BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

News, Photography, & Special Awards

137th Annual Convention
May 11-13, 2023 • Devils Lake, ND

#NDNAawards
BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

News & Editorial Awards
Reporting
Third Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press
  Hungry for a Cure: PR youth bringing awareness to Type 1 Diabetes
  WILDCARD- Allison Olimb

Second Place

- Elgin, Grant County News
  Historic spring blizzard takes its toll
  Luann Dart
Discrimination investigation continues

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

Chris Bastian
Lidgetwood Superintendent

Complaint against Bohnenstingl

Prior to the discrimination investigation into Scott Strange that found no evidence of sexual discrimination, an incident occurred with Erin Bohnenstingl after the playoff basketball game against Hankinson Feb. 17. According to notes by Strange, a parent had approached him on April 1 regarding Bohnenstingl’s behavior after the game. "The (parent) said she [Bohenstingl] was screaming at them and that she was very demeaning toward the team. She did not believe she built the girls up after a tough game," Strange said in the notes.

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

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

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

"What is weird about it is it had happened so long after the fact. But the investigation turned into it really seemed to be the straw that broke the camel’s back," Lidgetwood Superintendent Chris Bastian said.

Due to Bohnenstingl’s prior conversation with the parent, unclear formality of the comments and the time that had passed between the incident and the comments, the investigation’s merit and necessity were called into question. As part of her complaint against Strange, Bohnenstingl stated that it was not a formal complaint and therefore did not warrant such an investigation. At this time no resolution has been made to the investigation regarding the parent’s comments.

Co-op

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

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

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

During the discussion of the co-op a survey was sent out to the Wyndmere and
Honorable Mention
- Tioga Tribune
  *Former teacher faces state scrutiny, potential license loss*
  Jacob Orledge

Third Place
- Hillsboro Banner
  *Fostering hope*
  Cory Erickson

Second Place
- Harvey, The Herald Press
  *High climber grounded*
  WILDCARD- Neil O. Nelson
First Place

- Hillsboro Banner

In the right place at the write-in time

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

Third Place
- Crosby, The Journal
  *Cases top 100 in January*
  Journal Staff

Second Place
- Casselton, Cass County Reporter
  *Buntrock Retires*
  Angela Kolden
Reporting: Large Weeklies

First Place

- Casselton, Cass County Reporter
- Flood Fight
- Jan Russell

Kindred vigilant in flood-fighting effort

By Jan Russell

It’s been a long and arduous week in Kindred, as the rains continue and the Sheyenne River comes up. The slow and steady growth of the city has taxed the aging sewer and wastewater lagoons to the limit. And this wasn’t the best of weather.

“The water is rising at a rate of one inch per hour,” said public works supervisor Rich Schock as he inspected the city’s lift stations.

The stations have received a boost in the form of portable pumps, but at the rate of the increase, the wastewater levels are causing concern. The city is in the process of building new wastewater lagoons, but some have had to be completed until 2022. Meanwhile, Schock and public works assistant Stirling Thompson are working on cleaning out the current system through the high sewage.

“Mud and sludge, it’s all over the place,” Schock explained. “It’s not just the mud—it’s like a soup. We’re working on it, but it’s a difficult process.”

According to the National Weather Service, the Sheyenne has been at the same level since the flood stage. While not as high as the previous flood, the city is still working on the infrastructure to prevent future flooding.

As the city continues to work on the infrastructure, residents are being urged to conserve water usage and avoid using the lagoons. Despite the challenges, the city remains vigilant in its efforts to protect the community.
Honorable Mention
- Dickinson Press
  *Breaking the Cycle*
  Jason O'Day

Third Place
- Wahpeton, Daily News
  *Workplace gender equality improving, but still not great*
  Colton Rasanen-Fryar

Second Place
- Jamestown Sun
  *Honoring sacrifice*
  Kathy Steiner
First Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News

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

Frank Stanko

**WAHPETON**

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

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

BY FRANK STANKO • DAILY NEWS

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

Offensive language used in a Snapchat group of Wahpeton Middle School boys, including at least 24 instances of a racial slur from one individual, is part of a wider problem according to the parents of a targeted Black youth. Antoine White and Aldonia Edwards say their son — classmate and teammate of youth included in a Snapchat group, “Basketball team” — has received verbal harassment from peers over a more than two-year period in Wahpeton. The family moved to Wahpeton from Tacoma, Washington, in February 2019 and the first racial incident occurred in Chahinkapa Park late that year. White said, “He was called the ‘n-word’ by a peer.” White said, “He had never been called that before. Later on, he was being called ‘Black boy’ and ‘Black banana’ at school. This has made him lash out and it causes him to not feel safe at school.”

Edwards’ first reporting of her son’s alleged treatment occurred when he attended Wahpeton Middle School.

Antoine White (left) and Aldonia Edwards say their son has been experiencing verbal harassment from peers for over two years at Wahpeton Public Schools.
Honorable Mention
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  Unintended consequences
  April Baumgarten

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

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

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

*Living with gunfire*

C.S. Hagen, April Baumgarten
Third Place
- Elgin, Grant County News
  *The Rancher, The Processor, The School*
  Luann Dart

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

- Bowbells, Burke County Tribune
  Blizzard
  Lisa Thomas
Third Place
- New Rockford Transcript
  Child care center opens in Brown Memorial
  Amy Wobbema

Second Place
- Hillsboro Banner
  Day care licensing coverage
  Cole Short
First Place

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

**Grace City teen struck, killed in vehicular incident in McHenry**

By Nathan Price

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

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

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

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

See INCIDENT, page 2
Honorable Mention
- Grafton, Walsh County Record
  Chris Thompson
  WILDCARD- Todd Morgan

Third Place
- Grafton, Walsh County Record
  Garza Brothers
  Todd Morgan

Second Place
- Casselton, Cass County Reporter
  Cat Scam
  Jan Russell
First Place

- Crosby, The Journal

Where have the workers gone?

Cecile Wehrman
Honorable Mention

- Dickinson Press
  *Missing Beulah boy*
  Jason O'Day

Third Place

- Dickinson Press
  *Halloween on the Western Edge*
  Ashley Koffler

Second Place

- Jamestown Sun
  *Mayor: Sex assault claim is false*
  Masaki Ova
Over 1,000 pounds of homemade explosive materials found in Williston apartment

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

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

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

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

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

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

On Tuesday and Wednesday, 32nd Ave.

See EXPLOSIVE, Page 4
Honorable Mention
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  Virginia Piper kidnapping
  Tracy Briggs

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

Second Place
- Bismarck Tribune
  Beyond the Streets
  Mike McCleary
First Place

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

ND lawmaker exchanged 72 texts with child porn suspect

By April Baumgarten
The Forum

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

A phone number used by Sen. Ray Holmberg, a powerful Grand Forks Republican, was among those 34-year-old Nicholas James Morgan-Derosier texted in flurries of communication on Aug. 23 and 24, when Morgan-Derosier was incarcerated last year at the Grand Forks County Jail. Inmates can pay money to use a text messaging service in jail, which is what Morgan-Derosier did, a jail official confirmed.

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

Feature
Reporting
Feature Reporting: Small Weeklies

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

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

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

- Finley, Steele County Press

One year later: How is Brady Munroe?
Lisa Saxberg

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

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

“I was working for Casey Burchill at his farm by Luverne,” said Brady. “Four days after returning from Florida, I was working out at the farm in the shop. One minute I was standing there holding some tools, then one second later, I felt like I had been hit by a train. I could barely stand up straight, my vision was blurry, and I had almost no strength to do anything. That being said, I was still able to finish work that day; went home, took a shower, and passed out in bed. The next day I tried to go to work in the morning, but I couldn’t even make it past lunchtime. I went back home and sat in bed for the next 2 days. On the second day, I was taken to the drive-through testing in Valley City. My test came back positive. That night I went to my family’s farm, and they quarantined me in my grandma’s empty house on the farmstead. I spent probably another 3 days just sitting around trying to drink water and eat crackers and soup, but I wasn’t able to keep them down.”

Munro on Page 5
Feature Reporting: Mid-Size Weeklies

Honorable Mention
- Hillsboro Banner
  A Focus on the Arts
  Cory Erickson

Third Place
- Carrington, Foster County Independent
  A special delivery
  Erik Gjovik

Second Place
- Hillsboro Banner
  In it for the long haul
  Cole Short
First Place

- Rugby, Pierce County Tribune

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

Sue Sitter
Feature Reporting: Large Weeklies

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

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

Second Place
- Grafton, Walsh County Record
  *Buzzer-beater Bjornson*
  WILDCARD- Chelsea Wysocki
First Place

- Beulah, The Beacon

*He's bats about bats*

Bill Schmalfeldt
Feature Reporting: Small Multi-Dailies

Honorable Mention
- Dickinson Press
  *Stranded by war:*
  A Ukrainian foreign exchange student's story
  Ashley Koffler

Third Place
- Wahpeton, Daily News
  *Metal Nana*
  Carrie McDermott

Second Place
- Wahpeton, Daily News
  22-year-old funeral director dedicated to families in toughest times
  Colton Rasanen-Fryar
First Place

- Dickinson Press

*The taxi driver murders*

James B. Miller, Jr.
Honorable Mention
- Grand Forks Herald
  As Russians advance through Ukraine, schools teach history
  Joe Bowen

Third Place
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  Marge's Diner brings 1970s vibe to downtown Fargo
  Helmut Schmidt

Second Place
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  Bond of brothers
  Jeremy Turley
First Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

'Their spirits are still here'

Jeremy Turley, Adam Willis
BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Feature Reporting Series
First Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor

*Point of View series - changes*

Colton Rasanen-Fryar,
Frank Stanko,
|Robert Wanek Jr.,
Levi Jones
Third Place
- Hillsboro Banner
  *Hillsboro Days coverage*
- WILDCARD- Cole Short, Cory Erickson

Second Place
- Hillsboro Banner
  *New teachers in Traill County*
- Cole Short, Cory Erickson
First Place

- Carrington,
  Foster County Independent

Twin City

Erik Gjovik

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

By Erik Gjovik

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

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

Before meeting his future fiancé, Texas, Trevor Larsen of Bowdon was anemic to his friends and family that he would never get “sided down” in a relationship, or escalate anything of that nature to a marriage.

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

“Which all changed in a quick two years of his life,” Texas chuckled.

Now, Trevor and Texas are the proud parents of twins, Adalyn and Brooklyn, along with Texas’s nine-year-old son, Ayden Hanch, whom Trevor “treats like his own,” in his wife’s words.

The two were married in July 2019, and it didn’t take long for the news of their family’s impending growth to materials.

“I found out I was pregnant in September, which left Trevor, Ayden, and I very excited,” Texas said.

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

“Wasn’t expecting and trying to call me about 20 minutes. I sent him a picture of the ultrasound,” Texas said.

See TWIN CITY, page 2
Feature Reporting Series: Large Weeklies

◊ Honorable Mention
  - Beulah, The Beacon
    Giving Back Series
    Staff

◊ Third Place
  - Crosby, The Journal
    Cancer survivors
    Brad Nygaard, Cecile Wehrman

◊ Second Place
  - Crosby, The Journal
    Conversations with Ukrainian refugees
    Cecile Wehrman
First Place

- Casselton, Cass County Reporter

**Equal Opportunities**

Angela Kolden

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**Gender Not a Qualification**

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

By Angela Kolden

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

“My dad was a volunteer firefighter for 30 plus years. As a kid, I grew up around it and it was interesting to me. As an adult I wanted to get into it and I asked, ‘How do I volunteer?’”

As a West Fargo resident, she followed in her father’s footsteps by signing on with both the West Fargo and Rural West Fargo Fire Departments. After that, while visiting friends Sherri Trosken and Jared McColgan, who volunteer on the Kindred Fire Department, she was offered a position. She accepted and became a part of the team.

“Are you a girl?”

“Yeah, I am,” she replied.

“Are girls allowed in fire departments?”

“I think they are they are allowed in fire departments,” she said with a smile.

“I would like to see more women in the fire service. It is a great place to work.”

Wagemann’s philosophy, evidenced by her latest desire to begin training again, is moving toward getting back into competitive Muay Thai. Her personal trainer, Eric Sweeney, is another one of her mentors.

“He pushes me more than anybody because he knew I can do it,” she said. “He taught me mental toughness.”
Honorable Mention
- Wahpeton, Daily News
  *POV series examines great outdoors in Southern Red River Valley*
  Colton Rasanen-Fryar, Levi Jones, Robert Wanek Jr., Frank Stanko

Third Place
- Wahpeton, Daily News
  *Family Footprints (4 part series)*
  Frank Stanko

Second Place
- Jamestown Sun
  *The most rewarding time of my life*
  Kathy Steiner
First Place

- Dickinson Press
  Ukrainian Heritage/Culture
  Jason O'Day
Honorable Mention
- Bismarck Tribune
  *Western North Dakota Honor Flight*
  Travis Svihovec

Third Place
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  *Kid Boss series*
  Tammy Swift

Second Place
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  *Buried wounds series*
  Jeremy Turley, C.S. Hagen, Michelle Griffith
First Place

- Bismarck Tribune

*Immigrants and refugees*

Jack Dura

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Santa’s 1st stops include immigrants and refugees

Ukrainian integration specialist delivers to local Peruvian family

Jack Dura

Bismarck Tribune

Santa Claus and his elves brought their magic to town on Thursday to make one of their first deliveries, to a Peruvian immigrant family named Nunez.

“Merry Christmas, Beto Nunez!” said Natalia Otsaichuk, Bismarck Global Neighbors Ukrainian integration specialist, handing a bundle to each Peruvian child as Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived at their house.

The children were elated to receive gifts for the first time. Their older brother and sister were enthusiastic about the presents, hugging Santa and Mrs. Claus with joy.

Brothers Irwin and Jodhiuski Nunez received toys, and sister Natalia Otsaichuk received a dress for her first Christmas. The family enjoyed the festive atmosphere, with decorations and lights adorning their home.

Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus also visited with the Nunez family’s neighbors, offering gifts and spreading holiday cheer throughout the community.

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Feature Reporting Series: Large Multi-Dailies
Government Reporting
Gov’t. Reporting: Small Weeklies

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

◊ Second Place
  - Finley, Steele County Press
    *Census population count leads to redistricting*
    Lisa Saxberg
Gov’t. Reporting: Small Weeklies

First Place
- Park River, Walsh County Press

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

By Allison Olimb

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

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

The documentation provided by the Walsh County Health District at the meeting noted past actions by the City of Park River including:
1. A warning letter was sent to Mr. Denault, dated 03/13/19, on behalf of the Park River City Council.
2. The Park River City Council suspended the Dug Out Bar liquor license for a period of 5 days but only one day of the suspension was invoked at that time. Suspended 12/27/2019.
3. The Park River City Council suspended the Dug Out Bar liquor license for three days in March of 2020.
4. The Park River City Council suspended the Dug Out Bar’s liquor license from 11/22 to 12/21/22.
5. The Park River City Council suspended the liquor license of the Dug Out Bar for 30 days, beginning on 4/25/22.

In the summary provided by Sharon Laedel, she explained that the Walsh County Health District has received numerous complaints over the years about smoking at the Dug Out Bar. Complaints have been received from Facebook, Tip 411, telephone calls, and in writing. This is the fourth
Gov’t. Reporting: Mid-Size Weeklies

◊ Honorable Mention
  ▪ Carrington, Foster County Independent
    
    **CPS commits to full-day Pre-K program**

    Amy Wobbema

◊ Third Place
  ▪ New Rockford Transcript
    
    **Full house at special assessment hearing**

    Amy Wobbema

◊ Second Place
  ▪ Hillsboro Banner
    
    **Former, current city leaders trade barbs in heated exchange**

    Cole Short
Oberon voters officially contest city’s election

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

by Nathan Price

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

Oberon’s population is just 101 according to the 2020 census, and the number of eligible voters is fewer still. Even so, one resident says relatively few voters turned out for the city’s elections, and, in his opinion, that’s no coincidence.

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

Consequently, he and 11 other Oberon residents have begun the process of officially contesting Oberon’s June 14 municipal election.

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

The only notice given, said Ploium, came in the form of a piece of paper taped to the door of Oberon’s community center on election day. “Nobody knew about the election,” Ploium said. “Even people living a block away from where they had the election didn’t know about it.”

North Dakota Century Code (N.D.C.C.) 40-21-02, requires that city auditors give 10 days’ notice of the time and place of an election, as well as the offices to be filled in that election, via the official newspaper of their city. Oberon’s official newspaper, the Benson County Farmers Press, confirmed with the Transcript that Oberon’s most recent notice for an election ran in March and April, which was for a special election on April 26, and that no other election notices have been published since.

Also alleged is that multiple Oberon residents were not sent absentee ballots, despite going through the necessary steps to acquire them. Normally, a resident requesting an absentee ballot must fill out an application and submit that application to the county, who will then make an absentee ballot available.
Gov’t Reporting: Large Weeklies

❖ Third Place
  - Grafton, Walsh County Record
    Commission appoints Barta
    Todd Morgan

❖ Second Place
  - Garrison, McLean County Independent
    Meanwhile, back at the ranch
    James C. Falcon
Gov’t Reporting: Large Weeklies

◊ First Place
  - Crosby, The Journal

Summer runway closing has sprayers looking at options
Brad Nygaard

Summer runway closure has sprayers looking at options

By Brad Nygaard
Effects of next summer’s temporary closure of the Crosby airport are already being felt.
Representatives from New Century Ag and Pioneer AgVation meet with county commissioners Friday to explore options concerning the 2022 crop spraying season.
“What options are there?” Commissioner Gerald Brady asked.
“We really don’t have very many,” replied Pioneer AgVation Manager Greg Grothusen.
Grothusen’s suggestion, and preferred option, would be using a county road as a runway.
“The preferred would be a paved road,” said Grothusen. “That’s what we’re asking, if we can find a county road we can use as a runway until the project gets completed.”
Should Pioneer be given the go-ahead to use a road, it would mean temporary closures to vehicle traffic during flight operations.
“Wells probably take the planes to Lioba at night,” said Grothusen.
Grothusen told commissioners he’s flown over every grass airstrip in the area. There are several. All are too short for the aircraft used by the aerial applicator.
“We’re flying larger turbine air-planes, carrying anywhere from 400-500 gallons of product,” said Grothusen. “We need more than a half-mile to get those off. A couple of these strips are less than a half-mile with a hump in the middle and that just won’t do.”
During the discussion that followed, Grothusen said aircraft could work off a gravel road if no pavement becomes available, but expressed concerns about dust, suggesting the company may be interested in cost-sharing some sort of dust control.
Commissioners said it’s not too early to begin talking about the idea, but expressed concerns. Particularly about liability, legal authority and who is responsible for barricading a road being used for aerial spraying operations. The first step, Brady said, is checking with the state’s attorney and the county’s insurance provider.
Should those hurdles be cleared, Commissioner Rodney Johnson (See RUNWAY, Page 10)
Gov’t Reporting: Small Multi-Dailies

◊ **Third Place**
  - Jamestown Sun
    *Service to continue*
    Kathy Steiner

◊ **Second Place**
  - Wahpeton, Daily News
    *Abortion will remain legal in MN after fed protections overturned*
    Colton Rasanen-Fryar
Gov’t. Reporting: Small Multi-Dailies

◊ First Place
  ▪ Dickinson Press

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

Stark County sheriff race turns ugly

Public accusations of sex assault cover-ups and affairs surface

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

By James B. Miller, Jr.
The Dickinson Press

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

An anonymous letter, penned under a pseudonym of ‘Thomas Pain’, spread across Dickinson’s many social media community pages on Monday. The two-page letter levied multiple spurious allegations and prompted The Dickinson Press to reach out to both candidates to provide opportunities for response. Stark County Sheriff Corey Lee and his opponent Fern Moser agreed to address the accusations in sit-down interviews on Wednesday.

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

Allegations against Fern Moser
The anonymous letter circulating social media alleges that while employed with the Stark County Sheriff’s Office, Fern Moser’s license was suspended for two weeks following an investigation into a party at his home in which he was aware that minors were present and in which alcohol was served.

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

RACE: Page A4
Gov’t. Reporting: Large Multi-Dailies

◊ Honorable Mention
  ▪ Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
    Why ND can't stop hiring
dubious guardianship company
    Dave Olson

◊ Third Place
  ▪ Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
    Stonewalled and slighted
    WILDCARD- Jeremy Turley

◊ Second Place
  ▪ Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
    Fargo man refuses to leave
century-old home slated for demolition
    Melissa Van Der Stad
Gov’t. Reporting: Large Multi-Dailies

◊ First Place

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

COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWN

Longstanding hurdles keep attorneys from easily phoning clients in ND prisons

By April Baumgarten
Fargo

When William Hart appeared via Zoom in Cass County District Court to address when he could potentially be released from prison, he told Judge Susan Bailey he hadn’t been able to connect with his attorney, Patrick O’Day. Hart, who was sentenced to life in prison with the chance of parole for shooting and injuring a Fargo attorney in 1996 at a local YMCA, wrote in a letter to the court that he called O’Day several times and wrote multiple letters to the attorney but got no response. He said he wanted to fire O’Day and represent himself. O’Day said during the June 13 hearing it was almost impossible to reach clients in prison. When the judge asked guards at the North Dakota State Penitentiary if they could call O’Day, they said they couldn’t.
Government Reporting Series
Second Place

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

Luann Dart
First Place

- Finley, Steele County Press

Concerned resident demands commission's response

Lisa Saxberg
Government Series: Mid-Size Weeklies

Honorable Mention
- Tioga Tribune
  *Community center prepares to lift off*
  Jacob Orledge

Third Place
- New Rockford Transcript
  *New Rockford street project*
  Amy Wobbema, Nathan Price

Second Place
- Hillsboro Banner
  *City budget review*
  Cole Short
**First Place**

- **New Rockford Transcript**
  
  **New Rockford**

  **water plant upgrades**

  Nathan Price
Government Series: Large Weeklies

Honorable Mention
- Crosby, The Journal
  Park board leadership saga
  Jody Michael

Third Place
- Casselton, Cass County Reporter
  Soybean Processing Plant
  Angela Kolden

Second Place
- Linton, Emmons County Record
  County makes eminent domain 'more difficult'
  Kelli Ameling
Resignations at ambulance district

By Brad Nygaard

Tim Swanson is leaving the Divide County Ambulance District, effective June 13. Meeting on May 18, the district board voted to accept his resignation. He's leaving to take a managerial position with the Bottineau Ambulance Service.

"It's a good opportunity for me," Swanson said. He thinks the change will also be a good opportunity, going forward, for new board members.

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

A certified paramedic and Crosby native, Swanson has been with the district nearly four years. During his tenure, he's served as Interim Operations Manager twice, the second time in late 2019 when the "Interim" was made permanent under a previous board.

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

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

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

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

Brad Nygaard
Government Series: Small Multi-Dailies

◊ Third Place
  - Wahpeton, Daily News
    Carbon Capture
    Frank Stanko

◊ Second Place
  - Dickinson Press
    Library board and controversial books
    Jason O'Day
First Place
- Wahpeton, Daily News
  Election coverage
  Colton Rasanen-Fryar

Minnesota primary election preliminary results


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

In the closest race of his area, Minnesota Rep. Jordan Rasmusson narrowly beats his political newcomer opponent Nathan Miller in the 9th legislative district. With less than 400 votes between the two, Republican-endorsed Rasmusson had to wait to claim victory until the last minute as results support of voters across came in.

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

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

The only other contested primary, that wasn't a statewide election, was for the 7th Congressional District. DFL-endorsed candidate Jill Abahsain's victory over her opponent Alycia Gruenhagen was much more distinct. Over 4,000 votes separated the two.

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

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

SEE PRIMARY RESULTS PAGE A12
Government Series: Large Multi-Dailies

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

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

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

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

Troublesome on so many levels

ND lawmakers call for independent investigation of AG cost overrun

By Jeremy Turley

BISMARCK — The North Dakota attorney general’s office agreed in 2020 to lease a poorly equipped office building from a company owned by a state lawmaker, according to a report released by state Auditor Josh Gallion on Tuesday, Sept. 27.

After making expensive renovations to the south Bismarck building, the state’s top law enforcement agency under the direction of then-Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem racked up a $1.7 million budget overrun, according to the report.

The anatomy of a deal

Wrigley, who was appointed after Stenehjem died earlier this year, made public in June that the attorney general’s office under his predecessor accrued significant unexpected costs tied to a leased building that houses the Bureau of Criminal Investigation, the State Lottery and other branches of the agency.

Former leaders in the office, including Deputy Attorney General Troy Seibel, had concealed information about the overrun from legislators and improperly tried to absorb the additional costs into the agency’s budget, Wrigley alleged. Seibel, who left the office in March, has previously denied he withheld information. Lawmakers directed Gallion to compile a report on the deal after learning of the overrun.

The auditor’s 45-page report found that Bismarck GOP Rep. Jason Dockter approached state Director of Facility Management John Boyle in summer 2019 about leasing a Bismarck building to the state. (The report says Dockter incorrectly stated the attorney general’s office approached him. Dockter said representatives from the office informed him of their interest in finding a new office.)
Spot News
Spot News: Small Weeklies

◊ Second Place
  - Finley, Steele County Press
    Emergency responders rescue man from grain entrapment
    Jill Larson
Spot News: Small Weeklies

![Image of newspaper article]

First Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor

**Fairmount man surrenders after five-hour standoff**

Levi Jones
Spot News: Mid-Size Weeklies

✧ Honorable Mention
  - Carrington, Foster County Independent
    *Electrical system failure causes student evacuation*
    Erik Gjovik

✧ Third Place
  - Carrington, Foster County Independent
    *Memorial Day deluge*
    WILDCARD- Erik Gjovik

✧ Second Place
  - Hillsboro Banner
    *Goose River busts through Mayville dam*
    Cole Short
Spot News: Mid-Size Weeklies

◊ First Place
  - Tioga Tribune
  
  **Daily life grinds to a halt in face of spring blizzard**

  Jacob Orledge
Third Place
- Crosby, The Journal
  Teen recovering after collapse at football game
  Jody Michael

Second Place
- Crosby, The Journal
  High winds wallop Wildrose area
  Brad Nygaard
Spot News: Large Weeklies

◊ First Place

- Crosby, The Journal

Unprecedented damage
Journal Staff
Honorable Mention
- Wahpeton, Daily News
  Moorhead homicide victim's vehicle located in Wahpeton
  Frank Stanko

Third Place
- Dickinson Press
  Dickinson man arrested following pursuit
  Jason O'Day

Second Place
- Dickinson Press
  Dickinson family 'very lucky'
  Ashley Koffler
First Place
- Jamestown Sun

Schools lockdown
Masaki Ova

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

By Masaki Ova

Jamestown

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

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

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

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

Edinger said the Jamestown Police Department will continue investigating the incident.

“It’s my opinion that this is something that is going to have to be continued by a federal agency and the FBI is looking into this,” he said.

“We are not going to have the resources independently to track this down. Hopefully with federal and state partners we will be able to get somewhere,” Edinger said.

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

“The caller had a foreign accent and the call sounded scripted,” he said.

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

“I think that is their intended purpose,” he said.

“It’s frustrating for us because we have to try and investigate them but also treat them at least initially as a real emergency. When it’s something that we have to react to that quickly, it’s very difficult to do both at the same time, especially the staffing levels that our small-town departments have. You overwhelm an agency very quickly and the expectation of getting information out and investigating and handling the situation that’s in front of you gets to be very taxing. Parents were seen outside of the perimeter of Jamestown High School on Thursday.

LOCKDOWN: Page 2
Spot News: Large Multi-Dailies

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

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

◇ Second Place
  - Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
    Mother, baby recovering after being shot by baby's father
    Robin Huebner
Relationship may impact murder case
Cass County Assistant State's Attorney Ternes disclosed relationship with Detective Hanson
By April Baumgarten
The Forum
FARGO — A dating relationship between a Cass County prosecutor and Fargo detective could impact the outcome of the murder case of a pregnant woman who was fatally shot in November.
Attorneys for 36-year-old Anthony Reese Jr. of Moorhead, who is charged with three counts of murder, asked on Wednesday, May 18, in Cass County District Court why the relationship between lead prosecutor SheriLynn Ternes and Fargo Police Detective Troy Hanson was just disclosed to the defense Friday.
The Cass County State's Attorney's Office has known about the relationship since mid-December, State's Attorney Birch Berdick confirmed Friday to The Forum.
"We are unclear why the State's Attorney Office decided to sit on material information as to this matter," defense attorney Tracy Hilsen said. "There's absolutely no excuse for withholding this information for this case."
Business News Reporting
Honorable Mention
- Elgin, Grant County News
  *South 40 Beef awarded grants for expansion*
  Luann Dart

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

Second Place
- Hankinson, News Monitor
  *Long-term toll*
  Levi Jones
First Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press

*The Doc is In: Golden Valley Vet Clinic makes move to town*

Allison Olimb

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*The Doc is In: Golden Valley Veterinary Clinic makes move to town*

By Allison Olimb

PARK RIVER, N.D. — Golden Valley Veterinary Clinic is celebrating the new year with some exciting news. The veterinary practice, formerly located in rural Walsh County, has moved to Park River. The clinic's new building, located at 12231 Highway 11, is nestled in the heart of Park River.

The move to Park River was a long time coming. The clinic was founded in 1985 by Dr. Nathan Kippen and Britt Jackson. Over the years, they have expanded their services to include small and large animals, and they now specialize in veterinary emergency and critical care.

The new building offers a larger space and more advanced equipment. It features state-of-the-art surgical facilities, in-house laboratory capabilities, and a dedicated team of veterinary professionals. The clinic's new location is more convenient for residents of Park River and the surrounding communities.

Kippen said the move was necessary to accommodate the growing needs of the community. "We've been here for 30 years and we've outgrown our space," he said. "With the new building, we can offer even more services to our patients and their owners."

The clinic's move is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the entire staff. They have worked tirelessly to ensure a smooth transition, and they are excited to serve their patients in their new, improved facility.

Golden Valley Veterinary Clinic is open Monday through Saturday and offers a wide range of services, including preventative care, diagnostics, and surgical procedures. They are committed to providing the best care possible for pets of all ages and sizes.

"We are thrilled to be part of the Park River community," said Jackson. "We look forward to serving our patients and their owners for many years to come."
Business News Reporting: Mid-Size Weeklies

**Honorable Mention**
- Carrington, Foster County Independent
  
  *Everyone is welcome at our table*

  Amy Wobbema

**Third Place**
- Hillsboro Banner
  
  *Downtown turnaround*

  Cole Short, Cory Erickson

**Second Place**
- Hillsboro Banner
  
  *Donut seem brand new?*

  Cole Short
Dollar General under OSHA investigations, chronically understaffed

Jacob Orledge
Third Place
- Grafton, Walsh County Record
  RRRC Incubator project
  Todd Morgan

Second Place
- Casselton, Cass County Reporter
  Proposed Carbon Pipeline
  Jan Russell
First Place

- Crosby, The Journal

*NCA is doubling capacity at its Noonan grain terminal*

Brad Nygaard
Business News Reporting: Small Multi-Dailies

蟛蜞 Third Place
   - Dickinson Press
     Selling like WILDFIRE!
     Ashley Koffler

蟛蜞 Second Place
   - Jamestown Sun
     Bold flavors at the heart of Buffalo City Popcorn
     Kathy Steiner
First Place

Dickinson Press

Sanford to close Mott nursing home

Jason O'Day
Honorable Mention
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  *Speak Easy closing 'devastating' to longtime employees*
  Mike McFeely

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

Second Place
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  *Dedicated DJ*
  April Baumgarten
Business News Reporting: Large Multi-Dailies

First Place
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

Questions linger as Moorhead Center Mall tenants ponder futures

Thomas Evanella
Sports Page
Sports Page: Small Weeklies

♦ Third Place
  - Park River, Walsh County Press
    Walsh County Press - Sports Page
    Allison Olimb & staff

♦ Second Place
  - Hankinson, News Monitor
    Sports Pages
    Levi Jones
First Place

- Elgin, Grant County News

Sports Pages

Jill Friesz & staff
Sports Page: Mid-Size Weeklies

Honorable Mention
- Tioga Tribune
  Jan. 12, June 1, Sept. 21
  Jody Michael

Third Place
- Hillsboro Banner
  Hillsboro Banner Sports Pages
  Banner Staff

Second Place
- New Rockford Transcript
  Transcript sports pages
  Nathan Price, Kyrie Dauenhauer
Sports Page: Mid-Size Weeklies

✧ First Place
  - Carrington, Foster County Independent
    Independent Sports Section
    Erik Gjovik, Kyrie Dauenhauer, Nathan Price, Lane Moellenkamp
Sports Page: Large Weeklies

◊ Honorable Mention
  ▪ Crosby, The Journal
    *March 9, May 25, Sept. 21*
    Jody Michael

◊ Third Place
  ▪ Garrison, McLean County Independent
    *McLean County Independent sports pages*
    Jackie Kohler, James C. Falcon

◊ Second Place
  ▪ Grafton, Walsh County Record
    *May 18, September 21, December 7*
    Chelsea Wysocki
Sports Page: Large Weeklies

◊ First Place

- Bottineau Courant
  Bottineau Courant Sports
  Matthew Semisch
Sports Page: Small Multi-Dailies

Third Place
- Wahpeton, Daily News
  Daily News Sports page
  Robert Wanek Jr.

Second Place
- Dickinson Press
  Sports covers for the Dickinson Press
  Meghan Dowhaniuk
First Place

- Jamestown Sun

*Sports covers for the Jamestown Sun*

Alex Kallmeyer,
Paula Pandey Chhetri,
Becca Larson
Sports Page: Large Multi-Dailies

✧ Honorable Mention
  - Bismarck Tribune
    *Bismarck Tribune Sports*
    Staff

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

✧ Second Place
  - Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
    *Forum sports sections*
    Forum staff
First Place

- Grand Forks Herald

Sports page/section,
Feb. 24, Feb. 27, Oct. 23

Wayne Nelson, Staff
Sports Reporting: Small Weeklies

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

◊ Third Place
   - Elgin, Grant County News
     Storm celebrate victory
     Joey Richter

◊ Second Place
   - Bowbells, Burke County Tribune
     Fredrickson's 1000th
     Lisa Thomas
First Place

Hankinson, News Monitor

Biggest Game of the Season, So Far

Levi Jones

Biggest game of the season, so far

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

It was one of the most important games of the year. Not only was it Hankinson’s homecoming game, but they were playing against their biggest rival, the Wyndmere-Lidgerwood Pirates. The game was decided early in the first quarter, with Wyndmere-Lidgerwood leading 14-6. In the second quarter, Hankinson came back strong, with a touchdown and a field goal to take the lead, 20-14. Wyndmere-Lidgerwood went on to score another touchdown and a field goal in the third quarter, giving them a 30-19 victory.

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

The Pirates had a hard time stopping Wyndmere-Lidgerwood’s running game, which helped them dominate the game. After Hankinson got the ball in the third quarter, they were able to drive down the field. The Pirates struggled to contain their running game, giving them a huge advantage.

The Warbirds ended the game with a 30-19 win, cementing their place as the leaders in their division. This win will give them a boost of confidence for the rest of the season.
Sports Reporting: Mid-Size Weeklies

✧ Honorable Mention
  ▪ Hillsboro Banner
    10 and Counting
    Cole Short

✧ Third Place
  ▪ Hillsboro Banner
    Patriots drop five-set thriller
    Rian Richards

✧ Second Place
  ▪ Hillsboro Banner
    Chomping at the bit
    Pace Maier
First Place

- Tioga Tribune

Dolan steps down as Ray volleyball coach

Jody Michael

By Jody Michael

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

Dolan said the decision to retire was partly prompted by a desire to be more available to her family, who have been experiencing health issues.

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

Ray High's athletic director then asked Dolan if she would consider staying on as an assistant coach, which she accepted.

Dolan's departure comes as Ray High School volleyball had a successful season, winning the region 8 tournament and advancing to the state Class B Tournament. The team had a record of 25-2 and defeated the defending state champions.

Dolan's career at Ray High ended with a memorable run of 19 wins, as well as 11 region championships and berths in four state tournaments. For comparison, Ray's basketball teams have made it to state only once each.

"It was kind of an amazing thing," Dolan said. "I've been blessed with the kids I've coached with, that they've stuck with me and worked hard.

Dolan can also take credit for more than a handful of former Ray players having remained involved with the sport long after their days as players.

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

Dolan was among the longest tenured high school volleyball coaches in North Dakota, one of just three who have held their jobs since the 1960-61 school year.

When the state high school activities association first sponsored the sport for small Class B schools, Dolan was one of the first to get involved.

Dolan coached her first season with the Tigers in 1980, and she has been guiding the team ever since.

Dolan said she plans to continue teaching at Ray High, and she looks forward to spending more time with her family.
Sports Reporting: Large Weeklies

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

Third Place
- Grafton, Walsh County Record
  Spoilers seeing double
  Chelsea Wysocki

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

- Bottineau Courant
  *Keep on keeping on*
  Matthew Semisch
Sports Reporting: Small Multi-Dailies

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

Second Place
- Dickinson Press
  *Really meaningful to me*
  Race Archibald
Sports Reporting: Small Multi-Dailies

First Place

- Dickinson Press

Dickinson players mark crowning achievement, continue careers

James B. Miller, Jr.

2 football standouts sign National Letters of Intent

Dickinson players mark crowning achievement, continue careers

By James B. Miller, Jr.
The Dickinson Press

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

For many players, NIL day is a dream come true, as it represents the hard work and dedication they have put in to earn this opportunity. The letters are often signed in front of the player’s family, high school coaches and friends, making it a memorable and emotional moment.

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

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

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

LETTERS: Page B6

COURTESY / DICKINSON HIGH ACTIVITIES

Dickinson High School football standouts, Max Wilkinson and Chase Selle, signed their letters to continue their football careers at Dickinson State University.
Sports Reporting: Large Multi-Dailies

♦ Honorable Mention
  ▪ Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
    *Faith and football*
    Jeff Kolpack

♦ Third Place
  ▪ Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
    *Postgame pandemonium*
    Mike McFeely

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

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

A surreal week
Eric Peterson
Sports Reporting Series
Sports Series: Small Weeklies

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

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

Second Place
- Bowbells, Burke County Tribune
  *Ranchers Post Season*
  WILDCARD- Lyann Olson
Sports Series: Small Weeklies

First Place

- Bowbells, Burke County Tribune

Honkers Shine in Tournaments

Lyann Olson

Honkers Three-Peat as Region 8 Champions

Ranchers Place Second
Sports Series: Mid-Size Weeklies

Honorable Mention
- Hillsboro Banner
  *MPCG volleyball coverage*
  Rian Richards

Third Place
- Tioga Tribune
  *Tioga High School girls’ basketball*
  Jody Michael

Second Place
- Hillsboro Banner
  *HCV football playoff coverage*
  Pace Maier
Sports Series: Mid-Size Weeklies

First Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
  2022 CHS Football
  Erik Gjovik
Sports Series: Large Weeklies

◊ Third Place
  ▪ Grafton, Walsh County Record
    Spoilers GBB State
    Chelsea Wysocki

◊ Second Place
  ▪ Crosby, The Journal
    Divide County High School football
    Jody Michael
Sports Series: Large Weeklies

First Place

- Bottineau Courant

Bottineau-Rugby vs Minot High boys hockey rivalry history

Matthew Semisch
Sports Series: Small Multi-Dailies

diamond Second Place
  - Dickinson Press

*Dickinson Midgets' failed state run*
Josiah C. Cuellar
Sports Series: Small Multi-Dailies

ของเขา้ First Place
- Wahpeton, Daily News
  Athlete of the Year
  Robert Wanek Jr.
Sports Series: Large Multi-Dailies

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

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

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

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

After more than 50 yrs, sons of former Bison great finally united

Jeff Kolpack
Sports Feature
Sports Feature: Small Weeklies

第三名
- Cooperstown, Griggs County Courier
  - Who's on first?
  - Jill Larson

第二名
- Bowbells, Burke County Tribune
  - Gold for Hinds
  - Lisa Thomas
First Place

- Finley, Steele County Press

Goals & determination earn Cigelske chance at Boston Marathon

Lisa Saxberg
Sports Feature: Mid-Size Weeklies

Honorable Mention
- Carrington, Foster County Independent
  Their spirit lives on
  Erik Gjovik

Third Place
- Tioga Tribune
  Rose defies damaged eye, leads Pirates as 8th-grader
  Jody Michael

Second Place
- Hillsboro Banner
  Two very real tall tales
  Pace Maier
**First Place**

- **Tioga Tribune**

*Local rodeo star heads to nationals*

Jacob Orledge
Sports Feature: Large Weeklies

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

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

Second Place
- Crosby, The Journal
  Comet players savor experience in national hockey showcase
  Jody Michael
First Place

- Bottineau Courant
  
  Back in the saddle
  
  Matthew Semisch
Sports Feature: Small Multi-Dailies

diamond Honorable Mention
  - Dickinson Press
    Kovash retiring from coaching track and field
    Race Archibald

diamond Third Place
  - Dickinson Press
    Half-court shot of a dream
    Jason O'Day

diamond Second Place
  - Wahpeton, Daily News
    NDSCS nose guard Ray Ruschel
cures football fever at 49 yrs old
    Robert Wanek Jr.
Sports Feature: Small Multi-Dailies

◊ First Place
- Dickinson Press

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

Josiah C. Cuellar

Half a century later

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

By Josiah C. Cuellar
The Dickinson Press

MINOT — The pandemic level spikes in COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021 put a halt to the long awaited reunion of two North Dakota state champion teams hailing from New England. In the same fighting spirit that witnessed them clinch titles, more than half-a-century ago, tenacity and perseverance prevailed on Saturday in Bismarck when after two years of rescheduling both teams were once again under the same roof.

The 1970 New England St. Mary's championship basketball team, who not only clinched the title but made an appearance in the championship game the following year, were recognized at the Minot State Dome during the Class B state semifinals on Friday, March 18, before joining with their fellow 1970 New England wrestling team, who secured two consecutive state titles that year and the year prior, in a reunion held in Bismarck over the weekend.

Road to a championship
Deep in the heart of western North Dakota, along a wide valley on the Heart River halfway between the Missouri River and the Montana Territory border, is a land where the prairie
Sports Feature: Large Multi-Dailies

◊ Honorable Mention
  ▪ Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
    *Family man*
    Jeff Kolpack

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

◊ Second Place
  ▪ Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
    *Duhamel helps family honor local golfer who dared to stand out*
    Tracy Briggs
Sports Feature: Large Multi-Dailies

◇ First Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

*It takes a village*

Mike McFeely

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"IT TAKES A VILLAGE"

Special day for NDSU senior Tutsie, his daughter and the Bison
Sports Column
First Place

Drayton, Valley News & Views

Bombers Wrap Up Football Season

Mike Alan Steinfeldt

The Drayton Bombers football team wrapped up the 2022 campaign with a 6-4-1 win at New Town on Saturday, Oct. 7.

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

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

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

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

The Bombers opened the season with a 43-33 loss to White Shield on Sept. 10. They dropped a 57-25 decision at Trenton on Sept. 24 and lost in a blowout game on Oct. 1 at home against Central/Stanley. Their only real loss was in the fast paced 6-6 game.

Two named to All-Conference team

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

Quibell at 6-feet tall and 170 lbs was a key to the Bombers offense this season. Wimpfheimer is listed as five-foot-10 and 270 lbs.

Foster said Quibell ran and passed for several touchdowns and led the team in rushing with nearly 1,000 yards. "Cayden is one of the most driven players I’ve ever coached," Foster said. "He’s a good leader on the field and extremely durable. He’ll go the entire game without taking a break, so you’ve got to give him kudos for that.”

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

Foster said Wimpfheimer is physically capable of going up against the best players in the state and he’ll be counted on again to be a leader next year. In addition to being a versatile snapper, Foster said Wimpfheimer also began running passing routes toward the end of the season which is legal in 6-man football.

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

Foster said Wimpfheimer is physically capable of going up against the best players in the state and he’ll be counted on again to be a leader next year. In addition to being a versatile snapper, Foster said Wimpfheimer also began running passing routes toward the end of the season which is legal in 6-man football.

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

♦ Honorable Mention
  ▪ Carrington, Foster County Independent
    Archery: where everyone gets the same shot
    Amy Wobbema

♦ Third Place
  ▪ Hillsboro Banner
    Lights, Cameras, Action
    Cory Erickson

♦ Second Place
  ▪ Hillsboro Banner
    Jake Hutter column
    Cole Short
First Place

- New Rockford Transcript

Mom pride at courtside

Amy Wobbema
Honorable Mention
- Garrison, McLean County Independent
  Hanging up his cleats a champion
  Ethyn Williams-Calvert

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

Second Place
- Crosby, The Journal
  District tourney will feel small,
  but it's been smaller before
  Jody Michael
Sports Column: Large Weeklies

First Place
- Bottineau Courant
  'Shark Tank,' school board meeting edition
  Matthew Semisch

If you've never watched "Shark Tank," a reality TV show where bright-eyed entrepreneurs try to persuade a panel of rich investors into claiming stakes in budding business ventures, then I offer my sincerest congratulations and... jealousy, I guess? It's up for debate whether that program, which brings together Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban and five other main characters — I assume they're already out on what I'm describing — constitutes appointment viewing. I felt like I was at a live taping of an episode, though, last Monday when Bottineau’s school board tabled an offer from Stetson Bank for $200,000 over 10 years to be put toward maintenance of Bottineau High’s new football and track and field facility. A full story on the meeting can be found on Page 10A. I thought about putting this column on Page Catch 22, but our layout software wouldn’t let me.
Second Place

- Williston Herald
  
  Will Erickson
  Maddie Davis
First Place

Wahpeton, Daily News

One man covering 30 teams

Robert Wanek Jr.

OPINION

I am one man covering 30 teams
Submissions crucial to newspapers

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

As the lone member of our sports department, I cover 30 teams. That’s counting male and female athletic programs that have appeared in the paper during my 16-year tenure. I take the photos, write the stories, lay out the pages and share the moment on social media. That’s not counting the graphics, the videos and the awards coverage I do purely for the sake of putting athletes on the map. Some of the sports I’ve highlighted include archery, boys and girls golf, wrestling, basketball, gymnastics, hockey and baseball. I cover two high schools and one college, while officiating 30-50 basketball games and umpiring 15-20 baseball games each year due to the ongoing officiating shortage.

On Tuesday, May 3, there were eight games happening. I covered five of them from the Radisson Hotel in Bismarck Thursday, as our award-winning team attended the 8th Annual North Dakota High School.
Sports Column: Large Multi-Dailies

Honorable Mention
- Bismarck Tribune
  *Is 10 in 12 inevitable?*
  Dave Selvig

Third Place
- Grand Forks Herald
  *Setback after setback*
  Brad E. Schlossman

Second Place
- Grand Forks Herald
  *Kindness of strangers helped young baseball fan*
  Tom Miller
Coach Joe had the gift of making everybody feel important

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

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

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

It’s going to be a lonely beer in June when Lisbon grads get together again. Joe Howell passed away over the weekend from complications from heart surgery.

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

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

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

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

**COACH JOE: Page B3**

**First Place**

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

**Coach Joe had the gift of making everybody feel important**

Jeff Kolpack
Editorial
Editorial: Small Weeklies

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

Valley News & Views Editorial
When the bottom line means more than the headline...

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

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

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

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

This is not always easy when covering local news in any small community. The stories being covered are about people within the newspapers own community. When it is necessary to report on a tough issue there is always the risk of causing hard feeling that may affect the bottom line. There is a balance between reporting on what needs to be reported on while remembering that there are real people behind the story. It is never just another story, it is a story that affects the lives of those who live within the community. They are friends, neighbors, and sometimes relatives to the person doing the reporting.

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

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

◊ Second Place

- Harvey, The Herald Press

Newspapers have been in a state of transformation forever

Neil O. Nelson
Editorial: Mid-Size Weeklies

First Place
- Carrington, Foster County Independent

Protecting the public's right to know

Amy Wobbema

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

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

Northwestern University released a report on Wednesday, as I was writing this column, noting that from the pre-pandemic months of late 2019 to the end of May 2022, more than 300 newspapers have closed. Some surviving newspapers have severely cut staff and circulation due to financial pressure.

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

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

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

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

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

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

In upcoming legislative sessions, when bills are...
Editorial: Large Weeklies

♦ Second Place
- Grafton, Walsh County Record
  Support is a two way street
  Todd Morgan
Editorial: Large Weeklies

♢ First Place

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

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Don't be a party pooper

We are raised with the idea that with pet ownership comes a personal responsibility to care for that pet. This includes feeding it, walking it, spending time with it and - if dogs had their way - completely catering to every whim they could ever dream of (belly rubs, Milkbones and steak dinners).

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

Forty-four years ago, New York City was the first city to enact laws in collecting one’s own dog waste. “Each person who owns or controls a dog must remove any feces left by that dog on any sidewalk, gutter, street, or other public area and dispose of it in a legal manner,” the law said.

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

Fast forward to today. The pooper-scooper law - for lack of a better term - is still in effect, although it appears there are some scofflaws in our midst. The Garrison Parks and Recreation board reports that during a recent event at Garrison City Park, a few of the board members spent time - two hours, to be exact - in picking up dog waste - four to two gallon tubs worth - that had littered the park.

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

There are fines in place; according to a placard at the park, those fines range from $25 to $100. Be glad you are in Garrison. In New York City, the fine is $250. San Francisco? $320. And just be happy you aren’t in Los Angeles, where the fine is $500!

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

And that would be a dog gone shame.

JAMES C. FALCON
EDITOR OF THE MCLEAN COUNTY INDEPENDENT
Editorial: Small Multi-Dailies

◊ **Third Place**
  - Williston Herald
    *Giving Tuesday*
    Eric Gill

◊ **Second Place**
  - Wahpeton, Daily News
    *We can do better*
    Carrie McDermott, Tara Klostreich, Frank Stanko
Small businesses are key to Jamestown

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

Today’s annual Progress Edition is themed “Jamestown Has It.” It features unique shopping, cultural and dining experiences related to small businesses. There are a few nonprofits in the mix. Speak to small business owners and you might be surprised. Their ventures are not all about making money, although that’s the point of being in business, to earn a living. Many of the people we spoke with for the edition have a passion for what they do and decided to turn that passion into a full-time business. They have a genuine desire to create or offer something and to help others find something they may want or need.

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

Take the time to explore.
Editorial: Large Multi-Dailies

Third Place
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  "Fargo's refusal to allow Romantix to move downtown location silly"
  Forum staff

Second Place
- Bismarck Tribune
  "Competitive parties good for the state"
  Bismarck Tribune Editorial Board
Child care issues bad for business

It’s a problem that many child care workers and families face. The high cost of child care can make it difficult for parents to afford quality care. Child care centers and providers are struggling to keep up with the demand, and many parents are left to find alternative arrangements.

Korrie Wenzel

Child care crisis in Dakota and Minnesota is bad for business

First Place

Grand Forks Herald

Child care issues bad for business

Korrie Wenzel
Second Place
- Elgin, Grant County News
  Grant County News Editorial Pages
  Jill Friesz
Editorial Page: Small Weeklies

❖ First Place
  ▪ Hankinson, News Monitor
    Opinion page
    Carrie McDermott
Honorable Mention

- New Rockford Transcript
  
  Transcript editorial pages
  
  Transcript staff

Third Place

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

Second Place

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

- Hillsboro Banner
  
  Hillsboro Banner
  Editorial Page
  Cole Short
First Place
- Grafton, Walsh County Record
  Editorial Pages
  Staff
Second Place

- Jamestown Sun
  
  Jamestown Sun
  
  Kathy Steiner
Editorial Page: Small Multi-Dailies

First Place
- Wahpeton, Daily News
  Editorial page
  Carrie McDermott
Editorial Page: Large Multi-Dailies

◊ Third Place
  - Grand Forks Herald
    *Editorial pages: April 2, April 23, May 18*
    Korrie Wenzel

◊ Second Place
  - Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
    *Forum editorial pages*
    Forum staff
First Place

Bismarck Tribune

Bismarck Tribune Editorial Page Staff
Standing News Fronts
Standing News Fronts: Small Multi-Dailies

◊ Second Place
  ▪ Jamestown Sun
    Business (Buffalo city popcorn story page)
    Kathy Steiner
First Place

- Dickinson Press

*Flowers and vegetables*
Marcy Nickel
Standing News Fronts: Large Multi-Dailies

◊ Third Place
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  Business page
  Becca Larson

◊ Second Place
- Grand Forks Herald
  Standing news front:
  Feb. 6, Possibilities are endless
  Meghan Dowhaniuk
Standing News Fronts: Large Multi-Dailies

First Place
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  Gone for good
  Forum staff
Ag Coverage
Ag Coverage: Small Weeklies

◊ Honorable Mention
  ▪ Drayton, Valley News & Views
    *Drayton Factory District Sets Record for Tonnage*
    Mike Alan Steinfeldt

◊ Third Place
  ▪ Finley, Steele County Press
    *High winds lead to dirty conditions and talk about conservation*
    Lisa Saxberg

◊ Second Place
  ▪ Hankinson, News Monitor
    *Sweet harvest*
    Levi Jones
Farmers, ranchers reap benefits of rain

Luann Dart

First Place

- Elgin, Grant County News

Farmers, ranchers reap benefits of rain

Luann Dart
Ag Coverage: Mid-Size Weeklies

Third Place
- New Rockford Transcript
  *National Ag Week*
  Transcript staff

Second Place
- Hillsboro Banner
  *Near-record small-grain yields expected*
  Cory Erickson
Ag Coverage: Mid-Size Weeklies

◊ First Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
  Lending a helping hand
  Erik Gjovik
Ag Coverage: Large Weeklies

diamond Honorable Mention
- Crosby, The Journal
  A year of 'extreme' everything
  Brad Nygaard

diamond Third Place
- Casselton, Cass County Reporter
  Sustainable Farm Practices
  Jan Russell

diamond Second Place
- Crosby, The Journal
  Late harvest
  Eric Standing
Ag Coverage: Large Weeklies

✧ First Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record

County's last dairy farm

Todd Morgan
Ag Coverage: Small Multi-Dailies

**Honorable Mention**
- **Jamestown Sun**
  *Youth safety is the focus at Tractor Safety Camps*
  Kathy Steiner

**Third Place**
- **Wahpeton, Daily News**
  *Red River Valley leaders applaud Cargill, Golden Growers pact*
  Frank Stanko

**Second Place**
- **Dickinson Press**
  *Moo-ving through the decades*
  Jason O'Day
Ag Coverage: Small Multi-Dailies

✿ First Place

- Dickinson Press

A HARD ROW TO HOE:
Dickinson man still farming at 92
Ashley Koffler
Ag Coverage: Large Multi-Dailies

Honorable Mention
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  Young blood
  Jeremy Turley

Third Place
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  Minnesota hops farmer is just a hop, skip and jump from Fargo
  Tammy Swift

Second Place
- Grand Forks Herald
  Faith, irrigation and innovation
  Ingrid Harbo
As farming eats Dakotas' grasslands, landowner aims for restoration

Adam Willis
Personal Column—Serious
Third Place
- Park River, Walsh County Press
  *I stand with Rebecca*
  Allison Olimb

Second Place
- Hankinson, News Monitor
  *I almost wasn't able to vote*
  Levi Jones
First Place

McClusky Gazette

Edge of Chaos, Bad bad words

Allan Tinker

Bad, bad words

There seems to be certain words that work well to cast a light from the mind of the speaker onto another person. Whether others would see the speaker in the same light is up to interpretation. People choose these words because they work. They may get an immediate reaction whether accurate or not.

Little kids learn quickly to pick up words that get reactions and the attention of all around. They start often with babble, and most parents babble back or talk baby talk. Babies like this.

Pets get used to this too, only they do not babble back. They are just happy they are being spoken to and hang on for the words “treat” or “outside.” Those who want to cast a bad light on someone else, for reasons often known only to the speaker, might pick one that is funny, hurtful, or insulting. Another person might label the same behavior of a person in another way, such as complimentary, accepting or simply normal.

But, since that often does not bring the reaction desired for the speaker to use the softer or more constructive word, the bad, bad words get used.

Someone who is thin, might hear “skinny,” “boney” or “shapeless” to describe them. They might be a normal, healthy weight, but their weight bothers the other person, and they use it to single the other person out in a more negative fashion.

For those who tip the scale the other way, will get other word extremes, “chubby,” “overweight” or “obese.” Whether they are truly overweight or not, the speaker wishes to promote that image to everyone.

People might be called “stupid” simply for saying something with which the speaker does not agree. Another person might call the remark “interesting” or “clever.” Others might need to be careful not to start using an untrue label and make someone appear unacceptable in any way.

Some delight in seeing only what bothers them in other people. They have the same word to use in some manner whenever they see them. “Still not losing weight?” they will question the “chubby” labeled person, intentionally calling attention to how they look.

Most people have said a bad word or two without knowing it was hurtful to the person who is trying to lose or gain weight, hold a friendly conversation, or ponder a question. In modern day terms, this is a lack of social intelligence. If they label lots of people in bad, bad ways, they might be socially ignorant. Someone needs to help them, nicely.

Most have been insulted a time or two in their lives. But we get to choose how we react to it. Those who forget what someone’s first name is and call them only by their last name, such as “Hey there, Smith,” may not know how rude this is. Others might not mind being called by their last name at all.

Did someone stumble or stagger? Speak softly or mumble? Speak in a louder voice or shout? Were they dressed for work or play and did not know they were up to the standards another set for them to dress?

Did the child run to his or her desk or race to it? Did they misunderstand the question, or did they not know the answer? Not the time for someone to call them “stupid.”

Putting people down; ridiculing them for normal behavior; calling attention only to their differences; shaming them for their differences; ignoring them when they speak; shunning their presence in a group;

...
Honorable Mention
- Harvey, The Herald Press
  Neil O. Nelson column
  Neil O. Nelson

Third Place
- Hillsboro Banner
  Painting a picture of the county paper race
  Cole Short

Second Place
- Hillsboro Banner
  Lights, Cameras, Action
  Cory Erickson
I'll never forget this assignment

BY ALLEN STOCK

A friend recently said to me, "You must have many stories you can tell about the many years you've been affiliated with newspapers." I told him, "Yes, I do and I remember a lot of them like they happened yesterday."

"Any of them that really stick in your mind...kind of situational, a bit on the edge or something like that?" he asked. "I'd like to hear a few more like you've been placing in this space off and on.

Well, you do have another, in fact it came to mind recently when I heard a recent news cast about a Fargo-based group.

And that group is the Happy Hodgians, the North Dakota National Guard's 116th wing. They received the Air Force Outstanding Unit award and it was the 33rd time the Hodgians have earned the award dating back to 1971.

And with the Hodgians, that's where my story begins.

It was in the early 1970s when the phone rang at my office at the Wells County Press in Fessenden. It was Col Osborne of the Forum newspaper in Fargo where Osborne was the chief photographer for many years. He has since passed away.

"Hey Al, I need a favor," were the words he started with as he proceeded to tell me that two F-104 jet planes of the Happy Hodgians unit collided in midair over Harvey.

Col didn't have too much information, only about the incident and that one of the planes had failed to fly on and crashed in a field southwest of Fessenden.

I think Col got his information from listening to a radio scanner as many news groups used to do in those years. Things changed in later years and the ability to listen to radio conversations was cancelled due to budgetary cuts.

So Col says to me, "Grab your camera and run out and get a few pictures for us for your tomorrow's paper. What are you shooting?"

I told him a Midfield 120 and he immediately knew what it was and that a roll of film would produce 12 pictures with a 3/4 x 3/4 square negative. "Send me those damn shots," Col said.

(The camera was a sturdy old shooter I had bought from my photo mentor, E.E. Weiss, a fellow employee at the Press for many years. This camera, along with other photo equipment served me well for many years.)

I loaded the camera with film, jumped into my vehicle, and headed off in a southeasterly direction, following directions Col had given me. I drove right up to the farm, the one mentioned in the story. Just a quarter mile or more from the farm was a pasture, the landing zone for the planes that didn't make it.

The crash site was some 100 feet off as there must have been a flash fire upon ground contact. Upon looking over it, I saw pieces scattered all over the area. Then I spotted the pilot's seat, several yards south from the actual scene. I remembered a very eerie, scared feeling.

I was alone at the scene. It was quiet as I climbed over the fence and proceeded with my job. That of photography. I carefully looked over for many signs of debris, warm yet from the fire, and wondered where the two pilots were.

I shot my first 10 pictures and walked slowly over to the crashed seat, not knowing what to expect. But I did notice a parachute attached and lying on the ground. In my knowledge of the seat ejection system, I felt a sigh of relief to find no one nearby or in the immediate area.

The pilot had ejected, probably only two to the
Personal Column- Serious: Large Weeklies

🔹 Third Place
  - Grafton, Walsh County Record
    Mr. Feltman
    Todd Morgan

🔹 Second Place
  - Crosby, The Journal
    *Rulings are interesting juxtaposition*
    Cecile Wehrman
Personal Column - Serious: Large Weeklies

First Place
- Grafton, Walsh County Record

Ruffling feathers
Chelsea Wysocki

From the sidelines - Ruffling feathers

I typically try to keep my columns pretty light-hearted and void of controversy as ruffling feathers isn't my forte, but as I've aged, I've come to realize there's a time and place where speaking your mind on things that matter is necessary regardless of the feathers.

In the last few weeks, I've also come to realize I may be a minority in my community. I believe people should be able to be and love whoever they choose. I believe children being exposed to this is a healthy and normal part of life. I don't believe a same-sex like in a children's movie is a form of instigation. I also do not believe a transgender pastor speaking to children (about religion, not their sexuality) is part of some secret underground agenda to corrupt our children's beliefs. Recently, it seems as though those above beliefs peg me as somewhat of an outcast in our country and I'll be lying if I said that didn't sadden me.

For further context, this pastor at Park River Bible Camp was to be one of multiple speakers from all different walks of life. One with a disability, a non-indigenous, one of color and yes, one transgender. A different person would speak each night for 30 minutes out of the teens roughly 120 hours at camp.

The camp director called all of the parents, myself included, and laid out exactly what topics were to be covered and the time-line for each speaker but the majority spoke and they won. The especially loud ones online claimed they weren't coming from a place of harm but in the next breath were calling the director to be fired. Numerous Facebook comments railed in filled with beliefs and opinions of a secret agenda and outing the past during life of the aforementioned pastor. Needless to say, many kids were pulled out of the camp and the pastor will no longer be speaking.

I understand people believe this stuff isn't in the Bible so it doesn't need to be spoken about in a religious setting. What they're not allowing themselves to see is this pastor was not planning to speak about being transgender, being gay or the process in between. They were going to speak about religion, just as everyone else working at the camp will be but it seems as though simply because of how they identify, they're not welcome to do so.

One question that comes to mind if we're not going to allow our kids to be spoken to by someone who is transgender, why stop at pulling them from Bible camp? We better go a step further and pull them from school in case one of their peers happens to be gay, transgender or simply just too different and tries to talk to them. How far does this really go? Is it only offensive about a lifestyle that strays from the typical white picket fence and heteronormative, who are any of us to judge?

People often claim they don't care what other people do, "live and let live" but in the next breath will say these people just need to keep to themselves. How is that letting anyone live?

It seems as though some think we need to go back in time but instead of whites only bathrooms, schools, churches and transportation we need a straight only. I don't understand this constant need for a huge line drawn in the sand between those who are different and those who are "normal."

The scariest part for me in all of this is the children, teens and even adults brought up this way who aren't "normal."

The answer is clear considering at least one LGBTQ youth attempts suicide every 45 seconds. Meaning as you're reading this, roughly two youth have gone through that mental torture... Let that sink in.

People can tell themselves their kids, grandchildren, nieces or nephews would never end up that way but that simply can't be guaranteed. Many may not be able to name a loved one who is LGBTQ but that doesn't mean they aren't there; they're just forced to keep quiet and hide it from the ones who are supposed to love them most.

My love for my children is and always will be unconditional. They can do and be whatever their hearts pull them to be and when I say that I don't simply mean a doctor or a lawyer. I hope they do amazing things with their careers but even more than that I want them to be earnest, open minded and compassionate human beings. I will try with every ounce of my being to raise them to be the ones who sit next to the kid eating all alone in the cafeteria, to stir up conversations with the different and the lonely rather than turning up their noses to those who live differently than they do. Those are the things that should matter to us as their elders, more than what they love or their pronouns.

As I Henry Foner, the widowed father of three daughters at "Fife House," said to his youngsters, "As long as you're not hurting anybody, you can do anything you want to do."

Chelsea Wysocki can be reached for comment at chelsea@mcrecord.com.
Honorable Mention
- Wahpeton, Daily News
  Stop killing us, please
  Colton Rasanen-Fryar

Third Place
- Wahpeton, Daily News
  F is for the many fantastic things about my father
  WILDCARD- Colton Rasanen-Fryar

Second Place
- Wahpeton, Daily News
  And the insult goes to &#8230;
  Frank Stanko
Ye, Kyrie and their Jewish question

By Jason O'Day
The Dickinson Press

Imagine if Kanye West, who now goes by Ye, had complained that white people have too much control over the banks, media and other American institutions. The most anecdotally would've been widely ignored. Forceme to companies were routinely told how race groups like whites are. Kinds of contract terms telling white employees how they are. American universities are ripe with drivel about the insidious evils of pasty white women like myself. For example, in March 2022 UC Berkeley Professor Zeena Zernesto gained attention for advocating the abilites of whiteness to his students.

"My recent understanding is that to abolish whiteness is to abolish white people. White bodies will exist, but we will no longer consider them white people," Zernesto said.

That last part is difficult to decipher, as I am not fluent in czernesto's word salad. But I have to assume he doesn't need me around.

In 2021 Kanye was widely praised on the left for slamming George W. Bush as a racist. But this time he directed his ire at white people of a certain religion, who apparently must be explicitly shielded from anything they deem offensive.

There's an old adage that if you want to know who has a disproportionate level of power in your society, ask yourself who you're not allowed to criticize. So when he said Jews have too much control over the banks, and [Wesleyan Chace] shut down his account, that didn't exactly dispel his argument.

Then there are the curious case of Brooklyn Nets star Kyrie Irving, a man known for his high profile intelligence—such as his now retracted 2021 anti-vax claims. Last month he was taken off the court with a long leg injury for tweeting the link to an absurd film called "Horror to Negros: Wake Up Black America" on Oct. 27, perpetuating the white-identified conspiracy that blacks are the real Jews.

"It was a lot of hurt that needed to be healed, a lot of conversations that needed to be had, and a lot of reflection," Irving said prior to a mid-December press conference on the controversy he sparked.

Despite that, Nikes and Irving's partnership fell between the cracks on Dec. 5. That步伐 Madison struggle seemed apologies made me nervous. If the guy wants to spew crazy ideas that should be his prerogative. Anyone who legitimately believes they've been harmed or threatened by Irving's tweets is widely over-sensitive or more likely, a vandicated rightist hellbent on suppressing views they find distasteful. What's funny is how media figures created a disdainful effect toward the film, driving far more publicity than it would've possibly gotten had they simply ignored the nefarious conspiracy.

The media of the states and Jones, ignited and facial racism women's considered acceptable, but people generally weren't taking issue over them. It was from life, "Hey man, that's lost cool. Stop saying that crap." "They company moved on with their lives, instead of demanding the offender be exiled to the desert and created like a scapegoat."
Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  Fargo teen wins 'SNL' essay lottery, takes family to taping in NY
  Troy Becker

Third Place

- Grand Forks Herald
  Earl Strinden left the pile a little higher
  Mike Jacobs

Second Place

- Grand Forks Herald
  Day on big Lake Winnipeg
  Brad Dokken
A journey with my ancestor

Amy R. Sisk

120-year-old book by uncle focuses on state's geology

Like to think I'm well-traveled in North Dakota, having visited 320 towns. But my great-great-great uncle has me beat.

It seems my ancestor Daniel Willard, one of North Dakota's first geologists, knew every corner, every creek and every coulee in this state. He wrote about them in his book "The Story of the Prairies," published in 1902 when he was a professor at the State Normal School in Mayville. I recently acquired a first-edition copy of the textbook and found his descriptions of our state landscapes quite thoughtful despite one shortcoming I'll mention momentarily.

If I could meet Willard, I'd take him on a road trip through the western half of the state that I've come to know well as an energy reporter for the Tribune. We'd head north toward Underwood, where I imagine it'd be blown away by the Paulette Mine and Coal Creek Station. Willard devoted an entire chapter of his book to the geology of North Dakota's lignite reserves, describing at length how trees and plants that once covered the region slowly baked into coal under pressure from overlying sediment.

Willard wrote that "an inexhaustible supply of coal underlies the surface of the western half of the State, making abundant and cheap fuel within reach of all citizens." That held true a century later, though in Willard's day coal was primarily burned to heat homes. Mitters often worked underground. The invention of the dragline was two years away at the time. Willard published his book. Could he ever have imagined a machine as big? He seemed enthralled upon visiting a ranch in the Badlands to find that when "fuel was wanted for the kitchen a small boy was despatched to the coal mine in the back yard to get the coal." I get a kick out of Willard's brief mention of "carbonic acid gas" in his chapter on North Dakota's coal beds. I was not familiar with the term, but when I looked it up, I learned it's an archaic way of saying carbon dioxide.

Willard almost certainly was not familiar with human-caused climate change, as it was not until the latter part of the 20th century that the phenomenon became better researched and accepted by scientists. But as a geologist he would have been interested to learn how North Dakota's coal industry is looking to capture its carbon emissions and bury them in rocks deep underground. (We really ought to visit the University of North Dakota's core library so he could see samples from the rock formations where greenhouse gas is expected to be stored in the future, but for that we'd need to plan an entirely different road trip.)

From Coal Country, we would cross Lake Sakakawea on the next leg of our journey. Willard described the Missouri River as a "majestic stream" and would be shocked by the Garrison Dam, the mass of water it holds back and the tributary communities it submerged upon its construction 50 years after his book came out.
Personal Column - Humorous
Third Place
- Hankinson, News Monitor
  Good soup
  Levi Jones

Second Place
- Park River, Walsh County Press
  Pitching Bundles
  Allison Olimb
Lake front property

If you have stopped by the office in the past year, you have no doubt been greeted by at least one... if not two overly friendly cats demanding your attention and a few screeches under the chin. Those two one-year-old black cats are mirror images of each other - pitch black except for a little patch of white hair on their chest. Hissy, the older of the two, has also sports a white whisker that sets him apart. It’s generally Hissy that is up on the desk making friends with everyone who stops in to get some attention. Lucy is a little more laid back and lazy, and spends the majority of his day sleeping in a basket on my desk.
The two have proven to be a lot of company when I’m in the office alone; however, they have also proven to be two weed-eating bulls. Unless I happen to be in the office working on a weekend, they spend their weekends alone in the office, getting into as much trouble as possible. On Monday, I walked into the office ready to get my work week started, only to be met by a familiar, yet alarming sound. Maybe I should have known this a bit... so the back room of my office has been turned into a little “apartment” of sorts. It has a little kitchenette and living space.
So, where are the cats and decorations hanging on the wall.
To anyone familiar with cats at all... you know they get bored and they get into everything. So, what I am assuming happened is that one of the two saw the decoration hanging on the wall and they fell the need to climb on it or pounce on it... one of the two. Regardless, that decoration was pulled off the wall. That decoration then fell into the kitchen sink, grabbing the faucet handle and turning it as it fell. You can see where this is going.
So, what I suspect was sometime early Monday morning, the cats turned the faucet on full blast. That generally wouldn’t be a problem. Normally the water would just go down the drain. Except, the decoration that fell landed just perfectly on the sink so it covered up the drain causing the water to shoot out in front of the sink and to the side... creating a lake effect in the back room.
When I opened the door, the cats, who had sought out higher ground looked at me with horror in their eyes. They looked at me as though it was something I had done to them. It didn’t take long and they shot past me to find someplace warm and dry to nap.
I, on the other hand wasn’t sure what to start. I spent a few hours sopping up water and wringing out towels until the floor was finally dry so my work week got a lot shorter, but the floor in the back room is now sparkling clean... and the cats are closer to finding new homes to destroy.
Personal Column- Humorous: Mid-Size Weeklies

Second Place

- Harvey, The Herald Press
  Neil O. Nelson
  Neil O. Nelson
**First Place**

- **Hillsboro Banner**

*So you want a hippopotamus for Christmas?*

Cole Short
Personal Column- Humorous: Large Weeklies

💎 Honorable Mention
- Grafton, Walsh County Record
  Unwrapped
  Steph Cronje

💎 Third Place
- Casselton, Cass County Reporter
  Oh, my John Deere 8330, how I missed you
  Jan Russell

💎 Second Place
- Bottineau Courant
  Don't try this at home, kids
  Matthew Semisch
Wondering where all of the Garys have gone

Do you know someone named Gary? Or better yet, do you have a friend named Gary? If so, consider yourself lucky, because knowing a Gary is a privilege that your grandchildren may never experience.

In the early 1950s, Gary was the 10th most chosen name in the U.S. for three consecutive years, with a yearly average of 38,000 born in the U.S. alone. Sadly, at last count, there were only 450 born here in America and 38 in the U.K.

One of the theories as to why the name is disappearing is that it has become unpopular among modern parents. However, this cannot be the case because as everyone knows Gary means “spear” and is therefore too strong a name not to be widely used.

Now that we have ruled out popularity, the next logical course is to look into other factors that cause population loss amongst species.

**Loss of habitat**
According to the National Wildlife Federation destruction, fragmentation and degradation of habitat are some of the leading causes of population loss.

Although I have not yet had the opportunity to study many Garys in the wild, I have become aware that their main habitat is hardware stores and construction sites, which still seem to exist in abundance, but could be under threat due to online shopping and D.I.Y. projects.

In Good Standing
By Eric Standing

In the past, Garys were known to be naturally skilled truck drivers, only a handful of Garys can still be found driving trucks, so one can only surmise that the shortage of Garys is also responsible for our current supply chain issues.

**Invasive species**
Parade.com informs us that the most popular boy’s name in 2022 was Liam, so it would appear that all of Garydom is under threat from this over-population.

With so many Liams running wild, taking up prime nesting areas and food sources, it can be hard for the newborn Gary to thrive.

If one should happen to find a nest of Garylings, it is advised that you do not touch them, as the mothers may not recognize their scent afterwards.

**Hunting and illegal trafficking**
While many people are considering tracking our remaining U.S. Gary herds through electronic means or leg bands like we do with geese, others are not so sure as concerns have been raised about disturbing them during mating season.

Authorities are not aware of any known Gary hunting having taken place, but some have been known to have been relocated.

**How can you help?**
Unless you are willing to go down to the courthouse and change your first name, then the only other options are to support the Garys we have now in order that they may live longer, and to produce more Garys, a cause for which I may devote my life’s work.
Third Place
- Wahpeton, Daily News
  Cold weather cocktails
  Colton Rasanen-Fryar

Second Place
- Wahpeton, Daily News
  Christmas cheer? Piece of cake for Stanko
  Frank Stanko
Why I am quitting Twitter

Jason O'Day

No, I’m not leaving Twitter because it’s been commandeered by the richest man in the world — the eccentric billionaire who made his fortune peddling unreliable, government subsidized battery wagons. It’s likely the whole thing was a ruse to liquidate Tesla stock without tanking its value, but Twitter increasingly seems to be losing its value, but Twitter increasingly forced my hand and put me in a tight corner legally.

Nonetheless, I applaud Elon Musk for achieving a glorious victory to strengthen freedom of expression. If every statement made outside the left’s increasingly narrow political spectrum is scrubbed or shadow banned from the digital town square by Orwellian content moderators (thought police), then our First Amendment loses its value.

All that said, I’m leaving Twitter because I’ve realized how counterproductive my compulsive use of it is to my ultimate goals in life. I knew you as the reader are probably sitting there like Mr. Maki (from South Park, thinking, “Gosford Park: Scott Maki, I don’t care about your stupid Twitter you need.”) I doubt my mausoleum audience of 10 followers will notice. Yet, you may find utility in using my social media experience to re-evaluate your own use of such platforms.

I have a hunch that Twitter’s key demographic — the people they get the most advertising click revenue from — are lonely, politically disaffected genXers. There’s nothing inherently wrong with indulging a passion for politics, I do quite frequently, but there’s a substantial productivity gap between reading John Locke’s “Two Treatises of Government” and logging in multiple times a day to relish Majorie Taylor Greene owning the libs or vice versa.

Don’t get me wrong, Twitter can be a blast. One of my favorite Twitter memories occurred in late 2016 when @mskerrymovie was trending. A few of the greatest hits included “All Quiet on the Frontal Lobe,” “How to Lose a Friendly Nation in 10 Days” and “Insulting a Few Good Men” (see Kerry’s 2005 comment about college burnout getting ‘shot in Iraq’ or Kerry tossing his war medals).

But more recently I’ve found myself inescapably scrolling Facebook and Twitter to distract myself from the stresses of real life. Yet these problems remain when I swipe out of the app, and have usually been made worse by my procrastination.

I sit down on the couch and without even thinking about it, waste 1.2 hours looking at crap that doesn’t matter to me whatsoever. Both platforms are infested with endless wastelands of mind-numbing drivel. I’d quit Facebook too but have to use it for work. A Pew Research analysis in May found that approximately 23% use Twitter. The report also showed 47% of all tweets are sent by a quarter of the site’s users. From this, you can deduce that roughly 3 out of 50 Americans are spending an unhealthy number of hours every day differentiating at each other.

Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Reddit, TikTok, etc. are all different versions of the same cyber bulletin board. A Wall Street Journal investigation found that TikTok’s algorithm is promoting some teenage girls to watch videos that lead to eating disorders. One Washington state 15 year old who’s struggling with dietary health for several years said she tried to set up a new TikTok account that avoided certain content, to avail.

“I still see posts related to eating disorders on my feed at least three times a day,” the high school sophomore said.

Social media can be addictive. Opening the apps to see notifications that someone, anyone, is interested in you and your posts causes a dopamine rush. It feels good, but the high is fleeting.

I didn’t necessarily want to go on Snapchat a few nights ago and listen to the baseball Sports analyst berate banal commentary on popular video clips, or watch Sean Hannity’s Snap story floss. Social media is the new social media. I was taking a break from Twitter and TikTok, which were almost as cringeworthy as the leftists he was mocking. But I didn’t want to go on Snapchat as well.

I’d much rather be reading a substantive news or magazine article, pleasant harmless or volunteering for a good cause. But making the conscious decision to choose fulfilling activities over laziness and digital glut necessary takes discipline. We are all blessed by God with a finite, yet uncertain amount of time to spend on this third rock from the sun. I refuse to squander more of it in Mark Zuckerberg’s creepy Metaverse terrarium.
Third Place
  - Bismarck Tribune
    *How about ND for next winter Olympics*
    Travis Svihovec

Second Place
  - Bismarck Tribune
    *On the trail of a mystery stench*
    Blake Nicholson
First Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

At reception, guests may have caught bouquet but I got the boot

Tammy Swift
Third Place
- Park River, Walsh County Press
  *Walsh County Press - Catch you at the Fair*
  Allison Olimb, Larry Biri

Second Place
- Hankinson, News Monitor
  *Valley Voices - spring edition*
  Levi Jones, Frank Stanko, Audra Anderson
Special News Section: Small Weeklies

◇ First Place
  - Central McLean News-Journal
  Honoring First Responders
  Staff
Special News Section: Mid-Size Weeklies

◊ Third Place
  § Hillsboro Banner
  Christmas Section
  Banner Staff

◊ Second Place
  § New Rockford Transcript
  Rockets State Volleyball
  Commemorative Edition
  Kyrie Dauenhauer, Amy Wobbema, Nathan Price
Special News Section: Mid-Size Weeklies

◊ First Place
- Washburn, The Leader-News Honoring First Responders Staff
Special News Section: Large Weeklies

◊ Third Place
  ▪ Grafton, Walsh County Record
    Ag Section
    Staff

◊ Second Place
  ▪ Grafton, Walsh County Record
    Fall Sports Preview
    Chelsea Wysocki
Special News Section: Large Weeklies

♦ First Place
  - Crosby, The Journal
  *All over the map*
  Journal Staff
Special News Section: Small Multi-Dailies

◊ Second Place

- Jamestown Sun

  *Jamestown Has It* //
  *annual Progress Edition*

Jamestown Sun Staff
Special News Section: Small Multi-Dailies

◊ First Place
  - Wahpeton, Daily News
  - Southern Valley Living - Fall
  - Candace Engstrom,
  - Carrie McDermott,
  - Frank Stanko,
  - Levi Jones,
  - Robert Wanek Jr,
  - Colton Rasanen-Fryar,
Third Place
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  *Bison Rewind*
  Forum staff

Second Place
- Grand Forks Herald
  *UND hockey: Target, Tampa*
  Brad E. Schlossman
First Place

- Bismarck Tribune

Bismarck looks back
Staff
Section/Feature
Fronts
Section/Feature Fronts: Small Weeklies

Diamond Second Place
- Hankinson, News Monitor
  Celebrate the Seasons
  Candace Engstrom
Section/Feature Fronts: Small Weeklies

💎 First Place
- Park River, Walsh County Press
  *Weathering Our Senior Year...*
- Allison Olimb, Larry Biri
First Place

- Hillsboro Banner
  Banner Aug. 12 Sports Front
  Banner Staff
Section/Feature Fronts: Large Weeklies

◊ Third Place
  ▪ Casselton, Cass County Reporter
    Dandie Debut
    Megan Nicklay

◊ Second Place
  ▪ Crosby, The Journal
    All over the map
    Cecile Wehrman
First Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record

Veterans Day
WILDCARD-
Jackie Thompson
Section/Feature Fronts: Small Multi-Dailies

Third Place
- Wahpeton, Daily News
  *Wilkin County Fair*
  Candace Engstrom

Second Place
- Wahpeton, Daily News
  *Women in Business*
  Candace Engstrom, Carrie McDermott
First Place

Dickinson Press

Make salmon a staple
Marcy Nickel
Section/Feature Fronts: Large Multi-Dailies

◊ Third Place
  - Grand Forks Herald
    Section/Feature Front: March 19
    Becca Clemens

◊ Second Place
  - Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
    Spring stunner
    Forum staff
Section/Feature Fronts: Large Multi-Dailies

First Place
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  Called to clay
  Marcy Nickel
Front Page Design
Front Page Design: Small Weeklies

◊ Third Place
  - Hankinson, News Monitor
    Good News Edition - News Monitor
    Carrie McDermott

◊ Second Place
  - Park River, Walsh County Press
    Walsh County Press - Front Page Design
    Allison Olimb
First Place

- Elgin, Grant County News
  Front page design
  Jill Friesz
Third Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
  Independent Front Pages
  Erik Gjovik, Amy Wobbema

Second Place

- New Rockford Transcript
  Transcript front page entries
  Amy Wobbema
First Place
- Hillsboro Banner
  Hillsboro Banner FPD
  Cory Erickson, Cole Short
Third Place
- Linton, Emmons County Record
  Emmons County Front Page Design
  Kelli Ameling, Kelsey Majeski

Second Place
- Grafton, Walsh County Record
  April 20, June 29, November 2
  Jackie Thompson
Front Page Design: Large Weeklies

◊ First Place
  - Crosby, The Journal
  - Journal front pages
  - Cecile Wehrman
Third Place

- Jamestown Sun
  A1 covers for the Jamestown Sun
  Paula Pandey Chhetri, Erin Crommett, Cindy Gilster

Second Place

- Dickinson Press
  Front pages of the Dickinson Press
  Meghan Dowhaniuk
Front Page Design: Small Multi-Dailies

✦ First Place
  - Wahpeton, Daily News
  Daily News front page
  Carrie McDermott
Front Page Design: Large Multi-Dailies

◊ Third Place
  ▪ Bismarck Tribune
    Bismarck Tribune front page design
    Diane Newberry

◊ Second Place
  ▪ Grand Forks Herald
    Front page design: Aug. 11, Sept. 19, Nov. 26
    Alex Kallmeyer, Danielle Verhey, Mark Merck
First Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

Forum front page design entry

Forum staff
Second Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press

Stop the Pop: FCCLA project advocates for aneurysm awareness

Allison Olimb
Headline: Small Weeklies

💎 First Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor

*Good things come to those who bait*

Colton Rasanen-Fryar

![Good things come to those who bait](image)
Honorable Mention
- Hillsboro Banner
  *In it for the long haul*
  Alyssa Short

Third Place
- Hillsboro Banner
  *New leash on life*
  Cole Short

Second Place
- Carrington, Foster County Independent
  *From coursework to course work*
  Erik Gjovik
First Place

- Hillsboro Banner

*LIFE FRIES AT YOU FAST*

WILDCARD- Cole Short
Honorable Mention

- Crosby, The Journal

  Olsen reunion is crowded -- relatively speaking

  Brad Nygaard

Third Place

- Garrison, McLean County Independent

  A supplies party

  WILDCARD- James C. Falcon

Second Place

- Garrison, McLean County Independent

  Eyes on the pies

  Ethyn Williams-Calvert
First Place

- Garrison, McLean County Independent
  Bobbin and weaving
  James C. Falcon
Third Place
- Wahpeton, Daily News
  *Let's talk about Bruno*
  Frank Stanko

Second Place
- Wahpeton, Daily News
  *Hello Ollie*
  Colton Rasanen-Fryar
First Place

Dickinson Press

This company is too hot to candle

Jason O'Day

Gladstone business still shining 2 years later

By Jason R. O'Day
The Dickinson Press

GLADSTONE, N.D. — Sometimes in life it takes a certain fire to light the wick and get rolling on a dream. For Tasha Ricker of Gladstone, that fire came in the form of a global pandemic.

This month, Ricker is celebrating the two-year anniversary of her company's founding — The Little Town Soy Candle Company.

Ricker is originally from Alaska and moved to the Western Edge in 2015 to work in the oil industry, then met her husband Josh in Killdeer. When the pandemic shutdowns began in 2020, she was laid off from her job that summer and was looking for something to occupy her time.

Her candle business ignited as a hobby, with a great deal of support from candle seeking friends and the flame spread from there.

She said Pride of Dakota has been immensely helpful in her success.

“'We’ve gotten our products all over the state and a lot of our referrals have come from Pride of Dakota,'” she said.

"It's definitely been nice having a little bit of a mentor. And I mean, we bounce ideas off each other.”

Pride of Dakota is a cooperative established by North Dakota’s Agriculture Commissioner Kent Jones in 1985. It enables businesses of all types and sizes with products made in the state to market them as such.

It also helps that she’s had a good mentor who's been in the business for a decade. "My mother-in-law actually owns her own candle company in Olympia, Washington. This was initially her idea. She was like, 'I could teach you some things.' So I did learn a lot of tips and tricks from her,” Ricker said.

Since establishing the operation, she said supply chain issues have been a major obstacle.

"With the whole COVID pandemic going on, you know, CANDLE: Page 3"
Honorable Mention
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  *It's no yolk: High wholesale egg prices makes it an unhappy Easter*
  Helmut Schmidt

Third Place
- Grand Forks Herald
  *Buoy or buoy, that's a hike!*
  Brad Dokken

Second Place
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  *Worries over furries: Furries in F-M schools? Yes, but no litter boxes*
  Archie Ingersoll
Headline: Large Multi-Dailies

First Place
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  Navel bombardment
  Dave Olson

Fargo Public Schools have dropped the word "midriff" from the district's dress code policy, meaning that aspect of the human anatomy need not be covered by clothing.

Navel bombardment?

Fargo Public Schools drop 'midriff' covering requirement from dress code

By David Olson
The Forum
Fargo

In a recent move, Fargo Public Schools dropped the term "midriff" from the list of anatomical features that are expressly required to be covered under the district's dress code. In doing so, Fargo Public Schools are now in line with Moorhead and West Fargo public schools, which also do not specifically require that students' midriffs be covered by clothing. According to one Fargo school official, the move also reflects the spirit of discussions that were held in 2019, when district officials revised the dress code after collecting feedback from parents, teachers, administrators, community members, and students. Although the idea of removing "midriff" from the dress code was talked about in those 2019 discussions, the word remained in the policy after the dust had settled. However, since that 2019 revision, discussions have continued between

NAVEL: Page A10
Informational Graphics
Informational Graphics: Small Weeklies

◊ Second Place
  - Hankinson, News Monitor
    Bye, Bye Butterfly?
    Levi Jones
First Place

- Elgin, Grant County News
- JMHCC COVID cases
- Jill Friesz
Informational Graphics: Mid-Size Weeklies

♦ Second Place
  - Carrington, Foster County Independent
    Foster County commission redistricting
    Erik Gjovik
### First Place

- **New Rockford Transcript**

**North Dakota Leads: Ag Production Statistics**

Amy Wobbema

---

**NORTH DAKOTA LEADS 2021 Production Rankings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop Type</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring Wheat</td>
<td>1,512</td>
<td>1,512</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rye</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunflowers (oil)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunflowers (non-oil)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flax</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinto Beans</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honey</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL OVERVIEW**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farm Operation</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Acres / Operation</td>
<td>1,512</td>
<td>1,512</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Operations</td>
<td>26,000</td>
<td>26,000</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Acres Operated</td>
<td>39,300,000</td>
<td>39,300,000</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Livestock Inventory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cattle, Cows, Beef - Inventory</td>
<td>975,000</td>
<td>945,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle, Cows, Milk - Inventory</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle, Incl Calves - Inventory</td>
<td>1,950,000</td>
<td>1,850,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle, On Feed - Inventory</td>
<td>49,000</td>
<td>39,000</td>
<td>-10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep, Incl Lambs - Inventory</td>
<td>73,000</td>
<td>62,000</td>
<td>-11,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hogs - Inventory (as of Dec. 1, 2021)</td>
<td>143,000</td>
<td>144,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Milk Production**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Milk Production, measured in Lb/head</td>
<td>22,333</td>
<td>21,867</td>
<td>466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk Production, measured in Lb</td>
<td>328,000,000</td>
<td>325,000,000</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Informational Graphics: Large Weeklies

◊ Honorable Mention
  - Crosby, The Journal
    Crop Acreage Report 2022
    Cecile Wehrman

◊ Third Place
  - Grafton, Walsh County Record
    What's growing in North Dakota
    Jackie Thompson

◊ Second Place
  - Grafton, Walsh County Record
    Police stats
    Todd Morgan
First Place
- Casselton, Cass County Reporter
  Home Improvement Guide
  Megan Nicklay
Informational Graphics: Small Multi-Dailies

♦ First Place
  - Wahpeton, Daily News
  - Election Day Coverage
  - Colton Rasanen-Fryar
Informational Graphics: Large Multi-Dailies

◊ First Place
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  Beijing 2022
  Troy Becker
Best Web Site
First Place

- Elgin, Grant County News
gspublishing.net
Staff
Web Site: Mid-Size Weeklies

- Third Place
  - New Rockford Transcript
    newrockfordtranscript.com
    Transcript Staff

- Second Place
  - Carrington, Foster County Independent
    fosterconews.com
    Staff
Web Site: Mid-Size Weeklies

🔸 First Place
  - Hillsboro Banner
  hillsborobanner.com
  Banner Staff
Web Site: Large Weeklies

◊ First Place
  - Crosby, The Journal
  - JournalTrib.com
  - Cecile Wehrman
Web Site: Small Multi-Dailies

Second Place
- Jamestown Sun
  jamestownsun.com
  Jamestown Sun
First Place

- Dickinson Press
dickinsonpress.com
Dickinson Press Staff
Web Site: Large Multi-Dailies

◊ Third Place
  - Grand Forks Herald
    grandforksherald.com
  - Staff

◊ Second Place
  - Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
    Inforum.com
  - Forum staff
Web Site: Large Multi-Dailies

First Place
- Bismarck Tribune
  bismarcktribune.com
  Staff
Online Coverage of Breaking News
Online Coverage of Breaking News: Weekly Division

◆ Third Place
  - New Rockford Transcript
    Burglary at Hanson's Bar and Eagles Club
    Nathan Price, Amy Wobbema

◆ Second Place
  - Crosby, The Journal
    Widespread power outages
    Cecile Wehrman
First Place

- Crosby, The Journal
  Wind packs a wallop
  Brad Nygaard
Online Coverage of Breaking News: Multi-Day Division

Third Place
- Grand Forks Herald
  'Everyone is safe,' active shooter hoax at Red River HS in GF
  Ingrid Harbo, Sav Kelley, Korrie Wenzel, Eric Hylden

Second Place
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  Suspect found dead after shooting mother, baby at Fargo restaurant
  Barry Amundson, Nick Broadway
Online Coverage of Breaking News: Multi-Day Division

First Place

- Jamestown Sun

Standoff:

Man arrested in standoff in northwest Jamestown

John Steiner, Kathy Steiner, Masaki Ova
Best Use of Social Media
Best Use of Social Media: Weekly Division

첩 Second Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
  Urban Cottage
  Caylee Tibert
Best Use of Social Media: Weekly Division

♦ First Place
  - Park River, Walsh County Press
    Meet the Maker – a Super Santa Saturday feature
    Allison Olimb

At the Walsh County Press, we have tried to be creative and engage in our social media use. Each year our community hosts a holiday vendor show as a part of a large Super Santa Saturday celebration. Rather than just glossing over the vendor show as we usually do, this year we decided to do a “Meet the Maker” feature to showcase the event. Through this little feature, we were able to highlight a few local entrepreneurs from three different communities in a fun question-and-answer format. We did one each week, leading up to the event. Each maker feature was then turned into a colorful two-page graphic that was posted the day after our initial publication both to the Walsh County Press Facebook Page as well as the event host Park River Community Club’s Facebook Page. Those posts were then shared out dozens of times which helped to showcase not only our coverage of the upcoming event itself but also reach people in the communities connected with these particular makers.
Best Use of Social Media: Multi-Day Division

✧ Third Place
  - Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
    *Fate uncertain for Theodore Roosevelt National Park horses*
    Chris Flynn, Kate Almquist

✧ Second Place
  - Dickinson Press
    *Dickinson Press Facebook Page*
    Jenn Binstock
Best Use of Social Media: Multi-Day Division

◊ First Place
  - Wahpeton, Daily News
  Athlete of the Year
  Robert Wanek Jr.
Overall Design Excellence
Overall Design Excellence: Small Weeklies

◊ Third Place
- Finley, Steele County Press
  Overall Design Excellence entry
  Staff

◊ Second Place
- Cooperstown, Griggs County Courier
  Overall Design Excellence entry
  Staff
Overall Design Excellence: Small Weeklies

줘 First Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor

*Overall Design Excellence entry*

News Monitor Staff
Overall Design Excellence: Mid-Size Weeklies

Honorable Mention
- New Rockford Transcript
  Overall Design Excellence entry
  Transcript staff

Third Place
- Harvey, The Herald Press
  Overall Design Excellence entry
  Anne Ehni, Neil O. Nelson, Edie Schell

Second Place
- Hillsboro Banner
  Overall Design Excellence entry
  Cole Short, Cory Erickson
Overall Design Excellence: Mid-Size Weeklies

◊ First Place
- Tioga Tribune
  Overall Design Excellence entry
  Tioga Tribune Staff
Overall Design Excellence: Large Weeklies

◊ Honorable Mention
   ▪ Grafton, Walsh County Record
     Overall Design Excellence entry
     Staff

◊ Third Place
   ▪ Bottineau Courant
     Overall Design Excellence entry
     Bottineau Courant

◊ Second Place
   ▪ Garrison, McLean County Independent
     Overall Design Excellence entry
     Staff
Overall Design Excellence: Large Weeklies

◊ First Place
  - Crosby, The Journal
    Overall Design Excellence entry
    Journal Staff
Overall Design Excellence: Small Multi-Dailies

 Emerald • Third Place
  • Jamestown Sun
  *Overall Design Excellence entry*
  • Jamestown Sun

 Emerald • Second Place
  • Wahpeton, Daily News
  *Overall Design Excellence entry*
  • Daily News staff
Overall Design Excellence: Small Multi-Dailies

❤️ First Place
- Dickinson Press

**Overall Design Excellence entry**
Joy Schoch, James Miller,
Jennifer Binstock,
Jason O'Day, Ashley Koffler,
Josiah Cuellar, Cindi Wallner
Overall Design Excellence: Large Multi-Dailies

◆ Third Place
  ▪ Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  Overall Design Excellence entry
  Forum staff

◆ Second Place
  ▪ Grand Forks Herald
  Overall Design Excellence entry
  Staff
Overall Design Excellence: Large Multi-Dailies

First Place
- Bismarck Tribune
  Overall Design Excellence entry
  Staff
Overall Best Headline: all circulation divisions

Hillsboro Banner
Life fries at you fast
WILDCARD- Cole Short
Photography Awards
Honorable Mention
- Elgin, Grant County News
  Into the fire
  Riley Dahl

Third Place
- Hankinson, News Monitor
  2 votes determine D25 Republicans' endorsement for ND House
  Frank Stanko

Second Place
- Bowbells, Burke County Tribune
  Park Flooding
  Lyann Olson
First Place
- Park River, Walsh County Press
  Hazardous Conditions
  Larry Biri
Honorable Mention

- Tioga Tribune
  
  *D2 GOP 'historic' moment*

  Brad Nygaard

Third Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
  
  *Farewell to a fallen hero*

  Erik Gjovik

Second Place

- New Rockford Transcript
  
  *Paving the way*

  Nathan Price
News Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies

First Place
- Hillsboro Banner
  Central Valley graduation
  Cory Erickson
Third Place
- Bottineau Courant
  Wind storm brings damage
  Scott Wagar

Second Place
- Grafton, Walsh County Record
  2nd Street Flooding
  Chelsea Wysocki
First Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
  Helicopter - Cavalier flood
  Larry Biri
News Photo: Small Multi-Dailies

📍 Third Place
- Dickinson Press
  Southwest Narcotics Task Force addresses
  New England Council
  Josiah C. Cuellar

📍 Second Place
- Jamestown Sun
  She had a lot of fight
  John Steiner
Wahpeton man in custody after Tuesday warrant arrest
Frank Stanko
Honorable Mention
- Bismarck Tribune
  Abortion rights protests
  Tom Stromme

Third Place
- Grand Forks Herald
  Hanukkah
  Eric Hylden

Second Place
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  Perez family funeral
  David Samson
News Photo: Large Multi-Dailies

هج First Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

Nighttime tradition

Michael Vosburg
Spot News Photo
Spot News Photo: Small Weeklies

💎 Third Place
- Hankinson, News Monitor
  *Fire started in grain leg at Barney elevator*
  Levi Jones

💎 Second Place
- Park River, Walsh County Press
  *Rising Waters*
  Larry Biri
First Place

- Elgin, Grant County News

*Into the blizzard*

Jill Friesz
Spot News Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies

iamond Third Place
- Carrington, Foster County Independent
  Dryer fire at Central City Grain
  Erik Gjovik

diamond Second Place
- Carrington, Foster County Independent
  Road washout
  Nathan Price
**Spot News Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies**

◊ First Place
  - Hillsboro Banner
    *Fire destroys home in Hillsboro*
    Cory Erickson
Spot News Photo: Large Weeklies

Honorable Mention
- Grafton, Walsh County Record
  Garza brothers
  Larry Biri

Third Place
- Grafton, Walsh County Record
  Sandbagging
  Chelsea Wysocki

Second Place
- Crosby, The Journal
  Wind packs a wallop
  Brad Nygaard
Spot News Photo: Large Weeklies

◊ First Place
  - Bottineau Courant
  Hospital floods in August rainstorm
  Scott Wagar
Spot News Photo: Small Multi-Dailies

◊ Third Place
  - Dickinson Press
    *Dickinson family is 'very lucky'*
    Ashley Koffler

◊ Second Place
  - Williston Herald
    *Crews battle blaze north of Williston*
    Mitch Melberg
Spot News Photo: Small Multi-Dailies

First Place
- Jamestown Sun
  Man in custody
  John Steiner
Spot News Photo: Large Multi-Dailies

铵Honorable Mention

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  Death granny
  Michael Vosburg

铵Third Place

- Bismarck Tribune
  Blizzard headstones
  Tom Stromme

铵Second Place

- Grand Forks Herald
  Nash fire, It's a tough one
  Eric Hylden
Spot News Photo: Large Multi-Dailies

💎 First Place
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  Crash sends 2 vehicles into Fargo home
  Chris Flynn

![Image of a damaged car and police officers.](image-url)
Feature Photo
Feature Photo: Small Weeklies

💎 Honorable Mention
- Elgin, Grant County News
  *A picturesque evening - PAGE 7*
  Riley Dahl

💎 Third Place
- Drayton, Valley News & Views
  *Another Successful Old Fashioned Christmas*
  Lyle Van Camp

💎 Second Place
- Park River, Walsh County Press
  *Little Sluggers*
  Larry Biri
First Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor
  Heritage at home
  Levi Jones
Honorable Mention
- Harvey, The Herald Press
  *It was all hands on deck*
  Neil O. Nelson

Third Place
- Hillsboro Banner
  *Hats off, seniors*
  Cory Erickson

Second Place
- Washburn, The Leader-News
  *Frying up Riverboat Days fun*
  Alyssa Meier
Feature Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies

💎 First Place

- Carrington, Foster County Independent
  *Rolling out the welcome mats*
  Erik Gjovik
Feature Photo: Large Weeklies

- **Honorable Mention**
  - Crosby, The Journal
    - Freya sings National Anthem
    - Brad Nygaard

- **Third Place**
  - Bottineau Courant
    - Fun times at the ballpark
    - Scott Wagar

- **Second Place**
  - Bottineau Courant
    - Fans at LandoLive Festival
    - Matthew Semisch
Feature Photo: Large Weeklies

Diamond First Place
- Linton, Emmons County Record
A hair-standing event
Kelli Ameling
**Feature Photo: Small Multi-Dailies**

**Third Place**
- **Williston Herald**
  
  *Lion Kent Reierson grilling up some brats for the first responders*

  Maddie Davis

**Second Place**
- **Dickinson Press**

  *BENESH*

  Jason O'Day
Feature Photo: Small Multi-Dailies

♦ First Place
  - Wahpeton, Daily News
  - On the Wings of Mentorship
  - Frank Stanko

On the Wings of Mentorship
Third Place
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  Snow Angel
  David Samson

Second Place
- Bismarck Tribune
  First Day
  Tom Stromme
Feature Photo: Large Multi-Dailies

◊ First Place
  - Grand Forks Herald
  - Pow Wow
  - Eric Hylden
Sports Photo: Small Weeklies

◊ Honorable Mention
  ▪ Elgin, Grant County News
    Javin Friesz intercepts the ball
    Jill Friesz

◊ Third Place
  ▪ Center Republican
    Wildcats roar to state title
    Bill Schmalfeldt

◊ Second Place
  ▪ Park River, Walsh County Press
    Pushing On
    Larry Biri
Sports Photo: Small Weeklies

First Place
- Park River, Walsh County Press
  147 drops game to EGF
  WILDCARD- Larry Biri
Honorable Mention
- Hillsboro Banner
  Marshall Judisch dives into first WILDCARD
  Cory Erickson

Third Place
- Hillsboro Banner
  Beliles tagged out
  Cole Short

Second Place
- Hillsboro Banner
  Tommies scratch out a win
  Nashton Wimer
Sports Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies

ファイル

First Place

- Hillsboro Banner
  Nothing but net
  Alyssa Short
Honorable Mention
- Crosby, The Journal
  Bears win 9-2, fall 13-6 against Ray
  Jody Michael

Third Place
- Linton, Emmons County Record
  Strasburg Bull bash
  Kelli Ameling

Second Place
- Crosby, The Journal
  DC football survives late Westhope rally, 52-46
  Don Anderson
Sports Photo: Large Weeklies

First Place

- Bottineau Courant

Injured relay opponent assisted at state track

Matthew Semisch
Sports Photo: Small Multi-Dailies

♦ Third Place
  - Dickinson Press
    *Big Sticks host special needs softball game*
    Jason O'Day

♦ Second Place
  - Jamestown Sun
    *Three VSCU baseball players react*
    John Steiner
Sports Photo: Small Multi-Dailies

◊ First Place

- Dickinson Press

  Bowman Co. swarm Hazen, capture first Region 7 title since '09

  Race Archibald
Sports Photo: Large Multi-Dailies

Third Place
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  Agony of defeat
  David Samson

Second Place
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  'It takes a village'
  Alyssa Goelzer
First Place

- Grand Forks Herald

*Mahnomen Red Lake County football, player's helmet flies off*

Eric Hylden
Better Newspaper Contest

Picture Story
Picture Story: Small Weeklies

◊ Third Place
  ▪ Elgin, Grant County News
    Into the blizzard
    Jill Friesz & staff

◊ Second Place
  ▪ Park River, Walsh County Press
    Patriotic in PR
    Larry Biri
First Place

- Hankinson, News Monitor

*Let's go muddin'*

Levi Jones
Picture Story: Mid-Size Weeklies

Honorable Mention
- New Rockford Transcript
  4th of July
  Transcript staff

Third Place
- Carrington, Foster County Independent
  National Night Out
  WILDCARD- Erik Gjovik

Second Place
- Hillsboro Banner
  Hillsboro Days
  Cory Erickson, Cole Short
Picture Story: Mid-Size Weeklies

First Place

- Hillsboro Banner

Banner Year in Sports
Cory Erickson, Cole Short, Nashton Wimer
Picture Story: Large Weeklies

**Honorable Mention**
- Grafton, Walsh County Record
  - Grafton Class of 2022
  - Chelsea Wysocki

**Third Place**
- Casselton, Cass County Reporter
  - Leonard Fall Festival
  - Jan Russell

**Second Place**
- Grafton, Walsh County Record
  - Minto Museum Alive
  - Todd Morgan, Chelsea Wysocki
First Place

- Linton, Emmons County Record
  Ropin' Rodeo
  Kelli Ameling
Picture Story: Small Multi-Dailies

◊ Third Place
  - Wahpeton, Daily News
  - A masterpiece of fun
  - Frank Stanko

◊ Second Place
  - Jamestown Sun
  - Birds eye view of clouds
  - John Steiner
Picture Story: Small Multi-Dailies

◊ First Place
- Dickinson Press
  Making History
  Race Archibald

Dickinson junior Amy Friday celebrates after her uneven bars performance at the NDHSAA Gymnastics State Meet on Friday, Feb. 25, at Dickinson High School.

MAKING HISTORY
Dickinson gymnastics captures 7th-straight state championship
Picture Story: Large Multi-Dailies

◊ Third Place
  - Grand Forks Herald
    *Forest River Colony Hutterites, online gallery of photos*
    Eric Hylden

◊ Second Place
  - Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
    *Scenes from championship night at ND Class A b-ball tourney*
    David Samson
Blizzard moves out, cold moves in

Arctic air system to hit ND next week

A frigid Arctic air system is on the way to North Dakota next week, with temperatures expected to drop to unusually low levels. This system will bring a sharp contrast to the warm and sunny conditions that have been prevalent in the state recently.

The frigid air will move in late Monday and bring snowfall to the northern and eastern parts of the state. "This will be a true Arctic air system setting over the state," said Todd Hamilton, meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in Bismarck. "We have a lot of snow on the ground — there's not much chance for the cold to modify as it comes down from the Arctic."

Snow is highly reflective, and a vast amount of sunlight that hits it is reflected back into space instead of warming the planet, according to the National Snow and Ice Data Center at the University of Colorado. The storm has dumped 10 inches of snow on Bismarck as of Friday morning, including a record 10.4 inches on Tuesday, according to the National Weather Service. Not much snow was expected throughout Friday, though strong winds forecast to gust up to 50 mph were causing blowing and drifting snow and reducing visibility across the state. Snowfall totals from around the state can be found at www.ndwx.nws.gov.

Bismarck Tribune
Tom Stromme
Pictorial Photo
Pictorial Photo: Small Weeklies

✧ Honorable Mention
  - Elgin, Grant County News
    Grant County sunset
    Riley Dahl

✧ Third Place
  - McClusky Gazette
    Scenes from the McClusky Winter Formal
    Allan Tinker

✧ Second Place
  - Hankinson, News Monitor
    Home grown prairie
    Levi Jones
First Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press

*Life in the Vast Lane*

Larry Biri
Pictorial Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies

Honorable Mention
- Tioga Tribune
  *Summer in full blooms*
  Jacob Orledge

Third Place
- Tioga Tribune
  *Pump jack sunset*
  Brad Nygaard

Second Place
- Washburn, The Leader-News
  *Rainbow*
  Kelli Ameling
First Place

- Hillsboro Banner
  
  *Treated to a dome dog*

  Cory Erickson
Honorable Mention
- Bottineau Courant
  *Waxwing feeding*
  Scott Wagar

Third Place
- Grafton, Walsh County Record
  *Sunshine state of mind*
  Chelsea Wysocki

Second Place
- Grafton, Walsh County Record
  *Pumpkin Patch*
  Vicki Foss
First Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
  Good Monday Morning Sundogs
  Jackie Thompson
Pictorial Photo: Small Multi-Dailies

◊ Third Place
  - Dickinson Press
    A thousand words:
    Highlighting southwest North Dakota
    in Photos
    Josiah C. Cuellar

◊ Second Place
  - Wahpeton, Daily News
    There's nothing canine about
    this phenomenon
    Carrie McDermott
First Place

Dickinson Press

RIDE OR DIE:
406 Freestyle stuns crowds during intermission

Amber Neate
Third Place
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  *Harsh winds*
  Michael Vosburg

Second Place
- Bismarck Tribune
  *Safe Haven*
  Travis Svihovec
First Place
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  Fairly busy
  David Samson
**Honorable Mention**
- Hankinson, News Monitor
  *Class of 2022*
  Levi Jones

**Third Place**
- Elgin, Grant County News
  *Roth closes the book as head librarian*
  Luann Dart

**Second Place**
- Park River, Walsh County Press
  *Wild About History*
  Larry Biri
First Place

- Park River, Walsh County Press
  Seim to be Celebrated on Nurses Week
  Allison Olimb
Honorable Mention
- Hillsboro Banner
  *Running in the hall*
  Andy Blenkush

Third Place
- New Rockford Transcript
  *Bowling alley's new proprietor*
  Nathan Price

Second Place
- Washburn, The Leader-News
  *Frying up Riverboat Days fun*
  Alyssa Meier
First Place

- Hillsboro Banner

Treyvion Johnson portrait

Cory Erickson
Portrait Photo: Large Weeklies

Honorable Mention
- Grafton, Walsh County Record
  Adele Hankey
  Todd Morgan

Third Place
- Crosby, The Journal
  Splash pad girl
  Brad Nygaard

Second Place
- Grafton, Walsh County Record
  Girl holding duck
  Larry Biri
Portrait Photo: Large Weeklies

◇ First Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record
  Skating
  Chelsea Wysocki
**Portrait Photo: Small Multi-Dailies**

💎 Third Place
- Dickinson Press
  - Selling like WILDFIRE!
- Ashley Koffler

💎 Second Place
- Jamestown Sun
  - *It's not about the ribbons*
- John Steiner
First Place

- Wahpeton, Daily News

Honor Flight veterans welcomed back Tuesday

Frank Stanko
Third Place
- Bismarck Tribune
  Windy day
  Tom Stromme

Second Place
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  Nash Jensen
  David Samson
Portrait Photo: Large Multi-Dailies

◊ First Place
  ▪ Grand Forks Herald
    Easy as pie
    Eric Hylden
Agricultural Photo
Agricultural Photo: Small Weeklies

♦ Second Place
  - Park River, Walsh County Press
    Whatever it takes
    Larry Biri
First Place

- Elgin, Grant County News
  
  *Historic spring blizzard takes its toll*

Jill Friesz
Honorable Mention

- Hillsboro Banner
  *Eddy Mueller and calf*
  Cole Short

Third Place

- Tioga Tribune
  *Harvest activity*
  Brad Nygaard

Second Place

- Tioga Tribune
  *Soil health tour*
  Jacob Orledge
Agricultural Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies

◊ First Place

- Hillsboro Banner

  Digging the past,
  digging the dirt

Cory Erickson
Agricultural Photo: Large Weeklies

Honorable Mention
- Bottineau Courant
  Pushing tractors
  Scott Wagar

Third Place
- Grafton, Walsh County Record
  Pumpkin Patch
  Vicki Foss

Second Place
- Linton, Emmons County Record
  A field of sunshine
  Kelli Ameling
First Place

- Grafton, Walsh County Record

  Charle Delgado - Gudajtes Farm

  Larry Biri
Third Place
- Jamestown Sun
  *Rising input costs*
  John Steiner

Second Place
- Dickinson Press
  *Moo-ving through the decades*
  Jason O'Day
Agricultural Photo: Small Multi-Dailies

First Place
- Dickinson Press

A thousand words:
Highlighting southwest North Dakota in Photos
Josiah C. Cuellar
Agricultural Photo: Large Multi-Dailies

◊ Third Place
  ▪ Bismarck Tribune
    Tractor Trek
    Tom Stromme

◊ Second Place
  ▪ Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
    Tree planting
    David Samson
Agricultural Photo: Large Multi-Dailies

First Place
- Bismarck Tribune
  Longhorn cattle graze
  Jack Dura
Outdoor Recreation Photo
Outdoor Recreation Photo: Small Weeklies

◊ Third Place
  ▪ Park River, Walsh County Press
    The battle to the summit
    Larry Biri

◊ Second Place
  ▪ Elgin, Grant County News
    Storm bring the Thunder
    Jill Friesz
Outdoor Recreation Photo: Small Weeklies

💎 First Place
- Hankinson, News Monitor
  *Let's go muddin'*
- Levi Jones
Outdoor Recreation Photo: Mid-Size Weeklies

💎 Honorable Mention
- New Rockford Transcript
  *Roping longhorns - Wolf Creek Cattle Co at Sheyenne Stampede*
  Nathan Price

💎 Third Place
- Tioga Tribune
  *Fun on a hot summer day*
  Jacob Orledge

💎 Second Place
- Carrington, Foster County Independent
  *Everyone into the pool!*
  Erik Gjovik
First Place

- Hillsboro Banner
  
  Easy sledding
  Cory Erickson
Outdoor Recreation Photo: Large Weeklies

Honorable Mention
- Casselton, Cass County Reporter
  Tractor Stampede
  Jan Russell

Third Place
- Crosby, The Journal
  A carnival atmosphere
  Brad Nygaard

Second Place
- Garrison, McLean County Independent
  Fun at the Fort
  Ethyn Williams-Calvert
First Place
- Crosby, The Journal

Snow dog
WILDCARD - Brad Nygaard
Third Place
- Dickinson Press
  *Let's talk CHALK*
  Jason O'Day

Second Place
- Jamestown Sun
  *Summer track*
  John Steiner
First Place

- Dickinson Press

A thousand words: Highlighting southwest North Dakota in Photos

Josiah C. Cuellar
Outdoor Recreation Photo: Large Multi-Dailies

Third Place
- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  
  Late winter walk
  Alyssa Goelzer

Second Place
- Bismarck Tribune
  
  Dad and his game cart
  Jack Dura
First Place

- Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
  Outdoor sledding
  David Samson
Photo of the Year
Photo of the Year: Multi-Day Division

Grand Forks Herald

Pow Wow

Eric Hylden
Photo of the Year: Weekly Division

Linton, Emmons County Record
A "hair-standing" event
Kelli Ameling
Special Acknowledgements
Please welcome our likely new NDNA President Cole Short!
Congratulations, Cole!

Cole Short
Hillsboro Banner
Our new NDNA President 2023-2024
Thanks Amy W.!

Amy Wobema

New Rockford Transcript & Foster County Independent
NDNA President 2022-2023
(caricature by Trygve Olson)
North Dakota Newspapers

Better Newspaper Contest

Special Awards

- Rookie Reporter of the Year
- Community Service
- Public Notice Journalism
- First Amendment

NDNA
North Dakota Newspaper Association
Rookie Reporter of the Year
Rookie Reporter of the Year

Melissa Van Der Stad
The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Public Notice
Journalism
Public Notice Journalism

Washburn, The Leader-News

Wilton Election Notice

Alyssa Meier

Washburn one-month out from bond election

School hosts another community meeting, preps for next on Dec. 7

Wilton goes to vote on school bond

State election official says results should stand
BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Community Service
Community Service

Fargo,

The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

ND's legal guardianship program is a disgrace that demands action

Dave Olson

Desperate for guardians

ND can't stop hiring a guardianship company despite its dubious record
First Amendment
Tonight!
• 5:30 pm: Social  • 5:50 pm: Annual Group Photo
• 6:00 pm: Silent Auction Closes
• 6:30 pm: Banquet, Hall of Fame Inductee and Final Awards
  General Excellence, Sweepstakes, Best of the Dakotas awards
• 9:00 pm: Hospitality Lounge after banquet in Auditorium (down the hall)

Be sure not to miss the . . .

Final Awards Banquet

Tonight!
• 5:30 pm: Social  • 5:50 pm: Annual Group Photo
• 6:00 pm: Silent Auction Closes
• 6:30 pm: Banquet, Hall of Fame Inductee and Final Awards
  General Excellence, Sweepstakes, Best of the Dakotas awards
• 9:00 pm: Hospitality Lounge after banquet in Auditorium (down the hall)

137th Annual Convention
May 11-13, 2023  •  Devils Lake, ND
#NDNAawards