

Bakken Briefs

Divide JDA considers pivot

A Divide County Job Development Authority board member has suggested pivoting the group's focus from new businesses to grant opportunities to benefit the community. Rodney Johnson, a JDA board member who also serves as a county commissioner, said at a meeting April 10 that there have not been as many new businesses in the area in recent years.

"With society today and internet shopping, nobody really wants to put their neck out and say, 'Can I make this work?'" Johnson said. Johnson also brought up earlier interest from county commissioners in pursuing more federal grants or grants that benefit organizations like local fire departments.

Stanley chemical site tabled

The Stanley City Council on April 9 tabled a request for a conditional-use permit for an oilfield chemical storage site within the city's jurisdiction. BNK LLC had applied to rezone a property at 551 Sixth Ave. SW from medium industrial to oilfield industrial, with plans to rent the property to a business. The city planning and zoning committee recommended the council approve the zoning application and the conditional-use permit for storage of a chemical intended to be used for fracking. The council approved the zoning application but discussed its concerns about the chemical being so close to residential areas. Chad Hysjulien said the evacuation zone in the event of a fire would be a half-mile in all directions.

Kenmare hotel may be razed

Demolition of the old Irvin Hotel building at the south end of Kenmare's Central Avenue was a topic of discussion at the Kenmare City Council meeting April 10. The council approved a letter of support to Ward County, which is pursuing a grant to pay for the demolition. The old hotel became foreclosed property of Ward County last fall because of delinquent property taxes. Amy Ones, executive director of the Kenmare Community Development Corporation, recently identified a potential \$300,000 state Rural Slum and Blight Removal grant that could be used to demolish the old hotel. KCDC board member Troy Hedberg secured a contractor's estimate to use for an application for \$265,000 toward the demolition.

Sanford buys Williston clinic

Sanford Health announced April 9 it is acquiring Great Plains Women's Health Center in Williston and will take over ownership and operations on June 1. "The current patients that are

there should expect the same great service but only under a different name," said Todd Schaffer, president and CEO of Sanford Health's Bismarck region.

All current Great Plains staff will be offered jobs as part of Sanford Health. Existing patients will "be able to call and register, and if they have existing appointments, all that will be a seamless transition," Schaffer said.

Sanford will continue to provide athletic training services to Williston High School and Williston State College and support health care workforce development efforts at the college.

Minot zoo awaits new space

The Minot Park District and the Roosevelt Park Zoo are preparing for their next big project: the African Plains Building. A large, climate-controlled space for the giraffes and zoo guests to enjoy during winter months has been a dream for more than 20 years and will soon become a reality thanks to support from within the community.

In preparation for a flood mitigation project and the construction of the African Plains Building, zoo officials said they are temporarily relocating the zebras, bongo and cranes and removing a handful of trees in the old bongo exhibit to create a path for the construction vehicles.

During construction, viewing areas for the giraffes, zebras and lions will be limited due to the expanse of the construction area.

McKenzie touts zoning plan

The McKenzie County Planning and Zoning Department on March 28 hosted an open house for a series of proposed ordinance changes.

These suggested changes are part of an ongoing project to review and modernize the existing zoning ordinances to align with McKenzie County values today and to address potential avenues of growth in the future.

One proposed change would eliminate the need for conditional-use permits or variances for agricultural residences on lots 5 acres or larger.

Another creates a requirement for a conditional-use permit in order to build a data center in an agricultural or industrial zoning district. There would also be a mandatory noise study and a 1-mile minimum setback from residences, schools, parks and religious institutions.

Memorials Received By Ina Mae Rude Aquatic Center

In memory of Delores Marmon, Duane Lindberg, and Reed Neset from Don and Connie Longmuir. In memory of Geanne Pankratz and Thelma DeBilt from Jerrolyn Wirtz.

School Board Meets:

Board Authorizes Bond Sale For Project

By Mary Kilen
Stanley School Board held their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, Apr. 17. Highlights of the meeting included project updates on the high school, finance committee recommendations and the resolution to authorize the bond sale for the high school project.

Financial Reports
Business Manager Barb Reese reviewed the financial reports with the board, noting that they had highlighted items that were at or above 75% of budget. Looking at revenues, it shows that most areas are close to or over where they should be at this point in the year. The district will be submitting required documents to secure the remaining ESSER funds.

Project Update
Superintendent Tim Holte updated the board on the high school construction project. Comstock has brought their trailers to the site. They plan to start the excavation work on April 29. Concrete work is expected to start on May 20.

At a preconstruction meeting the previous week, there were concerns raised about some of the lead times for mechanical items for the science room remodels. Because of those issues, they were not certain that would be completed by the start of the next school year. As a result, Holte said they will be moving that work to next summer.

Holte said that Comstock continues to work on some value engineering items. They are also looking at potentially redesigning some of the inside spaces. Work on the project will start soon.

Holte also reported that the demolition of the greenhouse will wait until next summer so that will still be available for ag classes next school year.

Finance Committee Recommendations

The finance committee met as they looked at bonding needs for the high school project. They recommended bonding of \$8.9 million. They have looked at how repayments will affect the building fund as those 20 mills that are levied will service the debt. The first few years will use much of that levied money. The goal is to have roughly \$100,000 available for other projects.

The committee also looked at potential new job positions for next year. They recommended adding the second ag teacher position, elementary speech, the assistant elementary principal, special education positions at both buildings, and a junior high teacher that could teach multiple subjects to create smaller classes. Interviews have been held and a contract offered to fill the assistant elementary principal position. The board moved to approve opening all of the recommended positions.

Bond Sale

The board approved two resolutions necessary to finalize the bond sale at their May 15 meeting.

The first is participation in the credit enhancement program. Made available through ND Century Code, participation allows the district to obtain better interest rates. The board also approved the

resolution setting the bond sale date and allowing for the sale of \$8.9 million bonds.

The results of the bond sale should be available for the May 15 meeting.

Extracurricular Committee Report

The extracurricular committee met and will have recommendations, but the board tabled any action until after negotiations are complete as some of the formulas will be based on the result of that action.

Summer School

The board approved Superintendent Holte to submit application for K-8 and high school summer school so they will be eligible for funding.

Tuition Waivers and Open Enrollments

The board approved seven tuition waivers for students attending Stanley Schools as they are children of employees making them eligible to attend school in Stanley. The board also approved a tuition waiver for a student attending school in Berthold. They approved the open enrollment application for the following year for that same student to attend school in Berthold.

Early Retirement

The board approved the application for early retirement and the financial incentives for the same for Karyn Meyer.

Teacher Contracts

The board approved the teacher contracts for Jeremy Magallanes for math and Brooke Johnson for elementary teacher for the 2024-2025 school year.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Holte reported that enrollment is currently at 757.

The last day of school will be May 17, which is a half day for students and a full day for staff.

The district will be using a new system that will include online options for annual paperwork for parents, including the free and reduced meal application.

The lunch audit was held at Stanley Schools this year, with Holte saying it went well. There were a few things the district will need to address for federal programs. That includes advertising summer food programs, even though the district does not offer summer food programs. They also have some items that need to be addressed with the free and reduced applications to assure they are in compliance. The next audit will be held in five years.

Williston State College has contacted the district regarding changes to how college courses are offered for students. They will be moving away from the IVAN program to Teams. They have applied for a grant for new equipment to provide to participating schools. Stanley will add this to one classroom while they continue to use the IVAN program for other class offerings.

Holte reported the district is part of a Title 3 consortium that provides help for ELL student needs. To qualify for the grant dollars, they pool their application with other schools. Watford City was the host school for the consortium but they will be separating off on their own. Holte is working with the other schools in the consortium to see if they can find a host school for the application.

Upcoming events include the elementary concert on April 23 with the first grade at 2:00 p.m. and fourth grade at 6:30 p.m. Field trips are underway as they prepare for the end of the year. The Math Meet will be held on April 26 in Plaza. The final character counts assembly will be held on May 7. The activities are set for the final week of school with grilling day on May 13, field day on May 14, and clean-up day on May 15. May 16 is set aside as a makeup day if weather impacts either field or clean up day. The last day of school on May 17 is picnic day.

Negotiations

The board entered executive session to discuss teacher negotiations. They exited the session with no action and adjourned the meeting.

The County Clover

(Continued from Page 3)
Anxiety
Mood swings
Irritability
Feeling numb or out of body
Anger
Guilt
Moments of feeling "okay"

While there are no coping strategies that will take away the pain of the loss, there are steps to soothe your pain, find meaning through loss, and move through the process more easily.

Accept that your emotional response is valid. There is no right way to feel. Take care of yourself. Grief can affect your immune system and you need to protect your physical and emotional health.

Create a compassionate space for your grief. Avoiding your feelings of grief can intensify the emotions later. Allow yourself to feel your feelings.

Connect with others. Sharing stories or memories is a powerful form of healing and allows others to help you.

Do things that bring you joy. Remember your feelings are valid and finding enjoyable things in life is a good thing. Don't feel guilty when you experience joy, happiness or even being okay.

It can be very difficult to watch someone you care about experience grief. It comes with strong and complex emotions and no one thing you or anyone else says or does can make the pain go away. There is no fixing grief as one needs to let it take its course on its own timeline. You can support someone you care about through their grief journey by:

- * Learning about grief
- * Gives you a better understanding on how to offer support or identify ways you can help.
- * Make room for silence, emotions, and tears
- * Focus on being a patient and supportive presence, as expressing that pain is an important part of grieving.
- * Offer practical help
- * Instead of asking if you can "do anything", offer specifics such as "can I bring food, make phone calls, help with housework", etc.
- * Listen
- * Be open and patient, make eye contact, do not interrupt and resist the urge to compare their situation to your experience of loss.
- * Encourage
- * Ask concrete questions rather than a broad "how are you" question. Ask if they are eating or sleeping alright, how today is going, or what they have found helpful in their grieving process.
- * Allow their grief to be unique
- * Grief is different for each person and there is no right way to grieve, so let them experience in their unique way and on their own timeline.
- * May each person who is grieving in our community, find their way to cope and understand that there is no right way to grieve.

Statutory Initiative Submitted To Secretary Of State

Secretary of State Michael Howe announced that a proposed petition to initiate a statutory measure was submitted to the Office of the Secretary of State for review and approval to circulate. The proposed statutory initiative relates to Legalization of Cannabis and Related Regulations.

Steve Bakken, Bismarck, North Dakota, is the chairperson of the sponsoring committee.

The Secretary of State and Attorney General have five to seven business days to draft a petition title. This short and concise statement must fairly represent the measure and must be included on the petition circulated for the signatures of qualified electors. The petition title will be provided to the sponsoring committee no earlier than Tuesday, April 23, 2024, nor later than Thursday, April 25, 2024.

Golden Age Club News

Wednesday, April 24th: Dinner of cheeseburger hot dish, vegetables and dessert served at 5:30 p.m.

Friday, April 26th: Dinner of meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, salad, vegetables, and Birthday cake served at 12:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 28th: Tupperware bingo from 1:00-8:00 p.m.

Monday, April 29th: Dinner of chicken tortilla soup, sandwiches and dessert served at 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 30th: Chair yoga at 1:00 p.m. with Heidi.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION


NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING- MOBILE FOOD PERMIT

Take notice that Maria Arteaga has applied for a Mobile Food Permit to allow a mobile food unit at 6165 Highway 8 (Meiers Holdings property). The public is hereby notified that the Stanley Planning & Zoning Commission will hear comments on **Monday May 13, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.** at 221 S Main, Stanley, North Dakota. The Stanley City Council will then hear comments on **Tuesday May 14, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.** at 221 S Main, Stanley, North Dakota.

All persons who would object to the mobile food unit should be present at the meetings or submit any objection in writing before the date of the meetings to Amanda Dennis, Planning & Zoning Administrator, PO Box 249, Stanley ND 58784.

Amanda Dennis, Stanley Planning & Zoning Administrator

Dr. Susan Asheim
is now seeing patients
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