockelund, nurse manager, said Ave

was testing twice a week to mitigate the spread, identify the virus early and contain it.

Heather Olson, a CNA, remembers staff adding on to the COVID unit and kept getting tighter and tighter down the hallway," she said.

Residents moved into the facility so we weren't trying to cross-contaminate, basically," she said.

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Andrea Bockelund, nurse manager, said Ave



Staff from Ave Maria Village discuss the coronavirus pandemic in the chapel of the nursing home.

The families of residents were so grateful for what the staff was doing."

— Tim Randall, CEO of Ave Maria Village

Lagerstrom said the North Dakota Department of Health was "instrumental" in finding additional licensed nurses to help work at Ave when needed. She said this wasn't unique to Ave across the state, facilities had help from the state medical reserve that sent nurses to help with various shifts.

AVE Page 67

Reporting Series: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

Great resignation series

Tammy Swift, Laura Butterbrodt, Sam Easter,
Mark Wasson, Jeff Kiger, Alex Derosier,
Matthew Stolle

◆ Third Place

- Grand Forks Herald

On the border: Northwest Angle struggles

Ann Bailey, Brad Dokken, Korrie Wenzel,
Ingrid Harbo

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

System under stress

Patrick Springer

Reporting Series: Large Multi-Dailies



HUNGER IN PLAIN SIGHT

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MIKE MCCLEARY | BISMARCK TRIBUNE

Area organizations
step up to serve an
'unprecedented need'

As the sun set behind an overcast sky in early December, deepening the cold of the late afternoon, Rene Rensch stood in line with about 30 others before an Adopt-a-Block food distribution drop at Talley Place in south Bismarck.

Dressed in jeans and wearing a hoodie under an open flannel shirt, Rensch held onto the cold metal handle of a child-size red wagon with a gloved hand. He used the wagon to transport what would amount to three meals for his family.

As a part-time worker, Rensch had been coming to the distribution site for several months.

"It helps supplement our food," said Rensch, who lives with his girlfriend and 3-year-old daughter. "It's hard asking for help. It's a subject that's uncomfortable to talk about."

But hunger also is a problem that has grown amid the coronavirus pandemic.

America is the "breadbasket of the world" and North Dakota does its part filling up that basket, with the state ranking at the top in the production of 11 food commodities ranging



Above, Karen Boelter, a volunteer for the Adopt-a-Block food distribution organization, fills a box with donated food for one of the people standing in line at the New Song Church parking lot in north Bismarck in December. At left, Carol Stein, right, a volunteer at the Great Plains Food Bank regional service center in Bismarck, fills a box with nonperishable food items in an assembly line process with other volunteers in February.



First Place

■ Bismarck Tribune

Hunger in Plain Sight

Mike McCleary

Please see HUNGER, Page C1

north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Feature Reporting

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Feature Reporting: Small Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Elgin, Grant County News
Dancing with bulls
Luann Dart

◆ Third Place

- Central McLean News-Journal
Brightening up downtown
Alyssa Meier

◆ Second Place

- Central McLean News-Journal
Tapping into nature
Staff

Feature Reporting: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

■ Park River, Walsh County Press

*Park River photographer shares his story
after years of sharing others*

Allison Olimb

Park River photographer shares his story after a lifetime of sharing others

By Allison Olimb
of The Press

PARK RIVER, N.D. — “Some pictures I have that are in my head . . . I didn’t take but wish I had and then as the years go by, that picture that I didn’t take becomes better and better.”

Bill Alkofer still sees the world in frames, even if he can’t hold a camera anymore. Bill is a photojournalist by trade. His life is a collection of stories — from the ones that he was assigned to the ones he found himself called to tell. His ALS diagnosis caused his early retirement, but not before making sure that he added a few more stories to his portfolio.

His dad’s story was one of those, as is his own.

Bill’s story began in the offices of the Walsh County Press in Park River as a kid working after school for Henry Kelly. He worked typesetting and then some.

That was where he discovered where his future would take him as

Alkofer
Cont. page 2



Photo: Larry Biri

Above: Bill Alkofer learned a lot of valuable lessons from his dad, Ray. Bill said he always wore a tie on the job because of him. Ray worked for the telephone company and had to go to the Stanley R. Mickelsen Safeguard Complex by Nekoma. Bill said they would make him wait and wait. One day he wore “black pants, shiny black shoes, white shirt, black tie, hard hat, clipboard, and he just walked in, just walked right through. . . And so he said, ‘Bill if I can get to a nuclear facility just because I wore a tie, you can get anywhere.’”

Feature Reporting: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Napoleon Homestead
Abandoned Cemetery Spikes Interest
Jessica F Wald

◆ Third Place

- Minnewaukan, Benson County Farmers Press
Deb Bertsch milestone
Sue Klemetsrud

◆ Second Place

- Hillsboro Banner
Small-town salute
Cory Erickson

Feature Reporting: Mid-Size Weeklies



First Place

Harvey, The Herald Press

Chasing Sophie

Neil O. Nelson

Chasing Sophie

By Neil O. Nelson
A trio of ghost chasers from Fargo slipped quietly into Harvey Saturday morning, hoping to make contact with Sophie, the ghost in residence in the downtown library at 119 10th Street East.

Sporting their black t-shirts emblazoned with their logo - PDP Ghost Chasers - Preston Teske, Dayne Seward and Paula Teske set out to find the decades-old ghost in residence whose storied history, many claim, still haunts the Harvey Public Library.

Confessing they do it "for fun, mostly," the three were dead serious last Saturday morning, each carrying a hand-held device: Dean, an electromagnetic field detector; Dean, a spirit box; and Paula, a voice recorder.

The three first moved through the library's book shelves before moving into the adjacent hallway, restrooms and furnace room.

The library was dark and quiet; the morning sun filtered through the curtain-covered windows.

Shadows, everywhere
Librarian Sheila Collins and Roberta Cotton were quietly and smilingly watching the ghost-chasing parade.

Neither Collins nor Cotton discount the suspicions that Sophie truly does inhabit the library.

Roberta, whose family in Oregon has made it more than a hobby: in tracking and writing about UFOs, has often addressed Sophie after she's found books spelled on the floor. "Sophie, please. That's enough." Recently, when the library's computer printer started spitting out sheets of paper, Sophie was blamed. "She gets blamed for a lot of things," confessed Roberta. "I usually just tell her to cut it out."

Sheila Collins, the city's new librarian, who has one morning after opening, she found all the rooms warmer than usual, except for the women's bathroom, where it was 30 degrees colder.

Oh, and there's been books on the floor, that kind of stuff." Jackie Hix, who also works in the library, insists she's at peace with Sophie.

She and Sophie have never crossed paths, in other words. Which might stand to



PDP Ghost Chasers Dayne Seward, Paula Teske and Preston Teske dodged shelves of books in looking for Sophie, the resident ghost at the Harvey Public Library.

reason: A grandson of Sophie's stopped by unannounced at the library after it opened in 1990 and "sensed" Sophie's presence. "She isn't fond of men," commented the grandson.

PDP Ghost Chasers

After visiting the rooms off the library, the three ghost chasers returned, smiling in wonderment, excitement even. "Something's going on in there," said Preston.

There was static in the women's bathroom, said Paula, who announced after entering the space: "We mean you no harm. Who are we talking with?"

A male's voice said either "guess" or "guest," according to Paula.

Both responses worked for the ghost chasers.

"Was he asking us to guess? Or was he wondering if we were guests?"

There were other noises

and what sounded like muted voices, mostly in the restrooms and furnace room. The three ghost chasers planned to put the sounds on a computer back home in Fargo, where the different noises and readings can be enhanced and enlarged.

Electronic pulses

Paula Teske, her nephew Preston, and Dayne admitted to feeling more "vibes" and hearing more "voices" when in the bathrooms a second time, but the voices were largely intelligible.

"There was something." It can freak you out. "Flu, we were picking up electronic pulses," added Preston.

Paula said she and her nephew and Dayne started their ghost chasing last fall as a hobby; they've admittedly been interested in "ghosts" for a few years.

PDP in their operating title stands for the first initial in

their names, not "pretty damn quick."

That's the trouble, said Paula. "I'm too overly anxious to find something." But it's a slow process, she explained.

The three would like to return and "investigate" the library overnight. They appreciated Librarian Sheila Collins and the library board for allowing their paranormal investigation into the ghost in residence.

"It was worthwhile as we got some leads for other potential investigations," said Paula.

Paula Teske's mother, Pastor Shirley Teske, lives in Fessenden.

"It was fun," said Paula. "It's always a little fun."

Sophie's story

Sophie Eberlein-Rentz, a Harvey resident at 119 10th St. in 1931, was "bludgeoned to death" in her home by

Continued on page 4

Feature Reporting: Large Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Casselton, Cass County Reporter

Bringing Images to life

Jan Russell

◆ Second Place

- Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer

A dream comes true

Neal A. Shipman

Feature Reporting: Large Weeklies



HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE

What is Huntington's disease?
HD is a genetic disorder that causes the progressive breakdown of nerve cells in the brain. The symptoms are often described as having ALS, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases simultaneously.

Who can get Huntington's disease?
Every child of a parent with HD has a 50/50 chance of inheriting the faulty gene that causes the disease.

'You got it, chief'



Photographer Chelsea J. Wysocki
Megan Osowski admires her favorite photo of her and her dad, who passed away from Huntington's disease in 2013. Before Osowski's childhood was turned upside down with her dad's diagnosis, she was able to make many memories with him. Spent fishing — sometimes even reeling in more fish than him.



Megan Osowski may not have her dad along side her or be able to hear his voice, but thanks to a gift from her mom a few years ago she's able to keep a piece of him with her at all times and even his words. The ring on her right hand is his wedding band and it is engraved with 'you got it, Chief' — an unexplained nickname he had for Megan and a phrase he used countless times.

Osowski shares how losing her dad to Huntington's disease shaped her future

BY CHELSEA J. WYSOCKI

GRAPTON—Megan Osowski grew up with a childhood full of memories fishing with her parents and listening to oldies with her dad, Tim, on a surround sound system he wired himself in their garage. He was an electrician, an avid outdoorsman and although she was an only child, she remembers her dad being a kind at heart. "My mom would joke that she had two kids a lot of the times," said Osowski. "She would have Monday night meetings so dad was in charge. She'd have a Crock-Pot meal all set up for us but after she left, dad and I would run to Denny's and pick up tons of junk food and hide it in the cabinets — that was our Monday thing. He was so fun, kind and gentle." At just nine years old, Megan's life was turned upside down as her fun-loving dad was diagnosed with Huntington's disease (HD) — a rare, genetic brain disorder which gradually kills nerve cells in the brain. Symptoms of HD are described as having

See OSOWSKI on page A-10



First Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
'You got it, Chief'
Chelsea Wysocki

Feature Reporting: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Dickinson Press

Dickinson teen saves a life

James B. Miller, Jr.

◆ Third Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News

*Suicide survivors share their
stories of love, remembrance*

Frank Stanko

◆ Second Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News

Vietnam pilot reunited with former aircraft

Audra Anderson



More than 100 cars, projects, memorabilia and more will be part of auction Sept. 18

By Jackie Jak-Person

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

■ **Dickinson Press**

Couple's love story tied to classic car collection

Jackie Jahfetsen



was young, but I didn't know the difference. I don't miss the same thing as you get them later, but that's kind of the incentive," he said.

Though the Clintons will be saying goodbye to a lot of history, they will still be around in their new 424 Mustang.

"I want to thank every leader in one or the other. I'm glad that you are here to see this," he said.

He added, "It's to preserve history. If these were just junked out like a piece of junk, it's like the young set, it's much better to have it. I want the back, down, and I want the soldier's view." (E)

Heidi asked, "I still trained before adding, 'yes' have to train them so the engine don't stick and gas doesn't get stuck."

Heidi added, "It's to preserve history. If these were just junked out like a lot of them are, then the young folks really don't know what it was like back then, (and) what the vehicles were like."¹⁰

Feature Reporting: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Ole hangs up the overalls
Eric Peterson

◆ Third Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
It's about softballs
C.S. Hagen

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
'The last place on earth'
Adam Willis

Feature Reporting: Large Multi-Dailies



'HE WAS FIGHTING'

Baby's nearly fatal fight with COVID-19 signals new risk to children

By Jeremy Turley and Adam Willis
The Forum

T Watford City, N.D., he memory plays over and over in Gabby Glazer's head.

She walks to the bassinet holding her 3-week-old son to find his recently rosy face has turned blue. She picks him up and sees his eyes are darting back and forth.

"That's when we knew something was really wrong," Glazer said.

The 21-year-old first-time mother didn't completely lose her composure until blood started flowing from the nose of little Thomas Goedeck IV on the way to the hospital in Watford City.

As soon as the child arrived at the emergency room on Friday morning, Sept. 3, a team of about 10 medical providers rushed to his aid. Dr. Maria Marchenko, a pediatrician who does not normally work in the ER, immediately took over dual roles, directing the staff response while managing ventilation for the tiny patient, rhythmically squeezing a plastic bag to keep oxygen flowing into his lungs. (Due to health

BABY: Page A6



Special to The Forum
Thomas Goedeck IV breathes with the help of a ventilator in a hospital bed at the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital in Minneapolis on Wednesday. The 6-week-old baby from Watford City, North Dakota, barely survived a severe case of COVID-19.

◆ First Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
Baby's nearly fatal fight with COVID-19 signals new risk

**Jeremy Turley,
Adam Willis**

north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Feature Reporting Series

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Feature Reporting Series: Small Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Hettinger, Adams County Record
122 Years of Service
Frank Turner

◆ Third Place

- New Town News
Powwows return to Fort Berthold
Jerry Kram

◆ Second Place

- New England, Hettinger County Herald
Young farmers and ranchers series
Luann Dart

Feature Reporting Series: Small Weeklies



The average yield of corn in North Dakota is approximately 140 bushels per acre, according to NDSU.

Farmers anxious to get in field

Even in a drought, wet weather can delay planting

Editor's note: In April-May we are publishing a four-part series on agriculture and the lifecycle of crops. Each Tuesday edition of Daily News and News Monitor will feature a different part of the growing and harvesting process.

April 27: Part 1 Looks at the seed and planting process at the start of the growing season.

May 4: In Part 2 we feature the growing stage of crops grown in our area.

May 11: Part 3 focuses on harvesting crops and the movement from field to elevator.

May 18: Part 4 takes a look at where the crops grown here end up.

Point of View AGRICULTURE

BY JUSTIN PIERCE - NEWS MONITOR
justin@newsmonitor.com

Planting season will soon be underway in North Dakota and there are plenty of crops to be grown this summer. A few days of warm weather this spring provided a boost for farmers. According to the USDA's weekly crop report, there were just 2.7 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending April 18. On average, producers began fieldwork on April 16.

Now that the April showers have officially kicked in, this will be a unique year of growing as some seeds are already in the ground.

During a normal growing season, the soil should be at 50 degrees, according to Brian Zimprich, North Dakota State University Extension Agent for Ransom County. "When the soil temperature drops back down to 40 degrees, the seed just sits there and doesn't do anything," he said.

Zimprich said the seeds don't reproduce because of the weather; they don't grow and that causes the farmers to go out into the fields and start over again, which can add a lot of time and expense.

During a normal growing year, seed starts to go into the ground toward the end of April and beginning of May once the weather allows. For the plants to develop, small crops and grains would take five to seven days, while it would take seven to 10 days for other crops to start to grow.

Melissa Seykora, Extension agent for North Dakota

SEE AGRICULTURE PAGE 12



First Place

- **Hankinson, News Monitor**
Agriculture series
Frank Stanko,
Audra Anderson,
Tris Anderson,
Justin Pierce

Feature Reporting Series: Mid-Size Weeklies



Third Place

- **Tioga Tribune**
Holiday Spotlight
Jacob Orledge



Second Place

- **Carrington, Foster County Independent**
Twin City
Erik Gjovik

Feature Reporting Series: Mid-Size Weeklies



First Place

■ Hillsboro Banner

Where are they now?

Cole Short, Cory Erickson

Feature Reporting Series: Large Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Giving Hearts
Shaunte Ramos

◆ Second Place

- Casselton, Cass County Reporter
Covid Series
Jan Russell

Feature Reporting Series: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

■ Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer

Faces of the Patch – Feb. 24, April 14, June 16, Aug. 18

Ashleigh Plemper

Came for the money, stayed for a better life

Dominiak came to Watford City with no intention of staying, today, he calls it home

By Ashleigh Plemper
Farmer Staff Writer

Nine years ago in 2012, Rick Dominiak moved to Watford City from Washington to drive a truck for MBI. He came looking to make money with no intention of staying permanently.

Today, he and his wife, Kira, say that Watford City is a place that they happily call home.

"Washington didn't have a whole lot to offer," says Dominiak, of his residence of 15 years.

Though Dominiak initially moved to Watford City alone, after his wife came for a visit, they decided to put down roots here.

While Dominiak worked his first

COVID-19," says Dominiak. "Shipping got worse because of COVID-19."

In recent months, rave reviews began circulating of High RPM's quality of work and their fair treatment of their customers.

"If there's a way I can shave time off of a job, then I do," says Dominiak. "We try to give people the best deal we can give them."

As Dominiak has thoroughly enjoyed managing High RPM, he says it will be something he'd prefer to do all day long. But sometimes, something has to give.

"We were so busy last week that it was hard to keep up with work," laughed Dominiak. "Now, we're caught up, so this week looks a lot

with a much different product than it was before he and his wife moved in.

"Our house is full of Pampered Chef products," laughs Dominiak. "I tell Kira our house is tiny and you need to start getting rid of some of this stuff. But she's quite a go-getter and when she sets her mind on something, it's all or nothing."

While Dominiak has seen a lot of the ups and downs in the oil industry, he doesn't mind seeing Watford City settle back down.

"You had a lot of people with nothing invested and nothing to do. They were all transients that didn't live here," he says. "They were out here

to have fun and make money."

That Dominiak believes is what caused so many local, longtime residents to be so guarded with the influx of new residents. And he can't blame them.

"I would be the same way," he says. "There's some good people here. They don't ever ask anyone for nothing."

As Dominiak has grown to like Watford City, he says it's a well rounded community.

"It's a good town," says Dominiak. "We like it here and my wife likes it here. We love the fishing and the hunting and the people. Most of the locals are friendly."

McKenzie County Farmer, Watford City, ND, Wed., February 24, 2021, Page 11



HERE TO STAY After moving to Watford City to work in the oilfield, Rick Dominiak and his wife, Kira, are making Watford City their permanent home. Dominiak is now employed as a manager with High RPM.

(Farmer Photo by Ashleigh Plemper)

Feature Reporting Series: Small Multi-Dailies



First Place

■ Jamestown Sun

Special topics class / Cryptocurrency and blockchain

Masaki Ova

SPECIAL TOPICS CLASS

UJ offers course
on blockchain,
cryptocurrency

By Masaki Ova
The Jamestown Sun
Sebastian Bear has always been interested in money, computers and technology and decided to mine Ethereum – a decentralized computing platform with smart contract capabilities – using his gaming computer with one RX 580 graphic card and made about \$200.

Bear said he signed up for a cryptocurrency and blockchain course after he found out the University of Jamestown was offering the class this fall.

"It is interesting. It is a unique class because the ecosystem is always changing with cryptocurrency," said Bear, a junior majoring in management information systems.

University of Jamestown offered a cryptocurrency and blockchain course as a special topics class this fall. There are 15 students in the class with most being computer science and information technology majors.

"Fifteen for a starting class where there was a short three-sentence course description and that's all the students knew about it," said Jakob Barnard, assistant professor in the computer science and technology department who is teaching the class. "I thought it was pretty promising. It means there is interest in the topic."

The cryptocurrency and blockchain course is a special-topics class, which



Masaki Ova / The Jamestown Sun

Jakob Barnard talks about the cryptocurrency mining machine that was built for a cryptocurrency and blockchain course at University of Jamestown. Barnard is an assistant professor in the computer science and technology department at the university who is teaching the class.

is a mechanism that the university uses to try new things and see how they work, said Chris Redfearn, associate provost and dean of the undergraduate college at UJ.

Cryptocurrency and

blockchain are subjects that are generating a lot of interest among students and the general public, he said.

"I'm excited that one of our faculty members has taken this on as a course to help our students to understand

this new and emerging technology," he said.

Barnard said having "cryptocurrency" and "blockchain" in the course name was important because the class is not just about cryptocurrency.

COURSE: Page A2

Feature Reporting Series: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

Where are they now?

Tracy Briggs

◆ Third Place

- Grand Forks Herald

*Ambassador Motel deemed unsafe,
residents pushed out*

Joe Bowen, Adam Kurtz, Hannah Shirley,
Matt Henson

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

Redefining women's work

Tammy Swift

Feature Reporting Series: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

■ Bismarck Tribune

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Jack Dura

Theodore Roosevelt park projects to move forward

Peaceful Valley Ranch work nears completion

JACK DURA
Bismarck Tribune

MEDORA — Big plans are ahead for Theodore Roosevelt National Park this year.

Long-awaited road repairs will begin to take shape. The \$5.5 million Peaceful Valley Ranch restoration project is expected to be complete in the spring.

And the park will be working closely with the planned Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library as the project moves ahead. Library organizers in 2020 raised \$100 million for construction,

enabling the project to access a \$50 million state operations endowment approved by the 2019 Legislature.

Last year was a different time for the park, starting when the coronavirus pandemic emerged in North Dakota in March. Visitation boomed, doubling over the same month in 2019.

But 2020 visitation through November was about 24% behind 2019, which Park Superintendent Wendy Ross attributes to the pandemic situation nationwide, and to a five-week closure in spring for health and safety reasons and to prepare for summer.

Please see **PARK**, Page A9



JACK DURA, TRIBUNE

The historic Peaceful Valley Ranch, pictured Dec. 5, 2020, is undergoing a \$5.5 million rehabilitation and stabilization project in Theodore Roosevelt National Park's South Unit near Medora. Completion is set for April 2021.

north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Government Reporting

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Gov't. Reporting: Small Weeklies



Honorable Mention

- **New England, Hettinger County Herald**
Mott shares infrastructure needs with public
Luann Dart

Third Place

- **Hettinger, Adams County Record**
Bond referendum passes with 83 percent approval
Frank Turner

Second Place

- **Elgin, Grant County News**
Impasse hearing to bring commission recommendation
Luann Dart

Gov't. Reporting: Small Weeklies



First Place

■ Bowbells, Burke County Tribune *Hoeven Visits* Lisa Thomas

Senator Hoeven Visits County to Address Border Security

by LISA THOMAS

United States Senator John Hoeven paid a visit to Burke County last week to address a growing issue for communities along the Canada/United States border.

This meeting came to fruition after Burke County Sheriff Shawn Brien recently reached out to Senator Hoeven in a letter expressing concern with increase occurrences of Romanian nationals being captured after illegally crossing from Canada into the United States.

Not long after sending the letter, Sheriff Brien was contacted by Senator Hoeven's staff to set up a meeting to address the issue.

Senator Hoeven made the drive to Bowbells where he met with Burke County Sheriff's Office team members, along with Divide County Sheriff Zach Schroeder and Renville County Sheriff Roger Hutchinson before heading out to the Short Creek Dam area where just north of there, illegals have been migrating in on a prairie trail.

Senator Hoeven was brought up to speed on the border situation as law enforcement leaders walked him through what is happening and how the suspects are easily making their way into the United States.

Sheriff Brien explained to Senator Hoeven that lack of manpower at the crossings, lack of barricades and need for more technology are just a few things that would greatly improve the ability to capture these fugitives.

Renville County Sheriff Hutchinson informed Senator Hoeven, "These guys aren't coming over the border for pie and ice cream, they are criminals involved in il-

legal activity."

Of those who have been apprehended, all have had a criminal background.

Divide County Sheriff Schroeder emphasized the need for better live feed cameras to alert deputies when there is activity near the crossings, which are literally just wide open fields and prairie with orange markers indicating the line between the United States and Canada.

While there is some electronic technology for Burke County deputies, more is needed.

The lack of manpower they discussed was relative to the Border Patrol sector of law enforcement. Due to the crisis on the United States/Mexico border, border patrol agents have been relocated to assist at the southern border, leaving the northern border understaffed and vulnerable.

Senator Hoeven listened intently to the concerns of all three sheriff departments while asking questions about what is the biggest challenge they face and what is most needed to improve the situation while taking input from the group and surveying the unenforced crossing.

Sheriff Brien emphasized that while they are reporting an increase in captured individuals, it's unknown how many are getting by without getting caught.

Senator Hoeven informed the group that he will take the information back to Washington D.C. and work on getting some assistance to help rectify the three biggest issues the area is currently facing with regards to additional manpower, technology and implementing some sort of barrier

between the countries.



Burke County Sheriff Shawn Brien explains northern border issues with Senator John Hoeven last week near Short Creek Dam.

Sheriff Brien was pleased with the outcome of the meeting. "I think it went great." He added, "I hope Senator Hoeven can take this to Washington and address the issue."

Burke County office deputy, Elena Salinas summarized the issue that the department is facing. "Border officers are sent to the

southern borders to assist, but the northern borders shouldn't be overlooked either. Even though these are small towns in comparison to the larger areas, we are just as important."

She concluded, "We can't be vulnerable in any aspect and we must be more vigilant today than ever."

Senator Hoeven agreed, saying

"While the nation's attention is focused on the southern border, we need to ensure the security of our northern border as well," said Hoeven. "The Grand Forks Sector Border Patrol is responsible for securing nearly 900 miles of the northern border. We appreciate our local law enforcement stepping up to help fill existing needs,

and we appreciate this opportunity to see firsthand the challenges our law enforcement faces in securing our northern border. At the same time, we'll continue working to put in place the infrastructure, personnel and technology needed to secure both our northern and southern borders."

Gov't. Reporting: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Hillsboro Banner
City leaders holding firm
Michelle McLean

◆ Third Place

- New Rockford Transcript
Two bright ideas burn out
Amy Wobbema

◆ Second Place

- Tioga Tribune
*City compromises to renew
developer contract for \$70,000*
Jacob Orledge

Gov't. Reporting: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

■ Hillsboro Banner

Not another penny

Cole Short

'I DON'T WANT TO GIVE HIM ANOTHER PENNY'

City Commissioner Skager blasts former auditor's unemployment claim

By COLE SHORT

Hillsboro City Commissioner Shawn Skager delivered a fiery response Wednesday to a recently filed claim for unemployment insurance benefits by Hillsboro's former city auditor.

City officials received notification from Job Service North Dakota in a March 19 letter that former City Auditor Matt Mutzenberger filed a claim for unemployment benefits nine months after he left his job with the city.

Mutzenberger agreed in July 2020 to a severance agreement that gave him \$21,000 to exit his job after he had been accused of unprofessional conduct and bringing a handgun into his office at City Hall during his two-year tenure with the city.

In a letter to Job Service seeking unemployment benefits, Mutzenberger said he had been discharged by the city without being given a reason.

In addition, he reportedly said it was his contention that

he had been targeted for termination and forced to resign prior to his official departure from the city July 15, 2020.

City commissioners convened in special session Wednesday afternoon to discuss how to handle the unemployment insurance claim, which could cost the city \$14,482 if approved by Job Service.

Led by Skager, several commissioners took aim at Mutzenberger's request for funds.

"Quite honestly, I'm pissed

off that I'm dealing with Mr. Mutzenberger again," said Skager, a sergeant with the Traill County Sheriff's Department.

"I don't want to give him another penny."

Commissioners spent a portion of Wednesday's meeting peppering longtime city attorney John Juelson about the eligibility requirements for receiving unemployment benefits.



Skager



Mutzenberger

CITY

Continued on page 2

Gov't Reporting: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Casselton, Cass County Reporter
Two Sides to Every Law
Angela Kolden

◆ Third Place

- Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer
*High claims rate means
higher premiums for county*
Neal A. Shipman

◆ Second Place

- Crosby, The Journal
*Council members promise
to address records storage*
Cecile Wehrman

Gov't Reporting: Large Weeklies



First Place

■ Crosby, The Journal

Law may need a look if court won't clarify rules

Brad Nygaard

Law may need a look if Court won't clarify rules

By Brad Nygaard

Whether counties have to use an interactive map to post specific road closure information is a question that could be headed to the North Dakota Supreme Court – or become a matter for a future legislative session.

Saying it could have an impact in other counties, Divide County State's Attorney Seymour Jordan briefed county commissioners about his decision to appeal the decision of a trial last month, in which fines totaling \$35,500 to two trucking companies were overturned.

At the time of the citations in October 2019, all county and township roads were restricted to vehicles over 12,500 pounds because of excessively wet conditions. However, a judge ruled the county had not given adequate notice of the closure on a website called LoadPass, even though it was posted in a list on the site.

"I think we go above and beyond what's required," said



Currently, the only road with a weight restriction is a portion of 104th Street NW, in DeWitt Township.

Jordan. "It's frustrating to me because people only check the map and don't look anywhere else."

What's LoadPass?

Founded in 1984 by the Western Dakota Energy Association

(WDEA), LoadPass was created with the intention of providing a single point of contact to haulers needing permits to move overweight or over dimension loads, on county, township, and city roads.

The system, at loadpasspermits.com is used as the uniform permitting system by more than 25 North Dakota Counties, including Divide and Williams, as well as by the cities of Dickinson and Watford City,

according to information on the LoadPass website.

The site is not owned, managed, or maintained by members.

Only a "courtesy"

While public notification of road closures on both a particular county website and a uniform permitting system like LoadPass is mandated by state law, there is nothing in the law that specifies how notifications to the public are made.

LoadPass uses two different methods of reporting closures – a listing that can be updated by local officials like County Road Superintendent Bryan Hauge, and an interactive map. Users of LoadPass can also sign up to receive notifications by email and text.

A disclaimer on the LoadPass website reminds users it is up to driver and companies to "use whatever resources you need to make sure you are driving legally."

Trudy Ruland, a Mountain County commissioner, and

President of the LoadPass advisory committee, said using the site's interactive map might not always be the best solution.

"It's not always up-to-date, especially when it comes to sudden changes like rain," Ruland said. "I'd go to the restrictions list. That comes directly from the local road departments, townships, and bridge engineers."

Ruland also said it's quite possible the disclaimer needs to be displayed more prominently. Currently, the disclaimer is located in the "Permits" section.

"The information is kept as up-to-date as possible, and the notification system has a history of being quite reliable, but we can't guarantee accuracy," the disclaimer reads, in part. "There is always a chance that the information we provide is not correct. So please do not rely on this information alone."

Ruland said getting those notifications sent directly to her

(See LAW, Page 7)

Gov't Reporting: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Williston Herald**

*Klug announces re-election bid
during State of City Address*

Mitch Melberg

◆ **Second Place**

- **Jamestown Sun**

New State Hospital project

Keith Norman

Gov't. Reporting: Small Multi-Dailies



MENTAL HEALTH

Wilkin County Jail full, inmates struggling with mental health

Nearly 1 in 2 individuals in jail suffer from previously-diagnosed mental illness, DOJ reports

BY AUDRA ANDERSON - DAILY NEWS
audra@petendailynews.com

The Wilkin County Jail is at capacity with inmates charged in the county, according to Jail Administrator Dan Miranowski. The jail has not been able to accept inmates from other counties, and Miranowski said they even have a waitlist — five people have called him asking to serve their time.

Some of the current inmates are under sentence, meaning they are serving time. The majority of inmates are awaiting court dates and trials, Miranowski said. The jail has 21 beds, but the maximum number of beds they can fill at a time is 14-15 to maintain space for new inmates, Wilkin County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Tony Harris said.

In addition to a full jail, Harris said they have had an influx of mental health crises and the situation is only getting worse. It is typical for there to be one or two inmates at a time who comment on their mental health, he said, and two incarcerated individuals have attempted suicide in 2021. Miranowski has his staff working "power shifts" during inmates' active hours to manage the load.

"It's a continuing problem, and I don't even see anything in the near future that addresses

SEE JAIL PAGE A10



First Place

- **Wahpeton, Daily News**
Wilkin County Jail full, inmates struggling with mental health
Audra Anderson

Gov't. Reporting: Large Multi-Dailies



Honorable Mention

- **Grand Forks Herald**

*After ticket, GF legislator moved to
restrict UND Police jurisdiction*

Joe Bowen, Sydney Mook

Third Place

- **Bismarck Tribune**

AG was told Texas election suit likely to fail

Jack Dura

Second Place

- **Grand Forks Herald**

*As crowded jail & juvie age,
Grand Forks county plans sales tax push*

Sam Easter

Gov't. Reporting: Large Multi-Dailies



First Place

- **Fargo, The Forum
of Fargo-Moorhead
Lawmakers, observers
say Peace Garden
politics becoming toxic
Jeremy Turley**



Illustration by Troy Becker / The Forum

North Dakota nasty

Lawmakers, observers say Peace Garden State politics becoming toxic

By Jeremy Turley
The Forum

North Dakotans have historically taken great pride in their neighborly treatment of others, but two soon-departing state lawmakers worry the ideal of

respectfulness implied in "North Dakota nice" is starting to break down within the state's political arena.

In the span of a week last month, Republican Sen. Nicole Poolman and Democratic Sen. Erin Oban announced they will not seek

reelection in 2022. Both Bismarck legislators cited toxicity in politics as one of their reasons for retirement.

Poolman and Oban said they still have admiration for many of their colleagues and declined to name those they feel have

recently eroded civility or sowed division, but a number of provocative and offensive social media posts made by lawmakers over the last few years demonstrate a rise in extreme rhetoric at the state level, said Mike Jacobs, a Grand Forks Herald columnist

and longtime political observer.

In the last three years, a Minot senator referred to a Muslim congresswoman as a terrorist, a Grand Forks representative shared a post comparing former

POLITICS: Page A10

north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Government Reporting Series

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Government Series: Small Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- New Town News

Tribal government plans greenhouse

Jerry Kram

◆ Second Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press

Concern over Police Station

Allison Olimb

Government Series: Small Weeklies



Answering the call to serve

LUANN DART
For the Herald

(Editor's note: This is the first of a series focusing on the work of the Hettinger County Sheriff's Office.)

As the Hettinger County Sheriff's Office deputies wade into the dark of night, they will likely encounter an alcohol- or drug-induced crime about to become another statistic.

An estimated 80 to 85 percent of crimes in Hettinger County are linked to drugs or alcohol, says Hettinger County Sheriff Sarah Warner.

Statewide, the crimes committed by offenders suspected of using alcohol, drugs or both as part of perpetrating the crime was up 1.59 percent in North Dakota in 2019. Seventy-nine percent of assault offenses involved drugs or alcohol in the state, according to statistics from the N.D. Office of Attorney General.

In 2019, Hettinger County reported 18 arrests, with 724 arrests per 100,000 population. Those ranged from a simple assault, to a motor vehicle theft, to two drug-related arrests and five DUIs, according to a report from the N.D. Office of Attorney General.

Next door, Adams County reported 19 arrests, with 842 arrests per 100,000 population.

"We don't have the oil here like some of the other counties do, but yet we have the impact of oil, with people coming down here to live and then going to the oilfield," Warner says. The oil boom in 2010 increased crime significantly, she said, but reports have leveled off in recent years.

"It's been pretty steady for the last three to four years. Obviously, when the oil boom happened in 2010, it significantly went up, but we've leveled off with what we're seeing in trends," Warner says.



(Top) Hettinger County Sheriff Sarah Warner and her team of deputies, front row, left to right, Chief Deputy Kyle Christenson, Kennedy Pippenger, Kyle DeMark and administrative assistant Tracy Kruger, back row, left to right, Sean Luce and Jedediah Kohler.

(Bottom) Cards and drawings adorn a wall in the office from students thanking the sheriff's office for its work.
| Photos by Luann Dart

Calls for service, however, increased significantly in a year, from 1,392 in 2019 to 2,118 in 2020.

Crime reports show a trend, with the Hettinger County Sheriff's Office making six arrests in 2010. In 2015, the department made 53 arrests, including 25 directly related to drugs and alcohol, and 12 simple assaults. The number of arrests decreased to 24 in 2017.

Answering the call
Warner oversees five deputies: Chief Deputy Kyle Christenson, Kyle DeMark, Kennedy Pippenger, Jedediah Kohler and Sean Luce. Tracy Kruger serves as administrative assistant for the department.

The department answers the call in approximately 1,134 square miles of Hettinger County, and patrols Mott, Regent and New England, in addition to three state highways.

"Just making sure we maintain our presence," Warner says. "That's a challenge."

But criticism is sometimes aimed at the sheriff's office, with citizens commenting they never see the deputies. Meanwhile, Warner and her deputies might be wrestling someone to the ground across the county, answering a call from a terrified spouse or listening to a horrifying account from an abused child.

"They're there. They just might be on the other side of the county," Warner says.

Deputies are also responsible for the execution of judgments and court summons, which is about one-third of their workload.

"The role of the sheriff is mainly to keep the peace. To try to be in the community, to be community-oriented," Warner says. "In order for the

communities to feel safe, they need to know we're out there for them."

Deputies often visit schools or attend sporting events to show their availability, she says.

Keeping deputies
The county faces a continual struggle to retain deputies, with a starting salary of \$40,000 in Hettinger County, compared to about \$60,000 in Stark County.

"Obviously, their call numbers are a lot larger in Stark County. There are pros and cons," Warner says. "When you take a job in law enforcement, you're not expecting the pay to be great. That's not the whole reason that you take this, it's to help people."

And rural North Dakota budgets must be kept in check.

"Our county commis-

Sheriff

Cont. Pg. 12



First Place

- **New England,
Hettinger County Herald
Answering the call...
series on Sheriff's Department
Luann Dart**

Government Series: Mid-Size Weeklies



Third Place

- **Tioga Tribune**

City-Parks dysfunction boils over
Jacob Orledge



Second Place

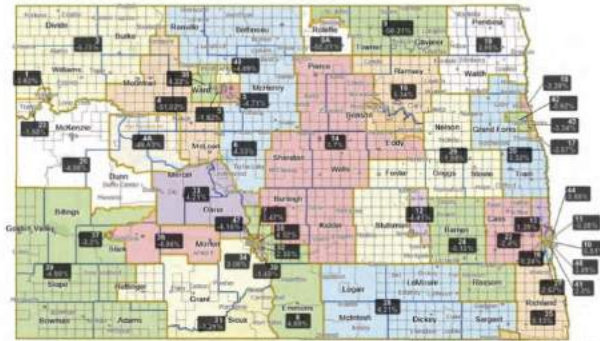
- **New Rockford Transcript**

Klemetsrud files lawsuit against NR-S School
Amy Wobbema

Government Series: Mid-Size Weeklies



Redistricting committee proposes to eliminate District 23



This redistricting map, which was approved by members of the committee on Wednesday, illustrates that most of Eddy County will be part of District 14, while the Spirit Lake Nation will be moved into District 15. Map found online at legis.nd.gov. The plan will be reviewed by the N.D. legislature during a special session on Nov. 8.

Eddy County would be split into two districts, and New Rockford's Sen. Heckaman would lose her seat

by Nathan Price

On Sept. 23, North Dakota's redistricting committee approved its preliminary map of the state's legislative districts for the coming decade, setting up major changes for Eddy County and its legislators.

Since the 2020 census data was released earlier this year, 16 legislators on North Dakota's redistricting committee (14 Republicans and two Democrats) have been hard at work redrawing the state's 47 districts.

The committee's proposal eliminates District 23 and splits Eddy County between two districts. Most of the county would be added to District 14, while Spirit Lake Nation, which includes a chunk of northeastern Eddy County, would join District 15.

Further, due to section five of the N.D. Constitution, which states that a legislator must reside in the district they represent, such a change would force one of the most powerful Democrats in the state, Sen. Joan Heckaman of New Rockford, out of the legislature



Photos provided by the North Dakota Legislative Assembly
Sen. Joan Heckaman



Rep. Bill Devlin

entirely.

As a resident of New Rockford since 1985 and with no intentions of moving elsewhere, Sen. Heckaman would be forced to run for office in District 14, a district that hasn't elected a Democrat in at least four decades.

"If Eddy County goes into District 14, which it sounds like it will, and we don't increase the number of voters by over 25 percent or the landmass by 25 percent, District 14 will not have to have an election in 2022 because they're an even-numbered district," explained Sen.

Heckaman.

As an even-numbered district, District 14 held its election in 2020, and won't hold one again until 2024. If the addition of Eddy County increased District 14's landmass or population by more than 25 percent, it would be required to move up its election to 2022, but it doesn't.

In other words, even if Democrats had a chance in District 14, there wouldn't be an election to run in for three years, putting Sen. Heckaman out of a job at least temporarily.

As the Senate Minority

Leader and one of only a few Democrats in the state's capitol, Sen. Heckaman is an important and powerful voice for the Democratic Party, and she feels her seat is being targeted by the Republican-controlled committee.

"Oh yeah, they would know if they wanted to keep me in there that they could put Foster County in 23, and we'd have a great legislative district," said Sen. Heckaman. "It's a choice that they're making."

However, redistricting committee chairman and District 23 representative Bill Devlin, argues that no gerrymandering has occurred during the redistricting process.

"There was no plan to target Senator Heckaman," said Rep. Devlin. "No gerrymandering took place. She has been one of my favorite people to serve with in the legislature. She will have every opportunity to run again, in a new district if she chooses. Rep. Roachew is absolutely correct, there were no political decisions involved."

CONTINUED ON PG. A2



First Place

- New Rockford Transcript
*Redistricting and
Senator Heckaman*
Nathan Price

Government Series: Large Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer
County Planning & Zoning - Feb. 24, March 10
Neal A. Shipman

◆ Second Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Masks Mandate
Todd Morgan

Government Series: Large Weeklies



City building inspections bring earful from owners

Editor's note: This is the first of two parts dealing with the city of Crosby's efforts to address public nuisance properties, leading to some anecdotal errors in notifications to owners and the public.

By Brad Nygaard

Members of Crosby's City Council and City Attorney Seymour Jordan got an earful from some angry property owners last week, after buildings were entered for inspection with no prior notice.

Thirteen properties are deemed to be in violation of the city's public nuisance ordinance and may ultimately be demolished. Another list of properties has possible declaration as a public nuisance, but hearings on those properties were held privately the same night – a possible violation of the state's open meetings law (see sidebar).

Other owners appeared during the regular meeting to complain about inspections for which deputies gained entry by force – something Jordani Sorum said shouldn't have been necessary.

"This is a small town. You don't do that in a small town, especially when they could have walked across the alley and got away," he said. "It's not right."

The city council intended for owners to receive notice before the inspections happened, even though it wasn't required by law.

"We told deputies to send letters," Mayor Bert Anderson told property owners during the council's regular meeting last week. "It didn't happen. We can't apologize any more times for that. We'll have to move on."

Members of the Sorum family, owners of three of the properties entered, said they had no idea the buildings were scheduled for inspection.

"Why is it even necessary to go inside?" Heather Sorum Oppgaard wanted to know. "We're not you looking for?"

"Lots of things," replied Jordan, referring to a "dispute ordinance."

That ordinance, Chapter 104 of the city code, refers to minimums required in order for a building to be deemed habitable, or if it should be condemned. It also outlines authority of the city to make impoundments of privately owned premises.

"The only way we can see it is if we go in and inspect," said Jordan.

"You should only be concerned with what's outside," Oppgaard said.

"How did I go from 'nothing's wrong to you breaking down the door?'" Jordani Sorum asked Jordan in reference to a house he owns, but doesn't live in.

No notice for hearings

Prior to the council's regularly scheduled meeting July 15, owners of properties facing possible action for public nuisance – separate from a list of properties contained on a "demolition list" – came before a quorum of the city council.

The goal here is to get people to clean up their properties," Councilman Ed Hansen said. "Hopefully that initial letter gets their attention and they clean it up. Mission accomplished."

Each was assigned a time certain for a hearing. But no such schedule appeared on the council's meeting agenda, nor was any other notice given to the newspaper or the general public, precluding their public forum of seeing and the newspaper from reporting what occurred.

State law requires all meetings of a political subdivision or governing body with a quorum present, discussing public business, be properly noticed to the general public. That day hearing last week, The Journal notified the city and City Attorney Seymour Jordan, of what appeared to be a violation of the state's open meetings law.

The Journal also requested copies of all documents, recordings of correspondence related to those hearings, along with any determinations made so citizens can be apprised of what occurred.

On Thursday, The Journal received documents relating to the properties.

That late entry made by members of the Crosby County Sheriff's Department, accompanying a certified building inspector, was made possible by search warrants approved by a judge.

How it came to this
Adopted in 2002, the city's zoning ordinance outlines specific items that, if not complied with, can result in a property being declared a nuisance.

The list covers everything from overgrown lawns and shrubs to failed cars to structural issues involving roofs and siding.

If a property is brought to the city's attention as a potential nuisance, a exterior inspection by city staff and documentation including photographs of alleged violations begins. Property owners receive a letter notifying them to address issues within a certain time frame.

on the demolition list, but nothing regarding the July 15 hearings.

"It is my position that your previous request has been satisfied," Jordan emailed Friday, even though no documentation about the closed hearings was provided.

At 4 p.m. time, Jordan had not answered a follow-up message returning the request for materials related to the properties that were the subject of the July 12 hearings, nor did he cite the authority under which such a meeting could have occurred without public notice.

The Journal is now preparing a complaint to be filed with the Attorney General's Office for a determination on the city's potential violation of open meetings and open records laws – for going to public notice of the meetings and failing to provide any records from the meeting.

Further, The Journal is requesting an opinion of a city policy in place since last June, under which all requests for records are required to be "denied" by writing to the city attorney. That provision could minimize received by The Journal for public information requests.

Each week contains mention either of the administrative hearings or the discussion with citizens whose properties were entered via search warrants.

State law requires minutes contain a list of every subject discussed, whether action was taken or not.

Following a period of time, secondary checks are made, and if the issues remain, the property owners are notified, again in writing, and given a date to appear before the council and explain why the problems haven't been solved. Following that hearing, the council may, at its discretion, declare a property a public nuisance and give the owner a specific deadline to come into compliance.

If cleanup does not occur, the city, at its discretion, may abate the nuisance and assess costs against the owner's property tax bill.

One of those property owners, Omar Castro, said since he's making an effort to come into compliance, council members declined to declare his lot in the west side of town a public nuisance.

"I started after I got the first letter last October," said Castro.

(See INSPECTIONS, Page 6)



First Place

■ Crosby, The Journal

**City building inspections
bring earful from owners
Brad Nygaard**

Government Series: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Wahpeton, Daily News

Wilkin Co. may be next 'Dedicated Second Amendment County'

Audra Anderson

◆ Third Place

- Dickinson Press

Stark County longevity payments

James B. Miller, Jr.

◆ Second Place

- Jamestown Sun

What to do with the libraries

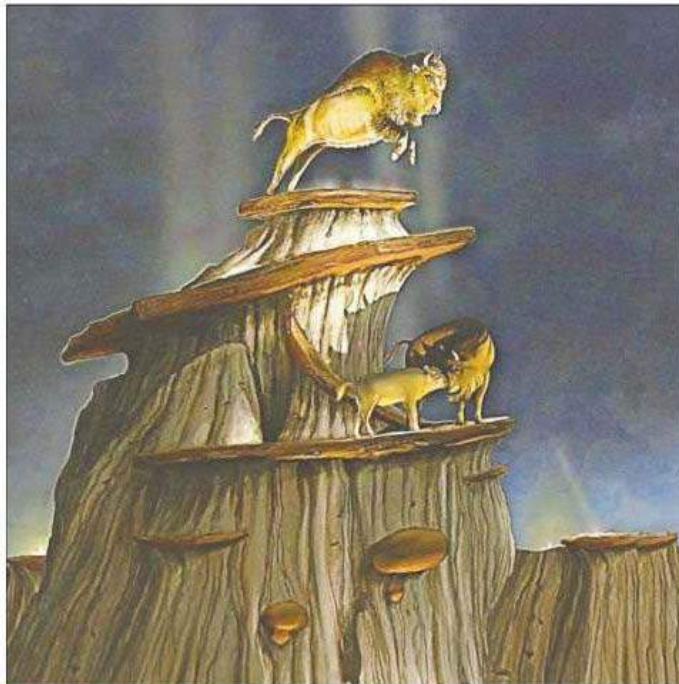
Masaki Ova

Government Series: Small Multi-Dailies



First Place

- **Jamestown Sun**
North Dakota
**investment/
Bison World**
Keith Norman



Courtesy | Apogee Attractions
An artist's rendition of a night view of a planned buffalo monument for Bison World, A Legendary Experience. If built as part of the tourism project, the monument is planned to stand about 70 feet tall and face Interstate 94 to attract travelers.

BISON WORLD

New name for Buffalo City Park intended to increase perception of the project

By Keith Norman
The Jamestown Sun

The concept of the Buffalo City Park was first floated publicly in November 2019. Now that concept has a new identity that officials hope helps promote the project on a larger scale.

The new name - Bison World, A Legendary Experience - has been reviewed by state and local officials, said Brian Lunde, one of the project's backers. The name and subtitle have already been officially trademarked.

"It shows a larger national perspective," said Connie Ova, CEO of the Jamestown/Stutsman Development Corp. "The thought is 'Bison World, A Legendary Experience' puts it in a bigger

perspective than a city park."

Apogee Attractions is in the process of designing two or three logos that will be presented to the public to weigh in.

"We will conduct a statewide contest to see which one the public likes the best," he said. "It will help establish the official name as it replaces the 'placeholder' name of Buffalo City Park."

The Jamestown/Stutsman Development Corp. is also sending out requests for letters of intent for businesses and individuals to express interest in Bison World and the possibility of participating by sponsoring an attraction in exchange for a naming right.

NEW NAME: Page A5

Government Series: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
*ND jails refuse to offer
COVID-19 shots to inmates*
Jeremy Turley

◆ Third Place

- Grand Forks Herald
*Mayville State seeks restitution
of overpayment to employees*
Sam Easter

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
*Watchdog coverage of ND's
newly formed Energy Authority*
Adam Willis

Government Series: Large Multi-Dailies



First Place

■ Bismarck Tribune

Rep. Luke Simons' expulsion and aftermath

Jack Dura

GOP leaders call for Simons to resign

Reports of sexual harassment came to light this week

JACK DURA
Bismarck Tribune

Top North Dakota House Republicans are calling for a lawmaker of their own party to resign after legislative staff reports of threats and sexual harassment



Simons

Chair Rep. Glenn Bosch, R-Bismarck, called on second-term Rep. Luke Simons, R-Dickinson, "to re-

sign from his seat."

"Should he refuse, the Legislature will weigh all the information and options, including expulsion, and make a determination when we reconvene after crossover. We want to make clear that this behavior will not be accepted at the Legislature," Pollert



Pollert



Bosch

stances involving legislators while also preserving victim confidentiality," he continued.

said.

"We will also be establishing a more formal reporting process between Leadership and Legislative Council that will increase awareness of in-

Crossover is the Legislature's midsession break, after which bills passed by the House and Senate cross over to the opposite chamber. Lawmakers are to return Wednesday.

Pollert told the Tribune that he, Louser and Bosch asked Simons by phone to resign about 30 minutes before releasing the statement. The House majority leader said

Please see **SIMONS**, Page A6

north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Spot News

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Spot News: Small Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press
Neighbors helping neighbors
Allison Olimb

◆ Second Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor
'A total loss'
Tris Anderson

Spot News: Small Weeklies



Outpouring of support for fire victims

Three dozen apartments
destroyed in Easter blaze



Firefighters from the New Town Volunteer Fire Department sprayed down the Hawk Estate Apartments #2 after fire gutted the building early Easter morning. Fire Chief John Degroot said the fire would have been much more difficult to contain without the ladder truck purchased last year. Photos by Jerry W. Kram

BY JERRY W. KRAM

In an Easter miracle, no one was seriously injured in a blaze that consumed the Hawk Estate #2 early Sunday morning. Of the building's 36 apartments, 34 were occupied and close to 60 people were rendered homeless by the fire.

New Town Fire Department Chief John Degroot said emergency services received the call at 6:25 a.m. Along with the New Town Fire Department, trucks and crews came from Farshall, Plaza, Stanley and Manderson. The New Town Ambulance, MHA, Hudson Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Moorhead County Emergency Management and Moorhead County Sheriff's Department were also on the scene. A&W Towing moved cars in the parking lot to a safe distance from the fire.

Degroot said all residents were safely evacuated from the building with no injuries. One firefighter was treated by paramedics for smoke inhalation and taken to hospital in time and released. The EOC set up an emergency response center with the support of North Segment at the Northern Lights Wellness Center where residents could check in and get out of the cold. The response was coordinated by EOC Director Emily Searing Bear.

Degroot said the fire that gutted the length of the three-story building was largely brought under control in about two hours and the out of town fire crew



All 60 residents of the Hawk Estate Apartments #2 escaped without injury from a fire that gutted the building early Easter morning. The building had 36 apartments, 34 of which were occupied at the time of the fire.

See FIRE page 16



First Place

■ New Town News

*Outpouring of support
for fire victims*

Jerry Kram

Spot News: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Second Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
Fire destroys barns at Bordulac farm
Erik Gjovik

Spot News: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

■ Harvey, The Herald Press

Transformer failure leaves Harvey without power

Neil O. Nelson

Transformer failure leaves Harvey without power

By Neil O. Nelson

At 9:56 a.m. Monday Harvey lost all electrical power.

But no one knew for sure the extent of the outage. Or, how long it would last.

Neighbors called neighbors. Friends called friends across town. Mothers called daughters. Wives called husbands. Husbands called home.

Everyone was calling city hall.

Otter Tail Power Company was called, often, to be sure. Many called repeatedly.

Same question: "How much longer?"

Same response: "We're not sure. Half hour, possibly." Maybe longer.

Finally, word spread around town. "Midnight at the earliest, 6 a.m. at the latest."

The power in Harvey came back on at 4:53 a.m., according to Police Chief Tony Webb.

Others claimed the electricity came back on earlier, at 4:21 a.m. and at 4:38 a.m.

Different parts of the city, different times, apparently.

Questions, all around

In the meantime, Harvey's retail businesses stayed open after the 10 a.m. start of the blackout. Sales were largely cash only, the exceptions being the businesses operating with portable genera-

tors.

By noon most office workers and retail employees were still waiting for the power to come back on.

"Let's give it another hour. It has to come back on pretty soon, doncha think?"

By this time, customers at Hometown Variety were offered flashlights to shop with and Paul Miller at the opposite end of Lincoln had put on his cap and coat. Son Tom went hunting,

only other vehicles on the streets belonged to Chief of Police Tony Webb and deputy Ryan Welch, who were slowly patrolling the deathly-quiet downtown and neighborhood streets and alleys.

By 5 the city's commercial district was all but deserted.

By nightfall, the entire city had darkened to a pitch black.

Streets and avenues were without traffic.

With the exception of the few residents who wanted to experience their town in the dark, cruising Main and Brewster, the

only other vehicles on the streets belonged to Chief of Police Tony Webb and deputy Ryan Welch, who were slowly patrolling the deathly-quiet downtown and neighborhood streets and alleys. Soon, the city was asleep.

It was so quiet, you could hear Jimmy Durante say, "Good night, Mrs. Calabash, wherever you are."

Spot News: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Crosby, The Journal
Wind packs a wallop
Brad Nygaard

◆ Third Place

- Casselton, Cass County Reporter
Passerby recounts accident rescue
Jan Russell

◆ Second Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Bil-Vi-Dor Fire
Todd Morgan

Spot News: Large Weeklies



First Place

■ Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer

Badlands go up in flames

Ashleigh Plemper

Badlands go up in flames

Firefighters battle 3,000-acre wildfire in national grasslands, national park

By Ashleigh Plemper
Farmer Staff Writer

The eerie atmosphere of charcoal-colored skies left many local residents of Watford City feeling smothered on the evening of Easter Sunday as firefighters continued working to contain a 3,000-acre wildfire expanding across the National Grasslands and the North Unit of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park south and west of Watford City.

The fire, which started at approximately 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 3, was still burning uncontrolled as of Monday, April 5.

Thirty percent of the 3,000 acres have been contained, said Jay Mickey, National Park Service deputy regional chief of fire and aviation for the midwest region, on April 4. "While we consider 30 percent of the 3,000 acres to be what we call 'mopped up' and in pretty good shape, there's large sections of the fire that aren't contained."

Within hours after the fire started on April 3, Mickey says U.S. Highway 85 was temporarily shut down from Watford City to Highway 200 south of Crazy Butte. As roads were eventually reopened, they would be shut down again on Sunday afternoon, April 4, after Mickey says a spot fire combined with high winds caused the fire to grow and become

more active again.

"It reached the eastern half of the North Unit not long after starting," says Mickey, of the fire that crossed into the North Unit of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park on Saturday.

Of the 3,000-acre fire, Mickey says that approximately 500 acres were within the North Unit.

"We have multiple federal agencies such as the forest service, park service and all the county volunteer fire departments and the BOC involved," says Mickey.

The state forest service employees from Colorado and North Dakota are also assisting with the fire, Mickey says.

"There are 39 total people on the fire spread out across various agencies," says Mickey.

The cause of the fire is still undetermined, Mickey says.

"We have quite a bit still burning," says Mickey. "We call it 30 percent contained today. But you have a lot of things that go into that 30 percent."

When it's all said and done, it mainly comes down to how much of the line is completed and how much of the edge of the fire is considered to not be a threat anymore, Mickey says.

See Fire
(Page 3)



BADLANDS ABLAZE Firefighters from across North Dakota have been battling a fire that as of Monday, April 5, had burned over 3,000 acres in the North Dakota Badlands south of Watford City. The fire, which started in the National Grasslands on Saturday, April 3, and spread into the national park, was 30 percent contained as of April 5.

(Farmer Photo by Danielle Brothers)

Spot News: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Dickinson Press

School shooting was self-inflicted

Jackie Jahfetson

◆ Second Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News

*'There was truth to what was brought
to our attention'*

Frank Stanko

Spot News: Small Multi-Dailies



First Place

■ Williston Herald

'Red slurry' helps quell wildfire

Renee Jean

'Red slurry' helps quell wildfire

Technique more common in California being used to contain fire at TRNP

BY RENÉE JEAN
rjean@willistonherald.com

To the casual observer, the scene at Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the McKenzie District of the Little Missouri National Grass land might



PROVIDED BY ARNEGARD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

A red cloud trails beneath a plane to a smoldering world below. The material is a fire retardant laid down ahead of the advancing fire, to kill it by depriving it of fuel. The material also contained fertilizer to help damaged trees and vegetation regrow after the fire.

look like something from a Netflix movie. Clouds of red trail from

smoke and blackened earth below.

The stuff, referred to by firefighters as "red slurry," is actually a fire retardant. Its use in North Dakota is quite rare, District Ranger for Little Missouri National Grasslands Luke Graf told the Williston Herald.

"The severity of the fire in terms of size and speed is pretty rare here," he said. "We're in the driest year on record. It's 106

or 112 years I think that we've been tracking the weather here and this is the driest one."

Red slurry is generally a mixture of water, fertilizer, and other chemicals, including iron oxide, which makes it bright red. The color makes it more easily spotted by aerial surveyors, who are tracking the progress of the fire.

See WILDFIRE, Page 8

Spot News: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Mosque vandalized with hate speech
C.S. Hagen

◆ Third Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
*Lutheran Social Services of ND
to close its doors*
Helmut Schmidt

◆ Second Place

- Bismarck Tribune
Photo studio's closure has clients scrambling
Amy Sisk

Spot News: Large Multi-Dailies



MIKE MCCLEARY PHOTOS, TRIBUNE

At the state Capitol in Bismarck on Thursday, Rep. Luke Simons, R-Dickinson, looks up at the tally board as House members vote on his expulsion from the chamber for accusations of workplace harassment and sexual harassment over the course of four years. The members voted 69-25 to expel Simons from the Legislature.

Simons expelled

Dickinson lawmaker faced sexual harassment allegations

JACK DURA
Bismarck Tribune

North Dakota's House of Representatives in a historic move Thursday expelled a Republican member entangled in sexual harassment allegations made by female legislative staff, interns and fellow representatives.

The House voted 69-25 to expel Rep. Luke Simons, R-Dickinson, after a four-hour floor session, reaching the necessary threshold of a two-thirds majority vote.

The expulsion is believed to be the first in state history. Even the format was unusual — the resolution was introduced and debated in a House committee of the whole, a procedure not seen since 1907.

Rep. Emily O'Brien, R-Grand Forks, one of the women who reported being made uncomfortable by Simons, during debate said expulsion would show "Legislative Council: You matter. Legislative interns: You matter. Staff: You matter.



Rep. Emily O'Brien, R-Grand Forks, describes her encounters with Rep. Luke Simons, R-Dickinson, during the debate over a resolution to expel Simons from the state Legislature on Thursday at the Capitol in Bismarck. Simons was expelled by a 69-25 vote of the House.

And to others that have been victims: You matter. And to my legislative colleagues, you matter, too."

Following the vote, Simons referred reporters to his attorney, Lynn Bonghegy, who said they

will review their options, and "as discussed, taking this to the North Dakota Supreme Court is an option."

"I have to talk to my client to

Please see SIMONS, Page A1

How the House voted on expulsion

Yes

Adams, B. Anderson, D. Anderson, P. Anderson, Beltz, Boe, Bosch, Boschee, Brandenburg, Buffalo, Corg, Karschew, Dier, Dvofin, Doharvich, Dockner, Guggisberg, Hager, Hager, Hanson, Hattestad, Headland, Heintz, Hoen, Jota, D. Johnson, M. Johnson, Kadrig, Karl, Keizer, Kempersich, Kierf, Kierin, Kroll, Lefor, Long, Louis, Louren, Martensen, Miller, Misking, Mock, Monson, Nathe, Nehring, J. Nelson, M. Nelson, O'Brien, Orlie, Robert, Porter, Pyke, Richter, Roer's Jones, Sanford, Satrom, Schauer, Schmidt, Schneider, Scholinger, Schreiber-Beck, Siemon, Strider, Thomas, Triller, Vetter, Voss, Welsch, Westlund, Zubke

No

Buckler, Bellwe, Christensen, Erntel, Fegley, Fisher, Hoverson, Jones, Kasper, B. Koppelman, K. Koppelman, Magnus, Marshall, Owens, Paulsen, Paul, Rohr, D. Roby, M. Ruby, Schatz, Simons, Skroch, Steiner, To-man, Twit



First Place

- Bismarck Tribune
Simons expelled
Jack Dura

north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Business News Reporting

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Business News Reporting: Small Weeklies



Third Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press

Closed due to coronavirus:

barber Moen makes retirement official

Allison Olimb



Second Place

- New England, Hettinger County Herald

She's the 'jelly lady' of Hettinger County

Luann Dart

Business News Reporting: Small Weeklies



First Place

■ Finley, Steele County Press

Finley Lumber able to supply customers despite industry shortages

Jill Larson



Finley Lumber able to supply customers despite industry shortages

Jill Larson | Editor

Managers Jenny Knight and Keith Zentz of Finley Lumber have been working within the constraints of a supply-chain shortage of building materials for some time now. While some market analysts predict the prices will slowly return to pre-pandemic levels, others are less optimistic and believe

it may take years.

At Finley Lumber, they have seen an increase in the price of lumber, some products by as much as 300 percent, along with increases in sheet steel prices and delayed product availability.

"Pretty much 95% of what I sell has gone up anywhere from 15-300%. Every product

has been touched by this craziness," said Zentz. "OSB and plywood have been two of the hardest hit products lumber wise. I remember a time when a sheet of OSB would sell for \$7-9. At its peak, we had it at \$54. The same can be said about 1/2 inch plywood. We used to sell it for around \$21 list. It has been lower,

Lumber on Page 3 ►

Business News Reporting: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ **Third Place**

- **New Rockford Transcript**

*Construction commences at North
American Bison*

Amy Wobbema

◆ **Second Place**

- **Hillsboro Banner**

Putting the petal to the mettle

Cory Erickson

Business News Reporting: Mid-Size Weeklies



And Orledge - Tioga Tribune
A burgeoning hydrogen industry in North Dakota could have wide-spread effects in the Bakken, including the elimination of flaring.

North Dakota could lead breakthrough in hydrogen landscape

(This is the first of a two-part report.)

By Jacob Orledge

Replacing fossil fuels in the interest of combating climate change is not a popular sentiment in the Bakken for obvious reasons.

The North Dakota economy has leaned on oil and gas since the first discovery of the liquid gold in 1951. But the state might not have much choice in the matter if the rest of the world moves on anyway.

The region's saving grace may, if the dominoes topple in the right direction, have been announced last month when Bakken Energy and Mitsubishi Power released plans to construct a massive hydrogen hub in Beulah that could end up having far-reaching positive consequences for the northwest corner of the state.

"We need to keep sight of what the future is," said Sen. David Rust (R-Tioga). "We need to explore the possibilities for the future, for either making our product have less of a carbon footprint and or to explore products that don't have a carbon footprint."

"And hydrogen is definitely one of those."

Pure hydrogen doesn't occur naturally on Earth so it's not a replacement energy source to oil or natural gas.

Its use as a clean fuel carrier, however, could be the key to using fossil fuels without carbon emissions and is attracting tens of billions of dollars in commercial investment.

North Dakota will become one of the beneficiaries of those investments thanks to an announcement earlier this month.

Bakken Energy and Mitsubishi Power announced a strategic partnership and plans to build a hydrogen hub, including facilities to produce, store, transport and consume hydrogen in the state.

The companies are tentatively planning to purchase the Syn-fuels plant in Beulah for use as the central hub facility but operations will eventually extend to every corner of the state.

The Bakken, in particular, has key geology and "salt caverns" that will make the region an ideal location for vast underground storage of various gases involved in the process, including methane, carbon dioxide and hydrogen itself.

"If we talk about the local impact I see multiple ones for Williams County, Mountain County, you know, even somewhat to the north and to Divide," said Kathy Neuse, whose company, Neuse Consulting, is directly involved in the effort to study these salt caverns. "This entire swathe of the geology of this area is just beautiful for this type of geology, naturally developed, and we need to optimize that."

Hydrogen is unlike traditional energy sources.

(See HYDROGEN, page 5)



First Place

■ Tioga Tribune

*ND could lead
breakthrough in
hydrogen landscape*

Jacob Orledge

Business News Reporting: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Crosby, The Journal
Local businesses embracing online sales
Brad Nygaard

◆ Third Place

- Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer
Meeting the needs for trained welders
Neal A. Shipman

◆ Second Place

- Crosby, The Journal
Remote sales more than triple in 2020
Cecile Wehrman

Business News Reporting: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

■ Casselton, Cass County Reporter

History Preserved: West Funeral Home

Angela Kolden

History preserved inside new West Funeral Home

By Angela Kolden
angela@ccreporter.com

While standing inside of an unfurnished building that smells of fresh paint and new carpeting, Funeral Director Craig Olson, wearing his signature dark suit and tie, serves as an anchor, tethering a multi-generation family business to its newly constructed building.

After eight months of demolition and construction work, the new West Funeral Home and Tribute Life Center in Casselton is complete. Its 7,500 sq ft open floor plan, combined with a light color palette and generous amount of natural light provides a stark contrast to the former 4,000 square-foot funeral home.

The larger, newly constructed funeral home also offers twice the chapel capacity, seating 200.

Unlike its previous Casselton location the new location

also has space available for food to be served following services or for coffee during visitation. Within the visitation area there is also ample space for displaying photographs of loved ones or other memorabilia and screens in the fellowship and chapel areas for viewing video tributes.

Olson said the new building not only better accommodates families who have lost a loved one, including conveniences like the addition of more parking, but also better meets the needs of he and the rest of the staff.

For example, everything is on one floor, there is an indoor parking garage, an audio visual booth and a separate floral delivery entrance.

The new funeral home also has a casket display room, a cremation display room and a private area for making arrangements.

An Open House, showcasing the new building is

planned for Wednesday, Dec. 8 from 2 p.m. to 7 pm.

The project began in March with the demolition of the former Casselton Lanes bowling alley and the former West Funeral Home. Both buildings were steeped in local history; a fact Olson and his wife Laura were sensitive to when designing the new funeral home.

The couple worked with contractors to incorporate design elements that pay tribute to the bowling alley and the historic Masonic Lodge building that housed the original West Funeral Home. Bricks from the exterior of the previous West Funeral Home were salvaged and re-purposed to create a dedicated space for West Funeral Home memorabilia. The area will include original signs from both West Furniture and West Funeral Home as well as three photographs of the 'old' building and

See **WEST FUNERAL** on A3

Business News Reporting: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Jamestown Sun**
Open for visitors
Kathy Steiner

◆ **Second Place**

- **Wahpeton, Daily News**
*Dakota Coffee Co. reopening
under new ownership*
Audra Anderson

Business News Reporting: Small Multi-Dailies



Kristina Brown stands between her two sons, Alec and Cameron Brown, in front of their Dog Gone Good food truck. Photos by Josiah C. Cuellar/The Dickinson Press

'We make food that we enjoy'

Little red food truck cooks up good food and good company

By Josiah C. Cuellar
The Dickinson Press

The wait can be stressful when every bite is delicious — a good problem to have in the food industry. Kristina Brown, owner, operator and the face of the Dog Gone Good food truck, with a smile and efficient service makes certain that customers leave in a better mood.

What began as a practical life lesson on trade work and effort for her son has since become a full-time family business. Brown works to keep the truck up and running and the grill rolling alongside son, Trevis, and her two sons, Cameron, 27, and Alec, 16.

"It was a slow evolution. It started out with just hot dogs, made in any way you could imagine, and then we came out with the burgers and the fries and it all just came together," Cameron Brown said. "We make food that we enjoy and that the best and efficient ways of doing it."

As he already has a job, Cameron Brown is not currently in the food truck, but he trained research and time to get the business and truck — rolling.

"My oldest son, Cameron, was probably the most instrumental," Kristina Brown said. "He helped me with all the paper permits, by researching where I can get my supplies and all kinds of stuff."

Before they were rolling around in their red food truck, Kristina Brown's son Alec and his friend Michael Super-Wilde were pushing around the hot dog cart.

"It was boring at first because no one knew where we were or what we did. Then we got out to the shell gas station and people started coming and we realized how much work it was going to be," Super-Wilde added.

"At first I got kind of overwhelmed because all of the people would come and I started getting the hang of it," he said. "It becomes a fun challenge of maintaining."

Kristina Brown purchased



Michael Super-Wilde shows off his creation and lunch after several hours of cooking and lining orders at the window.



Kristina Brown purchases 50 pounds of onions and 60 pounds of hamburger meat a week.



A doubleatty West Coast Burger right off the assembly line and ready to be enjoyed.

the cart for her son Alec Brown, who suffers from dysautonomia, a dysfunction of the nerves that regulate involuntary body functions. The disease affects his blood pressure, heart rate and even his respiratory. It also causes him to faint occasionally, he has endured nine concussions.

"That was my original plan — teach him how to run and manage his own business. That way he can work when he could work and not worry about employers and jobs," Kristina Brown said. "As a mom I just want to encourage him to do whatever he can. My job is to give my kids all the tools they need to survive in life."

Henry Kohler, a friend of Kristina Brown, also helps with the cooking.

The wild circumstances have been a part of Dog Gone Good since the hot dog cart.

The online posting of their croissant and livestock creations have gained them followers and new customers. Kristina Brown will periodically post on their Facebook page offering free samples of her newly learned cuisines.

"I just tell them that the menu is a mere suggestion. Most of the things on this window came from things people asked us to build," Kristina Brown said while pointing at the side of the food truck that advertises their custom builds. "The original was Henry's idea, the six party. They people expanded it from there — we have loaded those things up and then we literally hand them out the window like a baby."

Kristina Brown has noticed that a lot of their new customers are introduced to them through social media.

"I love the response from the community. It makes me feel really proud. I am honored actually to have people work up to the window line and give again," she said. "It takes the back out of me when people come up to me and tell me, 'you're making so-and-so' and so I showed up with one of your burgers and then we had our food to try it."

It has been a busy yet stressful time. It was during the coronavirus pandemic when Kristina Brown lost employ-

ment. That was when she shifted gears with the purchase of the food truck during the summer and hasn't checked the morning news since.

"I press my palms every morning. I cut my onions every day. Everything that goes into it is a tremendous amount of work to do. But if I am going to do something I am going to do it right and get that kind of response from people because I want to be someone they can rely on," she said. "I would like to be someone they can rely on."

Kristina never imagined herself in the food industry let alone owning a food truck but she has taken it on to stride. Her son and Super-Wilde give a lot of credit to Kristina Brown's ambition and her loving nature to others that she applies to her service.

"You (mother) is an incredibly hard worker and the best mom to please everybody," Cameron Brown said.

She does her best with what she has. Sometimes it doesn't work and that's just life, but she keeps on going," Alec Brown added.

Through the thick of it Kristina Brown remains positive for her sons, her customers and her business, always smiling when she says "I appreciate you," with emphasis on

the "you."

Brown has big plans that could put her skills of cooking and leading in a kitchen without wheels attached.

"My goal is to start my own little storefront. I am going to try to come up with the money to do that," Brown said. "I have been in contact with the high school and they wanted me to see about having laptops come in to learn. I told them I am not set up for employees yet. I don't have OSHA safety and insurance and that kind of stuff yet, but when I do, then yes, absolutely. I would love to take teenagers or adults and teach them how to run a business."

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the "you."



First Place

■ Dickinson Press

'We make food that we enjoy'
Josiah C. Cuellar

Business News Reporting: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Grand Forks Herald

*SeaQuest, which seeks \$1 million from
GF's, has issues elsewhere*

Joe Bowen

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

A 'mini-Walmart' with a heart

Tammy Swift

Business News Reporting: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

■ Bismarck Tribune

Bakken rides out a bad year

Amy Sisk

Bakken rides out a bad year

Companies adapt
to stay afloat amid
oil price collapse

AMY R. SISK
Bismarck Tribune

Kyle Ostrand found himself looking up townhouses in Williston, trying to talk his workers into becoming roommates after the oil price collapsed last year.

Some of them without families

in town agreed to live together, and although they don't necessarily work long hours anymore to bring in big paychecks like when oil was booming at the start of 2020, they're still employed by 3 Forks Services. The company provides transportation, logistics and crane services across the Bakken oil patch.

"It's made it a whole lot more affordable for them to share housing like that," Ostrand said. "We're trying to do what we can to

help lessen the expenses for these guys in any given month and hope they can continue to help ride it out with me. We're in it together trying to help make ends meet."

Hundreds of businesses like 3 Forks do the boots-on-the-ground work in western North Dakota to help big-name companies drill and produce oil. They have endured a year of hardship as the coronavirus pandemic decimated the demand for oil and, thus, for their services.

The oil industry's recovery has been slow. Job Service data show that North Dakota's biggest oil-producing counties lost well over 10,000 jobs last year. Their unemployment rate at the end of 2020 was 7.9%, up from 1.8% a year earlier and higher than the current statewide average of 4.1%.

On top of that, a cloud of uncertainty hangs over the Bakken as Congress turns blue and a new presidential administration takes over that appears poised to crack

down on the fossil fuel industry in an effort to curb climate change.

The crash

Activity across the Bakken hinges largely on the price of oil, which determines whether pumping up crude and drilling new wells is profitable.

Oil was trading above \$60 per barrel when 2020 began, but by the start of March the looming

Please see **BAKKEN**, Page A6

north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Sports Page

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Sports Page: Small Weeklies



◆ **Third Place**

- **New Town News**
Sports Page
Jerry Kram

◆ **Second Place**

- **Finley, Steele County Press**
Steele County Press
Staff

Sports Page: Small Weeklies



SPORTS

Walsh County Press • Wednesday, July 14, 2021

Page 11



Left: Aaron Petruska just about made it to the top of the hill on his first run but his bike wanted no part of it at the Forville Hillclimb. Top Right: This rider gets a lot of air going over the hill at Forville. Bottom Right: The athletes were all tired. Chase left-handed and Aaron asked to train his children in the sport. Pictured (L. to R.) Shawn, Lee, Jay, and Chad.

Double the hills, double the thrills: Hillclimb results

7/2/2021 Brick Mine Walhalla

Hillclimb Results

4thyr Male Veterans (Only by Side Racing)
1st. Logan Cappel
2nd. Logan Moad
3rd. Harold Wadell
4th. Jay Moad
5th. Shawn Edlund
6th. Aaron Taylor
7th. Jack Polle
8th. Nick Baur
9th. Phillip Allen
10th. Brandon Henry

5thyr Male Veterans (Only by Side Racing)
1st. Logan Cappel
2nd. Aaron Moad
3rd. Harold Wadell
4th. Gary Pader
5th. Nick Baur
6th. Chad Edlund
7th. Jack Polle
8th. Shawn Edlund
9th. Brandon Henry
10th. Mitchell Dahl

Open Class
1st. Logan Cappel
2nd. Aaron Moad
3rd. Shawn Edlund
4th. Brandon Henry
5th. Nick Baur
6th. Harold Wadell
7th. Jack Polle
8th. Chad Edlund
9th. Mitchell Dahl
10th. Austin McCarroll

Overall Event Standings
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7/3/2021 FRMC Forville

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First Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press Sports Page Allison Olimb, Larry Biri

Sports Page: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Tioga Tribune**

Tioga Tribune sports pages

Jody Michael

◆ **Second Place**

- **Carrington, Foster County Independent**

Independent Sports Section

Erik Gjovik, Lane Moellenkamp

Sports Page: Mid-Size Weeklies



Banner Sports Friday, April 2, 2021 SECTION B

H CV BASEBALL PREVIEW
Hillsboro-Corvallis players in spring baseball uniforms. Photo by [Name].

BACK IN THE SWING OF THINGS

STEPPING TO THE DISH
After one-year hiatus, Burros baseball team kicks off season on Thursday

INSIDE THIS SECTION:
H CV football team debuts Tuesday Page B2
Burro track opens at Central Cass Page B4
Sutton leads MPOG on the mound Page B5



First Place

- Hillsboro Banner
Hillsboro Banner Sports Pages
Banner Staff

Sports Page: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer
Sports Pages - Feb. 24, March 3, March 10
Neal A. Shipman

◆ Third Place

- Crosby, The Journal
Journal sports pages
Jody Michael

◆ Second Place

- Bottineau Courant
Bottineau Courant Sports
Matthew Semisch

Sports Page: Large Weeklies



SPORTS

The Walsh County Record • May 12, 2021 • Section B

Spoilers take 28-run victory

Dakota Prairie couldn't stop back Grafton from taking a 28-run victory over the Spartans in a game that was a preview of the season's outcome.

The Grafton Spartans took a 28-run victory over the Dakota Prairie Spartans in a game that was a preview of the season's outcome.

33-5

WALSH COUNTY RECORD

GHS GIRLS GOLF YET TO BE DEFEATED

McLean wins fifth first place finish in Park River

McLean won the first place finish in Park River, a tournament that was a preview of the season's outcome.

WALSH COUNTY RECORD

Grafton shuts out PR-F-L

Spoilers are at second in Region 4 with 0-1 record

Grafton shut out the PR-F-L team in a game that was a preview of the season's outcome.

WALSH COUNTY RECORD

Runners hit the track in Larimore

After seventh grade Page leads, finds a steady race between Grafton and Larimore in Larimore

Runners hit the track in Larimore, a race that was a preview of the season's outcome.

WALSH COUNTY RECORD



First Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Feb 24, May 12, Dec 15
Chelsea Wysocki

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

any late afternoon. When
for 30 yards and resting
in bed until 7 p.m.

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for 30 yards and resting
scheduled for 7 p.m.

Sports Page: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ **Third Place**

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

◆ **Second Place**

- **Grand Forks Herald**
*Sports Page/section, March 27,
June 9 and Nov. 11*
Staff

Sports Page: Large Multi-Dailies



SPORTS

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2010 | BISMARCK TRIBUNE | SECTION 8

Deacons edge short-handed Sabers

Shady advances to Class A semifinals

By Dave Krieger
SHADY DEACONS — It was a close game, but the Deacons edged the Sabers 31-28 in a hard-fought Class A semifinal game on Friday night. The Deacons will advance to the Class A semifinals on Saturday night.

The Sabers, who were the defending state champions, were short-handed in the second half. The Deacons, who were the defending state runners-up, were not. The Sabers' defense was unable to stop the Deacons' offense, which scored 15 points in the second half. The Sabers' offense was also unable to score in the second half. The Deacons' defense was able to stop the Sabers' offense, which scored only 13 points in the second half.

The Sabers' defense was unable to stop the Deacons' offense, which scored 15 points in the second half. The Sabers' offense was also unable to score in the second half. The Deacons' defense was able to stop the Sabers' offense, which scored only 13 points in the second half.

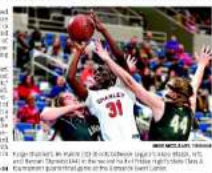


Photo on Bismarck Tribune, Page 8

Adams, UND skate past Miami

Adams, UND skate past Miami

By Dave Krieger
ADAMS — The Adams team won the 2010 National Championship in the 1000-meter race on Saturday night. The Adams team won the race with a time of 1:40.12, which was a new world record.



Photo on Bismarck Tribune, Page 8

Century survives push from Firebirds

By Dave Krieger
CENTURY — The Century team won the 2010 National Championship in the 1000-meter race on Saturday night. The Century team won the race with a time of 1:40.12, which was a new world record.



Photo on Bismarck Tribune, Page 8

Lance returns to the Fargodome

By Dave Krieger
LANCE — The Lance team won the 2010 National Championship in the 1000-meter race on Saturday night. The Lance team won the race with a time of 1:40.12, which was a new world record.



Photo on Bismarck Tribune, Page 8



First Place

Bismarck Tribune

Bismarck Tribune Sports Staff

north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Sports Reporting

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Sports Reporting: Small Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- New Town News

*Eagles make surprise
appearance in Region 8*

Jerry Kram

◆ Second Place

- Elgin, Grant County News

Storm wreaking havoc

Jill Friesz

Sports Reporting: Small Weeklies



First Place

- **Bowbells, Burke County Tribune**
Basketball Milestone
Lisa Thomas

County Boys Hit Basketball Milestone

by LISA THOMAS
It was a busy week of sports in Burke County. Noah Fredrickson, a senior guard for the Powers Lake Ranchers, made his 1000th high school career point against the Trenton Tigers on Monday, Feb. 8. Bo Thingvold, a Bowbells senior, hit the 1000 point benchmark the next night, on Burke County's home court in Lignite against Powers Lake.

FREDRICKSON

Going into the game, Fredrickson knew he was just six points away but it wouldn't be until the third quarter that he shot from under the hoop, missed, got the offensive rebound and put the ball back up for two points.

"That night the shots just weren't falling," Fredrickson explains.

Fredrickson, who averages 13.4 points per game, and most of the time from behind the three-point line, was relieved to hit the 1000 mark.

"It's always been a goal of mine, now I can calm down and just play basketball," says the dedicated ball player.

Fredrickson has been a starting player on the Ranchers varsity team since ninth grade. A shoulder injury in his freshman year dug on into his sophomore year of sports, sitting him out for eleven games of basketball and an entire football season.

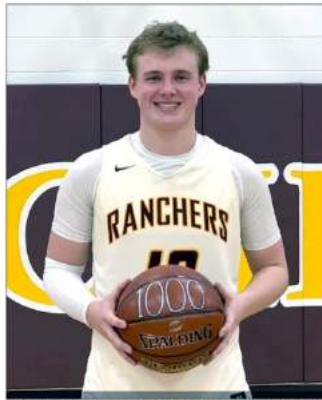
Now, fully recovered from the injury, Fredrickson is looking ahead to post season play going into the district tournament and regionals and state tournaments all in his team's sights.

"We know what we are capable of," Fredrickson says optimistically.

The Ranchers were ranked eighth in the state poll for one week and most recently received top votes in the receiving category, ranking them 11th in the Class B standings.

Fredrickson says having a close knit team has helped with much of their success so far.

The current team has been play-



Noah Fredrickson, Powers Lake Rancher, hits 1000th point.

ing together since the seniors were in third grade, giving them years of team building experience.

C Coach Tim Nordlof and head coach Jordan Carlson have been with the team every step of the way, for which Fredrickson is grateful.

"Coach Carlson is a great coach, he keeps us calm in the huddles," He adds, "It's been great playing for him."

Fredrickson has also enjoyed his time being mentored by Coach Nordlof. "I think Tim is the nicest guy in Powers Lake."

Fredrickson will finish the season as a Powers Lake Rancher and will begin next fall as a Royal at Lake Region College in Devils Lake.

He is looking forward to playing college basketball and taking his

sports career to the next level. Noah is the son of Nick and Todd Fredrickson.

THINGVOLD

Thingvold wasn't thinking about the milestone going into the game but at quarter break the announcement was made that he too had nailed a career high basket, something not too many high school athletes accomplish.

Thingvold's career achieving bucket was the first field goal of the third quarter, an offensive pushback.

Thingvold's last season of high school basketball has been even more unique in that his dad, Jon, is coaching him. He had coached when he was younger but never at varsity level and he is happy to



Bo Thingvold, Burke County Titan, hits 1000th point.

be guided on and off the court by his dad.

Bo started a couple of varsity games in ninth grade but didn't become a regular starter until his sophomore year. The forward has been a solid player throughout his high school years, both in basketball and football.

Bo recently committed to play linebacker position at Valley City for the Vikings next fall. He plans to major in agri-business and one day hopes to be involved in the family farming operation.

Bo says that he's enjoyed the ups and downs of high school sports and is happy to be ending his high school career with his dad as his coach.

Bo is the son of Jon and Celeste Thingvold.

FRIENDLY RIVALRY

Uniquely, Fredrickson was guarding Thingvold when the talented Titan player hit his 1000th point, less than 24 hours after Fredrickson did. Fredrickson said they tried to stop him but they weren't able.

He jokingly adds, "After Bo hit the 1000th point, we just wanted to win more, so when he looks back and remembers that night, he remembers he lost to the Powers Lake Ranchers."

Thingvold, in equal humor, responded to Fredrickson's comment saying, "It's harder to hit 1000 points when you aren't shooting threes."

The fellowship on the court between the teams definitely adds to the memories of such major accomplishments for the two as they head on to college level.

Sports Reporting: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Tioga Tribune**

Tioga joins high school baseball

Jody Michael

◆ **Second Place**

- **Hillsboro Banner**

Back with the Bs

Cory Erickson

Sports Reporting: Mid-Size Weeklies



First Place

■ Hillsboro Banner

Punching their ticket to state **Cole Short**

PUNCHING THEIR TICKET TO STATE

MPCG pulls off improbable comeback to make state

By COLE SHORT

CASSELTON, N.D. — Head coach Tim Spurgeon and the MayPort-CG Patriots delivered a comeback win for the ages against Northern Cass on Tuesday.

Trailing by three and down to their final strike twice — and playing in 50-mph winds under skies so filled with dirt they blocked out the sun — the Patriots rallied from a 3-0 deficit to force extra innings.

Pitcher Rylee Satrom followed with an RBI in the eighth and put the finishing touches on a complete game to send MPCG to the state Class B tournament on Thursday with a 4-3 win over the Jaguars.

The odds of a comeback seemed improbable after the Patriots were held scoreless through six innings by Northern Cass senior right-hander Emily Anderson.

But Spurgeon said he's learned this season that the Patriots are never out of a game — even when their backs are against the wall and they're down late.

"We've been doing this all year," the third-year MPCG head coach said. "We get down but we don't give up and we usually have a chance to win at the end. And this time we did."

Satrom and Anderson locked horns in a pitchers' duel for a majority of the game in conditions that Spurgeon described as horrible.

"It was like being in the desert," he said. "The winds were gusting to 50 mph and our hitters had sand blowing in their faces while they were trying to bat. It was absolutely miserable."

Neither team scored through the first five innings but the Jaguars finally found a spark in

the bottom of the sixth against Satrom.

Seniors Shelby Bring and Morgan Nelson led off the inning with singles and catcher Kassie Pachak followed with an RBI double to center that plated Bring.

Anderson sent Nelson home on a sac fly to MPCG outfielder Ali Moen and the Jaguars extended their lead to 3-0 on a single by third baseman Allie Singer.

Runs had been at a premium and Satrom admitted the Jaguars' lead seemed daunting at the time.

"It was a little scary," the freshman pitcher said.

MPCG had one final chance to rally late in top of the seventh and didn't disappoint.

Freshman Maysa Larson hit a one-out triple off Anderson and Satrom followed with a walk.

MPCG scored its first run on a groundout by Raina Satrom that

brought home Larson.

The Jags were an out away from a state tournament berth but MPCG's Ila Peterson cranked a two-strike, line-drive RBI double to center that pulled the Patriots within a run at 3-2.

That brought up sophomore shortstop Kora Gensrich, who missed on her first two swings, which included a fan on a fastball over her head.

"She likes those high pitches," Spurgeon said with a laugh. "She's done that all season but she has been known to get ahold of those. She hit one to the wall!" Monday against Pembina County North.

Down 0-2 in the count, Gensrich doubled to center to plate Peterson and tie the game 3-3.

MPCG SOFTBALL
Continued on page 11



MayPort-CG's Ila Peterson cheers on her teammates in the late innings of Tuesday's come-from-behind victory.

Sports Reporting: Large Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer

A goal made

Neal A. Shipman

◆ Second Place

- Crosby, The Journal

Maroons top Outlaws

Jody Michael

Sports Reporting: Large Weeklies



First Place

■ Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer W.C.H.S. cheerleaders bring home state title Ashleigh Plemper

W.C.H.S. cheerleaders bring home state title

By Ashleigh Plemper

Journal Staff Writer

"It doesn't necessarily feel real. I'm still just like, wow, we really did it," says Maria Hultstrom, Watford City High School (WCHS) varsity cheerleader.

After a journey of many lows, a difference in their cheering capabilities that most could probably become cheer steps at the Watford City High School (WCHS) varsity cheerleaders took home the 2021 North Dakota Cheer Coaches Association State Fall Cheer Competition Class A Championship on Nov. 13.

"We watched them go from state cheerleaders to champions," says Patricia Burnstead, Watford City Cheerleading coach.

After years in the making, Burnstead would become one of their coaches to get them one step to the cheer team's triumph.

"Coming off of last year, not placing and losing the biggest schools, it became their comeback story," says Kate Davis, Watford City Cheerleading assistant coach.

While there's already no other way to put it, for the last four years, the team had become all too familiar with failure.

"People didn't even know there was a cheer team in Watford City," says Burnstead.

A rocky road
With much time and pressure involved, in 2019, Burnstead, who was head coach at the time, brought in two women who seemed like the perfect fit.

In 2019, Chelsey Schatz (now head coach) and Kate Davis started volunteering. Burnstead says.

With the situation of scheduling some of their time, it wasn't long before the women who are both in law enforcement, became fully involved. "I saw that they had a lot of potential. They just needed somebody there to guide them and teach them what to do," says Chelsey Schatz, Watford City Cheerleading head coach.

As Schatz and Davis both share a history in cheerleading, they knew they had a demand in the region on their level.

"Having that background in cheer, we were able to step into the stance with the girls and figure out what they were doing," Davis says.

Realizing the girls needed to start fresh to make any new strides, Davis says she wanted a clean slate for them of wanting to be something other than what they were.

"I think they knew what it felt like to be the very bottom and they knew they didn't want to be there again," she says.

"We literally took it back to the basics with technique and then placement and stunts as well."

It would be improving the physical training, reports that Davis says helped the cheer team tremendously.

"Implementing weightlifting. For the high school girls, we really made a difference in their cheering capabilities and technique," she says.

With more time under their belt, another year came, and another one went by. Davis says they weren't even sure they were doing it right.

Initially, Davis says early on, you couldn't hand out stunts fast enough to hold the team up because by the time they overcame one last, another one seemed to occur.

"One that kind of jumping at competitors was tough last year," she says. "We could see the disappointment in their faces."

On competition night, Davis says all the girls wanted to do was go to bed and not like it never happened. "When you don't have the environment of being it, but if you do, it's a whole different mentality."



CHEER TEAM TAKES FIRST AT STATE Members of the Watford City High School Cheer Team perform during the State Class A Cheer Team competition, which was held in Fargo on Nov. 13.

Chelsey Schatz, a long jumper, the team and Davis, the team's journey would turn from failure to success.

"I've seen their tears of cheering, they would never be good enough," Davis says. "During their, listening to them just out there - 58, someone looked at me and I thought, there's no way we're going to win."

The protesters went silent as just one cheerleader stepped forward to perform their post-practice as someone anticipated.

From being all of our football games, it's just nice to be part of a winning team and contribute to something like that," he says.

"It's definitely a really good thing in making them believe that they are what we will become. They're great and they're on a mission."

that won," she says.

Being in law enforcement, Davis says there's a long-standing joke among her and the girls that she's too tough to cry. So naturally, her tears spilled a laugh in the midst of celebrating victory.

"They always make fun of me, saying, 'You're a cop, you don't show emotion.' So when they saw me cry, they were like, wow, you are a normal person," Davis says.

Through Davis's co-workers had given her grief over being a cheer coach, it all came full circle upon overlooking the team back into town.

"Just being a cheerleader, I write up to raise funds from them, saying 'congratulations,'" Davis says.

"I'm like, this is why I'm a cheer coach!"

As the team encountered many trials and tribulations along the way, they finally had their chance to shine.

"I feel really accomplished. We worked so hard for a really long time to get where we are and we finally did it," says Davis.

They worked so hard for the opportunity. The team coaches knew their capabilities and that they had potential to be champions," Davis says.

Though the girls had their doubts, the coaches didn't," Davis says.

"We just kept pushing them," she says. "This is a really good thing in making them believe that they are what we will become. They're great and they're on a mission."

And it showed, Davis says.

"Because they walked away with the title."

Future
In March 2022, the team will have another state competition in Minot.

After knowing about the 2021 trip, Davis believed the team will have no problem remaining grounded, despite their win.

"We'll focus on the next step and I hope our girls can use the celebration and put it on the back and go out there as a team and maybe just off as a cheerleader," she says.

And when it comes to future improvement, senior cheerleader Burnstead believes last year's experience.

"We need more girls on the team," she says.

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Sports Reporting: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Williston Herald

*Heartbreaker! Tetons hockey ties
UMary after unexpected twist*

Analicia Haynes

◆ Second Place

- Jamestown Sun

*Headed to state: Blue Jays
best Mandan in state play-in*

Katie (Gerber) Ringer

Sports Reporting: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
'Night I'll never forget'

Jeff Kolpack

◆ Third Place

- Grand Forks Herald
Hockey, like life, goes on in Warroad, Minn.

Ann Bailey

◆ Second Place

- Grand Forks Herald
The crazy college hockey off season of 2021

Brad E. Schlossman

Sports Reporting: Large Multi-Dailies



Photo special to The Forum
Isiah Johnson, pictured here with his mom, Becky, is remembered for his smile that could 'light up a room.'

'He was the best kid anybody could ask for'

Former Fargo South basketball player
killed in crash touched many lives

By Carissa Wigginton | cwiggint@forumnews.com
Fargo

Several pairs of sneakers sit piled up in the Johnson family's doorway. Wherever Isiah Johnson went, there were at least two pairs of shoes with him — and they ended up everywhere.

Every time Isiah's mom, Becky, walked through the door, she told him to pick them up. The shoe pile was the base of her existence.

Now, Isiah's not here, and the pile remains — like it will for a long time.

"They're gonna sit there until I'm ready to move them because I'm never going to be able to tell him to pick them up again," Becky said.

Isiah, a 2018 graduate of Fargo South, died from injuries sustained in a suspected drunken driving crash Saturday, Feb. 15. He was the passenger of the vehicle, which was being driven by a Fargo man who is accused of drinking.

Isiah died of his injuries in the hospital. He was 21 years old.

"He was the best kid anybody could ask for. I didn't deserve him," Becky said. "He had as much impact on everybody that ever met him. Everybody that met him loved him and he loved everybody."

that he met, the way just an all-around good kid."

Becky has been driving around with a pair of his basketball shoes. He left in her van when he went to play basketball recently. She can't bring herself to take them out.

Isiah played basketball at Fargo South. His basketball teammates, he was what he called "Moby."

Head coach considered a savvy player. The coach used him as a guard, forward and anywhere else they needed to go. He was someone who they needed to go to.

JOHNSON: Page D31



2018 Fargo South graduate Isiah Johnson, who died from injuries sustained in a single-vehicle crash at 21 years old, played basketball for the Blues. The team is 'playing their hearts out' for Johnson.



First Place

■ Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

'He was the best kid anybody could ask for'
Carissa Wigginton

north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Sports Reporting Series

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Sports Series: Small Weeklies



Second Place

- **Bowbells, Burke County Tribune**
Ranchers Success
Lyann Olson

Sports Series: Small Weeklies



First Place

- Elgin, Grant County News
Storm football playoff coverage
Jill Friesz

Grant County NEWS
No. 43 • Thursday, October 28, 2021 • \$1.00
www.grantcountynews.net | jfriesz@grantcountynews.net



STORM wreaking havoc

JILL M. FRIESZ
jfriesz@grantcountynews.net

The air was crisp, storm clouds were rolling in, and the wind had a sting to it, but the Grant County-Higher Storm football players didn't notice the cold. They were in the zone Saturday afternoon in Hattingsen as they took on the Hattingsen-Scranon Nighthawks during the second game of the playoffs. They were focused on their job at hand, and that was to take down the Nighthawks and advance to the quarterfinals. The Storm controlled the scoreboard and ended with a score of 30-0 to keep their season going and in advance to the quarterfinals Saturday, Oct. 30 at LaMoine.

"The last time we played Hattingsen-Scranon, they were the hammer and we were the nails. This time, we switched it around, we were the hammer and they were the nails. Coach Mayer and Coach Kneppert did a fantastic job of getting these guys ready. They did a really good job with our pad level, and staying low and getting nine guys to the football and getting people to the ground," said Head Coach Jamie Kneppert. Definitely, the Storm came out on the field on a mission to shut down the Nighthawks, and they did that. They held them to zero passing yards and a little over a hundred yards offensively, compared to the Storm's 350 total yards.

"We knew they were going to try to run the ball. We let them run but we just came pressure. The coaches had us working hard in practice last week, we were able to put it all together and we got it done. A win would have been amazing, but to shut them out was just awesome," added Supermom Javon Friesz.

"Our linemen don't get enough appreciation, but they do a great job," said Junior Layton Woodberry. Once the huddle sounded, the scoreboard was lit up with a score of 30-0, and the fans were making noise, the Storm knew they had reached the next milestone. They are one of eight teams on the practice field this week preparing for a playoff game. "It's really great to be one of only eight teams left in the state. We started this season ranked high. The first game of our season rattled us and we kind of were down. But we are finally putting these pieces back together. We made it to the playoffs and are making a heck of a run and I don't think we are stopping anytime soon. We're ready to put the gas pedal down and we're going all the way. The coaches have told us we are playing the best football of our season right now," added Woodberry.

"I think offensively and defensively we're playing our best football right now, and of course that's what you want at the end of the year like this in the playoffs. It's been a slow, gradual process, but we are definitely playing our best football," Kneppert added.

"It was a great win, but the celebration is over. Now it's time to get focused and prepare for this week," said Friesz. The weather has been cold and windy out on the practice field this week, but the Storm isn't complaining. They are willing to put the hard work in to be competitive this weekend at LaMoine. "LaMoine-Lincolnville-Marion is going to be tough. We are all going to have to bring a lot of energy and can't slack on practice. We have to be ready for this game," said Junior Wyatt Ottum. "We have to just think about it being just another game. We can't let it get to our heads. I keep thinking, we are doing this for our seniors, for Varsity and beyond, let's just go," added Woodberry. "LaMoine-Lincolnville-Marion is really explosive offensively, so we have to control the football and keep the clock on our side, and force them to play some defense," Kneppert added.

Since the Storm became the Grant County-Higher Storm in 2004, they have made it to the quarterfinal game three times. However, as Kneppert explained, there are more teams in the bracket this year, so while in years past, the quarterfinal game was always the second game of the playoffs, this is the third game. So, playing three games in the state playoffs is as far as the team has advanced. "It's really exciting. This will be the farthest run in the playoffs that I've been a part of," added Ottum. "I am so proud of the kids. They've worked extremely hard. We started off 1-3 in our season and we just kept the coaches. Guys kept showing up for practice and working hard. We're excited to keep playing football and we're looking forward to going to LaMoine and taking on the #1 team in the state."

The Storm will be gaining momentum and will be moving into the eastern part of the state on Saturday, Oct. 30 at 1:00 p.m. MT, with hopes of leaving destruction in its path.

Sports Series: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Hillsboro Banner

Ice Dawgs hockey coverage

Cory Erickson

◆ Second Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent

CHS girls' basketball postseason

Erik Gjovik

Sports Series: Mid-Size Weeklies



First Place

■ Hillsboro Banner

Patriots football coverage
Cole Short

PATRIOTS SADDLE COLTS WITH LOSS

Koenig, Rexine lead MPCG to season-opening win over Richland

By COLE SHORT

MAYVILLE — MayPort-CG head coach Adam Sola and the Patriots kicked off their season Friday, Aug. 20 with their best offensive threat, Ethan Bergstrom, standing on the sidelines.



**MPCG 36,
Richland 0**

Key play:
Leading 8-0,
MPCG sets up
at Colts' 3 in 2Q
after Landon
Koenig tackles
Richland's punter

Up next:
vs. Hankinson at
Mayville State, 7
p.m., Aug. 27

But even with their most dynamic weapon, Mayville State, 7 p.m., Aug. 27 had more than enough firepower to beat the Richland Colts in the season opener for both clubs.

Sophomore Matthew Rexine ran for 126 yards and three scores and junior Landon Koenig passed for one touchdown and ran in another to lead MPCG to a 36-0 win over the Colts at Jerome Berg Field.

"We made a few too many mental mistakes, but you can't complain too much when you have a lot of guys in new



MayPort-CG junior receiver Jake Hutter, left, hauls in a 33-yard touchdown pass tossed by Koenig and races into the end zone late in the second quarter of last Friday's 36-0 win over Richland.

positions," Sola said.

"We have been moving a lot of guys around and that's somewhat to be expected."

Koenig was one of the Patriots seeing time in a different position — and with a new team.

Last Friday's victory marked the first game for Koenig in a Patriots uniform after the former tight end and Finley-Sharon/Hope-Page Spartan moved from Page to Portland this summer.

Filling in at quarterback with Bergstrom out, Koenig made an immediate impact on offense.

But his presence on the opposite side of the ball may have been even more impressive.

The 6-foot-5 defensive end

spent nearly as much time in the Colts backfield as their tailbacks while piling up four sacks against Richland quarterback Cayn Syvertsen.

"I thought I did my job. That's all I can do," Koenig said afterward. "It was a lot of fun."

Sola said Koenig made a quick impression on his teammates. One day into the school year, Koenig was named one of MPCG's captains by his teammates.

"You really can't ask for a better kid. He's awesome and his teammates recognize that," Sola said.

MayPort-CG and Richland were scoreless after 15 minutes

but the Patriots broke through with 22 unanswered points in the second quarter.

MPCG kicked off the scoring with an eight-play, 45-yard scoring drive capped off by a 33-yard touchdown run by Koenig and two-point catch by Lucas Fugleberg to give the Patriots an 8-0 lead.

Richland was stuffed on three straight downs on its ensuing possession and turned over the ball after Koenig tackled Richland's punter at the Colts' 3-yard line.

Rexine punched in the ball on the next play to extend MPCG's lead to 14-0.

The Patriots added another

touchdown on a five-play, 54-yard drive highlighted by a 33-yard touchdown strike from Koenig to a leaping Jake Hutter with 1:52 left before half.

Sola's team controlled the ball in the second half behind Rexine and an offensive line that allowed MPCG's runners to rack up 251 yards against the Colts defense.

Rexine took a third-down handoff from Koenig and rumbled for a 12-yard touchdown run on the third play to start the fourth quarter to increase MPCG's lead to 28-0.

The sophomore running back broke free for another touchdown on a 38-yard run as part of a 96-yard drive to cap the scoring at 36-0.

Sola said Rexine, who saw his first significant varsity action in the backfield, appeared more comfortable against the Colts as the game went along.

"He seemed to get tougher after a slow start," Sola said. "He had a run in that second half where he knocked a kid down and wasn't afraid to take contact. That's what we need from him."

GAME NOTES: MPCG held Richland to 166 yards of offense. Koenig ran nine times for 77 yards and threw for 50 yards on 6-of-9 passing. He had five solo tackles and 4.5 tackles for loss.

Fugleberg finished with 23 yards rushing. Hutter added 19 yards on two carries. MPCG junior Walker McGillis and senior Braeden Knudsvig had three solo tackles apiece.

NEXT UP: MPCG hosts Hankinson at 7 p.m. tonight (Friday) at Jerome Berg Field on the Mayville State campus.

The Pirates beat Griggs-Midkota 10-6 on the road a week ago.

Sports Series: Large Weeklies



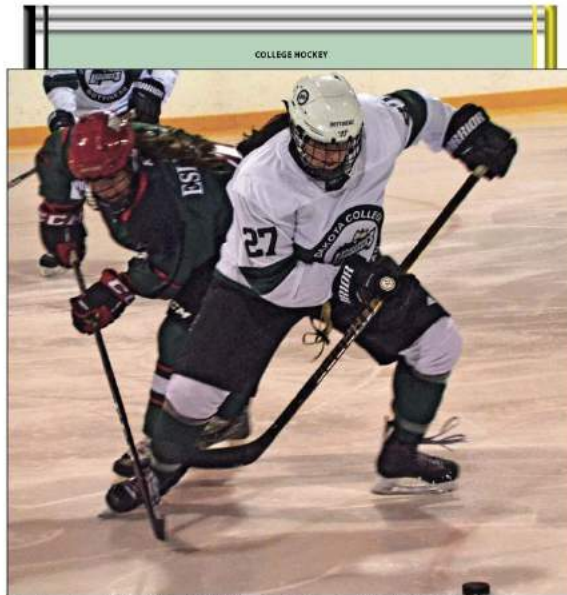
◆ Third Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Grafton GBB state tournament
Chelsea Wysocki

◆ Second Place

- Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer
Paddlefish snagging season –
April 28, May 5, May 19
Ashleigh Plemper

Sports Series: Large Weeklies



DCB women's hockey defenseman Laila Chertoff, a Canadian player of Ashkiihoo descent, is one of six Indigenous players who featured last winter during the Ladyjacks' season of success.
(Photo by photo: Andrew Smith)

PRECEDENT SET

High amount of Indigenous players on Ladyjacks' first team seen as selling point for program

Editor's note: This is the first part of a series on Indigenous hockey players, including those at DCB.

By Matthew Semisch
Bottineau Courier

Eighteen months ago, members the DCB's new women's hockey program approached May Peltier at just the right time.

A Bottineau-Higher forward playing in North Dakota's state high league, Peltier was weary away from graduating from Bottineau High, but she hadn't considered playing in college and initially turned down DCB's recruitment. Her on-ice development had jumped up at a rate of knots during her sophomore season, but she had monthly called Minnesota Morris, a four-year university that doesn't have hockey teams.

Peltier's mind was changed in March of 2019, two months after DCB announced that it was starting a women's hockey program that would begin playing the following season. The Ladyjacks' first coach was not to be hired, but DCB pooled together personnel from the college's faculty and Bottineau's youth hockey organization.

■ RECRUITING Continued on p. 5



First Place

■ Bottineau Courier

*Indigenous hockey players
at DCB*

Matthew Semisch

Sports Series: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News

Breckenridge volleyball goes to state tourney

Robert Wanek Jr.

◆ Second Place

- Jamestown Sun

On the way to the Dakota Bowl

Katie (Gerber) Ringer

Sports Series: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

■ Williston Herald

Rex Causey out as WHS girls basketball head coach

Analicia Haynes

Rex Causey out as WHS girls basketball head coach

BY ANALICIA HAYNES
sports@willistonherald.com

Rex Causey will no longer be the head coach for the girls basketball team at Williston High School.

The current assistant coach, Cory Fleck, will be the interim head coach for the remainder of the season.

Recently, the team wasn't able to have a varsity season and dropped down to having only a JV team and a freshmen team.

WHS athletic director Robert Conley issued

a statement, and spoke with the Herald before 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18 confirming the decision to remove Causey as head coach.

Conley said he couldn't speak on specifics or on employee matters, however in the statement he wrote that, "after careful consideration and evaluation, I have concluded that it is in the best interest of our Girls Basketball program that a coaching change is made."

He said, "effective immediately, Coach Rex Causey will no longer

serve as the head girls basketball coach for Williston Basin School District #7."

On Dec. 20, an update that was submitted to the Herald said that the WHS athletic department will not be reopening registration for winter sports.

The story is breaking and will be updated as more information becomes available.

The athletic department also said in the update that it will schedule a parent meeting for parents of current players in the near future.



ANALICIA HAYNES • WILLISTON HERALD

Rex Causey, the head coach for the Williston High School girls basketball team, regrouped with his team during a timeout on Feb. 11 in a game against Mandan. WHS lost the game 93-40.

Sports Series: Large Multi-Dailies



First Place

- Grand Forks Herald
UND hockey
Brad E. Schlossman



Nick Nelson / Grand Forks Herald

UND goalie Peter Thome skates to the blue line as part of player introductions prior to a Valentine's Day home matchup against Denver.

By Brad E. Schlossman
Grand Forks Herald
Peter Thome spent the last four years as the backup goalie at UND. He showed unwavering support and genuine joy for the starter's successes whether it was Cam Johnson

In 2017-18 or Adam Scheel the last three years. He developed a reputation for his ability to come into the lineup whenever needed — no matter how long he had been off — and winning important games. But now, it's Thome's chance to take center stage.

The UND goaltender will transfer to use his fifth and final year of college eligibility at the University of St. Thomas, where he is set to usher the St. Paul-based school into its Division-I era. "This is a great opportunity to play some games and be

a part of history, the first Division-I team in St. Thomas history," Thome said. "That's pretty cool. Honestly, I'm really excited." St. Thomas will begin Division-I play next season as a member of the Central Collegiate Hockey

Association, which also will feature Bemidji State, Minnesota State-Mankato, Bowling Green, Ferris State, Lake Superior State, Northern Michigan and Michigan Tech.

THOME: Page 10

north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Sports Feature

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Sports Feature: Small Weeklies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Elgin, Grant County News**

Underdogs do it again

Jill Friesz

◆ **Second Place**

- **Park River, Walsh County Press**

Making Her Mark on the World Stage

Jaden Rose

Sports Feature: Small Weeklies



First Place

- **New England, Hettinger County Herald**
Kathrein tackles two fall sports
Luann Dart

Kathrein tackles two fall sports

LUANN DART
For the Herald

What day is it? Depending on the day, Justin Kathrein is lacing either football cleats or cross-country spikes. Either tackling a rival under the Friday night lights of the football field or attacking a hill on the sunlit cross-country course.

The New England High School junior is competing in varsity dual sports this fall, as a football player and cross-country runner, and is the only athlete undertaking that endeavor at the school.

"He plays significant minutes for the football team, but he loves cross-country. I know he runs when he can't go to practice. There were a few nights when football was going on and we started with practice and he was there every night, running with us after sweating it out all day," says the cross-country head coach, Andrew Burch.

"He loves to run and I think he's motivated to succeed his year and

really go for it," Burch says.

"He's a go-getter. He's super competitive. The conversation is not making him pick one or the other. As a coach, he communicates with me," says the football head coach, Nate Zachmann. "He needs to do what he wants to do. It's that trust and relationship. I want him to go succeed in cross-country as much as I do for football."

"I love multisport athletes, even if it's in the same season. If he's willing to do it, he should do it. He never runs out of energy," Zachmann says. "He wants to be good at what he does. He's got energy. He's got energy," Zachmann says with a smile.

Kathrein has been exerting that energy in football since fourth grade and cross-country every year since fourth grade and participated in track since sixth grade. So, he's been juggling dual sports several years. And it is a juggle.

When sports practices began last summer, he



Justin Kathrein competes with the Mott-Regent/New England football team and the New England High School cross-country team in the fall, along with competing in basketball and track later in the year.

| Photo by Luann Dart

ran at cross-country practices in the mornings, then donned his football gear for a late-afternoon practice.

"It was tiring, and at the end of the day I was very sore," he says of the summer practices.

to cross-country practices, because I'm already in shape for it, and for football it's all mental. You have to be mentally prepared, so I have to go to practices to know plays," he says.

Whether he's engulfed in the football huddle, surrounded by teammates, or enveloped in the loneliness of a long-distance runner, he loves both fall sports.

"I just love the feeling of running. I love running," he says of cross-country.

"This year, I don't really have a team for cross-country. I am the varsity team at the moment," he says, as the only high schooler on a team with four eighth-graders.

"At practice, I run ahead. As me not having anyone faster than me or the same pace as me, it's hard, but I'm also training the underclassmen to be faster than everybody else. At the last cross-country meet, all the kids have worked hard to keep up with me and they have taken top places, so I feel I'm helping the

underclassmen," he says of the eighth-graders in cross-country.

Cross-country practice consists of running 400- or 300-meter intervals or two- to three-mile distance runs.

As the seasons started, Justin ran in a cross-country meet Thursday, then played football Friday.

"Friday, I was ready to go. I was excited for it," he says.

He debated football this year, but decided not to step out of the sport.

"Cross-country was going to be the top thing I was going to focus on," he says.

"Not being on the farm to help my parents, that's the biggest challenge," he says of participating in both sports. He is the son of Adrien and Joe Kathrein.

Justin's goals for cross-country are to whittle his 5-K to 18 minutes, and to convince more athletes to try the sport.

In football, his goal is to "pop off someone's

Kathrein

Cont. Pg. 6

Sports Feature: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Hillsboro Banner**

Looking back on greatness

Kayla Morton

◆ **Second Place**

- **Hillsboro Banner**

The Comeback Kids

Cole Short

Sports Feature: Mid-Size Weeklies



First Place

■ Tioga Tribune

Blind, in pain and isolated, a local athlete's struggle
Jacob Orledge

Blind, in pain and isolated: A local athlete's struggles

By Jacob Orledge

Brianna Rose is curled up on the bathroom floor and in excruciating pain.

Her left eye is in agony. The pain, as it lances into one of the most sensitive parts of a human body, is crippling. Nothing can be done.

Bree isn't alone. Her mother, Kassie, is also present. Kassie isn't in physical pain but the sense of hopelessness she experiences, watching her child in pain and being powerless to stop it, is almost as terrible.

This wasn't an isolated medical emergency. It wasn't a shock. It didn't result in a 9-1-1 call and an ambulance to find out what's wrong or a trip to the local emergency room for relief.

The Rose family knew what was wrong. They were just powerless to do anything about it.

The 13-year-old Bree has acanthamoeba keratitis. In simpler terms, she has a rare single-cell parasite in her eye that causes intense pain, obstructs the vision in her left eye and leaves her so sensitive to light she has to sit in darkness behind blackout curtains all day long.

"This is the worst pain I've ever gone through and I would never wish it upon anybody," Bree said. "I hope nobody else would have to go through this."

Bree, experiencing the para-



Jacob Orledge - Tioga Tribune

Kassie, Bree and Frankie Rose are holding up well under the pressure of a daunting and challenging situation.

site and its effects firsthand, takes the brunt of the pain. But watching a loved one suffer, comes with its own heartbreak.

"It's intensely painful," said Bree's mother, Kassie. "It's awful to witness."

"I just want her pain to go away. And I know that there's not much to be done about that."

Bree has shown signs of improvement in recent weeks. She has been prescribed PHMB drops. It's one of the few treat-

ment options available for the condition.

The treatment is also highly toxic. It's just as likely to cause short-term pain and long-term vision impairment as the parasite itself.

"It's essentially pool sanitizer," said Kassie. "They're toxic to the eye."

It has been a tough two-and-a-half months for the Rose family. But they've found a silver lining to their troubles as friends, churches and commu-

nities rise up to support them.

The great masquerader

It all began in December. The symptoms weren't anything out of the ordinary. A red, itchy eye consistent with conjunctivitis. Less than a month later Bree had lost all vision in her left eye and woke up to discover a white film over her iris.

"I got so scared," Bree said. The family rushed to the emergency room at Tioga Medical Center and were referred

(See ROSE, Page 5)

Group of angels steps up

By Jacob Orledge

The Rose family is grateful for the amount of support they have received in the area.

"This close-knit community and the way people are so supportive," said Kassie, "I wouldn't trade it for the world."

She gets prayers and encouragement almost every time she leaves the house.

"That means the world to me," said Kassie. "I wish everyone could feel this love."

The support isn't limited to Tioga. Bree plays on a travel basketball team and the family has come into contact with people as far away as McGregor, Ross and Minot who pray for them.

Several free-will offerings have been held by churches to help financially support the Rose family as they pay for the medical treatment, such as the one Pastor Mike Olson did in McGregor.

"A couple of her teammates and their parents go to church in Ross and they did the same thing," added Frankie.

The next free will offering

will be on March 21 at Zion Lutheran Church in Tioga. It will run from 11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"You don't get this in a big city," said Frankie. "Or probably you do but I've never seen it."

Two of their biggest supporters, Bruce and Glenda Lovdahl, have helped organize the benefit at Zion Lutheran.

"We lived right next to them for five years so they look at Bree and Kingston as their grandkids," said Frankie.

The most important part of the benefit, Kassie said, is to show up and offer words of encouragement. However if someone can't be there and wants to offer financial support they can contact the Lovdahls.

The support they've seen from friends and neighbors, though, has made all the difference.

"Just the way God is working in us has been incredible," said Kassie. "I know he sent us a whole community of angels. People looking after us, encouraging us."

Sports Feature: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer
Watford City's scoring machines
Neal A. Shipman

◆ Third Place

- Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer
To fight is to win for young boxer
Ashleigh Plemper

◆ Second Place

- Casselton, Cass County Reporter
Local Man's Podcast Goes Viral - CC Treehouse
Angela Kolden

Sports Feature: Large Weeklies



WESTHOPE-NEWBURG BOYS BASKETBALL



Westhope-Newburg eighth-grader Rocklin Beaudrie is back on the basketball court after undergoing open-heart surgery Oct. 1. (Submitted photo)

WHAT A CATCH

Westhope-Newburg's Beaudrie back after surgery for heart defect found in sports physical

By Matthew Semisch
Bottineau Courant

Sports physicals, required in all states for student-athletes to participate in organized activities, don't get talked about much.

This is partly because they're almost always uneventful. These routine exams aren't all alike, and amid the COVID-19 pandemic, many families have opted to simply see their private physician to fill out a form. The general idea, though, is that if all is deemed well with the athlete's heart and skeletal and muscular integrity, the athlete is good to go.

On Aug. 16, Newburg eighth-grader Rocklin Beaudrie wasn't.

■ BEAUDRIE Continued on 38



First Place

■ Bottineau Courant

Beaudrie back after surgery for heart defect found in sports physical

Matthew Semisch

Sports Feature: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Williston Herald

*Mikaela Rehak to be inducted in
Alaska Hockey Hall of Fame*

Analicia Haynes

◆ Second Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News

*Wahpeton's secret superstar
Robert Wanek Jr.*

Sports Feature: Small Multi-Dailies



SPORTS

Ford's finale: A storied career ends for JHS track star

Meghan Ford finished out her high school running career Saturday in Bismarck.



Jamestown's Meghan Ford runs all alone near the finish line towards the end of the Class A girls' 3200 meter run Saturday, May 29, 2021 at the North Dakota State Track and Field Meet in Bismarck. John M. Steiner / The Sun

By Katie Gerber

May 29, 2021 06:14 PM

SHARE   

BISMARCK -- Meghan Ford had seven laps of her signature race completed when the announcer uttered the words:

"Four hundred meters remaining for the most decorated athlete in the state."



First Place

■ Jamestown Sun

*Ford's finale: A storied
career ends for
JHS track star*

Katie (Gerber) Ringer

Sports Feature: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

*Former Fargo elite skater reflects
on loss of '61 skating team*

Tracy Briggs

◆ Third Place

- Grand Forks Herald

*Defying norms on field,
making an impact off it*

Ingrid Harbo

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

Amy's army

Jeff Kolpack

Sports Feature: Large Multi-Dailies



First Place

■ Grand Forks Herald

65 years after winning Olympic silver, Bennett still enjoys the Games

Tom Miller

HOMETOWN PRIDE

Sixty-five years after winning Olympic silver, Grand Forks Central's John Bennett still enjoys the Games

By Tom Miller
Grand Forks Herald

As a youth in Grand Forks, John Bennett didn't consider himself a runner.

"I was pretty slow," said Bennett, now 90, living in Middleton, Wis. His brother Neil Bennett, a 1941 Grand Forks Central graduate, former University of North Dakota runner and a World War II veteran, wanted to get his younger brother involved in track and field anyway.

"He said, 'Why don't you try something like the long jump instead of running?'" Bennett said. "He took me to the broad jump and said this is what you do. You run on the runway and hit that board with your feet. Then you propel through the air."

"So, I said, okay, let me see if I can do what you're saying."

Bennett made his first career jump.

"Hold on a minute," Neil told John. "I'm going to mark and measure. I think you already have a winning jump."

For Bennett, a 1950 Central graduate, that was the beginning of a long career in track and field that culminated in a silver medal in the Melbourne, Australia, Olympic Games in 1956.

Only three North Dakotans have won medals at the Summer Olympics: Bennett, runner Cliff Cushman (2,000 meters, 1960) and boxer Virgil Hill (1984). All three grew up in Grand Forks and all three won silver.

Only Grand Forks' Ken Purpur (1956 Winter Olympics, silver medal) and Grand Forks natives and women's hockey stars Monique and Jocelyne Lamoureux (silver in 2010 and 2014, gold in 2018) have won Olympic medals in the Winter Games. The Lamoureux twins are the only gold medalists.

Bennett, a two-time NCAA national champion at Marquette, was sometimes asked about his hometown.

"I would always reply with pride," Bennett said. "I'm from a small city and a small state. I was so fortunate to have the people watch out for me at Grand Forks Central. I was the learning type. I always knew we could do things better. We worked hard to develop a form, got it down pat and that got me going."

Bennett was born in Grand Forks in 1920. His parents both died when he was 10, and he lived his teenage years with his aunt Kathryn, who died of cancer 1963.

Bennett was a multi-sport athlete at Central. He was an all-state running back on the 1949 Central football team and captained the basketball team during the 1949-50 season.

Bennett won two North Dakota high school state track and field titles.

PRIDE: Page A15



Submitted photos
John Bennett, a 1950 Grand Forks Central graduate, holds his Olympic jumping shoes as he stands in front of his medals, including a silver medal in the long jump in the 1956 Olympic Games.



John Bennett, right, poses with USA track and field legend Jesse Owens during a flight isover in Hawaii en route to the Melbourne Olympics in 1956.

north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Sports Column

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Sports Column: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Harvey, The Herald Press
HWC in Week 7 by Neil O. Nelson
Neil O. Nelson

◆ Third Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
Once more, hard work does the job
Allen Stock

◆ Second Place

- Hillsboro Banner
Have questions on next week's region tourney?
Kayla Morton

Sports Column: Mid-Size Weeklies



Hope springs eternal with the return of spring sports

There's no going back, but the start of high school spring sports seems like a do-over in North Dakota.

The coronavirus pandemic that's invaded our daily lives took root in the state a year ago.

The virus shut down the North Dakota state Class B boys basketball tournament in mid-March 2020 – then swallowed up the entirety of high school spring sports across the state.

It's been a strange, difficult and mask-filled year to get back to this point.

Back to the point where a teenage pitcher can grab a ball and sprint out to the mound in a varsity baseball game.

Back to a time when high school relay teams huddle in the infield of a track, because there's an unspoken rule that track meets in North Dakota occur only when it's 40 degrees outside.

Or when gale-force winds make it feel like it's 40.

Back to a day when young golfers ditch classes for the day and grip it and rip it on a golf course 20 miles outside Fargo, where people build homes I can't afford.

Finally, after 12 long months, we're back to that point.

There's a lingering sadness that so many high school seniors lost out on their spring seasons a year ago.

Hillsboro-Central Valley's track teams were loaded with talented seniors a year ago.

There are no do-overs for these athletes



**COLE
SHORT**
Editor



First Place

■ Hillsboro Banner

Hope springs eternal
Cole Short

Sports Column: Large Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record

Kudos to us

Chelsea Wysocki

◆ Second Place

- Bottineau Courant

DCB owes Getzloff for his loyalty

Matthew Semisch

Sports Column: Large Weeklies



EDITORIAL

State run is one to remember

Editor's note: Bottineau-Rugby senior defenseman Riley Biberdorf spent the last two summers as an intern with the Bottineau Courant.

By Riley Biberdorf



As a high school senior in 2021, nothing can be taken for granted. The same can be said as a senior on the Bottineau-Rugby boys

hockey team.

Coming into the season, we weren't even sure that we would get to see the ice. After Gov. Doug Burgum's executive order delaying the start of the winter sports season ended Dec. 15, we were excited and ready to get the ball rolling on our senior season.

After going 8-9 in the regular



Bottineau-Rugby defenseman Riley Biberdorf looks to dear the puck during the Braves' 8-1 loss at Grand Forks Central in the first round of the North Dakota boys high school state hockey tournament. (Photo by Matthew Semesch)

season, we found ourselves in the sixth seed of the Western Dakota Association boys hockey tournament and knew that we would need to upset two of the West Region hockey blue bloods in the state of North Dakota if we wanted to make our dreams come true and qualify for the North Dakota state hockey tournament.

We were in the third grade the last time BRHS went to the state tournament, and I vividly remember watching them play

■ RUN Continued on 7B



First Place

■ Bottineau Courant

*State run is
one to remember*

Riley Biberdorf

Sports Column: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Second Place

- Jamestown Sun

Sun sets on 13-year sports writing career

Michael Savaloja

Sports Column: Small Multi-Dailies



OPINION

Clipping the culture vultures

Problems plaguing youth sports

Every sports program has the hero and the villain, the angel and the demon, the keeper of the culture and the culture vulture.



ROBERT WANEK JR.

In the digital age of 2021, instant validation and social media that serves as an online loudspeaker has decimated sports culture. At the local high school level, team leaders have the luxury of seeing this unfold in front of them, and the choice to clip the wings of culture vultures before they take flight. Outlined below are four issues currently taking hold in sports society nationwide.

Parent coaching

I've long been an opponent of parent coaching, aside from rare instances. Parents have an innate drive to protect their child, to view them favorably and to appease their wants. It's parental nature. While this is noble, it isn't conducive to team success. Biological blinders have led to favoritism in sports. Parent coaching should be avoided when possible at the upper youth levels to best suit players of all skill levels. Bias, albeit often unintentional, can be the downfall of a team.

The "I" epidemic

This problem stems from all denominations - directors, coaches, parents and fans. Programs must be wary when they hear any of these groups say things like "I hate losing." These individuals do not lose games. In fact, they aren't even the ones playing. They fail to realize the game isn't about them and the more they project their feelings about the outcome of games, the more it bleeds into the minds and performances of the actual players they are supposed to be supporting - win or lose.

All sports enthusiasts should caution against teaching our youth to make team functions about themselves. Those who care about the game

understand that winning is a byproduct of involving everyone, not "Winning at all costs."

Lack of example

Coaches failing to set an example is becoming more and more common, especially among the younger generation currently filling roles left by the old guard. For example, many coaches will opt to make their team run following losses or physical mistakes. Running is a punishment. Why would a leader spend valuable practice time running his team? How does this improve a player's ability to become better? Running should be reserved for misbehavior, disrespect and conduct detrimental to the team. Furthermore, young coaches, who are physically able, should run with their team. Leadership starts at the top and players won't care about what you know until they know you care. I've seen coaches run players in 95-degree heat, melting away any respect for their well-being.

Vocalizing negativity

Another increasingly negative development at the high school level is the verbiage. A rising sense of entitlement has led to parents screaming at officials and players doing the same to each other, coaches and officials. This completely takes away from the focus needed to play the game. Sports are finite and these distractions are a detriment to championship aspirations. The goal some fans have to berate officials and coaches out loud in the heat of game action is even more disrespectful considering they act like nothing happened after the buzzer sounds. This isn't the Super Bowl or the NBA Finals - this is high school athletics.

If you are involved in any capacity with a youth sports program, don't be afraid to look in the mirror and dig deep to see if you perpetuate these negative values. If you see someone encroaching on positive sports culture in your community, kindly address it, because that's what these young athletes deserve.



First Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News
Clipping the culture vultures
Robert Wanek Jr.

Sports Column: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Bismarck Tribune

Quite a weekend for local athletes

Dave Selvig

◆ Third Place

- Grand Forks Herald

*The Hawks needed to make
NDSU QB beat them, but they didn't*

Brad E. Schlossman

◆ Second Place

- Grand Forks Herald

At least for a day, UND is out of NDSU's shadow

Wayne Nelson



Minnesota could soon claim another Baseball Hall of Famer

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

made by inventing the practice of travelling thousands of miles to teach and playing whenever you'd like to play."

"We've discovered that we've got at least 200 clinics in at least 200 cities in the United States and Canada," Gertens said. "We're really the first black man. We were the first African-American player who crossed over the color barrier."

Indeed, pioneering Negro League player Buck O'Neil said that it was his "Natty Bumppo" brother who "made it his duty to go to his white brother to get him to learn to play the game and spread the word to his white brother, perhaps the next famous white black ballplayer."

DONALDSON: Page E33

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
Gopher state great
Mike McFeely

north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Editorial

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Editorial: Small Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Drayton, Valley News & Views
...he just keeps ticking
Lyle Van Camp

◆ Third Place

- Elgin, Grant County News
Editorial
Jill Friesz

◆ Second Place

- Drayton, Valley News & Views
What is best for the students
Lesa Van Camp

Editorial: Small Weeklies



Far Afield

BY JERRY W. KRAM
EDITOR



C'mon man, get the shot

There's an old story about the tenderfoot who was trying to hook the family mule to the wagon to go into town. The mule just sat down on its haunches and refused to move. The tenderfoot tried pulling and pushing and even bribing the mule with apples and carrots, but it wouldn't get up. Finally the crusty old hired man came over and with a six foot two by four and with a swing worthy of Barry Bonds smacked that mule right between the eyes. The mule collapsed, but when it regained its senses, it docilely stood up and allowed the hired man to harness it to the wagon.

"First," the old man told the tenderfoot, "You have to get its attention."

Nearly two years, in the first months of the pandemic, I wrote in this very column ago that our state was doing a good job keeping the virus at bay. Trouble was our success early on made us complacent. And when screeching voices started demanding that economics take precedence over public health, the party was on and the hangover was disastrous.

It's hard to remember now but doctors and epidemiologists were already expressing concern over the opening of state for graduations and Memorial Day picnics in 2020, followed by re-opening bars and restaurants. Sure enough, North Dakota saw a spike in cases in early June of that year. There was another spike following the Fourth of July celebrations. Even after vaccines were introduced, we had more and more spikes, the latest of which, caused by the Delta Variant, is only now starting to subside.

es but in most places they were allowed to lapse between spikes in hospitalizations and deaths. Many places still have them, but they are routinely ignored. The life-saving vaccine is free, and yet it is routinely vilified.

Almost exactly a year ago, I was one of the victims of the pandemic. I wasn't officially diagnosed, but I couldn't get out of bed for four days. It was something I never want to go through again, so as soon as I could, I got the shots. My brother also had COVID last year, but when I talked to him in mid-September he said he had decided not to get vaccinated because he had already had the disease. Turns out he was one of the one in four people who didn't gain immunity "naturally" after having COVID. Two weeks later he was admitted to the hospital and stayed there three weeks. His oxygen levels are still not back to normal and he is facing a long recovery.

His story isn't unusual. Even though the number of vaccinated and unvaccinated people are about equal, nine out of 10 patients in the hospital are unvaccinated nationwide. Places like Idaho were so overwhelmed they were begging hospitals in other states to take patients to make room in their intensive care units.

So we do what we can, even if it isn't enough. At least we can do our part to not make things worse. Wear a mask. Get tested, especially if you have symptoms. Try to avoid crowds unless it is absolutely necessary. Keep your distance in stores, restaurants and bars. Most of all, get the shots. This isn't rocket science.



First Place

■ New Town News

C'mon man, get the shot
Jerry Kram

Editorial: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- New Rockford Transcript

A year into the pandemic, I'm still stressed

Rachel Brazil

◆ Second Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent

At what price do we take care of ourselves?

Allen Stock

Editorial: Mid-Size Weeklies



First Place

■ New Rockford Transcript

Charting new territory

Amy Wobbema



Charting new territory

by Amy Wobbema

The past few weeks have been a whirlwind. I've taken on two new roles, and I traveled more than 400 miles from home in the midst of it all.

I became the 10th publisher of the Foster County Independent on Oct 1. I was also abruptly promoted to first vice president of the North Dakota Newspaper Association a few days later, and I will be considered for election as president in May of next year.

Both of these responsibilities I accepted willingly, after thoughtful consideration. Then, as my husband, son and I spent hours in the vehicle traveling to Deadwood, S.D. for a newspaper convention this past weekend, I reflected both on how far I've come as a journalist, and how far I have yet to go in the years ahead.

While this might be a refresher for Transcript readers, I wanted to use my first column in the Foster County Independent to share with readers a little about myself and how I approach news.

My philosophy is similar to Allen Stock's, a veteran

newspaperman who has spent 65 years serving the community where he lives. Democracy demands journalism, and it is our responsibility as community journalists to report the news impacting our communities.

We are here to celebrate with our readers, such as we did last week in New Rockford. Our Homecoming spread featured full-color photos and articles about the annual event, and was sponsored by local businesses. Kudos to Kyrie O'Connor, who took all the photos and designed a fantastic spread!

We are also here to inform and educate our readers, which requires writing about the not-so-pleasant news. We publish articles when lawsuits are filed, when workers walk out, and when people commit crimes.

Our pages are built to be a reflection of the communities we serve, not of our own interests. Therefore, when we cover an unsettling or controversial topic, we do so because our goal is to provide information to

our readers.

We seek comment from individuals on all sides of an issue in order to provide readers context, so they can make their own decisions. We give individuals the opportunity to pen follow-up responses once a story is written, and we run corrections when we are notified that we have made errors.

Oftentimes our job is easy, as there is so much good happening in our communities that we can fill our pages with positive news. Other times we lay awake at night going over every word we have published, asking ourselves if we have done everything we can to make a controversial report fair and balanced.

This past week my staff received an email stating, "Your publication's small-mindedness astounds me" because we published an article that someone deemed unfavorable. This was after both the reporter and I worked on it for three days to ensure that we removed any personal character attacks. We also laid out all the issues for individuals on the other side (in writing) and gave them an opportunity to respond before we went to press.

This, dear readers, is journalism at work. We don't take tough topics lightly, and we certainly don't pen "biased and inaccurate" ar-

ticles for the sake of selling newspapers.

I have been a part of the New Rockford community for 17 years, and I stake my reputation on making sure that your local newspaper contains articles that are not only accurate, but relevant to the community.

I have also spent time in Carrington. In fact, my first job was at the Carrington Dairy Queen, where I learned customer service from Dan and Joanne Helfrich. My grandparents, Ted and Vonnie Schimelfenig, moved to Carrington in 1972 and remained residents until their deaths. Some of my best memories happened in their modest stucco home on Second Street North.

Taking on the responsibility of another newspaper will not be easy, but it is a path I have chosen because I care about these communities. I know Hwy. 281 well, and you will often find me on the road throughout the next few decades.

I am grateful to the staff both in New Rockford and Carrington, who work hard every day to produce newspapers that local people want to read. And I'm also grateful to you, the readers, for your support, encouragement and feedback. I look forward to hearing from you.

Editorial: Large Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record

Americans prepare to tighten their belts

Todd Morgan

◆ Second Place

- Crosby, The Journal

Transparency lacking in city process

Cecile Wehrman

Editorial: Large Weeklies



WHY IN THE WORLD SHOULD AMERICAN TAXPAYERS BE PAYING \$450,000 TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS!

Just when you don't think that it is possible for the Biden Administration to come up with another goofy idea to spend another billion or so of taxpayer money, the news media has uncovered yet another head scratcher.

This past week, the Wall Street Journal reported that the White House is seeking to pay illegal immigrants seized at the U.S. border \$450,000 per person or up to \$1 million per family.

Yep, you read that right. American taxpayers, who are struggling to meet their monthly obligations and who can only dream of seeing a \$450,000 windfall land in their laps, would once again be on the hook for more federal government spending.

According to the news report, the U.S. Department of Justice, Homeland Security, and the Health and Human Services are considering these payments in response to lawsuits filed by families of illegal immigrants claiming that they have suffered from "lasting psychological trauma" as a result of being separated at the southern border after having crossed into the United States illegally.

In 2018, then-President Trump enacted a "zero-tolerance policy" to slow the rush of illegal immigrants into the United States. Under that policy, children could not be detained at the border and as a result families were separated, sometimes with no way to track and reunite them later on. By best estimates, about 5,500 children were separated at the border over the course of the Trump administration.

And now the lawsuits by the families are alleging that the separated children were housed in poor conditions, and sometimes suffered from malnutrition or heat exhaustion or were kept in freezing cold rooms and offered little medical care. Lawyers for the families argue the children have suffered long-lasting trauma from the anxiety of being without their parents.

Yes, it is unfortunate that the children were separated from their parents when the families were trying to enter the United States illegally.

And illegally is the key word that everyone must remember.

No matter what happened to the families when they were apprehended by the U.S. Border Patrol, the fact is that these families had no right to enter this country in the first place. And as illegal immigrants they should not be entitled to any compensation.

Obviously, the proposed payout to these illegal immigrants is drawing a sharp rebuke from many in Congress, as well as from concerned citizens across the country.

And it should.

Why should the Biden Administration even consider providing an estimated \$1 billion in taxpayer money to illegal aliens, as well as a pathway to citizenship?

That is a question that every American needs to be asking their members of Congress.



First Place

- **Watford City,
McKenzie County Farmer**
***Why should American
taxpayers pay \$450,000
to illegal immigrants***
Neal A. Shipman

Editorial: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Wahpeton, Daily News

*Once we cover a crime, it lives online
forever; but does it need to?*

Carrie McDermott

◆ Third Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News

*Consequences exist;
First Amendment is not a blank check*

Frank Stanko

◆ Second Place

- Jamestown Sun

*Thank you, essential workers,
for what you do*

The Jamestown Sun Staff

Editorial: Small Multi-Dailies



COMMENTARY

We all bear the responsibility to come together

For me the message that has resonated the most after the shocking events in our nation's Capitol Wednesday were words that came from an organization that serves farmers.

We must come together, the message said. Not as farmers or city workers. Not as suburbanites. Not as environmentalists. Not as Republicans or Liberals. So-called moderates, Libertarians, Antifa, Proud Boys, or whatever.

We must all come together. As Americans. We must put aside bitterness. Disappointment. Outrage. We must rally instead behind the principles that forged our great nation — in a time of great and desperate division — and which has ultimately held us together through two world wars and more besides.

We must do this. Because we cannot sustain our Republic, and our liberty, if we don't.

I have been in the news business for going on 30 years now. And I can count on the fingers of one hand the number of times I've felt compelled to write an editorial. Particularly an editorial about politics.

I much prefer to focus on telling a good story. I like writing about farmers. Oil and gas workers. I love gee-whiz, ain't that cool science. It's my goal every day to help people understand the science in their everyday lives, without ever realizing I've taught them anything particular about that at all.

Given that I have a degree in chemistry, and the writing bug since I was 6 years old, I am ideally suited to this mission. That is where my head is most of the time. But what I saw happening Wednesday afternoon could not be denied, and it demands my words now as a patriotic American citizen.

I saw men and women carrying Trump flags, and Confederate flags, and wearing

Make America Great Again hats, chanting something that sounded like



Renee Jean
I'll agree

that some of them did look relatively harmless, strolling along a roped corridor like high schoolers sneaking into the teacher's lounge for a soda. But others carried weapons. And some planted pipe bombs. A woman was shot, and at least one Capitol police officer has since died of injuries sustained during the conflict.

To say what I saw was intimidating is to understate it dramatically. It was terrifying, and I was not even there in person.

Moments after posting an article about this mob swarming the Capitol, I was confronted by conspiracy theories that somehow were already circulating. It was Antifa. I was told in no uncertain and scolding terms. A closely cropped photo of some guy in horns was posted as some kind of murky proof.

The individual's name, I later learned, is Jake Angeli, a longtime, well-known Trump supporter. The sign he was carrying, oh so carefully cropped out, said "Q sent me." The individual scolding me with this "proof" failed to mention Angeli's true purpose at the BLM rally was to heckle them, and to maybe recruit followers.

We've reached a moment in time where people seem to think nothing of bending photographs, videos, and other details online to fit whatever reality they most want to believe in. This has not come about all at once. I have seen it creeping upon us over the last two decades in my social media feeds. As a reporter, I have always welcomed all

walks of life on my feed. Republicans, Moderates, Liberals, Libertarians. You name it. They are there. I appreciate all of them. They help me see the world through their eyes and educate me as I decide what is worth my words on any given day.

But it's also been disturbing to watch over the years as alternate realities have risen to life, with such devoted adherents that you do not dare utter one word of disagreement.

I have even been unfriended over such things. The latest was when I pointed out to an old classmate that Trump supporters are not necessarily supporting him because they are racist. I thought a better understanding of why folks actually supported him might help my liberal friend understand why Democrats are not doing well in so-called fly-over country. For the record, I've been unfriended by conservatives as well, but I digress.

There's now a sect in my feed that firmly believes vaccines are harmful. If they were, I've pointed out, you would see a lot more people suffering, since we've vaccinated literally everyone for decades. Not to mention, the scientist who first made the claim has since admitted he faked his study.

There's another group convinced Hillary Clinton runs a porn ring in a pizza parlor. Still. Even after some poor soul showed up at said pizza parlor with a gun. That allegation was made up by a guy who later admitted he wrote that story just to boost internet traffic. It certainly worked.

More recently, there's been an even more outrageous claim that Lady Gaga is drinking stressed out children's blood to remain young. The photo for that particular myth information came from an episode of a television horror series. The folks who believe these outrageously false things are all people I know. People I consider intelligent. Some of

them are attorneys. Others are teachers. None of them are stupid. Yet, seemingly, the more outrageous the claim, the more likely they are to take it up, post it, and then fervently argue for it against all comers. Even when it is provably false. The truth, seemingly, has no traction.

This dynamic has culminated in the violence we saw in the Capitol, where men like Angeli, an enthusiastic Trump supporter and QAnon devotee, bragged about, what to me anyway, is unimaginable. Assaulting our

Capitol. Intimidating our lawmakers with violence. Talking about bullet boxes instead of ballot boxes and telling elected officials to toss ballots that they have somehow determined from afar are illegitimate "or else."

The fact is that we have the world's best legal process and it has already examined these allegations of election fraud and found that there isn't just too little evidence. But no evidence. At all.

"Charges of unfairness are serious," wrote Trump appointee, Justice Stephen Breyer. "But calling an election unfair does not make it so. Charges require specific allegations and then proof. We have neither here."

He and 90-some other justices in 60-some court cases filed by Mr. Trump and his supporters.

I can remember, as a college youth who didn't really understand things as I do now, laughing at third world countries for this type of Banana Republic behavior. But I see now with sadness that there was nothing to laugh about. It deserved much more somber reflection than I was capable of then.

As tough as it may be to take, as angry as it may make you that I say it, we are all of us to blame for this breakdown of our society. There are no high roads here.

Maybe you are a liberal unable to understand the terrible

fears that are driving the words and deeds of your Republican counterparts, which seem to you divorced from reality. Perhaps you are a Republican, doing the same in reverse to so-called "Liberals" who you believe to be "truly evil." Or maybe you are a Libertarian, and thinking that makes you above it all, because you are neither of these bickering partisans.

But you are all wrong. All of you. I hope that what we all saw Wednesday, Jan. 6, serves as a wakeup call to you, regardless of which "ism" you claim.

We have to stop this. Your opponent is not Darth Vader, and you are not Luke Skywalker defending Democracy. In fact, when you cast your opponent that way, you are attacking something foundational to democracy, because you are ignoring the deeply felt concerns that your fellow American has. It's the equivalent of kicking a fellow American when he or she is down. And that is truly un-American.

I saw a scientific study not too long ago that found all these outrageous lies online are like mental chocolate for the brain. They fuel endorphins that make us feel good.

But it's time now for all of us to stop consuming these toxic treats. If something makes you mad online, stop for a moment and ask yourself who profits if you believe this item, particularly if it leads to something foolish, like storming the Capitol of our nation while China, Russia, and other countries that don't like us gleefully look on.

Continuing to consume these outrageous lies may feel good in the moment. But it won't bring any of us anything lasting. It certainly won't preserve our Republic.

And isn't that what we all really want above all else?

Renee Jean is the interim editor of the Sidney Herald and has covered oil and agricultural issues for the Williston Herald.



First Place

■ Williston Herald

We all bear the responsibility to come together

Renee Jean

Editorial: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Bismarck Tribune

Don't forget 7 who gave all in Afghanistan

Bismarck Tribune editorial board

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

*Jupiter Paulson died because the
criminal justice system failed*

Forum staff

Editorial: Large Multi-Dailies



OUR OPINION

TIF proposals: Plant today for shade later

Herald editorial board
Here's a scenario to explain tax increment financing: A sunny patio on a hot summer day. A big, sturdy shade tree would be nice, but first it must be planted. That will take some effort -- digging the hole, buying the sapling, planting it, watering it and so forth. The reward of the labor won't come for years, but when it does, the cool shade and aesthetic beauty will have been worth the sacrifice.

The same goes for tax increment financing proposals, which allow new development projects to avoid increases in property taxes for a set number of years. TIFs make projects more affordable for a developer, allowing them to get their project built and established before the higher tax structure kicks in. They still pay property taxes on the land's previously appraised value, but they won't pay on the new value for a predetermined number of years.

With TIFs, the sacrifice made in the initial years by the taxing entities -- the school district, the city and the county -- will be paid off later when the higher taxes kick in and remain in the decades that follow. Perhaps new jobs and business come with the projects, too.

This all is relevant as the Grand Forks School Board considers a series of TIF development projects that are hoping to move forward.

They include: Epic Companies' \$48.9 million plan to turn the now-defunct Townhouse Hotel into apartments, retail space, and a plaza; Burian & Associates' \$25 million plan to replace the university's Memorial Stadium with office space and apartments; a consortium of developers' \$7 million plan to renovate St. John's Block; and Northridge Construction's \$27.3 million plan to turn the Lyons Auto space, across from City Hall, into offices, retail and apartments.

A contingent of city leaders this week outlined the development projects and their hoped-for TIFs to the Grand Forks School Board. The city, the School Board and the County Commission all must approve the TIFs before the projects can move forward.



First Place

■ Grand Forks Herald

Plant today for shade later

Korrie Wenzel

north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Editorial Page

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Editorial Page: Small Weeklies



Honorable Mention

- New Town News

Editorial page

Jerry Kram



Third Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor

Opinion

News Monitor staff



Second Place

- Elgin, Grant County News

Editorial Page

Jill Friesz

Editorial Page: Mid-Size Weeklies



Third Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
Independent Opinion Page
Allen Stock, Lori Buchholtz



Second Place

- Hillsboro Banner
Banner Editorial Page
Cole Short

Editorial Page: Mid-Size Weeklies



First Place

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

NEIL O. NELSON

My all-time favorite column is "Growing Together." It's a place where people can share their stories, experiences, and perspectives. It's a place where people can find inspiration and support. It's a place where people can make a difference.

These past few weeks, I've been thinking about the power of storytelling. How it can help us understand the world around us, and how it can help us connect with each other. I've been thinking about the stories that we tell ourselves, and how they shape our lives. I've been thinking about the stories that we tell each other, and how they shape our communities.

I've been thinking about the stories that we tell the world, and how they shape our future. I've been thinking about the stories that we tell ourselves, and how they shape our lives. I've been thinking about the stories that we tell each other, and how they shape our communities.



Neil O. Nelson is a writer and editor. He has written for many years for various publications. He is currently the editor of the Growing Together journal. He is also a member of the National Writers Guild.

Global warming no longer a suspect

The drought gripping everything North of the border is no longer a suspect. It's a fact. It's a reality. It's a problem that we all need to face. It's a problem that we all need to solve. It's a problem that we all need to overcome.

The drought is a result of global warming. It's a result of the way we live. It's a result of the way we think. It's a result of the way we act. It's a result of the way we live, think, and act. It's a result of the way we live, think, and act. It's a result of the way we live, think, and act.

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Town's dawg caught in ethnic fight

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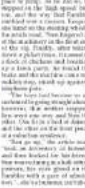
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Visit www.heraldpress.nd.com

Editorial Page: Small Multi-Dailies



Second Place

- **Wahpeton, Daily News**
Opinion page
Daily News staff

Editorial Page: Small Multi-Dailies



OPINION

44 WASHINGTON, SAT. JULY 11, 2015 THE JAMESTOWN SUN
WHAT WE THINK

Soybean crushing plant good news for region

The long-awaited announcement for a soybean crushing plant is a welcome addition to the region's economic growth. The plant, located in the former Capital Mall, will be the first of its kind in the area. It is expected to create 100 jobs and will be a significant addition to the region's economic growth. The plant is expected to be operational by 2017.

Avoiding uncomfortable conversations is why we are in this mess

Most, N.D. The long-awaited announcement for a soybean crushing plant is a welcome addition to the region's economic growth. The plant, located in the former Capital Mall, will be the first of its kind in the area. It is expected to create 100 jobs and will be a significant addition to the region's economic growth. The plant is expected to be operational by 2017.

Stutsman County Commission
Members: Christine...
Members: Christine...
Members: Christine...

Share your views
The Jamestown Sun is a community newspaper. We want to hear from you. Please send us your comments, suggestions, and news items. We will do our best to publish them.



What do we call people who only care about power?

What do we call people who only care about power? The original Big Lie emerged from "Meat Market" as the author... The original Big Lie emerged from "Meat Market" as the author...



Jamestown City Council
Mayor: George...
Council: George...
Council: George...

First Place Jamestown Sun Editorial page Kathy Steiner

Editorial Page: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Grand Forks Herald

Editorial pages:

Oct. 23, Oct. 30 and Nov. 3

Korrie Wenzel

◆ Second Place

- Bismarck Tribune

Bismarck Tribune Editorial Page

Staff

north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Standing News Fronts

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Standing News Fronts: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Dickinson Press
Well-Being in the Workplace
Meghan Dowhaniuk

◆ Third Place

- Jamestown Sun
Oil Deal Goes Sour
Emma Santee

◆ Second Place

- Jamestown Sun
Jamestown Rural Fire
Angela Ecklund

Standing News Fronts: Small Multi-Dailies



First Place

- Dickinson Press
Medora Wildfire
Tanner Larson

MEDORA WILDFIRE RAGES INTO THE NIGHT



Photos by Jessica C. Clavier / The Dickinson Press

Top: As of 7 p.m. MDT, firefighters reported that 15% of the fire had been contained, coming at a lofty cost of an estimated 9,600 acres burned. Responders remarked that good progress on fire containment was being made in spite of difficult terrain and red flag conditions. Left: A helicopter lifting hundreds of gallons of water to help extinguish a wildfire as the sun sets in Medora. Right: Winds fueled fires all day as firefighters fought to control the inferno.

9,600 acres destroyed

By James R. Miller, Jr.
The Dickinson Press

W Medora, N.D. firefighters battled in the North Dakota Badlands near Medora, forcing evacuations of residents and businesses, authorities with the U.S. Forest Service confirmed Thursday, April 1.

Following an emergency alert system message calling for the evacuation of homes and businesses in the city of Medora, a mass assistance call was placed for local, state and federal fire services to respond. Firefighters are battling the wildfire southwest of Medora, which has encroached on the city proper in increasing speeds. As of 7 p.m. MDT, firefighters reported that 15% of the fire had been contained, coming at a lofty cost of an estimated 9,600

acres burned. Responders remarked that good progress on fire containment was being made in spite of difficult terrain and red flag conditions. Sources inside the town confirmed with The Dickinson Press that the town proper suffered no significant structural damage from the fires, which could not be confirmed. Some residents who remained behind at historic sites spent the day as makeshift bucket brigades, pouring

water on buildings nearest the fire. As the sun set, the bulk of the fire remained an ongoing fight and changing wind directions could pose significant risk to Medora throughout the night, according to fire personnel. Gov. Doug Burgum declared a statewide wildfire emergency on Thursday, enabling the North Dakota National Guard to deploy two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters with water buckets to help fight the Billings County wildfire.

Bill Falsonek, with the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame in Medora, said every effort is being made to preserve historical portions of the town. "What's concerning is that the smoke is dark, and grass fire smoke is a white smoke," Falsonek said. "You see in the videos areas of black smoke coming out and that indicates that there is most likely something other than grass burning."

WILDFIRE: Page 6

Standing News Fronts: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
We The People
Michael Smith

◆ Third Place

- Grand Forks Herald
Standing news front:
Friday fire at Ambassador Motel
Lauren Wilson

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Little Book. Big Ideas.
Becca Clemens

Standing News Fronts: Large Multi-Dailies



B5 | WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2017 | THE FORUM

LIFE

CELEBRATE SUMMER FOOD

Grilled Eggplant Pomodoro is a delicious and vegetarian side dish.

GRILLED EGGPLANT POMODORO

Ingredients for the eggplant:
1 medium-large eggplant, sliced into 1/2-inch rounds, with an extra-virgin olive oil
1 teaspoon kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon ground pepper

Ingredients for Pomodoro sauce:
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
1 small onion, finely sliced (yellow, white or red all work), about 1/2 cup
1 large clove garlic, peeled and cut into halves or quarters
1 cup dry white wine
1 pint cherry or grape tomatoes, halved or quartered (pink grape tomatoes preferred)
Pinch of kosher salt
Pinch of ground pepper
1/2 cup water

Directions:
To prepare the eggplant, slice off any germ, brush the grill with vegetable oil to prevent the eggplant from sticking and preheat on high to about 400 degrees.
Place the eggplant rounds on a baking sheet, brush tops with extra-virgin olive oil, then sprinkle with salt and pepper. Flip the eggplant rounds and repeat on the other side.
Place the eggplant rounds on the hot grill and cook over direct heat until grill marks are achieved on the bottom, about 2 to 3 minutes. Flip eggplant rounds and repeat on the other side. Once grill marks are present on both sides, remove rounds from the grill and place on a serving platter.
To prepare the Pomodoro sauce, in a medium pan, add the olive oil, onion and garlic and cook over medium-high heat until the onions are soft and translucent, about 5 to 8 minutes. Add the white wine and continue to cook over medium-high heat until the liquid reduces by at least half, about 2 minutes. Once reduced, you can remove the garlic chunks, if desired.
Add the tomatoes and sprinkle with a pinch of salt and pepper. Continue to cook over medium-high heat until the tomatoes are broken down, about 3 minutes. Reduce the heat to the lowest setting and let the tomatoes simmer until the juices are released and the wine is light and reduced, about 10 to 12 minutes.
Add the water and fresh basil leaves and increase the heat to medium, cook until the sauce is thick enough to coat the back of a spoon, about 2 to 4 minutes.
Taste and add seasoning as desired.
On a serving platter or plates, arrange eggplant rounds by stacking 2 or 4 slices, and then spoon the sauce generously over each slice.
Sauce's Note:
To serve the dish completely hot, grill the eggplant as the tomatoes are simmering.
The eggplant can be prepared up to 3 days before using, and reheated or served at room temperature.
The sauce can be prepared up to 2 days in advance, and reheated or served at room temperature.
The sauce would also be great over grilled bread, hot and crusty.
For another variation, place slices of fresh mozzarella between each layer of eggplant.

Grilled Eggplant Pomodoro is a simple celebration of summer and features garden-fresh ingredients including eggplant, tomatoes, onion, basil and garlic.
Photos by Sarah Nasello | The Forum

TORRY & SARAH NASELLO
Cook with the Love (Blog)

The eggplant is sliced in quarter-inch rounds and brushed with extra-virgin olive oil and then grilled on each side until grill marks are achieved.

The eggplant is sliced in quarter-inch rounds and brushed with extra-virgin olive oil and then grilled on each side until grill marks are achieved.

A pair of cherry tomatoes and fresh basil leaves are cooked with the onion and garlic until the skins begin to blister and the juices sizzle out.

ITALIAN: Page B6



First Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead Celebrate Summer Food**
Marcy Nickel

north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Ag Coverage

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Ag Coverage: Small Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor
Beware of blister beetles
Tris Anderson

◆ Second Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press
Floating Farm
Allison Olimb

Ag Coverage: Small Weeklies



Praying for rain

By Jill Larson | Editor

This summer, most any flower, lawn, or garden in Griggs county is green only because it has been watered regularly. It turns out replacing inches of rain with a garden hose, or in some cases, a water trailer, is a lot of extra work.

NDSU Professor of Climatological Practice, Dr. F. Adnan Akyuz, said the last time Griggs county was this dry was in 1910. He reported that the McHenry NDAWN weather station has received 5.19 inches of rain since January 1, 2021, and the normal rainfall for that same period of time is 13.33 inches.

Ryan Campbell, a Certified Crop Advisor with Central Ag Consulting said, "The NDAWN station 3 miles west of Cooperstown recorded 4.03 inches of rain for all of April, May, June, and July." The normal rainfall for this same period of time is reported at 13.27 inches.

On Aug. 10, the North Dakota Wheat Commission reported that 24 percent of the N.D. wheat harvest was complete. The report continued, "As expected, harvest results are quite variable. Some producers that received timely precipitation are reporting some average yield results, although this makes up a small portion of the spring wheat production area. Most producers are reporting yields half of normal, with some reports of yields in the single digits. Decisions continue to be made regarding whether to harvest low yielding crops or bale them for hay. Producers so far are reporting high test weights, with the majority being 60-62 pounds per bushel (78.0 to 81.5 kg/hl) or higher. Protein is also quite high, ranging anywhere from 14 to 18 percent (12% moisture basis) and moisture levels are low due to dry harvest conditions."

Duane and Janell Feiring operate a farm and ranch near McHenry. Lack of adequate rainfall affected their wheat crop this year.

"Our wheat did not do well," said the Feirings. "We had it adjusted and baled it for hay in July. We are keeping an eye on the silage corn as it may need to be chopped early if we do not receive any rain."

"Wheat harvest was highly variable in the area ranging from 20-80 bushels per acre," said Campbell. "A lot of the variability was due to how much topsoil and subsoil moisture the field had to begin the growing season. There was some really good wheat on fields that were prevent plant acres last year. A lot of fields also had uneven emergence on sand ridges and areas of higher elevation. Those areas emerged 2-3 weeks later in many cases when they finally received enough rainfall for germination."

Griggs County Extension Agent Jeff Stachler added, "The biggest headache has been determining when to harvest. Many fields had different stages of maturing wheat in it. Most yields I am hearing about are between 30 and 70 bushels per acre. Normal yields are about 55 bushels per acre in Griggs County. The test weight and protein are higher than normal."

Russ Anderson, a crop consultant and owner of Agri-Sales, Inc., said, "For the most part, I am hearing about unexpected yields, an extra 15 to 20 bushels or maybe even more per acre. Most are excited at what they're seeing compared to what they were expecting."

The ability of crops to survive and produce on just 4-6 inches or less of rainfall and hot air temperatures has surprised many.

"I think a lot of it had to do with the roots just running down and never being saturated where the roots were lateral," said



Anderson. "They just kept going down and that's been the biggest benefit to getting us through this."

Anderson said the same seems to be true with the corn and soybeans fields he has seen.

"I've got some areas that were saturated this spring that haven't been able to deal with this heat, and I think it goes back to that what I just said. They've got lateral loads and they're not as deep. Throughout this stretch, they haven't dealt with it as well as some of the others that were moderately dry the entire time."

Stachler added his outlook on corn and soybean production.

"The outlook for corn is poor in some fields," said Stachler. "Some fields have been mowed for hay or chopped for silage. Within a corn field, the yield monitor may go from 0 to 170 bushels per acre. Normal yields are about 150 bushels an acre. I would expect soybean yields to be reduced by about 30 percent of normal. Normal soybean yield is 43 bushels per acre. Significant rains could help reduce kernel abortion of corn and pod abortion on soybean. Rainfall will help in filling out the seed as well. The hopes of rain helping is diminishing."

Campbell added, "Our corn and soybean acres have held on a lot longer than I thought they would. The smoky conditions have lowered our temperatures over the last month and let the plants avoid the extra heat. A lot of acres in the area have started to go downhill in the last week. The crops have reached most of the subsoil moisture they can reach and a lot of the beans have not reached row closure allowing for extra moisture loss."

A question that has already surfaced is how to prepare for the 2022 crop year.

"The last time we went through this we didn't have the herbicide selection that we have now. I think that something we're going to have to pay attention to going forward for the 2022 season is, crop rotation. Rotation and how much moisture we've gotten. There are a lot of chemistries that we put out there that require 10-15 inches of rain to go to the next crop. That's something we are going to have to look at this winter when doing 2022 crop planning."

The drought is also affecting cattle ranchers. Facing a lack of pastureland for grazing, a shortage of grass to bale, drying up water sources, etc., many producers have decisions to make.

"In June we sold some cow/calf pairs to reduce our stocking rate," said the Feirings. "Hopefully it will take enough pressure off of the pastures so the grass will recover next summer. We are also grazing CRP. This fall we are planning to sell the steer calves off the cow instead of backgrounding. Hay production is about half of normal."

Another farmer and rancher in Glenfield shared that he has had to block off a water hole the cattle were using due to poor water quality, and instead he is hauling water.



First Place

- Cooperstown,
Griggs County Courier
Praying for rain
Jill Larson

Ag Coverage: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Harvey, The Herald Press

Drought takes its toll

Anne Ehni

◆ Third Place

- Hillsboro Banner

Hung out too dry

Cory Erickson

◆ Second Place

- Tioga Tribune

Farmers divided over cloud seeding

Jacob Orledge

Ag Coverage: Mid-Size Weeklies



First Place

■ New Rockford Transcript

*It's heart-wrenching:
Farmers & ranchers deal
with effects of drought*

Amy Wobbema

"It's heart-wrenching"

Farmers and ranchers deal with effects of severe drought

by Amy Wobbema
Sloughs are going dry throughout the county, and pastures are bare of grass.

No measurable rain has fallen since July 3 in New Rockford, and the N.D. Agricultural Weather Network reports that just 0.13 inches of rain has been recorded north of Carrington since July 1.

Water holes that used to provide refreshment for livestock have nearly dried up. With mud all along the edges of the water-holes, the cows will bury themselves before they get to water, said Chandy Howard, Eddy County NDSU Extension Agent.

The same riverbanks that flooded in 2019 and again in 2020 now don't have enough water flowing in them to water a cow herd. "To me that's unbelievable in that short of time," said Jeff Schafer, local producer and president of the North Dakota Stockmen's Association.

At his farm west of New Rockford, Schafer has recorded just three-tenths of one inch (0.30) of rain the entire month of July. Two miles to the west of him, his neighbor got a bit more, about half an inch. Another to the east hasn't gotten a drop.

"We are way behind normal," he said.

With pastures bare, livestock producers are using all the forage available to them to keep animals

fed. The Schafers decided to bale their oats because they were short on roughage for their herd.

"Time is of the essence. The average N.D. ranch is at 10-20% of its normal hay crop," Schafer said. "It's heart-wrenching."

With nutrient quality going backwards every day they go without rain, producers recently

As for the row crops, Schafer is hopeful. "I think there's some potential there, but the rain has to come quick," he said. "The row crops are in dire straits." Much of the corn managed to pollinate through the heat, but some did not.

Area producers want to graze or hay their wheat, and Bennett encourages them to test for

nitrate before turning animals out onto a field. Nitrate poisoning is a serious and often fatal condition that occurs after livestock ingest feed-stuffs that contain high levels of nitrate.

Howard's desk at NDSU Extension was peppered with water bottles on Monday, from recent samples taken in various places through-

out the county. She's also testing for total dissolved solids (TDS), which are higher than normal this year. TDS represents the total concentration of dissolved substances in water. TDS is made up of inorganic salts, as well as a small amount of organic matter.

Eddy County Emergency Manager Lisa Thompson told county commissioners at Tuesday's special budget meeting that she was working on a Drought Declaration. The commission is expected to adopt the declaration and declare a state of emergency at the Tuesday, Aug. 3 regular meeting.

CONTINUED ON PG A2

Vegetation Drought Response Index
North Dakota
July 25, 2021



The Vegetation Drought Response Index, or VegDRI, is a weekly depiction of vegetation stress across the contiguous United States. It's published online at <https://vegdrv.unl.edu>

looked to USDA to access another source of forage, CRP acres.

"We can't change it but we can be disappointed," Schafer said of USDA's recent decision not to allow N.D. producers to hay their CRP acres until after Aug. 1. Producers need every acre to fulfill the feed needs for these cows, he noted.

As producers begin to harvest, Schafer said he anticipates that yields on small grains such as oats, barley and wheat are going to be just as spotty as the precipitation has been.

"If you're not a livestock producer, you're going to harvest what you can," he surmised.

The photos at left illustrate just how dry Eddy County has gotten this summer, due to high temperatures and nearly no precipitation. The top shows what's left of a water hole in central Eddy County. The mud that surrounds it is thick enough to bury cows that attempt to reach the remaining water. At bottom is a pasture in central Eddy County, where the grass is dormant due to lack of moisture.

Ag Coverage: Large Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer
Planting in the dust
Neal A. Shipman

◆ Second Place

- Crosby, The Journal
Drought doesn't dampen plans
Sydney Glasoe Caraballo

Ag Coverage: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

■ Crosby, The Journal

Intercropping can be a key to soil health

Brad Nygaard

Intercropping can be a key to soil health

By Brad Nygaard

A lot has changed in the hundred or so years since settlers broke the prairie and started raising crops and livestock – not all of it good.

Sure, farming techniques and crop yields have changed drastically, too, as has livestock production, but what about the land?

"The land's worn out," Divide County farmer Phil Johnson said recently. "There needs to be a way to regenerate or improve the land. When prices are good, we get by, when prices are poor, it's hard to make a living."

Johnson, who farms with his dad, Harlan, made that statement while attending a recent Soil Health and Intercropping Tour.

This year's tour, sponsored by Soil Conservation Districts in Divide and Williams counties, Crop Improvement Associations and NDSU Extension offices, focused on how producers might be able to achieve soil improvement, using techniques like cover crops, intercropping, even cattle to improve the health of their soil. ➤



Brad Nygaard – The Journal
Keith Brown, Williams County Soil Conservation District, and Betty Brown, Divide County Soil Conservation District, address ag producers addressing a recent soil tour that included stops in Williams, Divide and Burke county areas.

Ag Coverage: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Williston Herald

Grenora-based farmer talks about growing organic

Renee Jean

◆ Third Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News

Risks and rewards

Audra Anderson

◆ Second Place

- Jamestown Sun

Ag innovation fund ...

Keith Norman

Ag Coverage: Small Multi-Dailies



TAKING THE BULL BY THE HORNS



A rodeo veteran's journey to breeding

By Jackie Jahfeton
For a decade, Jackie Jahfeton has been a rodeo veteran, competing in the American Bucking Bull circuit. Jahfeton, 45, is a former professional bull rider who has won several championships. He is now a breeder of American Bucking Bulls, a breed known for its bucking ability. Jahfeton's journey from rider to breeder is a story of passion and dedication. He started breeding in 1994, and since then, he has built a successful breeding operation. Jahfeton's bulls are known for their bucking ability and are highly sought after by breeders and riders alike. He has won several championships with his bulls, and his operation is one of the most successful in the industry. Jahfeton's journey to breeding is a testament to his love for the sport and his commitment to the breed.



Jackie Jahfeton is a former professional bull rider who has won several championships. He is now a breeder of American Bucking Bulls, a breed known for its bucking ability. Jahfeton's journey from rider to breeder is a story of passion and dedication. He started breeding in 1994, and since then, he has built a successful breeding operation. Jahfeton's bulls are known for their bucking ability and are highly sought after by breeders and riders alike. He has won several championships with his bulls, and his operation is one of the most successful in the industry. Jahfeton's journey to breeding is a testament to his love for the sport and his commitment to the breed.



First Place

■ Dickinson Press

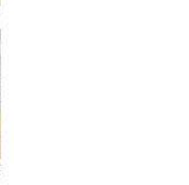
A rodeo veteran's journey to breeding Jackie Jahfeton

Cow of the American Bucking Bull breed was shown at T2 Ranch in T2 Ranch, Texas. Photo by Jackie Jahfeton in The Dickinson Press



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Ag Coverage: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Grand Forks Herald
*American Crystal VP says
there have been more difficult harvests*
Sam Easter

◆ Third Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
*Moorhead couple leaps at chance
to raise crickets to make flour*
Tammy Swift

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
*Midwest pipeline: test for
ND's carbon capture goals hits snags*
Adam Willis

Ag Coverage: Large Multi-Dailies



First Place

- **Bismarck Tribune**
Parched Plains
Amy R. Sisk,
Sam Nelson,
Travis Svihovec,
Blake Nicholson,
Jack Dura

PARCHED PLAINS | A FIVE-PART SERIES



TOM STROMME, TRIBUNE

Jamie Schurhamer is the lead agronomist with Hefty Seed Co. in Wilton and Hurdsheld. Schurhamer said business has been down this year due to drought plaguing North Dakota.

Drought takes economic toll

2021 a tough year
for ND businesses
despite federal aid

AMY R. SISK
Bismarck Tribune

The drought in North Dakota has dominated the discussions Jamie Schurhamer has had with farmers this year.

He's the lead agronomist with Hefty Seed in Wilton and Hurdsheld. The company sells seeds, fertilizer and chemicals to farmers, working with them to improve their crop.

"I'm supposed to be more of a cheerleader in this position, but I've also spent a while now trying to figure out where the yield comes in these crops," Schurhamer said. "A lot of my conver-

sations have been, realistically, what are our potentials and what should be spent to reach those potentials?"

Farmers bought a lot of seed to plant this year, but fertilizer and chemical sales have been way down.

The locations in Wilton and Hurdsheld combined have sold just over half the fertilizer and about two-thirds of chemicals

such as insecticides they would in a typical year.

"With the moisture situation, we're not seeing those dollars spent," Schurhamer said.

A number of other businesses throughout the state are in a similar position as the drought persists. All of North Dakota is in some form of drought.

PHOTO: GUY DROUGHT, PAGE 18

north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Personal Column- Serious

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Personal Column- Serious: Small Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Drayton, Valley News & Views
Life's Court
Clint Van Camp

◆ Third Place

- Drayton, Valley News & Views
A rare gift...
Lesa Van Camp

◆ Second Place

- Hettinger, Adams County Record
Making the world go 'round
Cassidy Blade

Personal Column- Serious: Small Weeklies



Far Afield

BY JERRY W. KRAM
EDITOR



The traitor's rag

With Flag Day just behind us, I've often wondered how a battle flag of a rebellion against this country became a much loved symbol of so called patriotism.

After all, you don't see monuments to Benedict Arnold dotting New York or Daniel Shays in Massachusetts. Shays led a rebellion against the United States even before our Constitution was written. Rebels and rebellions are not treated kindly by history in this country, with one exception.

There has been a mythology created about the Civil War, that it was a glorious, romantic struggle to preserve something grand and noble. If you read the founding documents of the Confederacy, you will see that the war was about preserving the right of some people to hold other people as property, to be able to buy and sell them like you would a car or sandwich. Selling them even if it meant taking husbands away from wives or children away from their mothers.

That rebellion turned into the bloodiest war in the history of our nation, counted as the percentage of the population that was killed, maimed and wounded. It is called by some the first modern war, where the engines of technology made the business of dealing death to the enemy possible on a scale never imagined. Photographer Matthew Brady used a new technology called a camera to capture for a horrified public the aftermath of fields of the bodies of young men that seemed to stretch to the horizon.

better treatment from the country they had fought and died for in Europe. That led to a panic that saw the resurrection of the Klan in its modern form as a national organization. Even North Dakota newspapers of the era happily reported about Klan picnics and parades. In the South, entire black communities were destroyed if they became too prosperous. Jim Crow and segregation emerged stronger than ever from those struggles.

The centennial of the Civil War finally saw the first cracks in the wall the South had built around itself since they surrendered at Appomattox Courthouse. Leaders like Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King and the new medium of television brought the injustices of Jim Crow right into the living rooms of the nation, and the nation recoiled in disgust. The hate filled riots that tried to prevent little boys and girls from going to the "wrong" schools were met by federal marshals and the National Guard. Laws guaranteeing the right to vote, to go to school, to be able to travel freely, even the right to spend your hard earned money at the business of your choice, were written, passed and more importantly, enforced.

The struggles of the Civil Rights Era did not come without a cost. Many were beaten. Churches were bombed. Some were killed. Reverend King, like Lincoln before him, didn't see the fruits of his dream because he was cut down by an assassin's bullet.

Now, 50 years later, we are



First Place

■ New Town News

The traitor's rag

Jerry Kram

Personal Column- Serious: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
Some photos lost in flooded basement
Allen Stock

◆ Third Place

- Harvey, The Herald Press
There's more to it
Anne Ehni

◆ Second Place

- Hillsboro Banner
Jerry Olsen column
Cole Short

Personal Column- Serious: Mid-Size Weeklies



First Place

■ Hillsboro Banner

Raising a glass to a friend gone too soon

Kayla Morton

COLUMNIST

Raising a glass to a friend gone too soon

Tonight I get to set an extra seat at the table to celebrate you.

I've been trying to decide what to get for dinner for weeks now and have it narrowed down, but am still having a hard time picking just one thing.

Should I pick up sushi, grill a juicy steak or jump straight to endless fondue for dessert in a makeshift chocolate fountain that you'll no doubt get everywhere?

I know you're probably laughing at my indecisiveness and would tell me anything I came up with is fine.

I'll pour a glass of wine for each of us as memories are reminisced from elementary school through high school.

Remember when we went to Philadelphia for our big fifth-grade field trip and you made it your goal to impersonate as many presidents as possible in the Hall of Presidents?

You had me crying with laughter.

I couldn't believe you studied so much just for something so silly.

Or when we both tried Philly cheesesteaks for the first time that same trip and laughed at how much cheese oozed out of the bread that couldn't hold all the meat the vendor slabbed on?



**KAYLA
MORTON**
Sports Editor

Fast forward to middle school when we both had an extra period and took a class called Aquahavens.

We thought we'd be sitting in a classroom learning about ocean life for a full year.

Instead, the class turned out to be taking care of the school fish tanks around our middle school.

Who would've thought?

Somehow we fooled the teachers into thinking that it was a smart idea to have us be year-long partners.

And not only that, but they thought we were responsible enough to take care of the largest tanks with the most fish in the front office.

Too bad we accidentally messed up the pH readings one day and killed three.

But then you had the brilliant idea to have fish funerals at the dumpster outside behind the school.

Your acting skills proved vital again as you put on your best priest impression.

I think that's the only time I'll ever find it OK to laugh at a funeral.

Tonight I'll recount the countless birthday parties of mine you came to and how I was always secretly excited to open your present out of all my friends the most.

You always bought me the coolest clothes or made me the neatest gifts.

I even have a personalized chalkboard hanging in my Banner office now that Connie

made.

And here's where I'll pour some more wine probably because I said your name.

I know you have free reign to see everyone you want to see today and can do more on this birthday of yours than most others, especially most recent ones.

Because this is the second time March 5 has come around on the calendar and I don't get to call you or physically celebrate with you.

I only get to reminisce every childhood memory I have with one of my dearest and best friends who I now get the honor of having as a guardian angel.

I never knew the smile you had acting out George Washington or trying to save your cheesesteak would mean so much to me.

I never knew how much you standing on a wooden step stool at a middle school dumpster preaching about a goldfish named Conner would mean so much to me.

Somehow, that smile never left your face in your seven-year battle with cancer.

You always made time for me, even on your worst and most painful days, with a smile on your face.

I hope you can stop by your spot at my table tonight to make a little time again, because you taught me to never take time with anyone for granted, and I sure do miss you.

Personal Column- Serious: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer
The Medora Musical
Neal A. Shipman

◆ Third Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Hurry up and wait
Steph Cronje

◆ Second Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Stranger Danger
Shaunte Ramos

Personal Column- Serious: Large Weeklies



First Place

■ Casselton, Cass County Reporter *Writers Block*

Angela Kolden

Out of my mind: Writer's block



**ANGELA
KOLDEN**
Editor

I haven't written as many columns as I once did. It isn't for lack of trying. Many times I have sat down, fingers poised in the correct keyboarding position, wanting to write, but thoughts of my brother stand in the doorway to my mind, blocking my thoughts.

Seeing him stand there, with shoulders wide and his trademark mischievous smile, I can almost hear him say, "Sorry sib, there's no getting past me."

Strangely, he is holding a shiny, red apple and after he speaks, he bites into its crisp juicy flesh. His eyes, twinkling, he stares into mine while he nonchalantly chews. Leaning up against the door frame, legs crossed at his ankles, he continues to look into my eyes.

"You'll figure it out," they seem to be saying. "I know it sucks, but you are going to have to 'feel' if you want to get through this door."

Soon my vision is blurred and so is the image of my brother. Hot tears run down my cheeks and I drop my hands from my keyboard.

I'll try again another day,

I tell myself. But it has been nine months since he died and still I am unable or unwilling to push past him, to walk through the door and experience what is on the other side.

And so, even though I miss writing in the way I was once able to, I am equipped only to write about things that do not scratch the surface of my heart. I can write editorials about being compassionate to animals and personal columns about how inept I am at operating a zero turn lawn mower. I can not, however, access the feelings required to write about my brother's life or his death. Therefore, I can not write about my own life as his death has changed my life in inexplicable ways. Sometimes I feel like my life has become someone else's. Everything seems foreign; as if I'm hesitantly experiencing it from a distance.

I used to hear the words, 'Life changing event' and apply it to things like a move, a birth, a marriage, a divorce, a new job; never did I apply it to death. Never the death of my only brother. Never the death of my life-long friend and partner in crime.

Bottom line is, I am not the same person without him on Earth or without him in our family. I'm trying to figure out who I am without him, but so far I don't know.

A friend of mine, who has lost her parents and her only sibling and her husband, posted this on Facebook the other day. She is not the author, but she felt the author's words as profoundly as I did.

Sometimes you get what you want. Other times, you get a lesson in patience, timing, alignment, empathy, compassion, faith, perseverance, resilience, humility, trust, meaning, awareness, resistance, purpose, clarity, grief, beauty and life. Either way, you win.

Losing my brother does not feel like a win. But the hard, hard, hard lessons learned from it are wins.

Grief is a process, they say. Maybe one day I'll have the strength to feel the emotions that are hiding beyond the door in which my brother stands. But for now, I choose to believe just as he did in life, he is protecting me. He will know when I am strong enough to step over the threshold and then is when he will step aside.

Personal Column- Serious: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Second Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News

*Warning: Your computer
may be compromised*

Carrie McDermott

BY FRANK STAMM—JULY 1989

I always like to see that I started this job knowing all subjects nothing about photography and on one day, I know even less. My first time behind the camera was a story. I covered a North Dakota State College of Science Wildlife football game, standing on the sidelines with the official team photographer. When the took a picture, I took a picture. I ended up taking about 800, all from roughly the same vantage point, with no consideration of distance or background. I learned that day it is not the photo that ran, of Washington Elementary's 5th/6th grade Adlai Haden reading to GeCo's 2nd class, it is all time GeCo's Haden was one of the Shelter Buddies, who gained confidence and improved their literacy by reading to Humane Society animals. I think what



Frank Stanko, left, chills with Bob Doldino, KBRW. The two bantered about Frank's average work day, love of movies and other aspects of the job. Saturday, Nov. 18 marks Frank's 50th anniversary with the News.



Wakarusa Elementary School East under African Mask



This year, Owen is a kindergarten teacher at Richard Elementary School in Abercrombie, North Dakota. He likes to farm on the weekends and loves playing. Haze and Megan followed through on their plans to enter Owen in coining contests. He loves the good in CofC.

Earlier in 2020, Owen had his feeding tube removed. He hadn't been using it for a year, but the Kammers opted to keep it due to uncertainty when the COVID-19 pandemic began. In the years since their son's been coming, Haze and Megan Kummer have kept up their friendship with Erica and are keeping up with their



The 2008 elections were pivotal. That year, Webber was elected Mayor Steve Dale, North Dakota elected U.S. Sen. Kevin Cramer, and Rep. Kelly Armstrong and Sen.

Larry is his third state senate term, currently serves as the interim president pro tempore. He is also chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee and a member of groups including the Children's Cabinet. Earlier in 2011, he discussed the impact of a bill that provides stronger grain regulation in North Dakota. "We know that in any law that we pass, more ideas come to us all the time," Larry said. "There are cunning individuals out there that make us change the laws."

"Ready for the next adventure" (Sept. 1, 2019)

I've gotten to know some colorful, funny, exciting, whip-smart and caring people in the past six years. One of the best of in Owen, Kammer, S. Owen, parvula, Blaine and Megan, and now Eric Michael, who I've interviewed on the third anniversary of his homecoming from the second intensive care unit at Safford Health, Fargo.

Owen and twin brother Liam each weighed only 4 pounds when they were born approximately 15 weeks



This was the one I'd been waiting five years to remember when I wrote my first story on the already long-established litigation and other conflict between upstream and downstream communities along the Red River of the North. I was new in town and figured that was filling in for Carrie, that she would be the one who would see things through.

gation related to the Fargo-Moorhead diversion was approved and signed on a Monday evening. Monday is day we go to press. I had an inkling of what was going on but still had to wait for the information. Once it came it was a matter of getting the full, accurate story up before any other news organization.

Not too long after I joined *Daily News*, I changed my attitude. I changed myself as well as my work, with attitude (like you'll find), I learned but I dedicated, I started seeing myself as a man of the moment, knowing when to spring and when to be steady.

Not many are, and I'm still juggling.

- **Wahpeton, Daily News**
Six stories from Stanko
Frank Stanko



Personal Column- Serious: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Bismarck Tribune

Finding meaning in a rural Jewish cemetery

Amy Sisk

◆ Third Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

Tracy Briggs columns

Tracy Briggs

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

Tammy Swift columns

Tammy Swift

Personal Column- Serious: Large Multi-Dailies



NEWSROOM NOTEBOOK



TOM STROMME, TRIBUNE

Chad Isaak (right) was convicted Friday after a three-week trial of killing four people at RIR Maintenance and Management in Mandan on April 1, 2019. Seated from left to right are defense lawyers Bruce Quick, Jesse Walstad and Luke Heck.

Reflections on a mass murder

The saga of one of the most brutal and horrific crimes in North Dakota history started with rumors many thought were an April Fool's joke and culminated with a trial that came down to science versus suggestion.



BLAKE NICHOLSON

Science won. Chad Isaak lost. The savage killing of four people at RIR Maintenance and Management on April 1, 2019, was anything but your ordinary mass murder case, in myriad ways.

It featured a suspect whom the prosecution referred to as odd and the defense acknowledged was eccentric. It had evidence ranging from broken eggs to hunting gear to sticky notes to statistical odds. There was a reference to the comic book superhero Batman. A romantic affair was alluded to, as was a motorcycle gang associated with violence. A walking gait

was analyzed. The meanings of a smirk and a smile were debated.

In the end, jurors convicted Isaak — a nondescript middle-aged small-town chiropractor and RIR renter in Washburn — of four counts of murder and other charges, and he'll likely be sent to prison for life.

But closure is another casualty here. While the case had numerous intriguing components, it didn't have a motive. We still don't know why RIR co-owner Robert Fakler and employees Adam Foesher, Bill Cobb and Lois Cobb were killed that day. We likely never will.

Ominous beginnings

The case began on a brisk spring morning with rumors of bodies — plural — being found at a Mandan business.

Given the date, the natural reaction was to assume it was an April Fool's joke. That assumption quickly fled my mind when I went to the scene and saw the chaos. I was a reporter

with The Associated Press at the time. I spent several hours at the scene, talking to whoever would talk to me. No one said much. There were a lot of tearful hugs going around.

I returned early the next morning, when things had quieted down, and spotted co-owner Jackie Fakler, Robert's wife, in the parking lot smoking a cigarette. She said she didn't want to talk. I told her I understood. I handed her a business card and walked away. It paid off two weeks later when she invited me inside the company and gave me a personal interview.

It was not a pleasant experience. We sat in a room with walls adorned by mementos of Robert Fakler's hobbies. Jackie sat across from me at a conference table, tissue box at hand. She broke down many times. She showed me a wrist band someone sent that had the first initials of the four victims, along with charms associated with each. She told me how the four had been dubbed the "coffee club" because they would arrive early to socialize.

"It would be nice to hear the laughter in the back when they'd start up," she said.

But that area had been turned into a killing ground, the site of one of the most gruesome mass killings in state memory.

Trial takeaways

As news editor at the Tribune, I kept tabs on the trial from gavel to gavel. I won't rehash three weeks of testimony. But there are several things that stick in my mind.

1. Gristly details: Prosecutors and witnesses during the trial said the workers — everyday people who did things like bring farm eggs to pass around at work — were shot numerous times and stabbed more than 100 times, killed with brutality and also precision.

Assistant Morton County State's Attorney Gabrielle Goter told jurors in her closing

Photo see NOTEBOOK, page A2



First Place

■ Bismarck Tribune

Reflections on a mass murder

Blake Nicholson

north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Personal Column- Humorous

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Personal Column- Humorous: Small Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Elgin, Grant County News
Personal Column, Humorous
Jill Friesz

◆ Third Place

- Drayton, Valley News & Views
A sure sign of Spring, they are back
Lyle Van Camp

◆ Second Place

- Hettinger, Adams County Record
Times Are A-Changin'
Frank Turner

Personal Column- Humorous: Small Weeklies



Far Afield

BY JERRY W. KRAM
EDITOR



The kids are all right

Want to feel old? You know all these kids people have been complaining about for the last 20 years, The Millennials? They started turning 40 last year.

Yep, the generation that my generation loves to hate has reached middle age, while Generation X is getting ready for prostate exams, colonoscopies and the other indignities of maturity. Meanwhile, a new, mostly unnamed generation of kids is starting make its own mark. It's a generation for whom 9-11 is as far in the past as World War II was to this Baby Boomer, for whom making phone calls is probably the least important use for a phone, and grew up with technology that took the rest of us years to figure out.

So naturally, it's time for Boomers, Generation X, and Millennials to make common cause against our common enemy, the new kids. But I think I just might defect to the other side.

Do you read xkcd.com on the Web? If you don't, you should. It's a webcomic that refreshes three times a week done by a guy named Randall Munroe. XKCD is an oddity in these days of supercharged graphics and jazzed up animations. Most of the comics are simple stick figures, five lines and circle - not even a smiley face to show emotion - but it has proven to be one of the most clever and widely reproduced comics on the Internet.

A few years ago, I ran across one of his comics that has stuck with me. Like most of his work, this one is simple and direct, even if it lacks his iconic stick

current generation in charge, or the previous generation, who are determined, wise, frugal, strong and patriotic, of course.

About the same time began the outburst of what I call young fugeyism, a piece in Time Magazine decrying the then current crop of teenagers and young adults, now called Millennials, who were accused of being narcissistic and self-absorbed. The funny thing is the author was a member of "Generation X" who just a decade before was accused of being - horror or horrors - narcissistic and self absorbed. Across the Internet there were two reactions, the first being "There's still a Time Magazine?"

The second, and more profound point was that all teenagers are to some extent, self absorbed. It's a feature, not a bug. Kids of that age are learning the ropes of the adult world, their place in it, and what rules can be bent. Ever since we started naming generations with baby boomers, every preceding generation has been shocked, shocked I tell you, that the current generation might have ideas and beliefs that conflict with their own.

Somehow, despite the ever dedining quality of people's offspring, we manage to keep producing soldiers, teachers, scientists, business people, mechanics, and even writers who keep the world rolling along for the next, lazy, self absorbed generation to screw up. That is, if we don't screw it up first.

I do think there is a real threat to our current crop of young people. My generation, the ones raised on Gordon Gekko's



First Place

■ New Town News

The kids are all right

Jerry Kram

Personal Column- Humorous: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Minnewaukan, Benson County Farmers Press

Me vs. Nature

Sue Klemetsrud

◆ Third Place

- Harvey, The Herald Press

Neil O. Nelson

Neil O. Nelson

◆ Second Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent

What do they do with those yellow plants?

Allen Stock

Personal Column- Humorous: Mid-Size Weeklies



First Place

■ Hillsboro Banner

*Looking back on
10 years at the paper
Cole Short*

Looking back on 10 years at the paper

As we near the end of 2021, we're quickly approaching a milestone at the Hillsboro Banner.

February of 2022 marks a full 10 years of newspaper ownership for me, my sister and brother-in-law.

This fall marked the 10th year of Hillsboro-Central Valley sports we've covered, and it felt like the 10th time the Burros football team has been in the Dakota Bowl during that stretch.

We've sponsored 10 years of turkey giveaways at Thanksgiving and reported on a decade's worth of Santa visits before Christmas.

Speaking of jolly ol' Saint Nick, I'm pretty sure our small, family publishing group has been around so long that the kids who penned the very first Santa letters we printed are now close to having tiny tots of their own.

So much has changed over the last 10 years.

Our paper moved into a new office space in 2018 after our old building became uninhabitable.

Just like Mary, Joseph and the newborn baby Jesus, our staff huddled up with animals on cold winter nights in that pre-1900s building. However, instead of cute lambs, cattle and donkeys, we had assorted rodents and bumblebees



**CORY
ERICKSON**
Columnist



Cory Erickson, left, and kindergarten classmates Martin Crawford and Jim Bugge, wait for Santa at a music concert in 1990.

ransacking the place.

Our staff has undergone various rounds of shuffling. We've had four different sports editors during that time along with three advertising managers and two editors.

Sometimes, I wonder if I'm what has changed the most over the last 10 years.

I'm now 36 and – based on my appearance in the mirror in the morning – looking a bit more like Santa every December.

I feel even older reading the Christmas wish lists of children in 2021.

Gone are the days of asking for “Cinderella” on VH1.

At the end of every year, when I swap out the calendar on my

wall, I realize the Earth has made another trip around the sun and I see the world a little differently.

As coach for the Hillsboro-Central Valley softball team since 2012, I've gotten old enough to where I now feel like Dad around the kids.

Working with five or six teams of girls every year has left my parenting desires plenty fulfilled.

My mom still bugs me that she wants more grandkids (she has one) and I joke that I give her about 60 every year but she just doesn't realize it yet.

Seeing my players perform at holiday concerts at our area schools also brings back memories.

Throughout my elementary school music career, I played a Christmas tree, a toy soldier in “The Nutcracker” and, in third grade, sang about a gingerbread cookie that came to life.

Now, I look forward to seeing my 12-year-old nephew, as well as the several dozen young kids I am blessed to coach every year, make similar memories.

In 20 or 30 years, I hope these kids are able to look back with fondness on the memories they've made here in Hillsboro and realize how much they've grown and changed.

We at the Banner will do our best to document it all.

Personal Column- Humorous: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Lisbon, Ransom County Gazette
Off The Top: Should take the week off
Lynn Kaspari

◆ Third Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Tuck's take
Chelsea Wysocki

◆ Second Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Who we are
Steph Cronje

Personal Column- Humorous: Large Weeklies



First Place

- Casselton,
Cass County Reporter
Out of my Mind: The Bull
Angela Kolden

Out of My Mind: The bull



**ANGELA
KOLDEN**
Editor

For years I have longed for a zero turn lawnmower. I have a large yard and I presumed by watching others mow with a zero turn that having one would save me some much valued time.

Other people made it look so easy, I never considered I'd have any difficulty.

The first time I climbed aboard the big green machine, it was to give my son a lesson on how to run it, assuming it might be difficult for someone less experienced to adjust to the change.

He stood outside the shop waiting for his lesson. Things got off to a shockingly slow start when I managed to wedge it sideways between the walls, seemingly unable to control what direction it drove.

My 14 year-old smirked, not fully daring to all out laugh at his mother.

"Here, let me help," he said, before mounting the mower and skillfully and easily maneuvering it out of the predicament I had created.

Next, he mowed like a seasoned pro, silently showing me he didn't need my help at all. He didn't get as close to the buildings or the trees as I would've liked, but I performed the additional trim work without any complaints, figuring since he was a kid I'd let his less than perfect mowing job slide.

This week, when my son was back at his dad's, it was my turn to mow. I started the task believing I would eliminate all that extra trim time with my superior, experienced mowing skill.

Again, I became wedged in the shop, moving side to side rather than back and forth. Glad there were no witnesses, I managed to exit the building with only moderate dam-

age to my body from physically pushing the mower.

All I can say is mowing with levers is quite different than mowing with a steering wheel. My first pass looked like I may have been driving under the influence. I found driving in a straight line to be quite a challenge as those levers were more responsive than a tender mouthed horse. It felt like I was going about 30 mph on the straight away and I wasn't quite sure how to slow it down for the big turn around at the end. So I didn't slow down and almost got thrown out of the saddle.

By the time I completed a few more high speed straightaways and G-Force turns, I was beginning to feel like I did after riding the tilt-a-whirl at the fair.

Determined to tame this bucking bronco, I forged on, with mounting motion sickness.

Not realizing how much more difficult the task would become once obstacles were introduced, I attempted my first tree. I'm pretty sure some of my scalp is now hanging amongst the leaves.

On another straightaway, I attempted to mow alongside my adolescent row of still-growing lilac bushes. Instead I ran over their edges, sending branches into the yard like mangled limbs. The rhubarb plant and raspberry patch were left bleeding in my path as well. By the time I got to our patio, I had learned how to control things well enough so that I only decapitated one solar light and toppled one tiki torch.

The good news is, there was barely any trimming left to do. And, without any witnesses to the carnage, my lawn looks so nice one would never guess what it endured.

Thankfully, my son is back now and I will very happily do a little more trim work as long as he is the one to go 8 seconds on the bull that is my zero turn mower.

Personal Column- Humorous: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Dickinson Press

Meet Jason

Jason O'Day

◆ Second Place

- Dickinson Press

*Dating: connections vanishing
with technology*

Jackie Jahfetson

Personal Column- Humorous: Small Multi-Dailies



MOVIE REVIEW



Two legendary monsters are once again drawn to each other in 'Godzilla vs. Kong.' The pair show little to no mercy against each other, or to anyone and anything in the vicinity.

'Godzilla vs. Kong' a good time at the movies

Monsters in turmoil beats all; critic glad to be out at theater again

"Godzilla vs. Kong" does not disappoint. It's a movie where the giant lizard and the giant ape show little to no mercy against each other, or to anyone and anything in the vicinity, while laying the smack down on each other. I think what I liked most about the movie is that it has something to please fans of either legendary creature. Even though I rooted for King Kong, I can admit that Godzilla whupped him at least once, just like Kong did the same to Godzilla.

The plot, for the most part, is pleasantly simple. Godzilla is drawn to once again wreak havoc, getting into a dominance battle with Kong. For his part, Kong is outgrowing his home and develops a sort-of family relationship with Dr. Eleni Andrews (Rebecca Hall), her colleague Dr. Nathan Lind (Alexander Skarsgård) and deaf youngster Jia (Kaylee Hottle).

Who would have guessed that monsters in turmoil is more interesting than corporate intrigue? It's not that I didn't like watching plucky Madison (Millie Bobby Brown), whistle-blowing Bernie (Brian Tyree Henry) and comic relief Josh (Julian Dennison) team up to find out what's up with Apex Cybernetics, it's just that for too long, their antics felt like filler, an unmistakable "B story."



Frank Stanko

Daily News Film Critic

"Godzilla vs. Kong" was directed by Adam Wingard, with a screenplay by Eric Pearson and Max Borenstein and a story by Terry Rossio and Michael Dougherty & Zach Shields. Roadies, you know that I'm generally not a fan of movies created by committee — "and" means that they worked separately; "&" means a team — but it wasn't a deal breaker this time around. I simply was having that good of a time.

The movie's cast also includes Shun Oguri, Eliza González and Demián Bichir as Apex bigwigs. What their characters lack in depth, they make up for with charisma andchutzpah. One of my biggest smiles came when Walter Simmons (Bichir), caught between Madison and her crew as well as Apex's new toy, launched into a good old-fashioned villain's monologue.

I guess everything old is new again. I give "Godzilla vs. Kong" my Recommended rating.

Forgive me for writing a shorter than usual review. I guess I'm a little bit rusty. Do you know that "Godzilla vs. Kong" was the first movie I've seen outside my home in more than 13 months?

"Of all the people in Thalia, Billy missed the picture show

most. He couldn't understand that it was permanently closed. Every night he kept thinking it would open again."

The author Larry McMurtry died last month. You might not know his name, but I'll bet you know some of the stories he adapted or originally wrote. There's "Breakneck Mountain," "Lonesome Dove," "Terms of Endearment," "Hud" (from his book "Horseman, Pass By") and the one I just quoted from, "The Last Picture Show."

I thought quite a bit about "The Last Picture Show" during what seemed to be the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. When the new and active cases kept on growing. Before we had an idea about vaccine effectiveness and it wasn't yet familiar to wear a face mask.

When places like the Cinema 6 in Brocktonridge, Minnesota, closed.

You don't know what you've got until it's gone. I was surprised at how choked up I felt to see cars in the parking lot outside the Westridge Theatre, which reopened last weekend in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. I was surprised at how good the popcorn was and how sweet my drink tasted. Shoot, even just seeing new posters on the walls and knowing new releases were coming was comforting.

It felt good to see Westridge Manager Melanie Weinkauff and her staff. She said it was nice to see some of the locals make it out to a movie. For me, it was nice to have a movie to make it out to.

I give going out to the theatre again my Highly Recommended rating.



First Place

■ Wahpeton, Daily News

'Godzilla vs. Kong' a good time at the movies

Frank Stanko

Personal Column- Humorous: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Tammy Swift columns
Tammy Swift

◆ Third Place

- Grand Forks Herald
Allowing chickens may be an issue on Hagaland
Chuck Haga

◆ Second Place

- Grand Forks Herald
Skunks under the porch, now what?
Brad Dokken

Personal Column- Humorous: Large Multi-Dailies



First Place

■ Bismarck Tribune

Plumb never try to break up a cat fight Travis Svihovec

NEWSROOM NOTEBOOK

Plumb never try to break up a cat fight

A bit of wisdom from the code of cow country states that a person should plumb always kill a rattlesnake. I don't have the clout or credentials to amend that code, but I can as a general rule advise people to plumb never try to break up a cat fight.

TRAVIS SVIHOVEC

It's the advice my wife gave me on Memorial Day, right before I did it. I would hear about that during a three-hour emergency room visit, a bit less so at a follow-up office call, and just enough during a two-day hospital stay that she didn't sound condescending.

I'd showered and was ready for bed that evening when she informed me that our cat, Beezer, had escaped our usually cat-proof backyard and was in a feline standoff across the street. He's 9, has been unfriendly at times, but never vicious. He'll usually let a family member pick



PROVIDED

Beezer, 9, relaxes with Travis Svihovec, his owner/victim whose hand he bit — repeatedly — when the well-intentioned human stepped in to break up a cat fight.

him up and bring him back to the house if he's at our chain link fence trying to protect his territory from a four-legged intruder.

This standoff was different. He was making a noise that mimicked an incoming mortar round and it got louder and

more demonic when anyone or anything came close.

"Don't pick him up," my wife said. Looking back, it was good advice.

Keep in mind I didn't want this ordeal to end just so I could go to bed. There were other considerations, like small kids in the neighborhood. What if one of them got too close? There are dogs around, too, and though a cat is equipped to fight, ours would be in the wrong weight class with some of the canines that walk our street. For the good of the neighborhood and my family I thought I'd pick him up, point him back across the street and follow along as he ran home. He's slept next to my head every night since the day we brought him home from the barn where he was born. He won't bite me. He loves me.

None of that mattered to him. I grabbed him and headed for

Please see NOTEBOOK, Page B2

north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Special News Section

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Special News Section: Small Weeklies



Second Place

- **Central McLean News-Journal**
Planning for the future
Staff

Special News Section: Small Weeklies



WALSH COUNTY FAIR

Post-Fair Supplement • November 10, 2021 • Complimentary



P WALSH
COUNTY
PRESS
Official Paper of the Walsh County Fair

Return to the arena
OCTOBER 20-23, 2021
106TH ANNUAL WALSH COUNTY FAIR



First Place

- Park River,
Walsh County Press
*Walsh County Fair -
Return to the Arena*
Allison Olimb,
Larry Biri,
Brook Dahlgren

Special News Section: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- New Rockford Transcript
Collegiate Congratulations
Staff

◆ Third Place

- Hillsboro Banner
Hillsboro Banner Christmas section
Banner Staff

◆ Second Place

- Tioga Tribune
Holiday Spotlight
Tioga Tribune Staff

Special News Section: Mid-Size Weeklies



First Place

- Carrington,
Foster County Independent
2021-22 Winter Sports Preview
Erik Gjovik, Lane Moellenkamp,
Linda Duursma



Insert to the Foster County Independent/New Rockford Transcript • December 20, 2021

Special News Section: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Ag Section
Staff

◆ Third Place

- Crosby, The Journal
A Change in Climate
Journal Publishing Staff

◆ Second Place

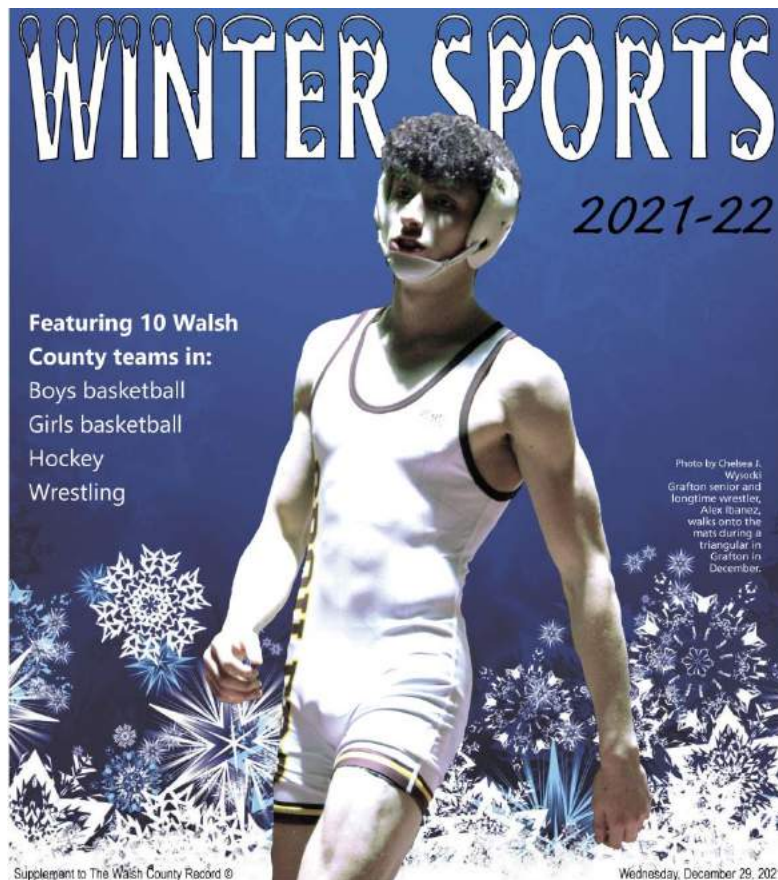
- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Unity Medical Center
Jackie Thompson, Todd Morgan

Special News Section: Large Weeklies



First Place

- **Grafton, Walsh County Record**
Winter Sports
Chelsea Wysocki



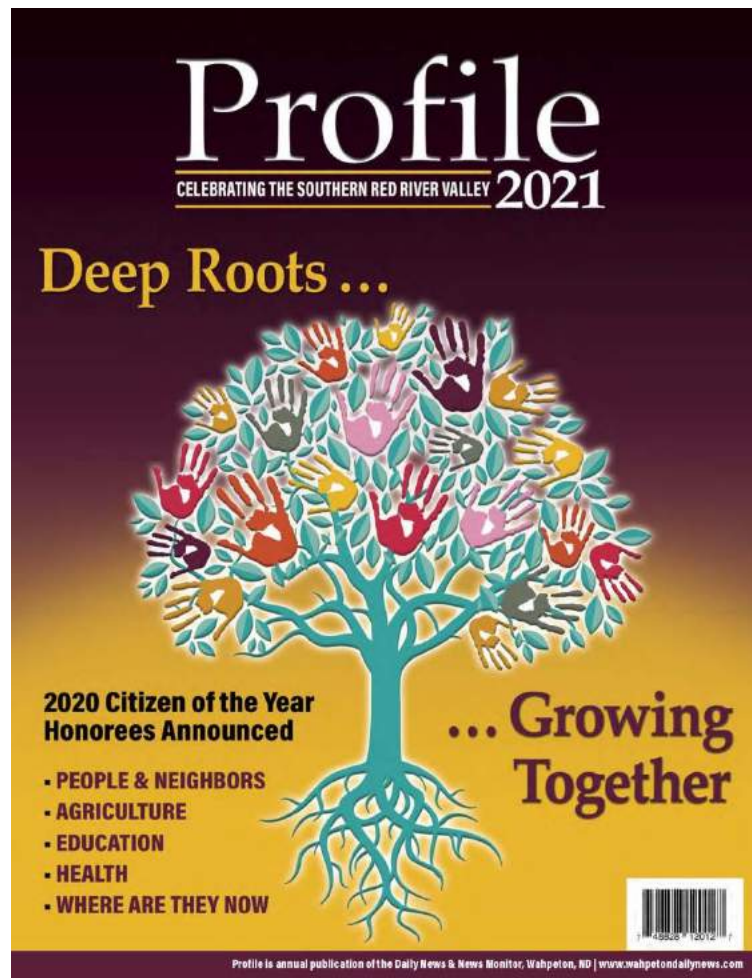
Special News Section: Small Multi-Dailies



Second Place

- **Wahpeton, Daily News**
Southern Valley Living
Candace Engstrom, Staff

Special News Section: Small Multi-Dailies



First Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News
Profile magazine

Candace Engstrom,
Carrie McDermott,
Audra Anderson,
Frank Stanko,
Tris Anderson,
Justin Pierce

Special News Section: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Impact magazine
Forum staff

◆ Second Place

- Bismarck Tribune
Nurses
Staff

Special News Section: Large Multi-Dailies



The cover of the "College Hockey Preview" section from the Grand Forks Herald. It features a large green and white graphic with the text "COLLEGE HOCKEY PREVIEW" and "21 22". Above the title is the NCHC logo and a green arrow pointing right. Below the title is a quote: "ONE COACH CALLED THE OFFSEASON THE CRAZIEST HE'S EVER SEEN. NOW, THEY'RE READY TO PLAY GAMES AGAIN." The main image shows a hockey player in a green jersey with the number 16, skating towards the goal. A goalie in a black jersey is in the net. The Grand Forks Herald logo and the date "WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2021" are visible. At the bottom, there is a small photo of a hockey game and an advertisement for Altru Express Injury Clinic.

Grand Forks Herald
GrandForksHerald.com
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2021

COLLEGE HOCKEY PREVIEW
21 22

ONE COACH CALLED THE OFFSEASON THE CRAZIEST HE'S EVER SEEN. NOW, THEY'RE READY TO PLAY GAMES AGAIN.

Previous: Goalie Zach Dziadosz and Forward Danton Collier played against each other on the NCHC last season. Now, after a transformative summer, they find themselves as teammates in Grand Forks.

Caring for you on and off the ice
Altru Express Injury Clinic is open and ready for care for you!
altru.org/express
Altru Express



First Place

- **Grand Forks Herald**
UND hockey special section
Brad E. Schlossman

north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Section/Feature Fronts

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Section/Feature Fronts: Small Weeklies



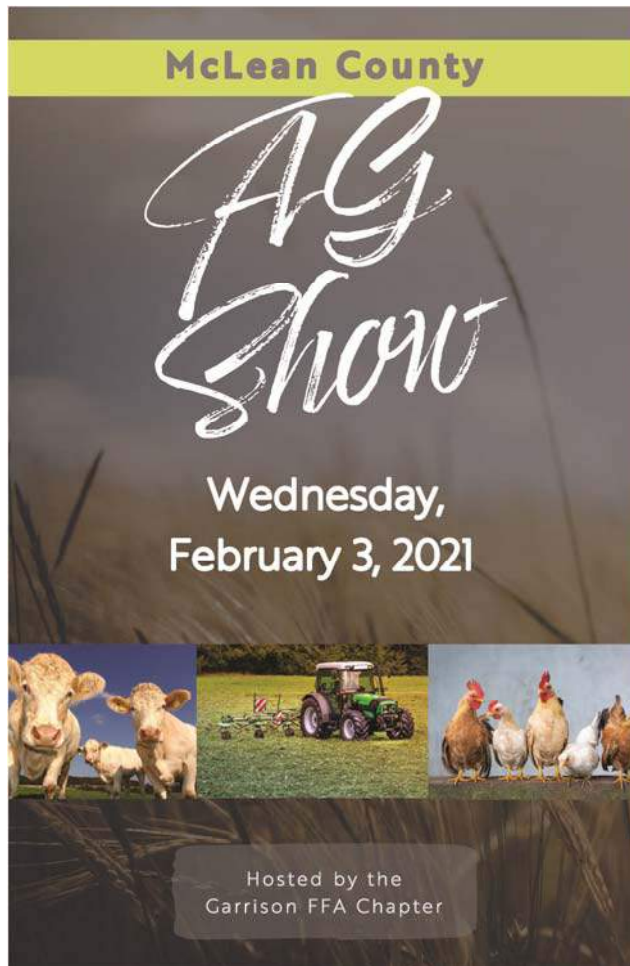
◆ Third Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor
Celebrate the Seasons
Candace Engstrom

◆ Second Place

- Elgin, Grant County News
Friesz leads the Storm to victory
Jill Friesz

Section/Feature Fronts: Small Weeklies



First Place

- Central McLean News-Journal
McLean County Ag Show
Staff

Section/Feature Fronts: Mid-Size Weeklies



Second Place

- **Tioga Tribune**

Holiday Spotlight

Tia LaCombe

Section/Feature Fronts: Mid-Size Weeklies



First Place

■ Hillsboro Banner

Aww nuts!

Cory Erickson, Cole Short

Section/Feature Fronts: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Garrison, McLean County Independent
Best of McLean County
Jackie Kohler, Staff

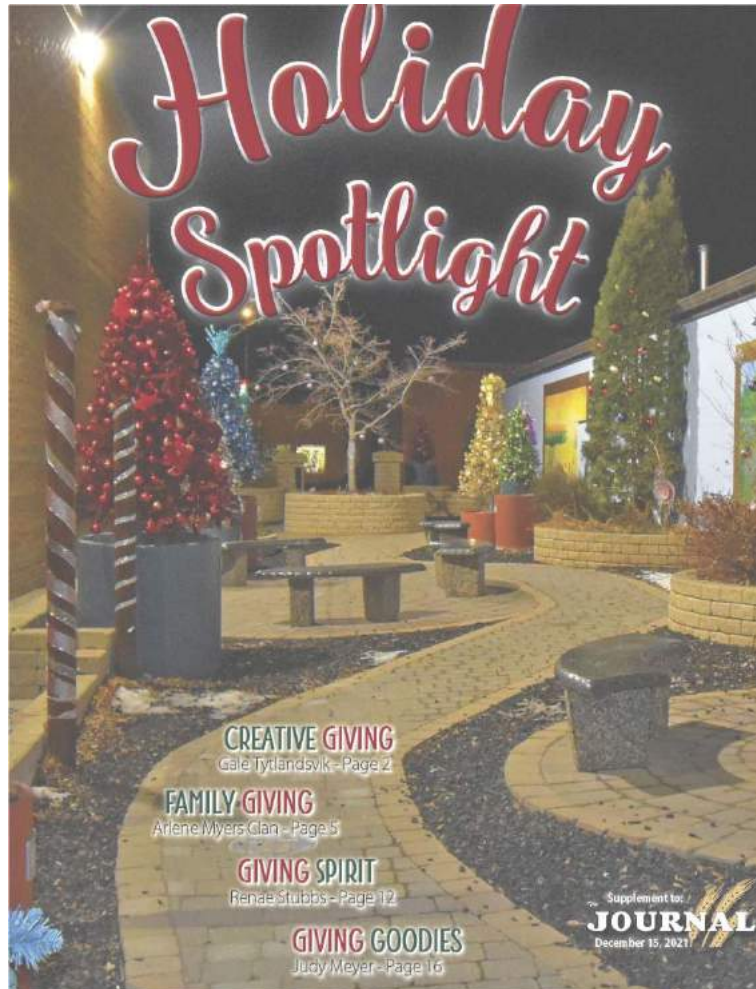
◆ Third Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Ag Section
Jackie Thompson

◆ Second Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Girls basketball preview
Chelsea Wysocki

Section/Feature Fronts: Large Weeklies



First Place

- Crosby, The Journal
Holiday Spotlight
Cecile Wehrman

Section/Feature Fronts: Small Multi-Dailies



Honorable Mention

- Wahpeton, Daily News
Countdown to Christmas
Candace Engstrom



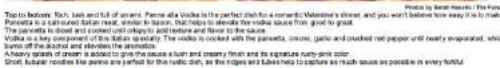
Third Place

- Dickinson Press
Not Going to Let This Happen Again
Emily Beaman



Second Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News
Goodlife
Audra Anderson



■ **Dickinson Press**
Pretty Penne
Marcy Nickel



Section/Feature Fronts: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Pixar's Soul
Jason Magstadt

◆ Third Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Dishing Out Drag
Cindy Gilster

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Flowers, Skulls & Landscapes
Becca Clemens

north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Front Page Design

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Front Page Design: Small Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Elgin, Grant County News
Front page design
Jill Friesz

◆ Third Place

- Finley, Steele County Press
Steele County Press
Staff

◆ Second Place

- Cooperstown, Griggs County Courier
Griggs County Courier
Staff

Front Page Design: Small Weeklies



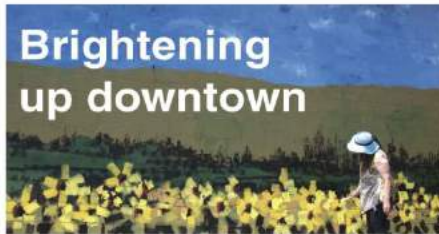
Central McLean News-Journal

Volume 92
Number 7
Wednesday, July 22, 2021
Page 1



Drought Conditions
Page 7

Brightening up downtown



Balyeat brings Hidden Verse art to Underwood mural

BY ALYSSA MEIER
central@balyeat.com

The walls were streaked with paint, covering each other in between ones to keep the scene from drying out the acrylic. The artist was back.

"It's like life. You can't tell what you're doing from the other side, we need to take a step back," Balyeat said as she took a step to see the mural she is painting on the side of the Community Center in Underwood.

Balyeat, a lifelong artist and Underwood resident, was approached to paint the wall on the east side of the Community Center. While Balyeat was once a muralist, she said this is the first she's done in 15 years.

"I haven't painted as much, since my daughter has gotten into it," Balyeat said, but she jumped at the chance to do the mural.

Balyeat said Christine Pedersen of the Community Center asked her to create something that was a legacy on the downtown wall, and Balyeat took to the challenge.



Balyeat painted parts of the mural in her studio in Underwood Thursday. Balyeat was asked to do the painting on the east side of the Community Center and to what the mural of the field.

She worked all last week on the mural, which features a North Dakota landscape with a sunflower field in the foreground. For those with a

careful eye, there's another element to be found in the painting. "I had a little verse in all of our paintings," Balyeat said.

Hiding verses in her art because, when Balyeat, who began her art journey by doing portraits 10 years old, of our paintings," Balyeat said.

DOWNTOWN page 12



Little Bar and Grill in Park City burned down last week in a fire still being investigated by officials. Owners of the restaurant reportedly plan to rebuild the building. (AP Photo)



The restaurant, owned by Lee and Nicole Little, was considered to be a complete loss after a fire last week.

Little Bar burns, set to be rebuilt

BY ALYSSA MEIER
central@balyeat.com

A family business in Park City was destroyed last week after a fire started at the restaurant Wednesday.

Officials confirmed that a fire started at Little Bar and Grill early in the evening on July 15, though rescue of the bar has not been determined. The building, owned by the Little family, was considered

to be a neighborhood. Little Bar and Grill is owned by husband and wife team Lee and Nicole Little, who have run the business for 10 years. The business announced

via social media that it is closed for the time being, but that ownership plans to rebuild. Owners were not available for comment before press time Tuesday.



First Place

- Central McLean News-Journal
Central McLean News-Journal Staff

Front Page Design: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Harvey, The Herald Press
Front Page Design x3
Anne Ehni, Neil O. Nelson

◆ Second Place

- New Rockford Transcript
Transcript front page entries
Amy Wobbema

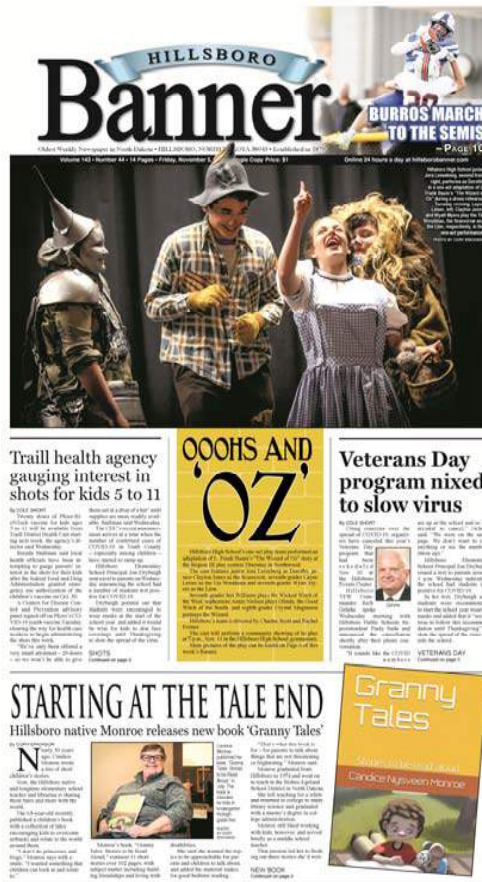
Front Page Design: Mid-Size Weeklies



First Place

■ Hillsboro Banner

Hillsboro Banner front pages
Cole Short, Cory Erickson



Front Page Design: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer
Front Page Design - March 3, May 5, May 19
Neal A. Shipman

◆ Third Place

- Crosby, The Journal
Journal front pages
Journal Publishing Staff

◆ Second Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
June 2, Aug 18, Sept 1
Jackie Thompson

Front Page Design: Large Weeklies



First Place

- Casselton,
Cass County Reporter
Weeks of Jan. 13,
Dec. 15, Dec. 22
Megan Nicklay

CASS COUNTY REPORTER

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021
CASS COUNTY REPORTER • HUNDRED TRIBUNE • HUNTER TIMES

Businesses alerted to ATM thefts

By Angela Kishen
angela@reporter.com

A string of ATM thefts that began December 12 has continued into the new year.

A Sheriff's Travel Plaza Owner, Plan in Casselton, James D. is the latest in a series of thefts that county, state and federal authorities are working to solve.

"They broke the glass on the door, put a cloth around the ATM and pulled it out," said Sheriff's Travel Plaza Owner Gary Gundersen.

The theft at the travel plaza took place around 2:30 a.m. Cass County deputies said a person used the ATM was still in the area when officers arrived, but it had been forced open to gain access to the cash.

Gundersen said although the thieves gained access to the machine's store, they did not steal any other items.

"Offending the machine, they concentrated only on the ATM, but they did pull a lot of damage."

A new ATM is back in place, but Gundersen said the incident has caused him and General Manager Andy Gundersen to rethink their procedures.

"Even the ATM we can control how much money is in it," Gary Gundersen said, adding the machine will be emptied more frequently.

The Cass County Sheriff's Office will authorities are working to identify the responsible parties and bring the cash of thefts to a halt and hold the responsible parties accountable.

In December 2020, Sheriff's Office officers were also the victims of ATM thefts. A December 12 theft occurred in Arthur and a New Year's Eve theft took place in Buffalo. In both cases, no damage to the bank building took place as the machines were located in an unsecured exterior space.

After an ATM access to Sheriff's Office customers.

The Cass County Sheriff's Office encourages all businesses owners to remain vigilant, review their current ATM locations and make changes if needed.

The public is asked to contact the Sheriff's Office to report any suspicious activity, allowing them the opportunity to investigate it.



Frosty Friday

Last Friday - and through the weekend - another weatherfront throughout rural Cass County was that for creating beautiful frosty mornings. The seasonally warm temperatures may be a thing of the past as the 22 day forecast shows a cooling trend with daytime highs dipping into the single digits and nighttime lows below zero.

Sewer line lost

PRIVATE PIPELINE DELAYS LAGOON UPGRADE

By Jan Kassel

The Kindred City Council held an unusual situation at its regular monthly meeting last week. It wasn't a sewer line that has been replaced - or perhaps instead, in 2021.

City Engineer Brandon O'Connell said the council that the developments of Woodlawn and Evergreen, located directly south of the city along Highway 46, have a private six-home sewer connection to the current wastewater lagoon. The city will be building a new and larger wastewater lagoon on the city's west side this year and the private pipeline will need to be rerouted to a different connection. Problem is no one is sure exactly where the current line is.

"We have the original plans as to where the pipe was supposed to be laid," said engineer Tabitha Aarnes. "But at some point, someone deviated from the plan and it wasn't marked."

Many of the developments' original property owners have moved or died, and the current homeowners' association (HOA) will be tasked with locating the lost pipe.

Missing teen last seen in Kindred

SHERIFF'S OFFICE ASKS PUBLIC FOR HELP IN LOCATING



DEVAL



DEVAL

Kindred, a 14-year-old female, was last seen in Kindred, Minn. She is possibly heading towards the east coast.

Ethan is described as: white male, 6'0", 150 lbs, brown hair (longer on top), shorter on the sides. He is wearing a black t-shirt with brown fur on the hood.

The last known vehicle Ethan was driving in a white 2013 Chevrolet Impala with North Dakota registration 1042HLE. If you have any information regarding Ethan or Thomas's whereabouts, you are asked to contact the Cass County Sheriff's Office at (701) 454-3000. After hours, please contact the Red River Regional Dispatch Center at (701) 454-7040 and request to speak with a deputy.

Front Page Design: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Jamestown Sun
Front Page Group 2
Alex Kallmeyer

◆ Second Place

- Dickinson Press
Dickinson Press Front Page Design
Angela Ecklund



- **Wahpeton, Daily News**
Front pages
Daily News staff

3 THINGS TO KNOW TODAY

1 Graduation season

Students in Breckenridge, County, North Dakota and Minot, North Dakota will graduate on the same day of 2023 at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 20.

2 Multiple graduation ceremonies

Students in Breckenridge, County, North Dakota and Minot, North Dakota will graduate on the same day of 2023 at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 20.

3 Memorial Day services

Students in Breckenridge, County, North Dakota and Minot, North Dakota will graduate on the same day of 2023 at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 20.

STUDENT ART

WILLIAM EGGEBOM

Student in Breckenridge, County, North Dakota will graduate on the same day of 2023 at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 20.

SUBSCRIBER OF THE DAY

Student in Breckenridge, County, North Dakota will graduate on the same day of 2023 at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 20.

VOL. 106 NO. 130

REMEMBRANCE

Family honors former Daily News managing editor

What kind of person do we want in our community? ... Dad's picture would be right there.

REMEMBRANCE

Family honors former Daily News managing editor

What kind of person do we want in our community? ... Dad's picture would be right there.

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Family honors former Daily News managing editor

What kind of person do we want in our community? ... Dad's picture would be right there.

REMEMBRANCE

He was charged with it as the "Lucky" ...

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Front Page Design: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Forum Front Pages group 3
Paula Chhetri, Jessica Gaden, Mark Merck

◆ Third Place

- Grand Forks Herald
Front page design: June 11, Aug. 16 and Dec. 20
Tanner Larson

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Forum Front Pages group 1
Thayer Tessar

north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Headline

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Headline: Small Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Drayton, Valley News & Views
Water, water nowhere in Drayton
Lesa Van Camp

◆ Third Place

- New Town News
Bound for the pound
Jerry Kram

◆ Second Place

- Central McLean News-Journal
Goats and good books
Alyssa Meier

Headline: Small Weeklies



First Place

■ Central McLean News-Journal

Tapping into nature

Staff

Tapping into nature

Andersons turn sap to liquid gold syrup

BY SUZANNE WERRE,
Editor

A nice little freeze at night, with a little warm-up to about 40 degrees the next day – and repeat.

That's what rural Mercer residents Casey and Jessica Anderson would like to see from the next couple weeks of weather. That freeze/thaw cycle is what gets their boxelder trees releasing sap, which they're tapping into.

For the past four years the Andersons have tapped some of the boxelder maple trees that are just a little jaunt away from their house on their farm west of Mercer. This is the first year they've tapped three of them, and they're hoping for a great harvest of sap, which they'll cook down into a butterscotchy syrup.

Sunday's afternoon check of the sap-collecting buckets yielded very little, because it didn't freeze the night before, noted Casey. But they're



Mercer's Casey Anderson shows off one of the taps and collecting buckets used to collect sap from the boxelder maple trees on the Anderson property.

Headline: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent

Why not Minot?

Erik Gjovik

◆ Second Place

- Hillsboro Banner

Goblin up candy

Cole Short

Headline: Mid-Size Weeklies



First Place

■ New Rockford Transcript

No time to spare

Amy Wobbema



The images shown above and below left are artist renderings of the design concept the NRABC has approved for Wonder Lanes. Special to the Transcript, courtesy of Heidi Favour and Soul Space Work.

NO TIME TO SPARE / Plans in place to reopen Wonder Lanes this fall

Headline: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Splish Splash a community blast
Jackie Thompson

◆ Third Place

- Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer
Growing in the garden of recovery
Ashleigh Plemper

◆ Second Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
George Walstad - Ye Olde Medicine
Todd Morgan

Headline: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Garrison,
McLean County Independent
Eye'll be seeing you
James C. Falcon

Eye'll be seeing you

Longtime Garrison optician retires after 40 years

Headline: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Dickinson Press

Running from Runnings

Jackie Jahfetson

◆ Second Place

- Dickinson Press

*True grit young man drove
to hospital right after losing arm*

Josiah C. Cuellar

Headline: Small Multi-Dailies



First Place

- **Williston Herald**

Battle plans for Fourth

Renee Jean

Battle plans for Fourth

Headline: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Having a ruff day?
Helmut Schmidt

◆ Third Place

- Bismarck Tribune
Lawmakers in the weeds on pot bills
Jack Dura

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
No gripes about grapes
Kaity Young, Dave Olson

Headline: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

*Burying the bayonet, Zip to Zap participant forgives soldier
Archie Ingersoll*

BURYING THE BAYONET

Zip to Zap participant forgives
soldier who stabbed him

north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Informational Graphics

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

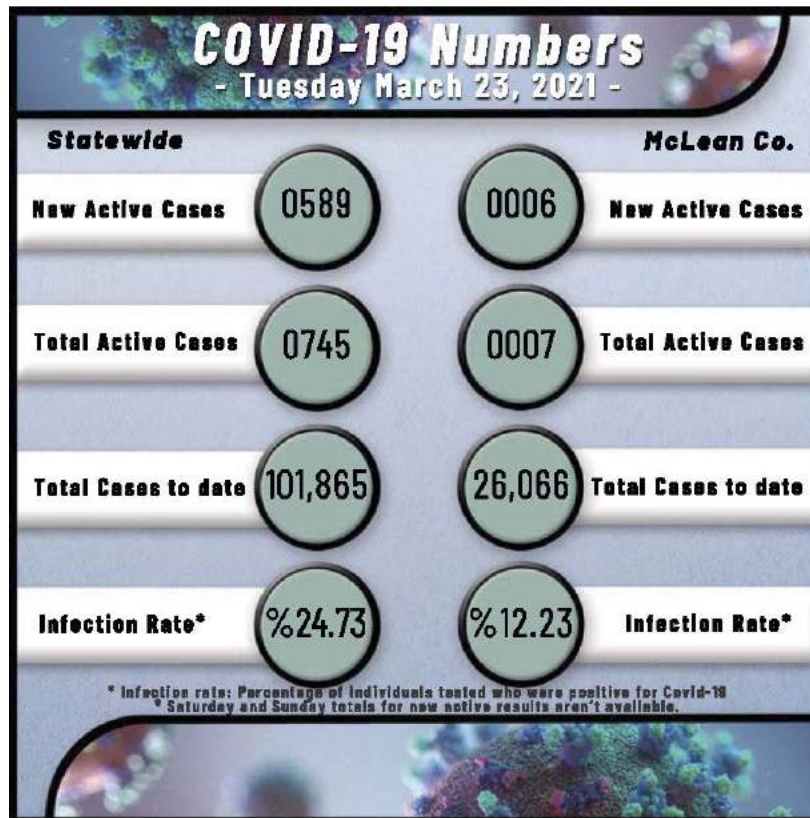


Informational Graphics: Small Weeklies



First Place

- Central McLean News-Journal
COVID 19 stats
Kennon Kirwan



Informational Graphics: Mid-Size Weeklies



Second Place

- **New Rockford Transcript**
Agriculture statistics for Ag Week
Staff

Informational Graphics: Mid-Size Weeklies



First Place

■ Hillsboro Banner

Baseball preview

Cory Erickson, Cole Short

H-CV BASEBALL PREVIEW
Hillsboro-Central Valley opens its spring baseball season Thursday against the Grafton Spikers. Head coach Nathan Walsh said this year's club has its sights set on the Region 2 crown.
FILE PHOTOS

AARON JOHNSON
■ Played in a team-high 24 games last summer for H-CV Blue Sox.
■ Batted just under .300.

JACKSON ANDERSON
■ Second on the H-CV Blue Sox in at bats (67) and RBIs (11) in 2020.
■ Bringing a 3.87 ERA to the mound.

DEVON JOHNSON
■ 1.66 ERA in 2020.
■ Struck out team-high 23 batters last summer.

COLE HEBL
■ Led Blue Sox hitters in batting average with .446.
■ Team leader in runs scored (24), singles (16) and home runs (2).

PAYTON BELILES
■ Won the most games for the Blue Sox (five) among returning pitchers.
■ Will be leaned on on both parts of the battery throughout the year (pitcher, catcher).

BACK IN THE SWING OF THINGS

Informational Graphics: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Crosby, The Journal
Remote sales graphic
Cecile Wehrman

◆ Third Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Mental Health Month
Jackie Thompson, Tim Martin

◆ Second Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
What's growing in North Dakota
Jackie Thompson



- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
Tokyo 2020
Troy Becker

north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Best Web Site

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Web Site: Small Weeklies



First Place

- Elgin, Grant County News
gspublishing.net
Jill Friesz



HOME CONTACT BOOKIN' IT GRANT COUNTY NEWS CARSON PRESS NEWS ADAMS COUNTY RECORD NEWS THE HERALD NEWS OBITUARIES

GRANT COUNTY NEWS

ELECTION FILING DEADLINES NEARING

Wed, 03/16/2022 - 5:00am

Candidates who are interested in serving in a local government position have until 4:00 p.m. Monday, April 11, to file documents to be placed on a city or county election ballot. City elections and the primary election are June 14. The general election is Nov. 8.

[READ MORE](#)



WEARY OF SOUP, WINTER, AND WIND

Wed, 03/16/2022 - 5:00am

Our first calf of the season was born this week in the middle of deep cold. Knowing the mama was close to labor as dusk approached, my husband trudged back and forth to the barn all evening and into the night to check on her in case she or the baby had difficulties. But that heifer decided to wait until just before dawn to calve, thus ensuring he got almost no sleep at all.

[READ MORE](#)

EDUCATION COMES IN VARIOUS FORMS

Wed, 03/16/2022 - 5:00am

It's about that time of year when kids and teachers are getting spring fever and are ready to be done with school for the year.

[READ MORE](#)



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Wed, 03/16/2022 - 5:00am

Name: Braxton Hatzenbuehler

[READ MORE](#)



COYOTE SCHOOL NEWS

Wed, 03/16/2022 - 5:00am

Schedule of Events

[READ MORE](#)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ... next last »

PLAYING IN MEDORA



COUNTRY ROADS
A TRIBUTE TO JOHN DENVER

Elgin, ND 58533

Weather

51.8 °F Breezy W Wind 23 mph

25 °F 49 °F

TUE	24 47	WED	24 48	THU	20 58	FRI	20 43
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3:43 PM Mon Mar 21 WillyWeather



Science Fair participants are Grand Forks bound!



Election filing deadlines nearing

Web Site: Mid-Size Weeklies



Second Place

- New Rockford Transcript
newrockfordtranscript.com
Transcript staff

Web Site: Mid-Size Weeklies



First Place

- Hillsboro Banner
hillsborobanner.com
Banner Staff

About Us | Contact Us | Subscribe

Monday, March 21, 2022

50°
Mostly Cloudy

Hillsboro Banner

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Catch our award-winning photography.
Order prints and photo downloads at hillsborobanner.azimg.com.

Top Story

Hillsboro students prep for school's annual art showcase

Updated Mar 18, 2022

Jera Leeborg performed a clarinet solo for audiences at last year's Spring Art Show at Hillsboro High School.

News

Hillsboro Regional Airport adds to its trophy collection

Updated Mar 18, 2022

Larry Mueller, president of the Hillsboro Municipal Airport Authority, may need to oversee another small expansion at Hillsboro Regional Airport.

County puts road & bridge tax levy on ballot

Updated Mar 18, 2022

Voters in Trail County will be asked to approve a 30-mill property tax hike in June to replace a similar but expiring tax that pays for road and bridge repairs in

Most Popular

Articles

- Two very real tall tales
- Ice Digger head coach Knudson announced departure
- Schell Bakery set to reopen March 7 under new owner Janet Holt
- Hillsboro Regional Airport adds to its trophy collection
- Business and industry news

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Web Site: Large Weeklies



Second Place

- Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer
watfordcitynd.com
McKenzie County Farmer Staff

Web Site: Large Weeklies



First Place

- Crosby, The Journal
JournalTrib.com
Cecile Wehrman



Web Site: Small Multi-Dailies

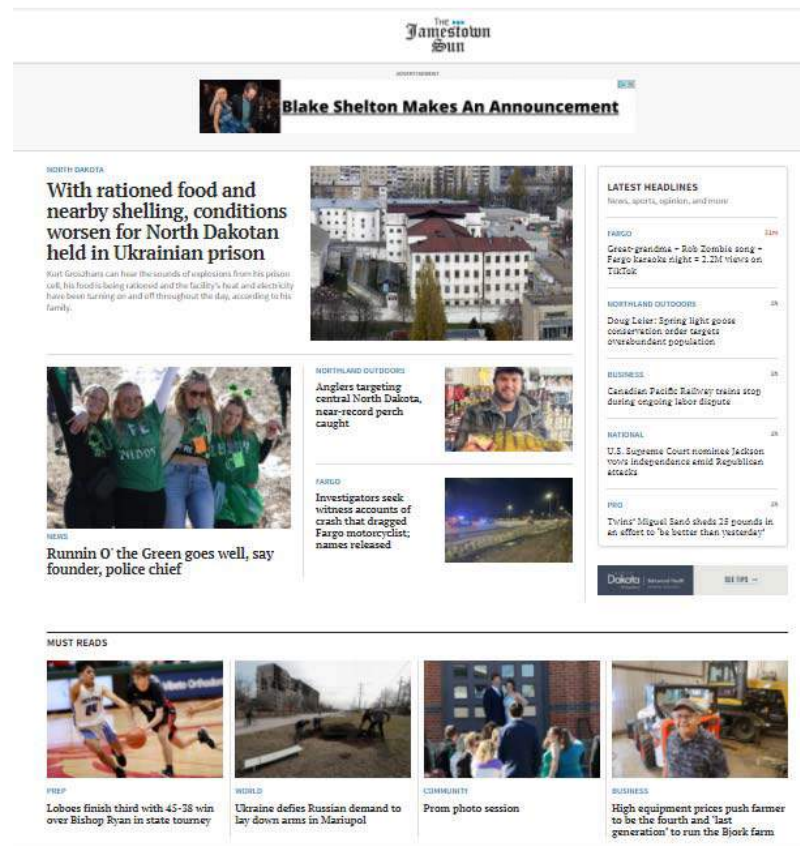


First Place

■ Jamestown Sun

jamestownsun.com

The Jamestown Sun 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



Each purchase of the special print includes a \$3,500 donation to the Friends of the Rail Bridge organization

To make a purchase go to The Bismarck Tribune Store at <https://bismarcktribunestore.com>

The BNSF Rail Bridge, Bismarck-Mandan, Overlooking the Bismarck-Mandan Rail Bridge from the East bank of the Missouri River facing west. Ready to frame. Sizes available:

Small 14.5" x 10.5" \$34.99
Price includes a \$3,500 donation to the Friends of the Rail Bridge organization.

Large 25.75" x 17.75" \$54.99
Price includes a \$3,500 donation to the Friends of the Rail Bridge organization.

Bismarck Tribune

Search the Bismarck Tribune

Home News Opinions Sports Entertainment Lifestyle Culture Jobs 11:55 AM CST

JUST IN Police arrest suspect in Bismarck hit and run pedestrian death after crash in Bismarck

Local News State & Regional Business Politics National World Multimedia

BISMARCK 150

Colossal, razor-toothed prehistoric whale fossil unearthed in Peru

Biden warns US companies of potential Russian cyberattacks

Bismarck bombing leaves Charlene's Bunkie in ruins

Bury comedian slain in slaying of MMA player Lawrence Welton

Biden adds to Congress: Fund COVID aid, don't cut budget

Dredging works to free grounded cargo ship in Chesapeake Bay

Bismarck's Ericson Sena calls to end US Senate bill

Work At DISH



First Place

- **Bismarck Tribune**
bismarcktribune.com
Staff

Voting machine maker wins appeal in GOP election inquiry

■ **WASHINGTON, Nov. 20 (AP)** — Election Voting Systems won an appellate Pennsylvania Supreme Court on Monday in a bid to ensure that any resolution of its voting machines as part of the 2020 election inquiry stays in Pennsylvania's 2020 election law, a decision that has specific consequences.



Q1 Tribune Museum could close soon

Maryland juvenile justice reform bill passes state Senate

■ **ANNE ARBOR, Mich. (AP)** — The Maryland Senate passed a substantial juvenile justice reform Monday, sending it to the governor. The bill would allow judges to place troubled teens in treatment centers instead of jail.



Dredging works to free grounded cargo ship in Chesapeake Bay



Bismarck's Ericson Sena calls to end US Senate bill



north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Online Coverage of Breaking News

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Online Coverage of Breaking News: Weekly Division



First Place

■ New Rockford Transcript

***NR-S proposes alternatives
to East Central
Special Education***

Nathan Price, Amy Wobbema



Online Coverage of Breaking News: Multi-Day Division



◆ Honorable Mention

- Grand Forks Herald
UND Plane crash
Staff, Adam Kurtz, Matt Henson

◆ Third Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Police say 7 dead in incident at south Moorhead home
Matt Henson, Tracy Briggs

◆ Second Place

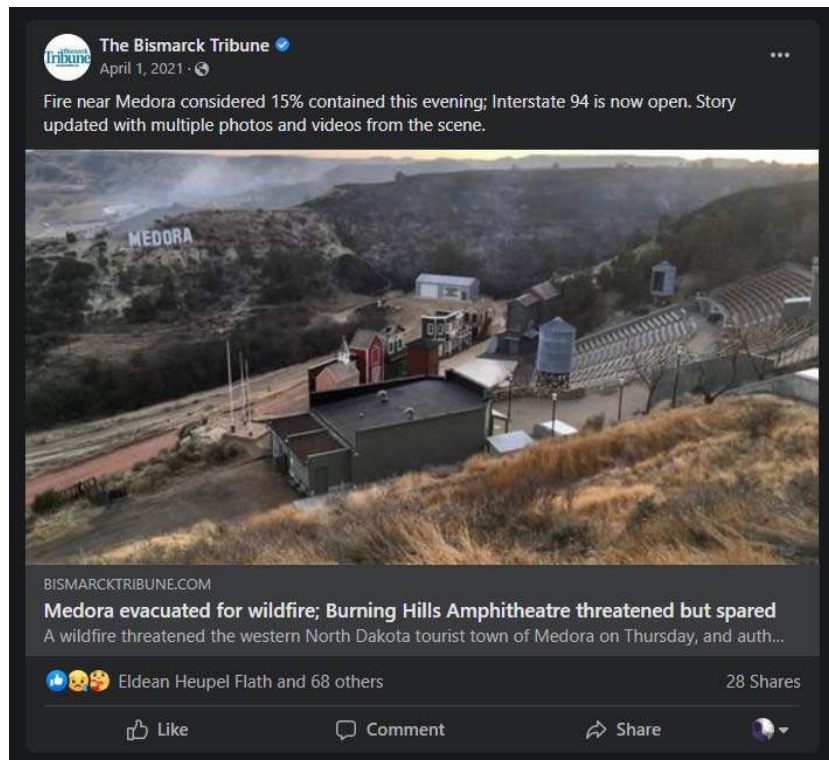
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
14-year-old girl stabbed more than 20 times during attack
Forum staff

Online Coverage of Breaking News: Multi-Day Division



First Place

- **Bismarck Tribune**
Wildfire threatens Medora
Staff



north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Best Use of Social Media

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Best Use of Social Media: Weekly Division



First Place

- **Grafton, Walsh County Record**
Westside
Caylee Tibert

Best Use of Social Media: Multi-Day Division



Second Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
NFL draft
Eric Peterson, Mike McFeely

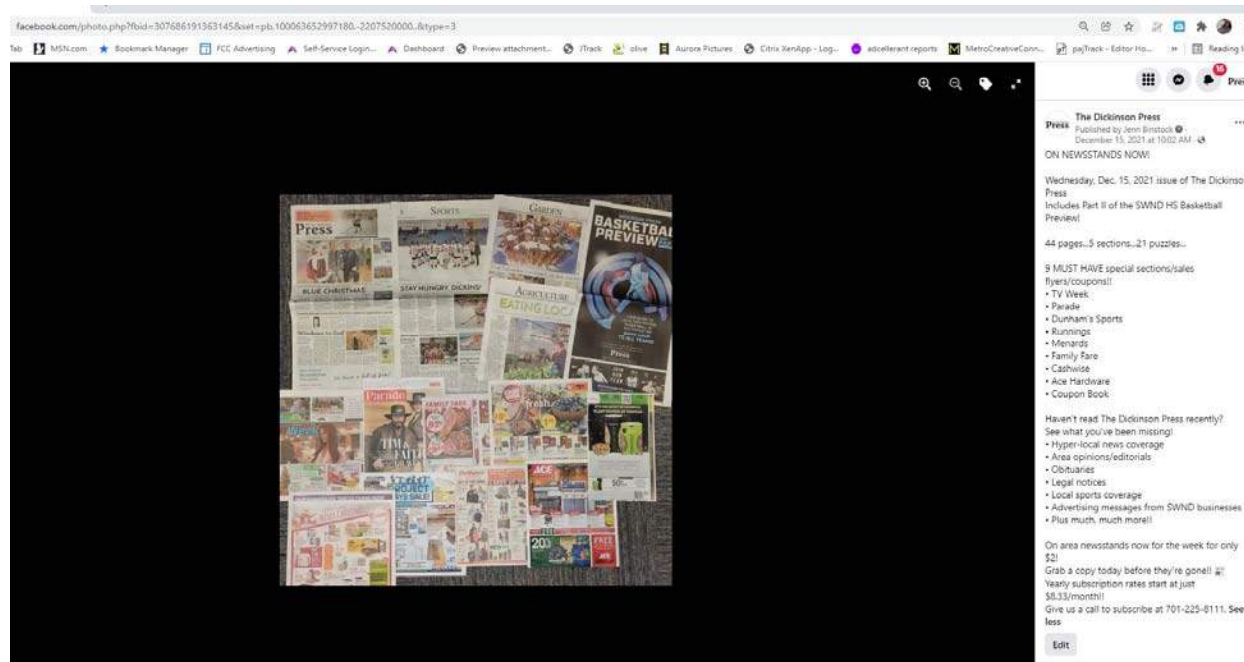
Best Use of Social Media: Multi-Day Division



First Place

■ Dickinson Press

See what you've been missing
Jenn Binstock



north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

*Overall Design
Excellence*

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Overall Design Excellence: Small Weeklies



Third Place

- **Drayton, Valley News & Views**
Overall Design Excellence entry
Lesa Van Camp

Second Place

- **Bowbells, Burke County Tribune**
Overall Design Excellence entry
Lyann Olson

Overall Design Excellence: Small Weeklies



Established in 1897
Steele County Press
 FRIDAY MARCH 5, 2021
 16 PAGES
 NUMBER 9
 VOLUME 122
 Published in Finley, ND
 \$1.00 Single Copy



Photo: Christian (4/55). (Photo: Gary Nelson, Red Pine Media)



Photo: Christian (4/55). (Photo: Gary Nelson, Red Pine Media)

Christian has podium finish in Sioux Falls

Even Christian got in a podium position with his determined pole vault jump on the first night of the Sioux Falls National Pole Vault Invitational. Christian was able to make a jump into second place, ahead of championship rival, Matty Mordyk. Christian battled from a seventh place start into the final jump, Mordyk sh-

Grant provides opportunity for ND adults to access services

By Lisa Sauerberg | Reporter
 As COVID-19 continues to cause problems for many people across the country, Agnes Associates, PLLC in Grand Forks is doing what it can to help those in need find services to help in July of 2020. Agnes Associates was awarded an emergency COVID-19 grant that will allow residents of North Dakota state to access services of North Dakota state with resources to work through the pandemic.
 "We want to put the information to people in the state so they know that there is help," said Lisa Sauerberg, COVID-19 case manager at Agnes Associates. "Adults impacted by COVID-19 who are in North Dakota and who are experiencing mental health and/or co-occurring substance use disorder issues, are able to call our COVID-19 case manager. They can be referred to services that are available in their community, as well as provide direct support to those who are struggling." Agnes Associates says that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on individuals' mental health is significant, and their COVID-19 case manager often provides support and resources to those who are struggling.

Podium finish on Page 7



Photo: Christian (4/55). (Photo: Gary Nelson, Red Pine Media)

Sports
 Spartan Basketball
 Page 7

FFA
 National FFA Week
 Page 8



First Place

- Finley, Steele County Press

Overall Design Excellence entry Staff

Overall Design Excellence: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- New Rockford Transcript
Overall Design Excellence entry
Transcript staff

◆ 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

- Crosby, The Journal
Overall Design Excellence entry
Journal Publishing Staff

◆ Second Place

- Garrison, McLean County Independent
Overall Design Excellence entry
Staff

Overall Design Excellence: Large Weeklies



First Place

- Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer Overall Design Excellence entry McKenzie County Farmer Staff

Overall Design Excellence: Small Multi-Dailies



Second Place

- **Jamestown Sun**

Overall Design Excellence entry

The Jamestown Sun Staff

Overall Design Excellence: Small Multi-Dailies



First Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News
Overall Design Excellence entry
Daily News staff

Overall Design Excellence: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Grand Forks Herald
Overall Design Excellence entry
Staff

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Overall Design Excellence entry
Forum staff

Overall Design Excellence: Large Multi-Dailies



First Place

- Bismarck Tribune
Overall Design Excellence entry
Staff

north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Photography Awards

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

News Photo

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



News Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor

'A total loss'

Tris Anderson

◆ Second Place

- New Town News

Apartment Fire

Jerry Kram

News Photo: Small Weeklies



First Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press
Young Heroes
Larry Biri



News Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
Vaccinations begin
Erik Gjovik

◆ Third Place

- Tioga Tribune
Sons of Liberty vaccine protest
Jacob Orledge

◆ Second Place

- Hillsboro Banner
Dakota Natural Gas ribbon cutting
Cole Short

News Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



PHOTO BY CORY ERICKSON
Milo Simonson, joined by his wife, Julie, points out his window to a classic car driven along Baker Avenue in Buxton as part of a drive-by parade organized by Simonson's grandson, Chance Koloch, Oct. 7. Simonson, who battled cancer for the past year and a half, died Saturday at the age of 98.

SMALL-TOWN SALUTE

Buxton man honored by friends, family with parade before his death

Chance Koloch didn't know what to expect when he set up a parade on short notice in Buxton on Thursday, Oct. 7. All the 28-year-old hoped for was to give his grandfather one last smile.

Milo Simonson, a longtime Buxton resident and diesel mechanic with Gowan Construction in Grand Forks, had been facing an uphill battle. Waging a courageous war with kidney cancer for nearly a year and a half, the 68-year-old collapsed in late September while at an immunotherapy treatment.



Milo Simonson's grandson, Chance Koloch, drives an ATV past Simonson's house Thursday, Oct. 7 in Buxton. The city's mayor, Travis Soderberg, right, looks on as Simonson during a classic car parade held for Simonson last week.

After a series of tests, specialists determined that his cancer had spread quickly to his brain, lungs and throat, and his health deteriorated quickly.

"He and my older brother were on a hunting trip when we got the news," Koloch said. "My mom said his time could be up in a few hours."

"That was a couple of weeks ago. He's pretty stubborn."

Knowing his grandpa was likely on borrowed time, Koloch reached out to Buxton and the surrounding communities Oct. 4 with a simple request: give his grandpa one last salute with a classic car parade.

Milo was a car guy his whole life. He'd previously worked at American Motors Corp., Greyhound and Hansen Ford in Grand Forks.

Koloch knew seeing some vintage vehicles would make Milo's day.

"I talked to a few guys here and there, and then I posted on Facebook to a couple of those for-sale sites, and it got shared like 150 times," Koloch said.

The community responded as only small towns can.

On Thursday, Oct. 7, people lined up for blocks in a show of solidarity with Simonson.

Roughly 30 vehicles — fire trucks, vintage pickups, cars and motorcycles — honked, revved engines and burned rubber in front of Simonson's window along Baker Avenue.

One vehicle came from Warren, Minn., nearly an hour northeast of Buxton.

Inside the house, next to his wife, Julie, Milo had no clue what was about to pass by. But for nearly 15 minutes, he lay propped up in his hospital bed, pointing and waving to the vehicles as they passed. With tears in his eyes, he named the makes and years of the classic cars and trucks as they drove by.

His work vehicle with Gowan Construction, affec-

SIMONSON
Continued on page 7



CORY ERICKSON
Columnist



First Place

- Hillsboro Banner
Small-town salute
Cory Erickson

News Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Crosby, The Journal
Tuftedal lot cleaned up
Cecile Wehrman

◆ Third Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Canadian truckers getting vaccinated
Larry Biri

◆ Second Place

- Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer
Badlands fire contained
Neal A. Shipman

News Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Bo Carrier - jail escapee
Chelsea Wysocki



News Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Jamestown Sun

Adding up grass fire

John Steiner

◆ Second Place

- Jamestown Sun

*Jamestown Rural Fire seeing
record number of calls*

Kathy Steiner

News Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

■ Dickinson Press

*Brush ignites equipment on
Dickinson property during dry spell*
Jackie Jahfetson



News Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Grand Forks Herald
Veterans Park wall
Eric Hylden

◆ Third Place

- Bismarck Tribune
"We the People" rally
Mike McCleary

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Bidding farewell to a friend
David Samson

News Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



First Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
Larry Evans sentencing
Michael Vosburg



north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Spot News Photo

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Spot News Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- **Hankinson, News Monitor**
Freezing fishing on Lake Elsie
Tris Anderson

◆ Second Place

- **Park River, Walsh County Press**
Smashed Potatoes
Larry Biri

Spot News Photo: Small Weeklies



First Place

- **Park River, Walsh County Press**
Off Track
Allison Olimb



Spot News Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Tioga Tribune

Big fire south of Beaver Bay

Jacob Orledge

◆ Second Place

- New Rockford Transcript

Bale blaze

Amy Wobbema

Spot News Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
Fire destroys barns at Bordulac farm
Erik Gjovik



Spot News Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer
Badlands ablaze
Danielle Brothers

◆ Third Place

- Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer
Fatal accident
Neal A. Shipman

◆ Second Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Rick Beyer holding ceiling tile
Larry Biri

Spot News Photo: Large Weeklies



First Place

- Crosby, The Journal
Hosing the line
Brad Nygaard



Spot News Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



Third Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News
Rollover accident
Audra Anderson



Second Place

- Jamestown Sun
Dumpster fire
John Steiner

Spot News Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

■ Williston Herald

*Firefighters battle house fire
along 9th Ave West in Williston*

Mitch Melberg



Spot News Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Man drives burning van
Michael Vosburg

◆ Third Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Officers take aim
David Samson

◆ Second Place

- Bismarck Tribune
Cattle rollover
Mike McCleary

Spot News Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Grand Forks Herald
UND plane crash
Eric Hylden



north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Feature Photo

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Feature Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Central McLean News-Journal
Brightening up downtown
Alyssa Meier

◆ Second Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press
Return of County Fair:
Stella bubbles with excitement
Larry Biri

Feature Photo: Small Weeklies



First Place

- Park River,
Walsh County Press
HS Principal Laxdal
good sport in dunk tank
Allison Olimb

Feature Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Hillsboro Banner

First day of school

Alyssa Short

◆ Second Place

- Hillsboro Banner

Jeremy Billings in 5K

Cole Short

Feature Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



First Place

- Harvey, The Herald Press

The work was worth it

Neil O. Nelson



Feature Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
George Walstad
Larry Biri

◆ Third Place

- Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer
County Fair draws record crowd
Neal A. Shipman

◆ Second Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Grandma D - ND oldest resident
Chelsea Wysocki

Feature Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Casselton, Cass County Reporter

Round 'Em Up

Lisa Plath



Feature Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Jamestown Sun

Best birds

John Steiner

◆ Second Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News

*Jazz concert held for Marshall,
late musician and bandleader*

Frank Stanko

Feature Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



First Place

- Dickinson Press
Spider-Man
Jackie Jahfetson



Feature Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Bismarck Tribune
Porcupine munching
Jack Dura

◆ Third Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Ice-cold beats
Michael Vosburg

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Paying homage to the fallen
David Samson

Feature Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Grand Forks Herald
Weather wins
Nick Nelson



north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Sports Photo

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Sports Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ **Third Place**

- **Bowbells, Burke County Tribune**
Fired Up Fredrickson
Roberta Helseth

◆ **Second Place**

- **Hankinson, News Monitor**
Tigers takedown Colts 82-65
Tris Anderson

Sports Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press
*PR Pirates Spoonland
catches throw behind plate
Larry Biri*



Sports Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Tioga Tribune
Region baseball
Jody Michael

◆ Third Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
Pushed over
Erik Gjovik

◆ Second Place

- Hillsboro Banner
Preston and Gallagher handoff
Jack Short

Sports Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

■ Hillsboro Banner

Ice Dawgs goalie photo

Kayla Morton



Sports Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
PR-F-L junior Owen Zikmund
Larry Biri

◆ Third Place

- Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer
Young boxer with a dream
Ashleigh Plemper

◆ Second Place

- Crosby, The Journal
DC Football
Don Anderson

Sports Photo: Large Weeklies



First Place

- Bottineau Courant
DCB Men's Basketball
Matthew Semisch



Sports Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News

Huskies bulldoze Braves in 69-34 win

Robert Wanek Jr.

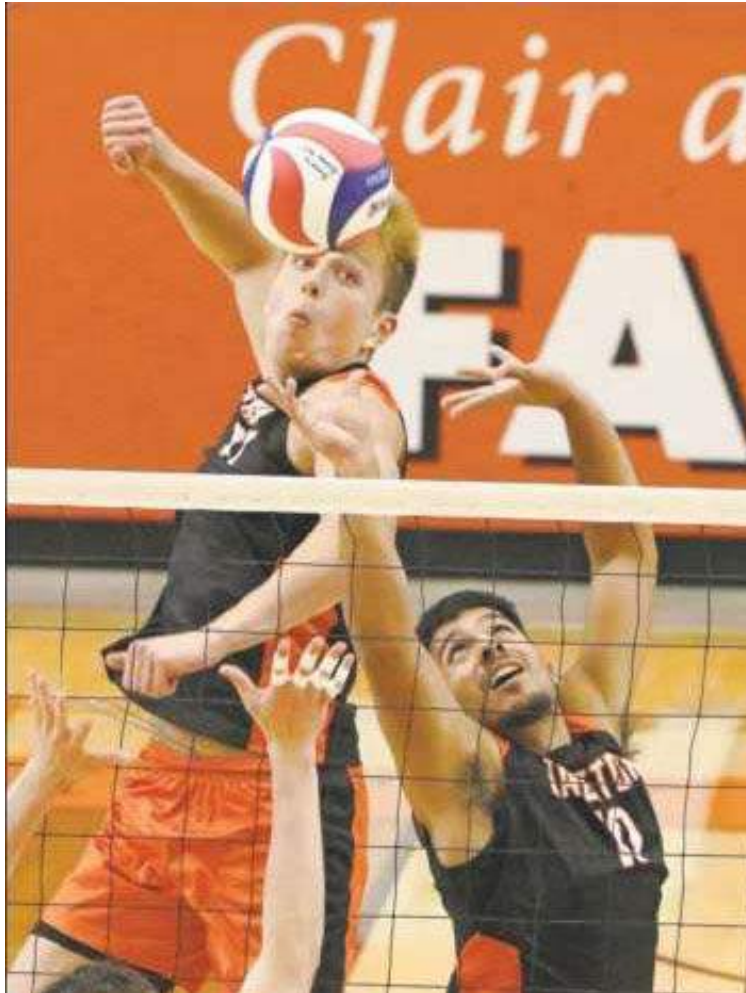
◆ Second Place

- Williston Herald

Coyotes lose to Bismarck Century

Analicia Haynes

Sports Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



First Place

- Jamestown Sun
Flying high
John Steiner

Sports Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Carter Zink
Michael Vosburg

◆ Third Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Cup claimed
Alyssa Goelzer

◆ Second Place

- Grand Forks Herald
Cherished win, Brandon Palm crawls out of wreckage
Nick Nelson

Sports Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- **Fargo, The Forum
of Fargo-Moorhead
*Birrenkott cuts the
final strand of net*
David Samson**



north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Picture Story

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Picture Story: Small Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Central McLean News-Journal
Easter
Staff

◆ Second Place

- Drayton, Valley News & Views
Riverfest
Lesa Van Camp, Lyle Van Camp

Picture Story: Small Weeklies



First Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press
Getting Narly in Pisek
Larry Biri, Allison Olimb

Picture Story: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Tioga Tribune
Freedom Fest
Dave Tengesdal, Jacob Orledge

◆ Third Place

- Hillsboro Banner
Buxton Fun Day
Cole Short

◆ Second Place

- Hillsboro Banner
Banner Year in Sports
Cory Erickson, Cole Short, Kayla Morton

Picture Story: Mid-Size Weeklies



First Place

- Hillsboro Banner
Hillsboro Days
Cory Erickson,
Cole Short

8

Hillsboro Banner
Friday, June 25, 2021

Hillsboro Days 2021

9

Hillsboro Banner
Friday, June 25, 2021



THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

Banner photographers Cole Short and Cory Erickson share a snapshot of photos from last weekend's Hillsboro Days celebration



Picture Story: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer
Homefest fun
Neal A. Shipman

◆ Third Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Splish Splash a community blast
Jayce Schumacher

◆ Second Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
St. Thomas Daze
Todd Morgan



The Journal - Page 9

[illegible][illegible]

"One of the first big things I did," he remembers, "was to get the company's name changed to 'The First Big Company'—I don't know how, really, but I did it. I was a little bit of a genius."

"The company's name was changed to 'The First Big Company'—I don't know how, really, but I did it. I was a little bit of a genius."

"The company's name was changed to 'The First Big Company'—I don't know how, really, but I did it. I was a little bit of a genius."

They "got off" in the middle of the week, and he took a taxi to the airport. "I was a little late," he said. "I was a little late."

[illegible]

"This house is small but of things that we need to preserve in our past. And so, it is not just a house, it is a house that we need to preserve in our past. And so, it is not just a house, it is a house that we need to preserve in our past."



100



quoting Fox, *Shirley* (2004) a well-known country balladist's performance by



1. All data for this class were handled as required.



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- Crosby, The Journal
Divide County Fair
Brad Nygaard

- Crosby, The Journal
Divide County Fair
Brad Nygaard

Picture Story: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Dickinson Press

Sold: Nearly 50 bulls auctioned

Jackie Jahfetson

◆ Second Place

- Jamestown Sun

Class of 2021

John Steiner

Picture Story: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- **Wahpeton, Daily News**
*Wahpeton woman
wins Fan Favorite at
Borderline Chalkfest*
Frank Stanko



Picture Story: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

End of an era

Michael Vosburg

◆ Second Place

- Grand Forks Herald

Another field of dreams

Nick Nelson

Picture Story: Large Multi-Dailies



A6 THE BACK PAGE WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2019 THE FORUM

FM Pride wraps up with loud and proud parade



First Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
FM Pride wraps up with a loud and proud parade
Alyssa Goelzer

north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Pictorial Photo

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Pictorial Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Central McLean News-Journal
Brightening up downtown
Alyssa Meier

◆ Second Place

- Central McLean News-Journal
Memorial Day
Staff

Pictorial Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press
'Knocking Down' Hunger
Larry Biri



Pictorial Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ **Third Place**

- **New Rockford Transcript**
Fireworks over New Rockford
Amy Wobbema

◆ **Second Place**

- **Tioga Tribune**
Sun sets on Signal Road
Jacob Orledge

Pictorial Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



First Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
Legends of the Fall
Erik Gjovik



Pictorial Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Casselton, Cass County Reporter
Frosty Friday
Megan Nicklay

◆ Third Place

- Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer
Scratching an itch
Neal A. Shipman

◆ Second Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Seeing triple
Chelsea Wysocki

Pictorial Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

■ Crosby, The Journal

Some areas now high and dry

Brad Nygaard



Pictorial Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Jamestown Sun

Snow flurries and geese

John Steiner

◆ Second Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News

*Wilkin County Fair-A pink moon rises
behind the ferris wheel*

Audra Anderson

Pictorial Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Dickinson Press

*What you should know
about ND hunter
safety courses*

Josiah C. Cuellar



Pictorial Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Grand Forks Herald

Smoky haze from Canadian fires

Brad Dokken

◆ Second Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

Rainy reprieve

David Samson

Pictorial Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

■ Bismarck Tribune

Frost

Mike McCleary



north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Portrait Photo

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Portrait Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Hankinson, News Monitor
Young and restless
Robert Wanek Jr.

◆ Third Place

- Central McLean News-Journal
Brightening up downtown
Alyssa Meier

◆ Second Place

- Drayton, Valley News & Views
Jason and Berkleee Melland
Lesa Van Camp

Portrait Photo: Small Weeklies



First Place

- **Park River, Walsh County Press**
*Rev. Lefor force behind
Nepomuk Narly Gravel
Grinder*
Larry Biri



Portrait Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Tioga Tribune
Student scientist
Jacob Orledge

◆ Second Place

- Tioga Tribune
Little girls with a candy cane
Dave Tengesdal

Portrait Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



First Place

- Hillsboro Banner
Aubree Nelson and flowers
Cory Erickson



Portrait Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Crosby, The Journal

New pioneers

Brad Nygaard

◆ Second Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record

Reflections Sunset Home

Larry Biri

Portrait Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
In loving memory
Chelsea Wysocki



Portrait Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News

Brittney Neumann

Audra Anderson

◆ Second Place

- Jamestown Sun

Birds fly

John Steiner

Portrait Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- **Wahpeton, Daily News**
*Surprise anniversary
caravan Sunday for
Wahpeton couple*
Frank Stanko



Portrait Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Grand Forks Herald
Combat Cardio
Nick Nelson

◆ Second Place

- Bismarck Tribune
Raymond Voegele
Mike McCleary

Portrait Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

Monarch mama

David Samson



north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Agricultural Photo

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Agricultural Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Central McLean News-Journal
Goats and good books
Alyssa Meier

◆ Second Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor
Sugar beet harvest: Tradition endures
Robert Wanek Jr.

Agricultural Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press

May showers bring relief

Larry Biri

May showers bring relief



Agricultural Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Hillsboro Banner

Plowing into the past

Cole Short

◆ Second Place

- Hillsboro Banner

Hung out too dry

Cory Erickson

Agricultural Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



First Place

- Carrington, Foster
County Independent
LegenDairy IV
Erik Gjovik



Agricultural Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer
Planting in drought conditions
Neal A. Shipman

◆ Second Place

- Crosby, The Journal
No pictures, please
Brad Nygaard

Agricultural Photo: Large Weeklies



First Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record

*Brad Brummond looks
at dying roots*

Larry Biri



Agricultural Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



Honorable Mention

- Dickinson Press

*Celebrating independence with
50th Roughrider Days*

Jackie Jahfetson



Third Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News

Keeping the faith out in the fields

Frank Stanko



Second Place

- Jamestown Sun

Cold snap (top)

John Steiner

Agricultural Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



First Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News

Risks and rewards

Audra Anderson



Agricultural Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Third Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

*How to start flower and
vegetable seeds indoors*

Alyssa Goelzer

◆ Second Place

- Grand Forks Herald

*The sky was full of grasshoppers,
photo of man in grain bin*

Eric Hylden

Agricultural Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



First Place

- Bismarck Tribune
Drought
Mike McCleary



north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Outdoor Recreation Photo

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Outdoor Recreation Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Drayton, Valley News & Views

Family time at the pool

Caity Ryan

◆ Second Place

- New Town News

Saddle Bronc

Jerry Kram

Outdoor Recreation Photo: Small Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press
Summer Vibes: Some love to fish
Larry Biri



Outdoor Recreation Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- New Rockford Transcript

Diving into summer

Amy Wobbema

◆ Second Place

- Tioga Tribune

Making 5K's gnarly again

Jacob Orledge

Outdoor Recreation Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies



◆ First Place

- Hillsboro Banner
Jeremy Billings in 5K
Cole Short



Outdoor Recreation Photo: Large Weeklies



◆ Third Place

- Casselton, Cass County Reporter
Change is in the Air
Angela Kolden

◆ Second Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Putting green celebration
Chelsea Wysocki

Outdoor Recreation Photo: Large Weeklies



First Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
Macy Jelinek - Fordville Hill Climb
Larry Biri

Outdoor Recreation Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Wahpeton, Daily News

These runners weren't bothered by the rain.

Audra Anderson

◆ Third Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News

*Abercrombie Fire and Rescue
supported by Aber Day rodeo*

Frank Stanko

◆ Second Place

- Jamestown Sun

Frosty walk

John Steiner

Outdoor Recreation Photo: Small Multi-Dailies



◆ First Place

- Williston Herald
Play Ball
Analicia Haynes



Outdoor Recreation Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



◆ Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
A cross country skier
David Samson

◆ Third Place

- Bismarck Tribune
Mule deer and hunter
Jack Dura

◆ Second Place

- Bismarck Tribune
Disc golf
Mike McCleary

Outdoor Recreation Photo: Large Multi-Dailies



First Place

- **Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead**
Dancing in the fountain
Michael Vosburg



north dakota newspapers



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST



Photo of the Year

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Photo of the Year: Multi-Day Division



◆ Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead *Birrenkott cuts the final strand of net* David Samson

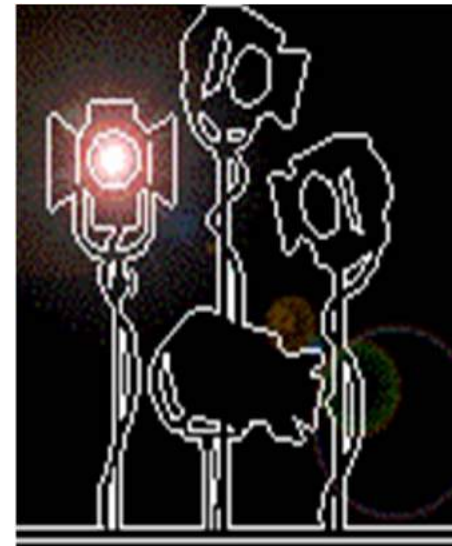


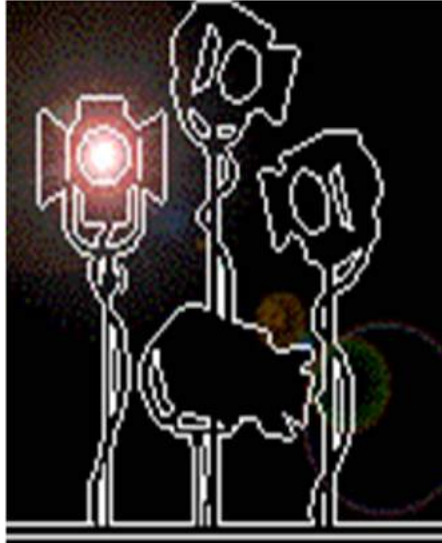
Photo of the Year: Weekly Division



◆ Park River, Walsh County Press

Young Heroes

Larry Biri



north dakota newspapers

BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Be sure not to miss the . . .

Special Awards Banquet



Tonight!

- **5:45 pm: Past Presidents' Social** • **5:50 pm: Annual Group Photo**
- **6:30 pm: Banquet, Special Acknowledgements & Special Awards**
*Rookie Reporter, Public Notice Journalism, Community Service, First Amendment,
General Excellence, & Sweepstakes*
- **9:00 pm: Hospitality lounge & 50/50 Raffle downstairs after awards**

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

136th Annual Convention
May 5-7, 2022 • Bismarck, ND

#NDNAawards

